



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

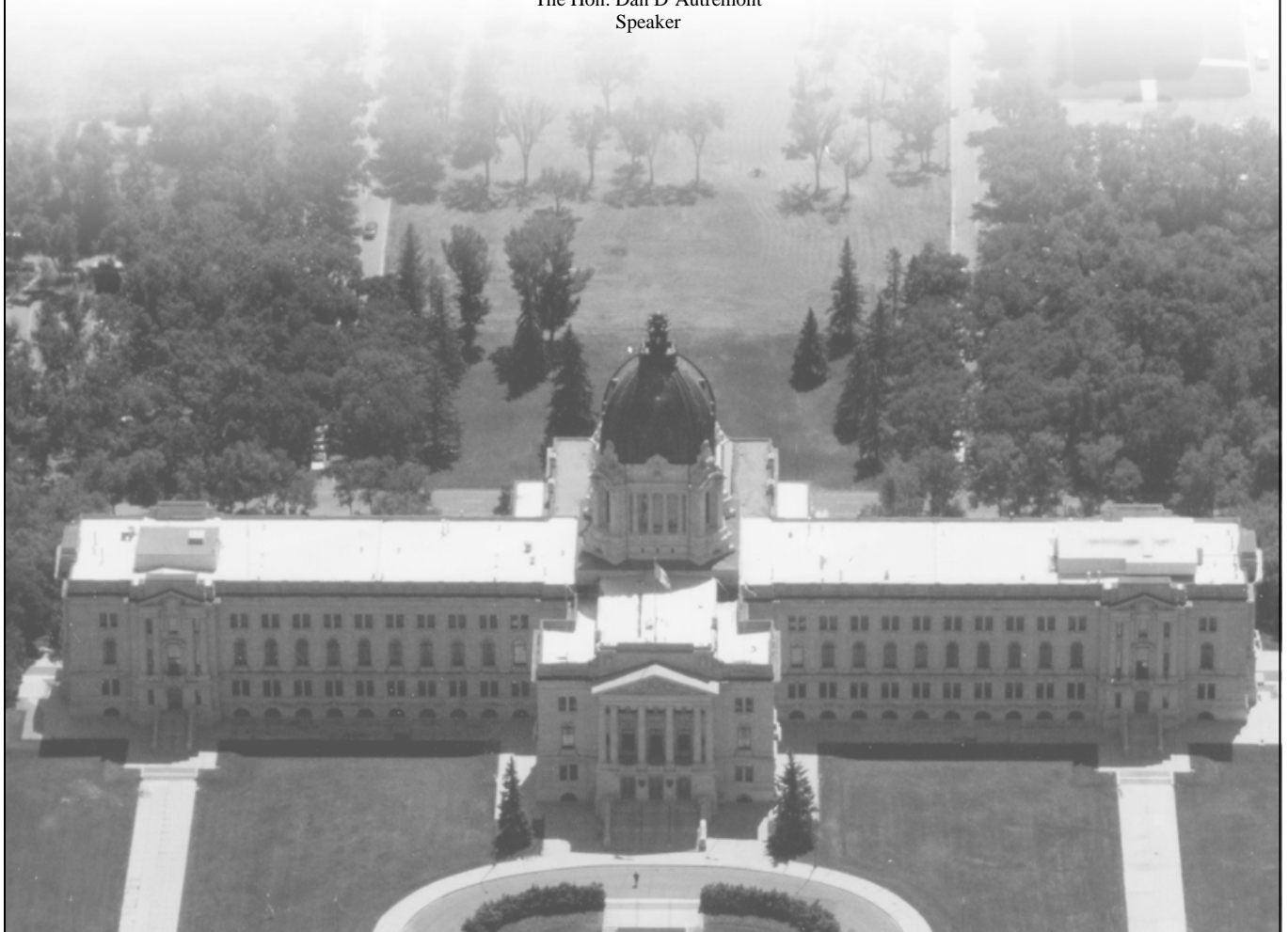
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
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The Hon. Dan D'Autremont  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — Cam Broten

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Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
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Campeau, Hon. Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
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Docherty, Hon. Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
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Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
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Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
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Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
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Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
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Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
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Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg	SP	Yorkton
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Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
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Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Young, Colleen	SP	Lloydminster

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

**EVENING SITTING**

**The Speaker:** — It now being 7 o'clock, debate will resume.

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 168**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 168** — *The Government Relations Administration Act* be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter the discussion tonight on Bill No. 168, the government relations amendment Act, 2014. I'd like to start just a little bit about laying out what the Act is about and have a few comments just flagging a couple concerns, Mr. Speaker.

In the minister's second reading speech, he talks about the four changes that this bill will make. And one of the things the bill is doing is proposing to consolidate authority from and repeal, the minister says, four outdated Acts. These particular Acts are *The Urban Affairs Act*, *The Rural Affairs Act*, *The Rural Development Act*, and *The Northern Affairs Act*.

The minister argues that the Act will be more consistent with the ministry's mandate and functions, which now include public safety, First Nations and Métis relations, northern affairs, and municipal affairs.

The second thing that this bill does, Mr. Speaker, and again the minister lays this out in his second reading speech, he says it will address "... standardizing the general authorities of the minister." And he goes on to say that:

Provisions relating to current ministerial powers and ministry programs and services such as providing financial, administrative and technical support services will be retained in the new Act. Other provisions that either no longer reflect or are no longer part of the ministry's mandate will be removed.

The third piece that this Act does, Mr. Speaker, the minister outlines it. He says it supports "... the ministry's role in setting the education property tax mill rate and then monitoring and ensuring compliance in the reporting, collection, and remittance of education property taxes by municipalities to school divisions." He goes on to talk about, with respect to compliance, that most municipalities are completely compliant with education property tax collection, remittance and reporting, but there are rare instances that the ministry knows of where municipalities have not collected or remitted education property taxes owing to the school division.

He says that this money — obviously this is the money; this is I think common sense — this is money the school division relies on to help fund day-to-day operations. But right now the ministry, the minister arguments, "... has few tools available to compel municipalities that do not remit the education property tax they collect to the school division beyond withholding grants for an indefinite period of time." So this gives the ministry some tools, the minister is arguing, to help with that.

The last point, Mr. Speaker, or the last area that this Act deals with is it enables "... the minister to appoint a person to review, make recommendations, or assist in resolving intermunicipal disputes where no dispute resolution mechanism exists." He points out that:

... the three municipal Acts provide for voluntary dispute resolution by consent of the municipalities involved in a dispute. The Acts also provide for dispute resolution by the Saskatchewan Municipal Board in certain circumstances where municipalities are required to seek mediation and dispute resolution to resolve a matter.

But he points out there are:

... other instances where the minister may need to become involved — a voluntary dispute resolution is not attempted and municipalities are unwilling to resolve a matter, or there is no dispute mechanism provided in legislation.

And we see that issue actually, where the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Justice Barclay, was called in to issue a review and a report on Sherwood Park, Mr. Speaker. So there are occasions where there needs to be a mechanism in place. The minister argues that:

The consequential amendments [that are being made] to the three municipal Acts will provide clear authority for the minister to appoint a person to make recommendations or assist municipalities in mediating or resolving an intermunicipal dispute. This will replace the ability to appoint a municipal administration adviser in *The Rural Affairs Act* and *The Urban Affairs Act* and will address the lack of ability in the three municipal Acts to act if municipalities cannot voluntarily bring themselves to resolve the dispute.

That is what the minister outlined in his second reading speech, Mr. Speaker, about the changes to the bill or to ... pardon me, the consolidation of basically four bills into one, Mr. Speaker.

I think one of the problems that stands out, Mr. Speaker, if you look at one of the bills that this Act proposes to replace, one of the bills is *The Northern Affairs Act*, Mr. Speaker. And I just want to read a little bit of *The Northern Affairs Act* into the record so people ... It's a relatively short bill, Mr. Speaker, but I think that there's a very important piece in this bill. This is the bill, Mr. Speaker, that this new bill will repeal and replace, and it talks about the duties and powers of the minister: "The minister is responsible for matters related to northern affairs in Saskatchewan and may ..."

There are several things laid out here, but one of the points here, the minister may:

(f) take any . . . measures that the minister considers appropriate;

to ensure that the Government of Saskatchewan is advised as to the views of residents of northern Saskatchewan respecting the delivery of programs and the provision of services in northern Saskatchewan by the ministries and agencies of the Government of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, that piece is gone and hasn't found its way into the new Act. I think recognizing that, well, all parts of Saskatchewan need and deserve to have a voice, but perhaps the North has some special challenges, Mr. Speaker, and that is not addressed in the new Act. There is some language that is similar now for all three. I actually would just like to read this language into the record here.

So in fact "The minister is responsible . . ." And this is section (2) of the new Act.

The minister is responsible for all matters not assigned by law to any other minister, ministry or agency of the Government of Saskatchewan relating to affairs in northern Saskatchewan, including:

It talks about:

coordinating, developing, implementing, evaluating and promoting measures that foster and advance the development of northern Saskatchewan;

participating in planning, issue identification and analysis, policy formulation and review and development of the strategy of the Government of Saskatchewan respecting issues affecting northern Saskatchewan;

coordinating and carrying out plans, programs, services and projects that involve one or more other ministries of the Government of Saskatchewan or one or more jurisdictions other than Saskatchewan;

cooperating with other public and private organizations or agencies to achieve measures that respond to and improve growth and development in northern Saskatchewan; and

conducting research and collecting, organizing and disseminating information and statistics.

And that is all well and good, Mr. Speaker, but it seems to be missing sort of the general spirit of the bill, again ensuring that the views of the residents of northern Saskatchewan, the views of the original bill which was *An Act respecting Northern Affairs* . . . The voice of northern Saskatchewan I think sometimes, Mr. Speaker, I think many people don't feel like that voice is heard. So when we take many bills and consolidate them into one, it's not that finding efficiencies or thinking about how pulling things together and having consistency can be a good thing, that is, not that that's not a positive thing, but sometimes when we look at the context of why original bills were drafted in the first place, when you consolidate, you

maybe lose the spirit of that original bill, Mr. Speaker. And I think that that's what's happening here.

And I know when we talk about northern Saskatchewan, some of the needs in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, there are many challenges. I hear from my colleagues from the North who represent actually geographically half the province of Saskatchewan that geographically half the province of Saskatchewan, where the population is even more sparse than the rest of Saskatchewan, have huge challenges. We can talk about the high suicide rate in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We can talk about transportation, the lack of good roads, the difficulty getting from place to place because the roads are in such disrepair, Mr. Speaker.

I have had an opportunity, in my time as an MLA and in my capacity as a critic and sitting on a committee, to travel to the North on two occasions, to Pelican Narrows and to Stony Rapids. And the roads, Mr. Speaker . . . I think everybody in the other half of the province, Mr. Speaker, needs to spend a little bit of time in the North and the Far North to see the reality that people are struggling with, Mr. Speaker.

On occasion to visit the Stony Rapids health facility there, Mr. Speaker, I was surprised to learn that women who are giving birth are sent south, Mr. Speaker, a few weeks prior to their due date because they don't have the ability to give birth in or the support services to give birth in their own communities.

I've had the opportunity to . . . I've had two children, Mr. Speaker, and I couldn't even imagine being sent away from my home, my support network, to give birth, to wait, to wait for an indefinite period of time because we never know when babies are going to show up. It could be anywhere usually from 38 to 42 weeks, Mr. Speaker.

So that waiting period where you don't know what's happening, you're away from your home, perhaps your other children, your partner, is absolutely unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. I think one of the challenges there too, Mr. Speaker, is you think that it would be a prudent thing perhaps to try to ensure that the woman going south to give birth would have some support in place or we would make sure that she would have her partner or someone there with her. But she doesn't. We don't provide . . . We're not providing the services in the North, Mr. Speaker, and we're inadequately supporting women who come south to deliver babies, Mr. Speaker.

As a proponent of midwifery and a big believer in midwifery, I think this is something that we could better support in northern Saskatchewan and could provide women with some better access to maternity care when they have normal, healthy pregnancies, Mr. Speaker.

TB, tuberculosis. It was interesting to me in Stony Rapids — and again maybe I'm naive, Mr. Speaker, and I know TB is a reality — but having some interesting conversations with people at the health facility. It's a lovely health facility in Stony Rapids. But when you step outside of that health facility, Mr. Speaker, you have to remember the conditions in which people are living where you've got abject poverty. You've got lack of quality housing. You have families living in, multiple families living in single family dwellings, Mr. Speaker, huge challenges.

And so when you think about quality of life and health, all those other things, those social determinants of health all impact the care that people have, Mr. Speaker.

Bandwidth in the North, some of the challenges around bandwidth, whether it's for education or for health care for that matter, Mr. Speaker, again thinking about the Stony Rapids health centre there, the reality . . . or the hospital, the facility there, Mr. Speaker. When they do have diagnostics, to send them to the people who need them, Mr. Speaker, takes bandwidth. And they say that bandwidth is a huge challenge.

I think the one thing that . . . I read an article a couple years ago that I saved that really spoke to me, Mr. Speaker, and it was written by Greg Poelzer, called "Saskatchewan Vikings," and it's from *Options Politiques* in March of 2013. It's comparing Saskatchewan to Norway. As we know, Norway has a sovereign wealth fund of \$1 trillion, Mr. Speaker, that they didn't start that long ago. And in this article, Mr. Poelzer makes the comparison between Saskatchewan and Norway and said that our province and Norway "... have key factors in common: world-class resources, high resource revenues, a broad social consensus and an expectation of a government role in economic planning."

Mr. Speaker, so you look at a country like Norway and they prioritized their northern . . . The whole country, Mr. Speaker, is prioritized. There's not the poor cousin and the rich cousin; they try to make sure that there is an equal distribution of services. And Mr. Poelzer writes that:

Saskatchewan is a tale of two provinces: north and south. Norway took a deliberate strategy of equalizing transportation, communication, education and social infrastructure. Most Canadian visitors to northern Norway are surprised by its relative prosperity and the high levels of infrastructure and government services, especially hospitals, sporting facilities, and schools and universities.

Mr. Poelzer goes on to point out that our province, and I think I know the member from Cumberland and Athabasca know this and anybody who has visited, spent any time in northern Saskatchewan and particularly the remote North knows that Saskatchewan stands in stark comparison to Norway, Mr. Speaker. And he points out that "Northern Saskatchewan competes with northern Manitoba for the unwelcome designation as the poorest region in Canada," Mr. Speaker.

The roads in the North can take . . . Well he points out, Mr. Poelzer points out that:

The . . . road between Points North and Stony Rapids, [which is] just under 200 km, can take 10 hours to travel by vehicle. In the Athabasca Basin, in the northern extremity of the province, there is no training centre for either trades or university courses.

[19:15]

So Mr. Poelzer is just arguing that we had a key opportunity here, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that all people in Saskatchewan benefited from the resource wealth that we have, much of it that comes out of the North, Mr. Speaker, and there is huge

disparity.

So with respect to this particular bill, Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act*, 2014 I think the unfortunate piece, one of the unfortunate pieces again is not ensuring that the views of residents of northern Saskatchewan, respecting the delivery of programs and the provision of services in northern Saskatchewan by the ministries and agencies of the Government of Saskatchewan, will be heard, Mr. Speaker.

When we think about consultation, and the minister in his second reading speech talked about consultation and does mention consulting with all the bodies, stakeholders impacted by the bills. I just need to point out that the minister outlines what seems like a fulsome consultation. And he talks about the New North, which is a body of 35 mayors, Mr. Speaker, and says that they were consulted and the New North is in support of this.

But my question when I hear this government talk about consultation, and even when they get up and talk about who has been consulted, we know that the member, just a few years ago on a particular bill, I can remember the member from Martensville telling us about consulting with First Nations people on an environmental bill which turned out not to be the case at all. So sometimes these comments require further digging and committee is always an opportunity to do that, Mr. Speaker. But this is . . . I still have many colleagues who have many comments to make on this particular bill. This is just the start of the debate with respect to Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act*, and as we continue to do our due diligence and talk to stakeholders and get their feedback, I know that my colleagues will have further comments and we will have much to say when this bill eventually makes it committee.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to adjourn my remarks on Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act*, 2014.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 170

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 170 — *The Fire Safety Act*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 170, *The Fire Safety Act*, and I just want to start out with a few of the comments. And I think the minister's comments when he refers to the Act, he talks three areas he wants to go in. And in some of his comments, his opening comments, when he did his

second reading, I observed there's an area where he's taking an Act and actually repealing it and coming up with a new Act.

And he talks about modernizing it for today's, I guess, the firefighters that serve our province, the job they do and what they're asked to do. He talks about the changes and why they have to modernize it. And some areas he talks about, whether it's training, whether it's going out on industry fires, they're responding to motor vehicle accidents where they have to be the first responders or, at the end of the day, they have to go with the jaws of life and someone's in an accident and they're in that vehicle and they're trapped, then of course not only will emergency response teams come but your firefighters.

So he's talking about doing some of the changes in there and he refers to some of those changes to modernize it within the wording and giving certain powers. But he also, you know, talks about giving certain powers, and I know we're going to have to go through finding out exactly how we've come to this type of an Act and what's the reasoning behind it. And there must be a reason, whether somebody's requested it, whether a study's been done. Like, I have no way to find out right now. It's not in the package. It's not in the information. It doesn't refer to it. But I know through committee when there's officials there, we have that opportunity again, whether it's the members on this side, members of the committee, or it's the critic. They have the opportunity to question the minister and his officials and try to find out exactly why they're proposing some of the change. And sometimes again they make sense. There's good reasons why.

But sometimes we wonder, like who has been consulted and for what reason. And when I think about that, I know we had just recently the firefighters of Saskatchewan, 17th annual lobbying. They come here and I know they meet with the government, they meet with the opposition, and they come forward with lobbying and things that they would like to bring to the government's attention, and the opposition, and hopefully . . . And I don't know if the lobbying package that they provide and the lobbying that they do, and I guess their concerns that they raise with government and the opposition, I don't know if any of those suggestions, recommendations will be implemented in this new Act. Will it be, when the minister hands over the powers to whoever it's to be, whether it's the fire commissioner, whoever will carry out the role and the duties and the powers, that will come a little later I guess, and they'll outline how the regulations and how that will all come.

We want to make sure, and we hope we get it right that it's taking care of some of the issues that are out there that are facing Saskatchewan residents. They want a service when you dial 911 because it's an emergency; you have a fire. You want to make sure that those individuals are responding, they have the resources. It's about safety, not only for our seniors, for our children, for our residents whether it's, you know, an industry relies on the expertise, the training of our fire services and fire protection that are going on in our province. They do a great work, you know. They put themselves in danger, and we know that and we thank them for that. There's many of them, whether they're volunteers or they belong to the Saskatoon city fire department, Regina. We have many different fire departments and organizations, volunteers that do a great job and do this province a great service. And you know, I want to acknowledge

that.

So at the end of the day, you know, when you think about it, when you have those individuals coming forward as they bring their concerns forward, we hope that the government is hearing their concerns and will act on that. Here you have the front-line workers and individuals who are going out and we're expecting them to do certain things and to provide a service to our residents and our province for fire protection. I want to make sure that they have all that they need with services. And we have to make sure government is held responsible to make sure that they have the resources that they need, whether it's training, whether it's education they're doing at schools, in the homes. And I mean, you'll see them, many of the fire services, they try to do a great job of educating the public on a safe plan to get out of the house, for children, in case of a fire, you know. God forbid that happens, but they have a plan.

And again they work with young students. They work with families to explain that. They work with seniors to make sure of the plans that are put in place give the individuals an opportunity, to make sure that when they're educating them that they have smoke detectors, that they're working, that not to take the batteries out. Are they, you know, wired in and they're there forever where they're a wired-in system rather than a battery if you take it out, and the fire extinguisher.

So there's all those things, whether you're going to do inspections and all of that. There's so many questions, like you're changing things and you're bringing in a whole new . . . So I'm not sure exactly how that's going to come out in regulations. Who will have the power? Will they have the resources that they're going to need to provide the service that we're asking them to do? It's fine to make a new Act and give certain duties and say this is the way we want things to be done. And yes, if it's to protect Saskatchewan residents, we want to make sure that happens.

But we want to make sure that those, those individuals, whether they're inspectors, whether they're the volunteer fire department, have the provisions and have the provisions, the resources and whatever they need to make sure they can do their job safely, that they can educate, and do what they're asked to do by the ministry and by this Act that it's giving some duties. So when we come together we want to make sure that that happens.

And there's partnerships. We know that some municipalities have different partnerships. There's many partnerships go on when it comes to fire safety. I think of some of the ones back home. There's a regional fire department where they come together and you might have two municipalities, you have a First Nations who utilize a regional fire department of these great volunteers. And they do great work; they do a lot of training. And they do . . . We ask that they do so much for us. And you know, some of them put their lives on the line for us. And we are grateful and I talked about that before. And I know back home in northern Saskatchewan there are individuals who do do that and they try their best. And I give them credit.

But I guess sometimes we look at, you know, the loss of life. And I have to talk about that. And we've seen that in the recent years here where we've lost too many young people, too many

people, to a house fire where you have someone lose a life. And we have to look at that.

And not only is it that the federal government has an obligation when we look at First Nations funding, what they're doing and what needs to be done to make sure there's adequate fighting so you can do the education, the training on those communities. But there is also an opportunity and an obligation on behalf of the province I believe, I believe to partner and help with that education, to make sure the resources are there so that First Nations and all municipalities have the same opportunity — children, family, elders have the same opportunity to education from the firefighters. It's so important, you know, to lose one life because you don't have the resources to do the education; you don't have what's needed. And I think that's so important.

And yes, I think the federal government has a role to play, and it has to play. I think the province can play a partnership role. It can do great partnerships if the willingness is there by government to say, we have to work together. We have to make sure that we never lose another young person, we never lose a resident, whether they're living in our province in a municipality, a rural, an urban, a reserve, whether it's a large Métis community. It doesn't matter and it shouldn't matter. Whether you're in the South, the North, urban, rural, it shouldn't matter. The resources should be there.

And our governments should work together partnering to make sure the resources are there to do the education, to make sure that there is fire protection, when someone dials 911 that somebody responds. And I mean I've said that they, you know, to any family member out there that has lost a loved one, our hearts and our prayers go out to them.

And I know we have to do better as citizens of our province. We have to make sure. As mankind, we have to do the right thing. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, it is just the right thing to do, to work together. We don't have to blame anybody. We don't have to point fingers. We just have to say, look, this is a province that has so much wealth and opportunity. We will make sure this never happens again.

We've had other partnerships where we've dealt with issues. I know under health, we've seen partnerships work where they say no more. It's jurisdiction and all that stuff. It comes down about the safety, and it comes down to a commitment, saying this will never happen. We'll not lose a life. We will not do certain things. So if we can do that in the health and partnership that way, I think we could do that in other areas. And the fire protection is one area we could do that.

There's other areas we could do it. I think it's important that we do that. We owe our residents of this province, whether they live on reserve, off reserve, whether they live in the municipality, I've said that the urban, rural, we have to work together to make sure. We all have an obligation to work together so that we don't lose, we don't ever lose, and we hope we don't lose a life because no one responded for whatever reasons — the education wasn't there, the resources, the equipment wasn't there.

We have to do a better job to make sure Saskatchewan residents are 100 per cent protected as best we can. We all have an

obligation and a conscience at the end of the day to say, did we do all we can? And if we can say that as a province, as a country, that we did all we can, whether it's funding, whether it's partnerships, whether it's education commitment, whether it's just coming together as citizens saying we have to do better. You know, it's a shame when we lose a life to a fire when nobody responds. We have to make sure we do all we can to work together.

And I'm hoping that there is an opportunity, you know, we talk about amendment. Maybe there's a provision here, we reach out and we find out what is the best way to make recommendations. Whether it's committee, we're going to find out. We'll do our work, and I know individuals out there will ask us.

And I know our leader has sent a letter to Ottawa quite some time ago, probably a year ago, maybe a little less than that, but asking the Prime Minister to deal with issues facing some of the First Nations when it comes to inadequate funding, to make sure that they had the provisions for education, to provide equipment, to provide the resources that they need to make sure that we never lose another young person's life. And after that we've seen still more deaths when it comes to fires and not having a response, a fire team in a community that responds and makes sure that those community members are safe whether they're on reserve, off reserve. I've said that before, it doesn't matter and it shouldn't matter. We have to do a better job.

[19:30]

So I want to say again to our Leader of the Official Opposition, you know, thank you for your letter, raising it with the Prime Minister and the minister responsible for First Nations, saying we have to do more funding to make sure the education is there for First Nations, the resources are there, training for firefighters so they have volunteers that can respond when they're called upon, and make sure the equipment's there.

There's a lot of work to be done and we have to do a better job. And I hope at the end of day, when all the comments come out and people, you know, I've said this, enough finger pointing doesn't have to happen. We have to do better. We owe those young people and any family member who's lost a life to say, we will do all we can to work together as a province, as a country to make sure as human beings, to make sure we don't lose a life in the way that we have lost some now with, you don't have the training, the adequate response, the fire department, the training, like I said, and the resources that you need to provide the training and the education for so many homes.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I know that in committee we're going to have more questions and try to find the answers. And you know, I hope through that process we can make sure that some of the concerns that have been raised by First Nations leaders — again, I commend them — and for other municipal leaders and individuals who are saying we have to do better of our province, to work together in partnership. I know we're going to have an opportunity in committee to do that. At this time I have no further comments and I adjourn debate on this bill.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of

debate on Bill No. 170, *The Fire Safety Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 172**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 172 — *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 172, *An Act respecting the Practice of Naturopathic Medicine and the College of Naturopathic Doctors of Saskatchewan*. Mr. Speaker, this is an updating, or revision, or substantial expansion actually of the legislation in Saskatchewan relating to naturopathic medicine. It effectively takes the professional legislation that has been used in many other professions and sets out how this can apply to the naturopathic physicians. It provides title protection for naturopathic doctors and it sets up a regulatory body.

I don't think the legislation has any great difficulties. It will be quite interesting though to find out how this legislation is going to be implemented. It's my understanding that there are about 25 naturopathic doctors in Saskatchewan and that the cost of this whole regulatory organization may be a fairly substantial one unless there is some method whereby it can be managed jointly across provincial boundaries.

Now it may be that there is some discussion about that, given that the minister specifically refers to this whole agreement on internal trade and the New West Partnership Trade Agreement in his second reading speech on December 3, 2014. Otherwise I think there are substantial concerns for the naturopathic doctors of Saskatchewan in that they will have a whole regulatory regime to fund and pay for out of the system that they have now. It's not entirely clear whether Saskatchewan Health will be providing payment of the fees to the various doctors. Clearly some insurance policies that people have do make payments to naturopathic doctors who are officially registered. So this may be of assistance to them in that particular operation.

Now practically, the area of naturopathic physicians has been a relatively stable group I think for many years. We have a few more in both Saskatoon and Regina than we have had in past years. I think there are a number of people who rely on their services, and this will provide a fair bit of detail for the group to become part of the operation.

Now it's not entirely clear from the second reading speech of the minister how much consultation there has been with the doctors involved. I think that kind of information will be presented to us as we move forward to dealing with this in committee. But I know that it's a similar issue around the whole area of the professional designation around midwifery, that there are substantial costs involved when the group is not that large. And in fact it can create some major difficulties for the group that wants the regulation.

So I don't necessarily have any great problem with using the model form of professional regulation in this legislation here, but I do have concerns that there may not be sufficient funds available to actually do all of the things that are set out in the legislation.

Now one of the challenges always is dealing with discipline questions and dealing with people who are providing unauthorized services. And any time one of those cases arises, then there's a whole mechanism that is brought into play, and usually it . . . well it is paid for by the profession itself. We know that from the medical profession, from the legal profession, from nursing, other places, that this can end up being a substantial cost to the profession itself.

I don't think there's any sense in this legislation that the cost of all this will be paid for by the provincial government, and in fact if that was the case I think there'd be quite a few questions from a number of other professional organizations.

But, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any great number of questions about the legislation itself, but I know some of my colleagues who have had more experience dealing with naturopathic doctors may have something to say. But at this point I would move adjournment of debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 172, the naturopathy Act. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 174**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 174 — *The Registered Teachers Act*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure as always to enter the debate here tonight, this time on Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*. I'd like to outline a little bit about what the bill does, Mr. Speaker. It basically is consolidating responsibilities for teacher certification and discipline under one legislative roof, Mr. Speaker, or one legislative framework, by which the new Saskatchewan professional teachers' regulatory body will be governed.

This came out of some concerns, Mr. Speaker, that right now we have multiple bodies that are responsible for certifying and disciplining teachers. We've got the minister responsible for certifying all of Saskatchewan's teachers, and then disciplinary matters fall under three separate entities, Mr. Speaker.

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation holds the responsibility for disciplinary processes of teacher misconduct at publicly funded schools. We've got disciplinary processes concerning administrators such as directors of education or superintendents, and these are held by the League of



Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents.

Meanwhile we've also got teachers at independent schools, custody care facilities, and post-secondary institutions, and they fall under the disciplinary responsibility of the ministry. So this bill will be consolidating, as I said, certification and disciplinary issues under one body.

What this bill outlines, and the minister in his second reading speech talks about several steps here or several pieces here.

Firstly it establishes the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board. Secondly, it establishes the nine-person board of directors which will consist of seven registered teachers and two members of the public. The minister has made the point of saying this is a teacher-driven model, Mr. Speaker.

Third, it prescribes the duty of the Saskatchewan professional teachers regulatory body "... to serve and protect the public and to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibility in the public interest."

Fourthly, it prescribes the objectives of the SPTRB [Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board]. The minister goes on to say, "... which are to establish and administer the professional certification and standards of professional conduct and competence of teachers for the purpose of serving and protecting the public."

Fifth, the fifth point, Mr. Speaker, it grants the Saskatchewan professional teachers regulatory body authority to issue teachers' certificates. Sixth, it grants the regulatory body "... responsibility for intake, investigation, hearing, and ruling on allegations of professional misconduct and incompetence."

Seventh, it establishes a public register in which the status of a registered teacher's certificate will be found. Eighth, it establishes a five-person professional conduct committee for the purpose of investigating allegations of professional misconduct or incompetence. Ninth, it establishes a five-person disciplinary committee for the purpose of hearing allegations of professional misconduct or incompetence that call into question the suitability of a teacher to hold a teaching certificate.

So those are the things that this bill does, Mr. Speaker, and the minister talked about those in his second reading speech.

As someone who has belonged to a self-regulating profession — I can't call myself a social worker today, Mr. Speaker, because my designation has lapsed; I didn't maintain it and I will look at doing that — but I think that there is definitely merit in self-regulating bodies and ensuring that whole model of professionalism, code of ethics, certification, all those things.

So just speaking about my own profession, Mr. Speaker, which I can't call myself a social worker, Mr. Speaker, but just having a Bachelor of Social Work or a Master of Social Work does not unto itself make you a social worker. You have to meet certain standards set out by the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers and you apply and you go through a process. This is not dissimilar from that, Mr. Speaker.

Teachers are professionals and they should be treated as professionals, and having a self-governing body and making sure that teachers are certified and have the opportunity, have a clear and transparent disciplinary process is very important, Mr. Speaker.

The minister has talked about the professionalism of teachers, but I think sometimes we can talk the talk, but we don't always walk the walk, Mr. Speaker. I haven't met a single teacher, Mr. Speaker, in recent years who believes that they are treated as professionals by this government, Mr. Speaker, and in fact it's quite the opposite. They feel like they have been minimized and marginalized and that this government doesn't recognize the contribution that teachers make, the multiple roles that teachers play in the classroom in this particular day and age. Mr. Speaker.

I can think about Saskatoon Riversdale where I have a high number of First Nations and Métis students, but there are many kids from around the world, Mr. Speaker, not just kids who've come through immigration but also there are many families who have refugee status, Mr. Speaker. So we have teachers who are dealing with some children, working with some children who have spent the better part of their lives in refugee camps, Mr. Speaker. They can't hold a pencil. They have huge challenges.

And not only I think has this government not ensured that the resources are in place for our classrooms and for teachers, for students to thrive, we can talk about English as an additional language supports. We can talk about supports or the lack thereof or the lack of supports for children who have cognitive disabilities, mental health challenges, all kinds of things.

[19:45]

But when it comes to teachers, they're dealing with this on a regular basis. Again thinking about my own constituency, kids who don't get to bed sometimes, Mr. Speaker, because their parents are living the legacy of residential schools so they don't have, as parents, the skills and the experience, the legacy of parenting themselves, so they have some challenges in parenting.

So we have teachers who are dealing with extreme stresses in the classroom, Mr. Speaker, from poverty to all kinds of other issues. So I think it's important to not just pay lip service to teachers and tell them that they're professionals but ensure that they have the ability and the ... not just the ability, pardon me, that they have the resources to be able to perform as professionals, Mr. Speaker. I think that that is what I've heard loud and clear from teachers across the province, Mr. Speaker.

I also have children in school myself right now, Mr. Speaker. I have a child in grade 11 and a child in grade 1. So that big cross-section of people that I run into who go to school with my kids, Mr. Speaker ... And so I have kids in the school age cohort, both in high school and elementary school, and talking to many families. We've talked about teachers, but families point out that kids with huge ... in classrooms where there are 25 or 30 kids. Kindergartners — I think about my own daughter who is seven and is lovely, but I couldn't imagine 25 of her. She is a fairly high-energy kid, and we don't provide teachers the supports they need to be able to support our kids to get the

best learning experience at school, Mr. Speaker.

Again I think that there is a great deal of lip service paid to teachers, but where the rubber hits the road, this government is not supporting classrooms or the professionals who work in those classrooms the way they should be, Mr. Speaker. And this government needs to think about its priorities, think about down the road. The investment in education today will reap huge benefits 20 years down the road, Mr. Speaker.

This government and this minister has gotten up and talked about how this government has increased spending both in capital and in operating, but the reality, Mr. Speaker, is they sure as heck better have. This government has more money than any government has had in the history of Saskatchewan. So yes spending has gone up, but they certainly haven't met the needs or dealt with the challenges that classrooms of today are facing, Mr. Speaker. That is the cold, hard reality that there are things that happen today in our classrooms that maybe didn't happen 20 years ago, but our teachers, our professionals deserve to be supported in providing the education and support of our kids from pre-K to 12 [pre-kindergarten to grade 12].

I do know I've got colleagues who would also like to weigh into the debate on Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*, and I know when this bill makes its way into committee that my colleague from Rosemont will have many questions and my colleague from Saskatoon Centre will have many questions for the minister. But with that, I think that concludes my remarks for the evening, and I'd like to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 175

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 175 — *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Registered Teachers Act*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter the discussion about Bill No. 175, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Registered Teachers Act*. This is a companion bill for Bill No. 174 to which I just spoke.

It for example makes, well it makes consequential amendments to *The Education Act*. It amends section 2 of *The Education Act*:

**by striking out the definition of “teacher” and substituting the following:**

“**teacher**” means a person who holds a valid teacher’s certificate; **and**

**by adding the following definition in alphabetical order:**

“**teacher’s certificate**” means teacher’s certificate as defined in *The Registered Teachers Act*,”

**Clause 3(2)(g) is repealed and the following substituted:**

“(g) make regulations respecting the salary classification of teachers”.

**Clause 4(1)(d) is repealed.**

**The heading “QUALIFICATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS” before section 198 is struck out and the following substituted:**

“**EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS**”.

So it's a pretty straightforward bill, Mr. Speaker, again simply consequential amendments in order to make its companion bill, No. 174, work, Mr. Speaker. And so with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 176

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 176 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 176, *An Act to amend The Traffic Safety Act*, which can be cited according to the first section of the legislation, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*. That clearly designates the fact that this is an addition to the major traffic safety Act amendment bill that has been in the legislature already.

This particular piece of legislation appears to have arisen in response to a number of very public comments from business owners whose vehicles are seized when an employee is charged with an offence. And the minister says that . . . I think there were quite a number of offences that took place as it related to seizures under this particular piece of legislation.

The specific problem identified by a number of people but very publically by a Mr. Boychuk in Saskatoon was that one of his

employees was charged for a second time with texting in his vehicle while driving. And that meant that the vehicle he was driving was seized but there wasn't necessarily . . . The vehicle was seized, and then the person was let go. What happened then was there was really no penalty for the driver, but the business owner lost the use of his truck for seven days.

What we have in this particular legislation is a solution I guess, if we can put it that way, or another try at getting this right around how you deal with vehicles that are owned by a business where an offence takes place. And so effectively what we have now is the fact that the driver of the vehicle will get a penalty, whether it's . . . I think it's a three-day suspension and obviously other continuing penalties if this happens again. The seven-day suspension of the vehicle continues, but there's an appeal process, a very quick appeal process so that the business owner can get their vehicle out of impoundment as early as possible.

Now all these types of legislation create some fairly severe penalties, and the ultimate goal of the legislation is clearly protection of the public and basically making sure that there's as little injury to people and also, you know, less damage to vehicles for various offences.

I think that practically this legislation seems to have been discussed quite extensively with the various organizations involved so that there is mostly a solution as to how this can be sorted out. And we know that the minister involved had a long career before politics with the Safety Council, and so this is kind of an area where he knows all of the players that are involved. I know that obviously the Highway Traffic Board, which enforces the legislation, the trucking companies, the Safety Council, Saskatchewan Trucking Association were all part of some of the discussions.

It may be that this isn't a final solution in that there's still a fair bit of damage to businesses where their vehicles are impounded. And it may be that there needs to be further examination of exactly why a business would be penalized if one of their drivers was basically breaking the rules of the business as well as breaking the law.

So I think that we should recognize that this a first, very good attempt at dealing with this particular problem, but I wouldn't be surprised if there are some other further adjustments as this bill moves forward or as this issue is being dealt with in the years to come because I think the point is that we want to have as safe of roads as possible. We know we have many more deaths on our highways than we should. And how do we end up making sure that the rules are applied fairly to the businesses but also applied in a very direct manner to the operators who many times are the main cause of the difficulty?

I know that most of or almost all of the professional drivers that we have in our province and in Western Canada are very, very good drivers, and this is meant to deal with those who are not in that professional category or maybe make a mistake. And I think we need to recognize that's what the role of this legislation is.

Now some of the issues relate to the whole cost of the process, and we know that the Highway Traffic Board fees can be fairly

expensive when you get caught up in appeals and other matters related to that. And it may be that there should be some further consultation with the trucking association and with the various trucking companies around how some of these matters can be dealt with in an expeditious fashion, and also a fashion that doesn't cost them a huge amount of money. Because as this one owner, Mr. Boychuk, who really raised this issue publicly said, he's lost a lot of money already just by having the truck off the road. To then further add on extra costs ends up being a penalty that maybe is beyond what should be here.

So some of the questions around communication in vehicles I think are being dealt with by some of the new forms of voice-controlled instruments and mobile phones, and things that are in most of the commercial vehicles, but it'll be a few years obviously before that is totally part of the whole trucking business.

But, Mr. Speaker, this Act is an attempt to deal with a very specific problem. It appears that it has addressed many of the issues, but there are still some practical issues around how it will be implemented. I don't have any further comments to make at this time, Mr. Speaker, so I would move to adjourn the debate. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

[20:00]

### Bill No. 177

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 177** — *The Insurance Act* be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to enter into debate here this evening of Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act*, Mr. Speaker.

Now this bill is in fact just short of 300 pages. So I thought what I'd maybe do first here this evening for my colleagues is just read the bill in its entirety here tonight, and then weigh in on each paragraph after that and each parcel. The fact is that this bill is immense, and *The Insurance Act* in Saskatchewan was built in the early 1900s, I believe, 1913 was when the bill was initially brought to bear . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Just about the time that the Minister of Finance at that point would have just got his first insurance licence out there selling insurance, I'm hearing from across the floor.

But no, the bill certainly . . . This Act is an Act that when you look at 1913, insurance is an important part of the financial landscape and environment in our province and within our world. It's often quite complex as well. And certainly when we look into a bill like this, it's going to be paramount for us to

make sure that there's adequate consumer protection built in. That has to be in fact your first priority when entering into revisions to this Act.

I don't dismiss for a moment that there's all sorts of meaningful modernization that is likely required within insurance regulations and insurance law, and certainly I'm sure some of those are contained within this bill. The minister did provide a breadth of comments when he introduced this bill which I appreciate but, to be honest, even with the longer statement from the minister, that's insufficient for the kind of analysis that we're going to need throughout this process. What will be important, something that certainly we would request again of government is a legislative side-by-side analysis on this piece of legislation because otherwise you're left with a massive volume of legislative changes but not an understanding of the direct piece of what was in place, what change has occurred, and what the reason, what the motivation for that is, what it is that government's intending to address.

It's going to be critically important that government becomes clear on all who have contributed to this process. It's paramount that when you're looking at something as far-reaching and as financially complex as the insurance industry that government has consulted far and widely and has had, as I say, a lens of consumer protection, Mr. Speaker.

I know I've referenced that, or I've noticed that there's different bodies and different law offices and different third parties that are weighing in on this bill. We'll be looking for a lot more of that. In fact this might be the kind of bill that may need significant time through legislative process and through a committee process. It may be very well served to make sure that we have expert witnesses, stakeholders in the field coming forward to share their perspectives on these changes. And many of these changes are likely very well intended, but the critical piece is that government gets it right and doesn't create through its good intentions unintended consequences that will have ramifications for Saskatchewan people.

So this needs to be in a very well-regulated environment when we're looking at the insurance industry. We need to make sure that the companies that are operating are operating in an environment that's regulated, that ensures them being fiscally sound and fiscally responsible. I know we have many, many strong and exceptional insurance companies and providers. We need to make sure that they're understanding all of the risk and that they're ensuring that they have adequate liquidity and adequate provisions in place to make sure that ultimately the people who engage with the insurance companies are protected.

One of the law offices that's weighed is the International Law Office, and they've noted that the legislation basically is comprised of 11 parts: preliminary matters; licensing of insurers; provincial companies; fraternal societies, and if I think of those, those would be sort of, likely the teachers' federation or the Knights of Columbus; insurance intermediaries and insurance councils; unsolicited insurance, reinsurance, and special brokers; market conduct; contracts of insurance; inspections, investigations, enforcement, and, administration; general provisions; and repeal, consequential amendments, transitional, and entry into force. So those are the sort of the 11 areas for which this 300-page bill addresses. And in fact this

submission is worth noting as well. Its author is Carol Lyons, and it's the International Law Office.

Now I've recognized as well that there's been some people come forward with some concerns around this legislation. And we want to make sure that there's adequate and appropriate consideration of their perspectives through this legislative process and that in fact that there's a broader consultation to ensure that other impacted stakeholders are able to share their perspective on the changes to *The Insurance Act* and whether or not they support the changes and why, whether or not there's certain aspects that they have concern with.

But it would important to note that Dominion-West Finance Inc. out of Saskatoon has stated a few concerns and been very direct to the minister on what those concerns are and how it impacts his existing business. And certainly, you know, that submission is important for government to understand, important for all of us as legislators to understand, and it's something that we'll certainly be seeking clarification and an understanding from the minister of the impacts shared by Dominion-West Finance.

Also recognizing that there is another piece of correspondence that was received by a consumer advocate by the name of Richard Proteau. And that individual has shared a broad range of questions as to why the wide-ranging changes have occurred and has laid out very specific aspects that he feels need to be considered in pieces that . . . in concerns with this specific piece of legislation.

So it's these sorts of submissions that we've received to date, and I anticipate many, many more. That should allow a very informed discussion through this legislative process, a fruitful committee process, and hopefully the opportunity as well to make sure we get this right as an Assembly, to ensure that if there's a place for constructive amendments that we act upon those. Because quite frankly, you know, this is an important piece of legislation with financial ramifications for the companies themselves, but financial ramifications for those that are requiring insurance or that hold policies, Mr. Speaker.

And as I say, the first lens to this legislation has to be through a lens of consumer protection in a well-regulated environment, one that's enforceable, with clear delineation of duties and responsibilities. And that may have been achieved in the 300-page document laid down by government, but there's certainly more consultation that'll be required to ensure that's the case.

I know that there's been a Saskatchewan lawyer, a Regina lawyer from McKercher, Brittnie Holliday who's weighed in on some of the legislative changes, and I've read through some of her observations through insurance law in an article titled *Modernizing Insurance Regulation in Saskatchewan: Proposed Changes to Focus Largely on Consumer Protection*. That's the title. That's encouraging in the sense that certainly consumer protection should be the lens for which changes are made. And I guess I would just quote a little bit here from Brittnie Holliday, lawyer over at McKercher, a Regina lawyer here:

The most obvious changes in the proposed legislation relate to consumer protection. Market standards have been

set out including the identification of unfair practices such as a prohibition on making false or misleading statements or engaging in prohibited tied selling practices. Fair practices such as the requirement to disclose an insured's right to choose a service provider, the insured's right to rescind a contract of insurance, notice of limitation periods, and procedures for dealing with claims and complaints are specifically set out in the proposed legislation.

And those are certainly positive observations and, you know, if reflective of the changes brought forward here, positive pieces within this legislation.

To quote Ms. Holliday further, in her submission to insurance law:

Further changes including restructuring Insurance Councils to allow them to conduct audits and investigations, recommendation, screening, and supervision of intermediaries by insurers, creation of further licensing categories and requirements, and the requirement to point out clauses in an insurance policy where there are limits on the amount payable also seem to be changes specifically directed at clarifying and strengthening consumer protection.

So those are a couple pieces of observation, important ones, valued ones, by Ms. Holliday of McKercher here in Regina, and I thank her and I thank the others that have weighed in to date. Certainly as the official opposition, we'll be engaging in wide-ranging consultations as it relates to this 300-page bill that certainly governs a very important area within Saskatchewan. We invite submissions from any affected stakeholders, whether they have a positive view of the changes, what motivates that; what's their perspective, if they have concerns with the changes, you know, what those specific concerns are.

And certainly we'll engage further with the minister throughout this legislative process. The one thing that we really would appreciate on this front in our request to government is a legislative side-by-side analysis to, as I say, ensure that this 300-page bill is broken out in a succinct way with clear understanding of what was in place, what the changes are, and then of course allowing us to very effectively speak to why those changes have been made and making sure that there's not a host of unintended consequences in parts of this legislation.

Certainly what I've read into the record here by Ms. Holliday would appear to be rather positive in her review of the legislative changes. And certainly legislation like this definitely needs to be modernized to make sure that it's serving Saskatchewan people, that it's protecting consumers, and that it's regulating a very important . . . in a financial market and environment, making sure that risks are mitigated and that the public is protected.

So with that being said, we'll certainly look forward to significant more time on this piece of legislation, consultations ahead, likely an important need to have expert witnesses before a committee. But at this point in time I'll adjourn debate for Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act*, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 177, *The Insurance Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Immigration.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has moved that the House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 20:13.]



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