



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

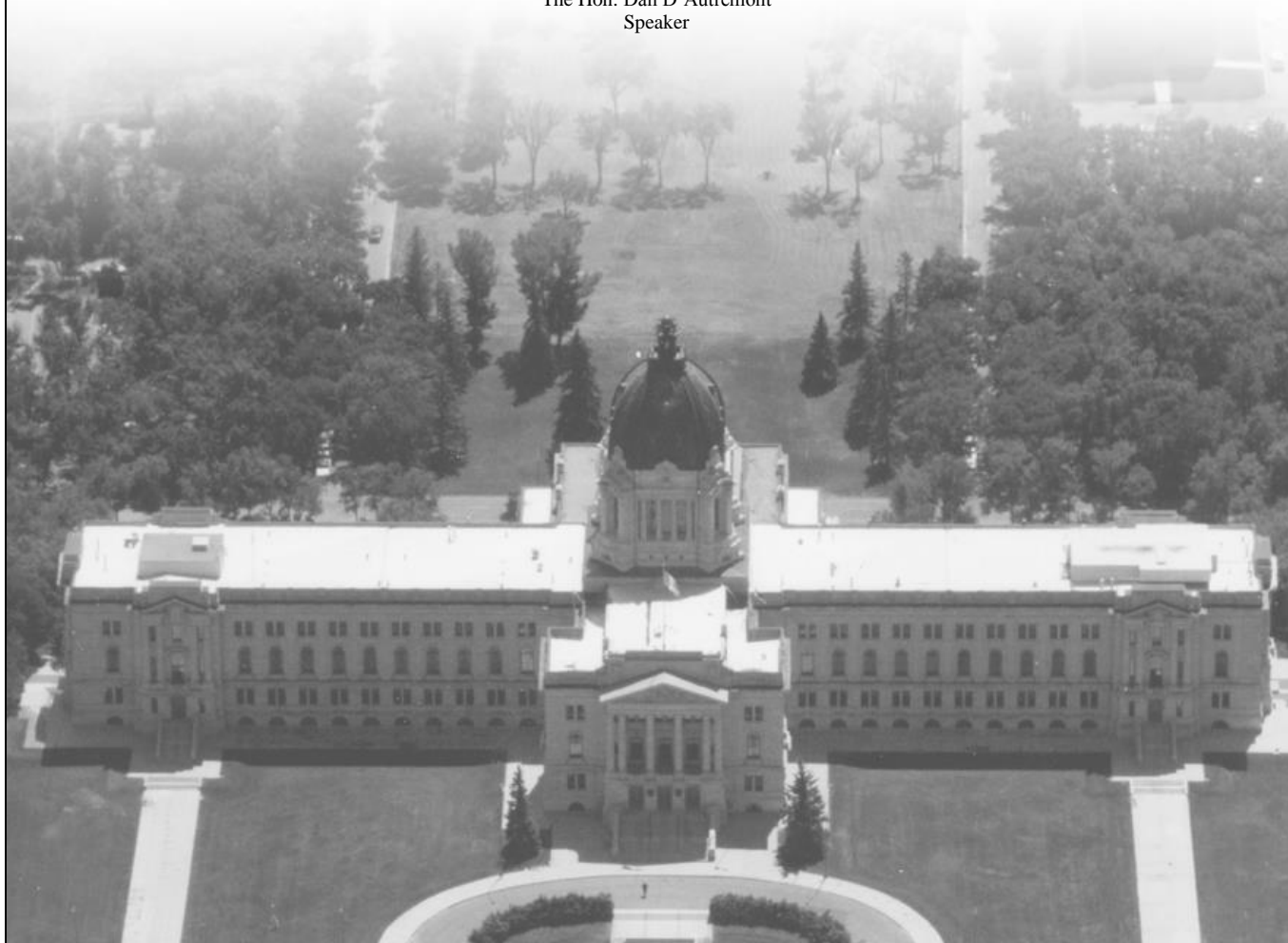
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
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

| Name of Member | Political Affiliation | Constituency |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Belanger, Buckley | NDP | Athabasca |
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| Boyd, Hon. Bill | SP | Kindersley |
| Bradshaw, Fred | SP | Carrot River Valley |
| Brkich, Greg | SP | Arm River-Watrous |
| Broten, Cam | NDP | Saskatoon Massey Place |
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| Chartier, Danielle | NDP | Saskatoon Riversdale |
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| Michelson, Warren | SP | Moose Jaw North |
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| Morgan, Hon. Don | SP | Saskatoon Southeast |
| Nilson, John | NDP | Regina Lakeview |
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| Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg | SP | Yorkton |
| Parent, Roger | SP | Saskatoon Meewasin |
| Phillips, Kevin | SP | Melfort |
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| Ross, Laura | SP | Regina Qu’Appelle Valley |
| Sproule, Cathy | NDP | Saskatoon Nutana |
| Steinley, Warren | SP | Regina Walsh Acres |
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| 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 |
| Vacant | | Prince Albert Carlton |

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce some fine guests in your gallery this afternoon. They are Saskatchewan medical students here on their lobby day. They met with a variety of ministers, our government policy committee as well as, I believe, with members of the opposition.

We had some great conversation, listened to a lot of their ideas which were really great to hear. I applaud their career choice and their commitment. I was really encouraged by their interest in seniors and seniors' care, which again is a priority of our government, and I found a lot of their ideas and preferences and where they'd like to see us go is in fact where this government has been heading down the last number of years. I'd also like to remind them that once they graduate, Saskatchewan offers a whole bunch of opportunity here for medical grads from our province. I welcome them here today.

With us is Jessica Harris, Larissa Padayachee, Cheyanne Vetter, Jillian Kerry, Jaylynn Arcand, Jessica Bruce, Paul Robinson, Cheyanne Lawton, Brittany Albrecht, Lindsey Anderson, Ryan Cormier, and a special shout-out — the Premier asked me to do this — to Dylan Ginter. I'm not sure, there's an inside joke going on there, but a special welcome to Dylan from the Premier. So I'd ask all members to welcome these members, these medical students to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming the Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan students who are here today. As always, it's always a pleasure to hear from young and inspiring people, their ideas about how our health care system could be improved here in Saskatchewan.

It was heartening to hear that the issues of their, I believe, 400 or so members, they highlighted that seniors' care was the top issue that came up with these students studying to become doctors, Mr. Speaker. We know that it is an issue that is of utmost importance to people across Saskatchewan. And we enjoyed hearing some of their ideas and look forward to the future work that they will continue to do in serving their communities, Mr. Speaker, and in serving the people of Saskatchewan and ensuring the governments of the day are aware of the issues that are important to them and to other people.

So with that, I would ask my colleagues to join in welcoming

these students to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to give a special introduction to one of the guests in the gallery today, Cheyanne Lawton. You know, last week we had an alumni of Caswell School, and yet we have another alumni of Caswell School, a former student of mine in grade 7, 8. Last week we were talking about Mrs. Klopoushak, and she would remember Mrs. Klopoushak. So I want to ask all members to give her, Cheyanne and all the students a warm welcome to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to join in welcoming all the medical students here today, but a special introduction to Larissa Padayachee. Larissa's dad, Dr. Veno Padayachee, and her mom, Dr. Diane Naidu, doctored in Estevan for many, many years. And I would just like to welcome her again to her legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to present a petition in support of education. We know that education is one of the most vital services this government provides to its citizens and that this government has failed to deliver a long-term plan and vision and the necessary resources to prioritize the delivery of educational excellence; and that this government has failed to deliver a real plan to close the Aboriginal education gap, support English as an additional language, and support community schools and their communities and students.

Mr. Speaker, we know that we must build the best education system for today and for Saskatchewan's future. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to immediately prioritize education by laying out a long-term vision and plan with the necessary resources to provide the best quality education for Saskatchewan that reflects Saskatchewan's demographic and population changes, that is based on proven educational best practices, that is developed through consultation with the education sector, that builds on strong educational infrastructure to serve students and communities long into the future.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Humboldt, Saskatoon, and Moose Jaw. I do so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the unsafe conditions created by that government on Dewdney Avenue when they failed to adequately plan a safe flow of traffic and they inundated Dewdney Avenue, an important residential artery, with heavy-haul truck traffic that's dangerous and damaging property, Mr. Speaker. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the honourable Legislative Assembly call on the provincial government to immediately take action as it relates to the unacceptable danger, disturbance, and infrastructure damage caused by the heavy-haul truck traffic on Dewdney Avenue west of the city centre, to ensure the safety and well-being of communities, families, residents, and users; and that those actions and plans should include rerouting the heavy-haul truck traffic, receive provincial funding, and be developed through consultation with the city of Regina, communities, and residents.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Homelessness is a major problem in La Ronge and in other parts of the North and it is getting worse. Shelter is a basic need for everyone. But under this government, it's getting harder and harder for people to find adequate housing, especially families, seniors, women and children who face abusive situations. The problem is getting worse because of the rising level of poverty and the skyrocketing home ownership costs. This petition is signed by many, many, and supported by hundreds and hundreds of people. And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Saskatchewan government to build a homeless shelter in the Lac La Ronge area to meet the needs of addressing homelessness in La Ronge, in the Lac La Ronge area.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by many good people of La Ronge. I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present a petition today in support of better seniors' care. Those who have signed the petition point out that many seniors are having to wait in hospital beds due to the lack of spaces in care facilities. They talk about how the Provincial Auditor found that many seniors' care facilities do not have high enough standards of care, that many families have spoken out about staff shortages resulting in a lack of staff to help their loved ones with basic needs while in care facilities. The petitioners point out that this government has removed the regulations requiring a minimum standard of care for seniors, and they point to

chronic understaffing in seniors' care facilities that results in unanswered calls for help, seniors being left unattended on toilets, and infrequent bathing for residents as well. I'd like to read the prayer.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to immediately undertake meaningful steps to improve the quality of seniors' care, including creating more spaces and more choices for seniors; ensuring higher standards of care in public facilities, private facilities, and home care; ensuring appropriate staffing levels in seniors' care facilities; restoring regulations that provide minimum standards of care; and providing more support to help seniors remain independent in their own homes for as long as they desire.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by folks from Saskatoon, Regina, Cupar, Strasbourg among other places. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of infrastructure accountability. The petitioners point out that the residents and taxpayers of Saskatchewan have a right to know how their money is spent. They point out that it's in the best interest of the residents and taxpayers of Saskatchewan to receive the best value for their tax dollars in the government procurement of Crown infrastructure, goods or services on their behalf, and they also point out that cost savings or value for taxpayers' money has not been realized or has been the subject of audit and dispute in other jurisdictions in public-private partnership projects. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to immediately pass *The Public-Private Partnership Transparency and Accountability Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by good citizens from Air Ronge and La Ronge. I so present.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to present a petition from residents of Saskatchewan who are upset about the privatization in the correctional service. There's a number of jobs that are going to be changed. Basically the government wants to privatize the food services, and they haven't been listening to the workers in this process. They haven't been dealing with the people who are involved. We know the costs will escalate. I don't think that the government understands how important it is for all of these people to be part of the correctional system and part of the staffing. The prayer reads as follows:

We respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan may be pleased to cause the government to cancel its privatization in corrections and young offender facilities in Saskatchewan.

This is signed by people from Prince Albert and area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to rise to present a petition for real action on climate change. The individuals who have signed this petition want to bring to the Assembly's attention a number of things. I'll highlight a couple of them. First of all Saskatchewan's emissions have continued to grow to 74 million megatonnes as reported by Environment Canada and show no signs of decreasing; and further, that the Saskatchewan government has failed to tackle climate change, reduce emissions to the province's own targets, or put in a real plan to protect the natural environment. And so in the prayer that reads as follows, the individuals are respectfully requesting:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enact a real plan and allocate appropriate funding in the provincial budget to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encouraging everyone in the province to take real action to protect the environment.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from Regina, Moose Jaw, Cupar, and La Ronge. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Talented Saskatchewan Curlers

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize a number of remarkable Saskatchewan curlers. On Sunday, Steve Laycock's rink from the Nutana Curling Club represented Team Saskatchewan in the bronze medal game at the 2015 Tim Hortons Brier in Calgary. They stole 2 in the extra end to win the bronze against Brad Gushue's Newfoundland squad.

Laycock and his team — made up of third, Kirk Muyres; second, Colton Flasch; lead, Dallan Muyres; alternate, Gerry Adam; and coach, Lyle Muyres — played great curling all week in one of the toughest fields in recent memory. Three different teams at this year's Brier had previously won an Olympic gold medal, and this bronze medal came after a long week and an impressive 7 and 4 record against some of the best teams on the planet.

But the gold medal team had a Saskatchewan connection too, Mr. Speaker. Team Canada was led to its gold medal finish by Moose Jaw native, Pat Simmons, and that team certainly deserves our recognition as well.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating all of the Saskatchewan players on their strong finish at this year's Brier and wish them all the best as they prepare for the remainder of this year's curling season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Business Women of Moose Jaw Host Sparkle & Shine Event

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend the member from Moose Jaw North and myself had the opportunity to attend the second annual Business Women of Moose Jaw Sparkle & Shine event.

The Sparkle & Shine highlighted the amazing contribution of Moose Jaw business women through the PRISM [perseverance, role model, influential, successful, mentor] Awards ceremony. These awards represent the five outstanding qualities that are displayed by each award recipient. These qualities are perseverance, role model, influence, successful, and mentor.

Mr. Speaker, this year's award winners were Elyse Reader for the Community Volunteer Award; Dayne Smith-Short for the Leadership and Management Award; Viola Reaman for the Humanities, Technology and Environment Award; Barb Jackman for the Sport, Culture and Recreation Award; Tammy Franks for the Rural Community Contribution Award; MacKenzie Johnson for the Young Woman of Promise Award; and Sharon Watson for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, this event was also a fundraiser for the Moose Jaw transition housing, with the goal of raising \$50,000. Even before the event began this year, they had raised more than last year's \$26,000 and are well on their way to reaching their goal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating the PRISM Awards recipients and the Business Women of Moose Jaw for a very successful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Regina Sexual Assault Centre

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize an important milestone for an organization in our city. I'm speaking of the Regina Sexual Assault Centre.

For 40 years the Regina Sexual Assault Centre has provided supports and services for the survivors of sexual assault. Through their counselling services, 24-hour sexual assault line, and interactive education programs for children, the Regina Sexual Assault Centre's work is making a significant difference in the lives of men, women, and children from all parts of our city and indeed throughout the region.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, these services are needed now more than ever. Too many people in our province live with the damage caused by sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse. Saskatchewan itself has the highest rate of police-reported sexual assaults in the country, nearly double the national average, and the number of assaults reported by Aboriginal women are even more troubling.

I know all members will join me in recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Regina Sexual Assault Centre and in deeply

thanking the staff for all the great work that they do. I also ask that members join me in calling for an end to sexual violence everywhere.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Impaired Driving Awareness Week

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Monday I was honoured to attend an event at Campbell Collegiate here in Regina which kicked off provincial Impaired Driving Awareness Week and the SADD [Students Against Drinking and Driving] speakers tour.

Organized by students against drunk driving, or SADD, the message that guest speaker Greg Drew shared with the crowd of high school students wasn't about drinking or drugs. Dangerous and reckless driving can take a life just as easily. Greg spoke from the heart about his experience with the death of his 17-year-old son, Jay. Jay missed a turn while speeding, causing him to hit a tree, ending his life. Mr. Speaker, no parent or family should ever have to go through this.

I am proud that there are students in our schools who realize that this is a problem that is preventable. The speakers tour will take Greg's message to nine other schools in our province, including Estevan, Oxbow, Whitewood, Kamsack, Norquay, Naicam, Humboldt, Colonsay, and Rosthern.

Working across chapters and partnering with SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], SADD is creating the day where we will not need speakers like Greg to share his story. Mr. Speaker, we are all committed to that goal. Mr. Speaker, SGI provides roughly \$102,000 annually in support of SADD activities across our province.

Mr. Speaker, safe and sober driving should be second nature but, until that day, I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking Greg as well as the SADD chapter at Campbell Collegiate and all other Saskatchewan SADD chapters for their hard work on impaired and distracted driving. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

The Athletics Commission of Saskatchewan

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today our government officially proclaimed *The Athletics Commission Act* establishing the Athletics Commission of Saskatchewan. This commission will sanction professional combative sporting events in this province, including mixed martial arts and boxing. The responsibilities of the commission include approving event permits, ensuring the promoters and competitors have the proper licences, and that qualified event rules are adhered to.

The commission will also ensure that qualified medical staff, referees, judges, and timekeepers are hired for events, and that athletes receive appropriate medical exams before and after competitions. In early April, the commission will be ready to

accept applications for promoter and contestant licences and event permits.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of the commission will enable combative sporting events to be held across the province with consistent rules, regulations, and processes to ensure lower levels of risks for athletes. Saskatchewan will now also be able to attract and host amateur and professional boxing and MMA [mixed martial arts] events. Such events will help to further cement Saskatchewan's reputation as a great place to host major national and international events. People and businesses in our province will benefit from economic spinoffs associated with the hosting of these events.

Mr. Speaker, with the proclamation of *The Athletics Commission Act*, combative sports athletes can look forward to increased safety while taking part in regulated competitions in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Doctors in Saskatchewan

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise in the House today to announce that there are 20 new doctors practising in Saskatchewan, thanks to the Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment program.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to improving the lives of rural Saskatchewan residents. That is why we have added more doctors in Leader, Kamsack, Davidson, Arcola, Porcupine Plain, and Fort Qu'Appelle. We've also added additional doctors in Saskatoon, Regina, Swift Current, Lloydminster, Estevan, and Prince Albert to service our growing cities.

Mr. Speaker, SIPPA [Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment] is a Saskatchewan program that assesses international medical graduates on their medical education and clinical ability to ensure they are appropriate for our province. Since this program began in 2011, more than 160 new family physicians have completed the assessment and have fulfilled or are fulfilling their commitment to the province.

Mr. Speaker, we're also making progress in keeping our locally trained doctors in the province. Over the past two years, our retention rate of family medicine graduates has increased from 58 per cent to 75 per cent. Mr. Speaker, the increase of international doctors and the retention of our locally trained doctors will ensure better care and easier access for all Saskatchewan people.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming the 20 new international doctors to our great province. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Sutherland.

Environmental Inspections

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are beginning to see a familiar pattern from the Leader of the Opposition and

all of his members. Yesterday the member from Saskatoon Nutana said, and I quote, “. . . officials within the Ministry of Environment have told me they’re no longer allowed to do vital inspections because the Sask Party government doesn’t consider it to be essential travel.”

The member’s assertion yesterday that vital environmental inspections have been stopped is just plain wrong. The member’s assertion that the directive was given to the staff to cease travel within the province related to inspections and audits, wrong again. The Minister of Environment has not issued any directive to employees to reduce the number of environmental inspections or audits because of fiscal or travel restraints.

Mr. Speaker, we take the protection of the Saskatchewan people and its environment seriously. That includes ensuring that any vital environmental inspections, assessments, or audits are completed in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, this isn’t the first time that we’ve had to correct the record regarding the statements of members opposite. This clearly reflects on their leadership. It has been 731 days since the member from Massey Place was named leader, yet the people of Saskatchewan have yet to see a shred of policy from his party. We have consistently seen the same dishonest tactics that were so soundly rejected in the 20 election. Mr. Speaker, they may have a different leader over there, but it’s the same old NDP [New Democratic Party]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ambulance Service Fees

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this government has long known about concerns related to the cost of ambulances in our province. Here’s some quotes, Mr. Speaker, from this government’s very own reports over the years: “I have patients with ambulance costs in the 3,000 to \$6,000 range. Costs are huge.” “The extra expense of the ambulance ride, \$2,000 in my case, for people living in rural areas may cause people not to seek treatment at all. This inequality needs to be fixed.” “The patient responsibility for ambulance costs is consistently the most common concern reported to the Ministry of Health and the health regions regarding EMS.”

But you know, Mr. Speaker, instead of using the massive revenues it has collected over the last years to fix our ambulance system, this government, you know what they chose to do? They ramped up fees, Mr. Speaker, having Saskatchewan patients pay even more. My question to the Premier: is he willing to admit that that was a mistake?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question, thank him for raising this issue. He’s right. This is an issue that we’ve talked about as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], we’ve discussed when we were in opposition, discussed in government, even at budget time, Mr. Speaker.

I want to note for the record and for members of the House that the ambulance services in the province are subsidized to the tune of 71 per cent, Mr. Speaker. The government has an increased investment in ambulance services in the province I think by 50 per cent. Since we were elected, Mr. Speaker, we’ve sought to improve ambulatory care through STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] so that communities in rural and more remote parts of the province could not just have an ambulance service, we could quite literally have an emergency room land on their doorstep and provide those services.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health have indicated that on a constant basis this government is reviewing issues, reviewing things like ambulance fees that are paid by people. Mr. Speaker, we know there are programs for seniors, programs for those who need help but, as we’ve seen, some might fall through the cracks. And as we’ve done in health care and in, really, across government, we are constantly reviewing for improvement, Mr. Speaker, so we can best deliver services to the people of the province within a balanced budget.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, you want to know how seriously this government takes this issue? The member from Wood River just said, what would Murdoch do? Talk about living in the past, Mr. Speaker. Talk about dismissing the concerns that families bring to this legislature. It’s absolutely ridiculous, Mr. Speaker.

You know what this government’s increased? The fees, the fees that seniors and young families are forced to pay. Last week, Mr. Speaker, we heard from Catherine Olund. We heard about Leandra Bucsis-Gunn. Two tragic cases, Mr. Speaker, where the ambulance charges were horrendously high for these families. Since these stories were in the news, other families have contacted us, Mr. Speaker, have shared their stories about the costs that they are experiencing. And far too often these families say that the huge costs related to ambulance rides, Mr. Speaker, cause them to think twice about whether or not to call an ambulance.

And just like Sara Bucsis-Gunn said, she told the story of how she and her husband, in an emergency with their little daughter who was turning blue, Mr. Speaker, that they would drive her, race her to the ER [emergency room] because of the huge fees that they were facing and the huge interest charges that were being piled on top of that, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for this Premier, and not to be making these excuses and pretending that they didn’t increase fees for residents, but when will this Premier admit that it was a mistake to jack up the fees? And when can we expect him to start to fix this problem?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is increasingly angry about all of the issues he presents before the Assembly. And, Mr. Speaker, it’s one thing I think to have some passion about the issues. I think we all do, but I want the

member to be fair as well to not just members on his side of the House but members on our side of the House. Just because we outline the record of the government when it comes to ambulance services — which has been to increase ambulance funding by 50 per cent, which has been to bring STARS to the province, something we'd asked the previous government to do and they never did, Mr. Speaker — I would ask him as he's going to do, to say yes, he'd like the government to do more. And there certainly are gaps that we need to look at, and we are, but, Mr. Speaker, I don't think he should assign some sort of ill motive to the answers that we give when we provide the record of the government, Mr. Speaker.

I could tell the members opposite that there was a promise made by the New Democrats in 1999, and some of those members ran under this particular promise with respect to ambulance care. I think the member for Lakeview did, and the member for Athabasca who is chirping from his seat did. And here's what the quote was from their platform with respect to ambulances. The NDP promised publicly funded ambulance services:

We'll introduce a single reasonable fee for ambulance services. And we'll begin to reduce ambulance charges throughout the province, starting by eliminating all fees for transfers between health (care) institutions.

That's why members opposite have very little credibility frankly when they bring these issues because their talk is one thing but their actions were another, Mr. Speaker.

We know we must continue to improve not just in ambulance care but in health care across the board. That's the record of this government since 2007. That's what we'll continue to do, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's so bizarre that this Premier doesn't want to stand by his record. It's a record that increased ambulance fees for Saskatchewan people. This Premier, Mr. Speaker, wants to talk about things that happened when I was in high school. This is the government that has had record revenues, Mr. Speaker, at its disposal, and they have failed to deliver for Saskatchewan people.

According to this government's very own documents, patients are billed 32 per cent of all ambulance billings. Private insurance providers are billed for an additional 5 per cent of ambulance billings. So nearly 40 per cent of all ambulance bills, Mr. Speaker, patients cover while the provincial government picks up roughly 25 per cent of the ambulance bills.

[14:00]

Now patients and their families spent about \$15 million straight out of their pockets, Mr. Speaker, every year to cover essential and vital ambulance services. Now that's a lot of money, Mr. Speaker, for families who have to pay out of their pocket, but it's not a lot of money for this government who's had record revenues and extra billions and billions every year and a government. Mr. Speaker, that has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on wasteful pet projects, Mr. Speaker, and consultants. That has been their record.

My question to the Premier: will he at least recognize that the cost of ambulance fees are a huge burden to families, to patients, and will he commit to fix this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, not only did the NDP make the promise that I just read in 1999, not only did they make that promise and not keep the promise, they raised ambulance fees in 2006, Mr. Speaker. That's the record on his side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member wants to talk about revenues to the government. He wants to talk about what this particular side of the House has decided to do with revenues to the government. In health care, Mr. Speaker, here is what we've done. There are 2,600 more nurses working of every designation in the province of Saskatchewan. That's what we did with the money. There are more than 400 more doctors practising, another 20 confirmed by the member for Wood River today. That's what we did with the money, Mr. Speaker.

What did we do with revenue? We opened up 13 brand new long-term care facilities in this province, the Moose Jaw Hospital, the children's hospital, Mr. Speaker. Countless maintenance and capital expenditures across the province, Mr. Speaker, that is what this side of the House did for health care.

And what's the result? We took the longest wait-lists for surgeries in the nation, Mr. Speaker, in the dominion of Canada under those members, under the member for Lakeview when he was the Health minister, and we've made them the shortest in the nation. That's what we've done, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I wish, I wish that this Premier showed even half the concern and enthusiasm he's showing right now for the situations of Leandra, for the situations of Sara, for the situations, Mr. Speaker, of Dave who came to the legislature. That would be leadership, Mr. Speaker, that speaks to the health concerns for Saskatchewan people.

Right here, Mr. Speaker, in the government's documents from December 2014, increased ambulance fees under new provincial ambulance fee guidelines. It is this government's record during record revenues that they have piled more and more of a financial burden on Saskatchewan's patients. Thirty per cent of ambulance bills, Mr. Speaker, are there when there are transfers, medically necessary transfers, between facilities. So that is roughly \$4.5 million out of the pockets of patients and families each and every year. But let's look, Mr. Speaker, where this government has been more than happy to have spent about that same amount of money — \$4.5 million.

We saw them give a \$5 million gift to the American company that's given us the fire-prone, dud smart meters on the sides of homes. They had five million bucks for that, Mr. Speaker. We see this Premier, he gave \$3 million to an American lobbyist. I think that money could have been used at home a lot better, Mr. Speaker.

We see they have spent \$4 million, \$4 million simply on the

travel and accommodation for John Black, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely there is no excuse for that when we see these fees, when we see these increases on Saskatchewan people. My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: why these misplaced priorities? Why is he so willing to spend money on American corporation, an American lobbyist, or an American consultant? Will he at least agree to get rid of the charges for inter-facility transfers for patients here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, where did the money go? Mr. Speaker, the money went to hundreds more people working on the front lines in terms of seniors care in the province of Saskatchewan. Where did the money go? The money went to historic, record income tax reduction for low- to middle-income people, including seniors, Mr. Speaker, including seniors, especially in that low-income range, who've gone from paying whatever they were paying under those members opposite when they were in government to paying well, virtually, virtually little. I think there's been thousands, 60,000 or so dropped off the tax roll completely in the province of Saskatchewan. It might be higher than that.

Mr. Speaker, this government has taken proceeds, taken revenues for the last seven years, and we've paid off the operating debt of this province, Mr. Speaker — debt that was not being supported by members opposite, debt for which there was not a timeline to pay off — by 44 per cent, Mr. Speaker. This government has taken infrastructure investment records of the members opposite, which was \$3 billion in their last seven years, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — I would like to remind the members that their words and actions can also be interpreted as unparliamentary, and I would caution them not to do so. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, in their last seven years of office, they spent \$3 billion in infrastructure and health care and education and highways, leaving behind a massive infrastructure deficit including, in education alone, of \$1.2 billion. Where has the revenue gone to this province as the result of a growing economy and decisions taken by this government? We've doubled that, Mr. Speaker, to \$6 billion. That's gone into highways and schools and hospitals, Mr. Speaker.

And if that member opposite wants to debate here or in the months ahead or in a general election campaign, what's happened to the growth in this province, what's happened to the revenue in the province, we will welcome that debate today and every day on into the future, Mr. Speaker, because the record of this government stands for itself, and we'll be happy to put it before the people of this province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, a simple question to the Premier with a yes or no answer. That is all that is needed. Will the Premier scrap the inter-facility transfer fees for Saskatchewan patients? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote

Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, ambulance service is a priority to this government. It's very important to the people of the province, Mr. Speaker. And as the Premier pointed out, this government . . .

The Speaker: — I remind the members to please tone it down so that we can hear both the question and the response. I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, we know that the regions do work with individuals when there is hardships paying bills. They do work with payment plans. Many of them do alter the payments. They do reduce the cost. They do look at altering the interest fees, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Health spoke about last week, he's been in direct contact with the regions and reviewing their interest charging practices through those, those regions, Mr. Speaker.

But we have to focus as well on priorities, Mr. Speaker. And admittedly some other provinces in the Dominion of Canada have different ambulance rates. They have lower ambulance rates, Mr. Speaker. But they also don't have the amount of coverage of their health care budget that this province does, whether it comes to seniors' issues; whether it comes to pharmaceuticals, as has been pointed out here before; anti-nausea cancer drugs, many provinces don't cover, Mr. Speaker. We cover many of those. We have to trade and balance things off with ambulances fees as well, Mr. Speaker.

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

Provision of Seniors' Care

Ms. Chartier: — Medical students from the University of Saskatchewan have travelled to the legislature today to raise concerns about seniors' care in our province. They want it fixed. Dr. Chris Simpson, the president of the Canadian Medical Association says, "I think that if we can fix seniors' care, we will go a long way toward fixing the health care system in this country."

To the minister: will he finally admit that seniors' care needs to be fixed, and when can we get, expect this government to finally get serious about it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I think all that anybody in this Assembly has to do, and the public has to do, is look at this government's record when it comes to health, especially seniors' care, Mr. Speaker, initiatives that we do have in this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, when we look at seniors' initiatives that we do have under this government, many were non-existent under the members opposite. And when they were existent under the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, they were sorely neglected.

Mr. Speaker, we look at issues around health care. We look at issues around seniors, specifically around health care and the need of seniors for health care. Who's the largest users of the health care system, Mr. Speaker? Seniors.

The members opposite want to talk about increases. Let's talk about increases to the medical training seats that many of the guests in the House today will appreciate — from 60 to 100, Mr. Speaker. Under the NDP, a college that was in risk of failing, now admittedly going through issues from time to time, but doubling the seats and seeing a lot more graduates coming out of there, Mr. Speaker.

We look at a system of medical training in the province where the residency positions have been doubled, and a lot of those in rural areas, Mr. Speaker. And I'm looking forward to more questions to bring up more of the advancements this government has in health care and seniors initiatives.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, it might be helpful if the minister actually listened to the question. He clearly needs to listen to the independent Provincial Ombudsman who says that her office has received many complaints from families about the quality of seniors' care. The Ombudsman says those complaints include "... poor quality of care, low staff-to-resident ratios, a poor organizational culture within facilities, lack of communications with families and residents, and a long-term care system lacking in accountability." Not a proud record to stand on, Mr. Speaker.

In a letter to the Health minister about those concerns, the Ombudsman said, "... I can advise you that they come from all over the province ..."

Will the minister finally agree to restore minimum regulated care standards and implement safe staffing levels to ensure an appropriate quality of care for seniors in our province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I'll remind the member opposite that the Ombudsman report has been initiated by this government, recognizing that there is an issue in long-term care and seniors' care in certain facilities. But for them to categorically somehow insinuate that long-term care and seniors' care in this province is in a catastrophic situation, Mr. Speaker, is far from the truth.

We know that hundreds and hundreds and hundreds, thousands of seniors in this province have great care. They can't imagine being in any other facilities than the one they're in. Recognizing challenges in some facilities, Mr. Speaker, is what this government has done. We have addressed, started to address, some of the issues where there's been concerns arise when it comes to staffing: hundreds of more health care workers in integrated long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, 750 additional workers, as well as additional funds on top of what's already allocated to those institutions and facilities.

When there was a noted issue in long-term care, the Urgent Issues Action Fund was put into place for those short-term initiatives as well as an ongoing \$3.7 million fund increase to the health budget on an annual basis to address those issues, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, this minister needs to remember that it was the Health minister's chief of staff said the guidelines that are in place right now are extremely general, that this government put in place, those extremely general guidelines are clearly not working. Story after story, Mr. Speaker, that come forward.

Chronic short-staffing is hurting the quality of seniors' care. We need regulated minimum care standards and we need regulated safe staffing levels. That's how we fix the quality of seniors' care in our province, and that's how we build much needed accountability into our seniors' care system. To the minister: why is this government so stubborn on this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, we talk about minimum care standards, and this government acknowledges that we do need definite standards in these long-term care facilities for seniors. We look at the old bill under the NDP, Bill 606, Mr. Speaker, Bill 606 under the NDP, a very small document. These minimum care standards, these guidelines we have in the province today, Mr. Speaker, 193 pages of general guidelines, Mr. Speaker. How general can you be in 193 pages?

Mr. Speaker, I have quote after quote in my notes here, Mr. Speaker, of individuals specifying that staffing levels aren't indicative particularly of the level of care that's needed in these different facilities, Mr. Speaker. We have to be flexible with the different facilities, with the needs of certain patients, Mr. Speaker.

I would ask the question opposite, talking about minimum care standards, where are the minimum care standards in the 19 facilities they closed, Mr. Speaker? Nineteen facilities, 1,200 beds, hundreds of people put out of work, Mr. Speaker. They drove hundreds of doctors, hundreds of nurses out of this province, Mr. Speaker. We're increasing the complement of health care workers, and we're rebuilding these facilities and increasing beds.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Margaret Warholm, Art Healey, Savannah Gunderson, Emma Krushelnicki, Jessie Sellwood, Lorne Rowell, Margaret Froess, Adrian Seaborne, Fern Chingos — theirs are just some of the heartbreaking stories we've heard from families that have come forward and spoken out publicly. And the Ombudsman has heard from many others from all over the province.

To the minister: how many more families need to come forward

before this government takes its head out of the sand and finally do something meaningful about seniors' care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, again long-term care, seniors' care in this province is a priority of this government. And it's heartbreaking to hear the names of the individuals that we have learned over the past number of weeks and months that have suffered horrendous treatment in some of these facilities, Mr. Speaker. But again, to point out, to categorically, you know, insinuate that these facilities are all bad, that this is a widespread issue, Mr. Speaker, is not honest.

We know that many of these facilities offer great care. In fact, Mr. Speaker, just this last Friday we had the opportunity to open the new facility in Radville, a lean-designed facility with seniors in there, smiles on their faces, great food, great treatment, a primary health clinic attached, Mr. Speaker, comprehensive long-term care and in-depth care for these seniors right in that facility.

[14:15]

So we know there's more work to do, Mr. Speaker, and again our hearts go out to these individuals and other individuals that do run into situations, Mr. Speaker. That's why we've asked for the Ombudsman to do this comprehensive report, to come back with recommendations, as well as institute the Urgent Issues Fund, as well as increasing funding for long-term care through the ongoing budget, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to continue doing that work.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Surface Rights Legislation

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, for several months farmers and ranchers have been waiting to see what this government has up its sleeve for a new surface rights Act. The existing legislation is outdated, and it doesn't reflect modern realities. That's why I was surprised yesterday when the government withdrew its bill from the order paper.

To the minister: why did this government withdraw *The Surface Rights Act*?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, oil and gas development today in our province is a very complex business, with many, many possible concerns which makes every well in Saskatchewan unique. You have to balance off all of those interests between single well, multi-well pads, horizontal versus a vertical well, landowner issues around whether the land is owned by an individual or whether it is government-owned land or whether it's rented land or whether it's land that is farmed in a joint venture or custom farming operations.

There are all kinds of different very complex issues around this, Mr. Speaker, and that's why after consultation with the many,

many groups here in Saskatchewan — including the stock growers, SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], landowner groups, oil companies small and large — we've decided to take another look at this legislation and pulled it at this point.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the bill was drafted. It was ready to go. The opposition, we've been listening to agricultural producers and the serious concerns they have. They have concerns about the \$1,000 cap on damages being way too low. There's no increases in rent when additional well sites are established, and landowners want a guarantee that their land will be restored once the well sites and pipelines are shut down.

This isn't new, Mr. Speaker. There are serious issues for farmers and ranchers and rural residents, and they deserve a surface rights Act that addresses these concerns. To the Agriculture minister: did he advocate for these rural residents, and why isn't this government delivering a bill to address their very real concerns?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we're trying to balance the interests of the industry, the oil and gas industry, against landowners. It's a very, very complex situation.

And I find it a little surprising that the member opposite would want to try and pit farmers and ranchers against this government. I don't know whether the members noticed or not, but we represent every rural seat in Saskatchewan. And the reason is, and the reason is really quite simple, Madam Member. I'll tell you the reason: because we understand agriculture. We understand the oil and gas sector. We don't pit one against the other like you guys used to do. You weren't in favour of either the oil industry or agriculture, and everybody in this province knows it.

And, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the actions of actions of that government and the members when they were in government — closing hospitals, ripping up GRIP [gross revenue insurance program] contracts — they will never see another seat in NDP Saskatchewan under their leadership.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 619 through 665.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered responses to questions 619 through 665.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 163

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 163** — *The Education Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation* 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 for Bill No. 163, *The Education Amendment Act* once again here today.

I've already spoken to this in this Assembly here. Certainly there's important matters for us to follow up with the Education minister in committee. We look forward to that opportunity.

Certainly we know the record of this government when it comes to education has been one of not listening to the education sector, not listening to school boards, not listening to teachers, and failing to get the job done where it matters for Saskatchewan students, Mr. Speaker.

Where this government has acted, they've done so unilaterally. They've done so without understanding the consequences of their decisions, Mr. Speaker, and they've rammed forward with simplistic agenda items, Mr. Speaker, like monkeying around with the calendar and the school day, Mr. Speaker, all of which have had significant negative consequences. We're hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that finally this government will make education a priority, but until such time, Mr. Speaker, we're proud to continue to make education a priority and make sure we stand up for students across the province.

So as I say, I've put some comments onto the record in this Assembly already. I do look forward to following up for some clarity with the minister. We'll certainly continue to welcome submissions from the education sector and parents and students from across Saskatchewan, and we'll certainly be bringing forward those concerns and those questions on this file.

But you know, when you look at the unprecedented economic boom that this government has been able to preside over, Mr. Speaker, it's an unacceptable failure to not get the job done for students and the next generation, Mr. Speaker, to disrespect the important work of the fine teachers in our province, Mr. Speaker. And we're willing, any day of the week, to stand up for students, teachers, and education in our province.

So with that being said, I move Bill No. 163, *The Education Amendment Act* . . . or I don't move. I look forward to following up with *The Education Amendment Act* in committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 163, *The Education Amendment Act, 2014*, be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 163, *The Education Amendment Act, 2014* be moved to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 164

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 164** — *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to wade into the discussion on Bill No. 164, *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014*. Mr. Speaker, this particular bill came out of actually some work that was done when a working group in 2012 was struck in order to take a look at health information privacy, Mr. Speaker. And it was spurred on by an issue in 2011 actually, Mr. Speaker, where many peoples' health information were found, many boxes of medical files were found in a dumpster, Mr. Speaker.

That's a very serious issue, Mr. Speaker, the disposal of medical records. And who keeps track of those medical records, and who's responsible for them is an incredibly important issue. I know that the then Information and Privacy Commissioner, Gary Dickson, had an investigator go and try to track down where those came from. It was a huge issue, huge issue, our privacy, Mr. Speaker, and so the government put together a working group that came up with 11 different recommendations, Mr. Speaker. They came up with the *Health Records Protection Report* in April of 2014.

I'll talk a little bit about the 11 recommendations in this report. I understand the government has pursued four of those recommendations with legislative changes. And there are 11 recommendations and, from what I've been told by stakeholders, that there could have been other legislative amendments coming out of this as well, and they've only chosen to pursue four.

Mr. Speaker, I will talk a little about the 11 recommendations. I'd just like to put them on the record for those who might be interested. So again, I just want to let you know, let people know that this committee, the health records protection working group, was established in September 2012 by the Minister of Health for the purpose of examining a couple of issues here, Mr. Speaker, and to report their recommendations to the deputy minister of Health.

They were to examine the mechanisms for enforcement of trustee responsibilities to protect patient records as required under *The Health Information Protection Act*. And the working group was to review not only the current enforcement mechanisms but also to comment on specific changes which may be desired to clarify trustee responsibilities or to assist in achieving trustee compliance with HIPA [*The Health Information Protection Act*]. And they were also charged with specific changes which will prevent abandonment of patient records, thereby protecting patient confidentiality and reducing events requiring need for enforcement.

So, Mr. Speaker, the recommendations, there are 11 of them included. Again, I will read them all into the record. I think that they're all important. And I've been told that, by stakeholders who participated in the working group, that these could have been some legislative changes rather than just the four.

So recommendation 1 was:

Strict liability offence. The Working Group recommended that a strict liability offence provision should be added to HIPA specifically aimed at addressing abandoned records. This will forego the need to establish evidence of specific intent. When records are found abandoned, once the abandonment is established and the trustee determined, that trustee will have to show he/she took all reasonable steps to prevent the abandonment from occurring.

Recommendation no. 2:

Individual offence for willful disclosure of personal health information. The Working Group recommended that provisions be added to make it clear that the offence provisions for intentional/willful disclosure of personal health information apply not only to trustees, but to individuals who are employees of trustees.

The third recommendation:

Proposed snooping offence. The Working Group recommended the addition of a specific offence for inappropriate use of personal health information by employees of a trustee who access information without a need for that information (snooping).

4. Gaps in the definition of trustee for physician practice arrangements. The Working Group recommended that the Government take one of two actions to address some forms of physician clinic practice arrangements currently being utilized, which HIPA does not contemplate. The Working Group concluded that the definition of trustee under the Act does not apply to these arrangements and recommended:

(a) Regulations be passed under HIPA to make the clinic operators that control patient records trustees; or

(b) the practice arrangements be precluded by:

(i) making legislative changes to HIPA to make the physician responsible for the records notwithstanding the arrangements;

(ii) making legislative changes to *The Medical Professions Act, 1981* clearly precluding these types of operating structures.

The fifth recommendation was:

Proclaim sections of HIPA. The Working Group recommended that subsections 17(1), and subsections 18(2) and (4) of HIPA be proclaimed into force. These provisions require trustees to have record retention/destruction policies and written contracts with information management service providers.

The sixth recommendation:

Take control of abandoned records. The Working Group recommended that a system be put in place to quickly respond to a discovery of abandoned records and to take control of the records. A new provision should be added to HIPA authorizing the Minister of Health to appoint a person to take over control and custody of the records where an active trustee abandons records.

Recommendation no. 7:

Single repository for abandoned records. The Working Group recommended that there should be one facility where abandoned records associated with an unknown or unavailable trustee are taken. The Working Group determined that the operator of the existing electronic health record system, eHealth Saskatchewan, would be the most appropriate party to be that repository.

8. Enact regulations governing designated archives. The Working Group recommended that Government pass the remaining regulations contemplated by section 63(1)(k) of HIPA to complete the responsibilities of designated archives for dealing with records transferred by trustees.

9. Designated archives required to accept records. The Working Group recommended at least one of the designated archives should be required to accept records offered by trustees. Ideally, that archive might be eHealth Saskatchewan, however, it is possible to designate that particular designated archives be required to accept records from particular trustees.

The 10th recommendation:

Private record storage solutions be available. The Working Group recommended Government consider permitting private records storage and processing companies with sound privacy practices to be considered for listing in the regulations as designated archives to provide for more options for transferring patient records.

11. Designated archive storage costs borne by trustees. The Working Group recommended that costs associated with transferring and storing with the designated archives be the responsibility of the trustee. A system should be developed to ensure that the funds required covering the costs of the designated archive services are paid by the trustee in some fashion. The Working Group is not

unanimous on how this would be accomplished, but the discussion noted the following:

(a) For trustees that are regulated by a professional association, the professional association could levy annual fees from the members and set up a fund to cover the costs associated with record storage where records are abandoned by their members.

(b) Trustees licensed to carry on their health operations could be required to demonstrate that they have an arrangement or plan to deal with patient records on winding up operations. Additional licensing fees could be assessed for the purposes of establishing a fund that the licensing body can access in the event records of an operator are abandoned.

[14:30]

So, Mr. Speaker, those are the 11 recommendations by the working group, or the health records protection working group, Mr. Speaker, that was established in September 2012. And as I said, there are only four of those recommendations that are being addressed today in legislative changes, and I understand that more of them could have been entrenched in legislation. I also understand that there was some strong or plenty of discussion on the issue of trustee, Mr. Speaker, which the definition does not in fact change in this particular Act.

I'd like to talk a little bit about the four recommendations that are in, that did make it into the legislation, Mr. Speaker. And I'll look to the minister's second reading speech here. One of them which was, one of the recommendations is that HIPA include a strict liability offence. The minister points out in his speech that:

... if records are found abandoned or unsecured, the trustee responsible for the records will need to show that they took all reasonable steps to prevent their abandonment. [And the minister says] This change means there won't be a need to prove that the trustee intended to abandon the records.

The next amendment makes it an individual offence for wilful disclosure of personal information [as the minister says in the second reading speech, and he points out that] This makes it clear that HIPA offences for intentional disclosure of personal health information apply not ... [just] to trustees but to the individuals who are in the employment of trustees, or employees of trustees.

The third amendment is a snooping offence. A specific offence will be established for inappropriate use of personal health information by employees who access information without a need for that information.

And the final amendment includes taking control of abandoned or unsecured records. A specific provision [the minister has said in his second reading speech] will be added to HIPA for a system to be put in place to quickly respond to a discovery of abandoned or unsecured records and to take control of those records.

It's good to see some of these changes, Mr. Speaker, but the minister goes on to say that:

In addition to these amendments ... [the ministry] will examine the other recommendations made by the group, including creating a single repository for abandoned records, making private record storage solutions available, and clarifying the definition of trustee for physician practice arrangements.

I'm glad that the ministry is going to continue to look at those recommendations, but we have a bill before us today, Mr. Speaker, and this legislative session we actually have previous bills that have been before us that have come back to the legislature for amendments because there have been errors or things not included, Mr. Speaker. So I do have some concerns that of these 11 recommendations, they've only chosen to put four into legislation, but they're going to continue to look, Mr. Speaker. I would prefer that they would have given all these recommendations a good, hard look before they drafted the legislation, so this bill isn't before us again being amended in a year from now potentially or in the not-too-distant future, Mr. Speaker.

I know we will have an opportunity, I look forward to the opportunity to sit down with the Health minister in committee and discuss *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014*. Our privacy when it comes to health records, people here in Saskatchewan take that very seriously and want to ensure that their medical information doesn't get into anybody else's hands except those who need it to provide us the medical services we need, Mr. Speaker. So I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this with the minister further in committee.

With that, I would like to conclude my remarks.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 164, *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a second time.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the Bill No. 164, *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 165

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 165 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*/Loi n° 2 de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hazard** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 2014*. I guess looking at the bill itself, it's an amendment to *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act*. The bill is going to allow individuals in our province to purchase alcohol from other provinces to bring to Saskatchewan for personal use. It's not for retail sale. It's for personal use. They talk about . . . One part of the bill, and I don't want to get into, Mr. Speaker, I know many people have wine and they like to have it with their meals, and there's many different varieties of wine out there that people enjoy. And they enjoy with their meal and stuff, and I guess the opportunity to go out and for personal use get different wines out there, there's an opportunity.

Whether it's been requested by individuals, residents of the province, there must be a reason why. But at the end of the day, we'll get into the details of certain sections of the bill and, you know, where government's going with this. And there must be a reason why, obviously, whether government . . . It was suggestion. People lobbied, individuals saying it's time.

And I think it makes it very clear that it's for personal use. It's not for retail sale or for someone to resale, go out and get . . . This bill is coming forward and the amendment is to clearly do that.

Section 3 of the bill will allow Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming to enter into agreements with other provinces, territory, and Canada, to regulate for going to other provinces and territories and wherever for personal use, as it says. So they go into that section. And I want to make it clear. But having said that, again it's opportunity for individuals who want to do that.

This may take some time, and we'll see where we go with it, whether it's in committee, questions, and you know, the good work has been done with consulting residents and the industry. Hopefully those that are in the industry have had their say and the government has listened to them, taken their input and their suggestions, ideas. I don't know if this will impact some of the retail sales or individuals or liquor stores and how that's going to affect it. But this is giving individuals an opportunity to go forward.

Section 4 of the bill . . . [inaudible] . . . and it talks about the alcohol from other provinces. But again we talk about only for personal use. When you get into that section of it, and I know we'll have opportunity to ask questions in committee and to find out some details, talk to individuals and maybe some of them that are in the sale of alcohol, to make sure how will this impact them. Maybe there's good ideas, suggestions. I know some might be opposed to it; some are happy with it. We'll see where that goes, and I think government has an obligation to

reach out and find out.

Section 5, the bill gives cabinet the power to regulate certain areas. And you know, another, they're going to look at the purchase of alcohol from other provinces. Which provinces can we go to? If it's negotiated, the government will negotiate. It may not be that every province will. In some provinces there might be a reason why they don't enter into an agreement. But we'll have to look at that and in committee finding out. And I don't know if this will be something that they'll move forward on with one or two provinces, one of the territories. We'll have to see and, you know, monitor it as a process goes forward and see where they're going with it.

I guess the other thing is, will they look at . . . And hopefully we can find out the kinds of alcohol that can be purchased. Is it going to be wines? Is it going to be, you know, beer, hard liquor? We're not sure, you know. So in committee we can ask that. But obviously the regulations will give the cabinet the powers to determine that.

The other area they will look at again, purchasing and bringing over alcohol. And I guess they'll look at the volume that individuals can purchase for personal use in Saskatchewan. They'll have to regulate the volume on how much, you know, at one time can they haul, you know, bring into Saskatchewan for personal use. Those are questions that regulations will have to be worked out.

And I know at the end of the day, government will and I hope will make sure they're consulting with the residents, consulting with the industry, those professionals out there that run it as, you know, it's their business, get the advice from the government liquor store and to make sure that Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming has the input and the information that it needed to move forward on this.

Again I talked about the, you know, out of province where they could purchase them. And it's going to be about the volume, and they'll determine those regulations. And I'm hoping that it won't just be, go ahead. They'll do a little bit of research finding out what's the best way to do this. And you know, we want to make sure we get it right. We don't want to have problems where we come back later on saying, well now we have to amend it. Maybe this will give cabinet the power to regulate the rules and how people can use it. But having said that, you know, they'll also have those provisions, I imagine, in there for any other conditions deemed necessary that will come up that cause, I guess, problems when it comes to regulating and enforcing personal use of alcohol.

So at this point, you know, the way it's going, I know that we're going to get a lot of time in committee to look at the bill and ask questions. And you know, we'll be able to ask the minister and the ministry officials some of the details. And hopefully we can find out what some of the regulations will be, and maybe we'll get a chance to look at those prior to them introducing the regulations when the bill's passed. And later on, we see how sometimes they'll come forward with regulations, hopefully some of that information. And the minister will clarify what so far regulations will come forward when they introduce the bill, and what they're looking at. And just in that conversation in committee, that can be asked and clarified. So

at this point, you know, Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments on this bill and will wait to ask questions in committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Crown and Central Agencies that Bill No. 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 2014 (No. 2)* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 2014* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 166

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 166 — *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to speak to Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act*. Just a little bit of background here, Mr. Speaker. This bill repeals the current local elections Act and replaces it with a whole new one. There were many, many . . . So it's not an amending Act. It is a whole new Act unto itself, Mr. Speaker, and it came out of some work the minister points out in his second reading speech that back in — what year was it, Mr. Speaker? — in 2005 there was a brand new municipalities Act that was passed, and it replaced *The Rural Municipality Act* and *The Urban Municipality Act*, and at that time the minister points out that “. . . the provisions governing rural elections needed a new home and were tacked on to the end of *The Local Government Election Act* [but] without any attempted integration with those provisions governing urban elections.”

So the minister points out: “. . . there were many repetitive provisions, and slight variations existed between urban and rural provisions as a result of history rather than policy.” And what the minister has undertaken here is to entirely rewrite the Act and update the language and, he says, simplify it. The urban and rural provisions are now housed in the same sections and combined when there is the opportunity to do that. And he points out that:

Differences between urban and rural provisions are

retained when it makes sense and is requested by the sector, such as for voter eligibility and determining in which division or ward a voter should vote. Staggered elections are also retained for rural municipalities so that elections for even-numbered RM [rural municipality] . . . are followed by elections for odd-numbered divisions, and reeve, two years later.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, the minister points out that:

. . . [Many] provisions that currently only apply to urban municipalities are extended to RMs for consistency and convenience. Many of the amendments to this Act since 2005 have had the objective of providing RMs the same options as urban municipalities when running elections. Now most provisions apply to all municipalities, providing more options for rural voters such as polls in hospitals and personal care facilities for residents or curbside voting for voters who cannot enter an inaccessible polling station.

The minister mentions all of this in his second reading speech.

[As well] . . . in urban municipalities [he points out that] candidates may now submit nomination papers by mail or fax, and the returning officer may directly authorize advance polls rather than the council, whereas before these options were only available to rural municipalities.

So there are also a number of wording changes that the minister argues:

. . . ensure clarity where issues have been encountered in previous elections. [In terms of those clarifications] . . . provisions for eligibility to vote and the division in which to vote for rural municipalities have been simplified and clarified. Other clarifications include a six-month deadline for councils to fill vacancies by holding a by-election unless the vacancy occurs in the same year as a general election.

Some of the other amendments also include, the minister points out in his second reading speech, some minor policy changes, he says, to improve the democracy and integrity of the electoral process. And it clarifies procedures for determining the sufficiency of petitions for referenda and plebiscites and protects the neutrality of municipal employees during a referendum while allowing designated spokespersons to promote a particular position.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will remove eligibility requirements for advanced polls. So voters won't any longer need to meet certain requirements for voting ahead of election day, but may vote for reasons of personal preference and convenience.

This bill . . . [also introduces] residency exceptions for students and members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Because students and members of the Armed Forces are likely to temporarily live in a place other than their usual place of residence, they may vote in the municipality in which they reside regardless of how long they have lived there. [And these] . . . exceptions and advanced voting are

consistent with the election Act, 2014 . . .

Mr. Speaker, it's important when we talk about encouraging and supporting people to vote, any time we have legislation before us talking about elections and how we get people out to vote, it's important to remember that we can look to voter turnout here in Saskatchewan and across the country for that matter, Mr. Speaker. And it's imperative that we remember that the goal should be to ensure that people have the opportunity and the right to cast a ballot in an election. And in 2012, actually in the government's election Act, they changed the rules around provincial elections and tightened up some of the rules around voter ID [identification]. So they were in essence looking for a solution to a problem that didn't exist, Mr. Speaker, at that particular time.

I know in my own constituency of Saskatoon Riversdale and in constituencies across the province, voter ID and coming up with the appropriate ID can sometimes be a challenge for people, particularly people living in poverty, Mr. Speaker. There are many people who don't have the kinds of ID that you and I would have, Mr. Speaker, for many different reasons. If you live in a foster family, Mr. Speaker, and don't have your birth parents, Mr. Speaker, if you don't have the name of your birth father, it can be difficult to get a birth certificate. There's all kinds of things that make it very difficult for people to have and produce ID.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Sutherland talks about Project ID which was a very good but a very short project in terms of trying to get ID into the hands of folks who didn't have identification. Great project, and there are other organizations that continue to work at ensuring that people have proper identification, but it continues to be a problem for many people. And ensuring that citizens have the opportunity to cast a ballot in elections should be I think all our responsibility here in this legislature, Mr. Speaker. And there are many barriers that are in front of people who live in different circumstances that you and I might not have first-hand experience with, Mr. Speaker.

But with respect to Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act*, I know that there are other of my colleagues who would like to speak to this and we'll have an opportunity in committee to further discuss this bill, so with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 167

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 167** — *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Local Government Election Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to speak to Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. This is the companion bill for the previous bill, Bill No. 166, that I just spoke to.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is a simple bill and the amendments only change the name of the Act in the section number being referred to. The references remain accurate. My comments on the previous bill stand for this and with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into discussion of Bill No. 168, *An Act respecting Government Relations*. The minister has put some comments onto the record. I've reviewed those comments. I've reviewed some of the substance of the bill, but certainly we're going to require greater clarity from this minister through the committee process, and we look forward to that.

I know that some of the measures brought forward simply are sold by the minister as a consolidation of some of the general authorities that stem from four different Acts that are currently in place. Those would be *The Northern Affairs Act, The Rural Development Act, The Rural Affairs Act, The Urban Affairs Act*. So I know that's one of the pieces that are there, as well as some dispute resolution mechanisms that the minister is bringing forward that he's suggested are new.

He's also suggested that the municipalities have supported the changes that he's bringing forward. I do look forward to follow-up and direct input from certainly SARM and SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and New North on these matters.

Certainly I want to just simply recognize the leaders from across Saskatchewan who serve communities small and large, rural and urban, Mr. Speaker. These are leaders that take on important responsibilities within their respective communities and municipalities. They do so certainly not for big pay, Mr. Speaker, and I know they certainly engage in a lot of activities that are often thankless. But I want to take this opportunity to thank all the exceptional rural and urban municipal leaders

across Saskatchewan.

We know SARM is meeting here this week and engaged in dialogue that is important to rural municipalities, and it's important for government to be listening to municipalities and municipal leaders from across Saskatchewan. I always find sitting down with municipal leaders, whether that be rural or urban, whether that be a small town or a village or one of our larger cities, Mr. Speaker, is a time where you have an incredibly constructive dialogue with people that care deeply about their community and engage in improving their community in very common sense ways.

We know that when it comes to areas like municipal infrastructure, this government just hasn't been the partner that they should be, Mr. Speaker, to municipalities across Saskatchewan. Certainly Saskatchewan people see the evidence of that with the property tax increases that they face, Mr. Speaker. The reality is we're growing as a province and this is something that should be supported by this government because there's certainly inordinate impacts back to our municipalities.

It's critical, Mr. Speaker, that we urge this government towards establishing long-term dedicated infrastructure funding that's predictable for our municipalities. In absence of that right now, we see the pressures and challenges that municipalities are facing, Mr. Speaker. We see the impact, the cost impacts back on to homeowners and to businesses by way of their property taxes.

We have a government right now, Mr. Speaker, that is actually looking at reneging on a very important promise that was made to municipalities across Saskatchewan when it comes to the operating grant. That's something that's important for communities to plan with. And it's a big concern to many, Mr. Speaker, that instead of better supporting and working with our municipalities, rural and urban and northern, Mr. Speaker, we see a government that's actually looking at breaking its commitments and promises that they've made in the past, Mr. Speaker.

Another couple of pieces that certainly we want to get a full understanding of, Mr. Speaker, by working with municipal partners and leaders across Saskatchewan, is what the impact of this bill is on the role of engagement in northern affairs, Mr. Speaker. It seems that this government, by way of changes here, have really stepped away from any responsibility or being an active partner in working together with those northern communities, Mr. Speaker.

I know when you look at our vast North, our beautiful North, our North that's rich with resources and rich with great people, Mr. Speaker, we see diverse communities. We see communities that have tremendous opportunity, and we see significant challenges as well, Mr. Speaker, and it's certainly a concern for the opposition, the New Democrats, if this government is further stepping away from being an active partner here. This being evidenced in the legislation.

Certainly we can also judge a government by their actions, and certainly this government has not been a good faith partner to work together with northern communities, Mr. Speaker. In fact I find it unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, that we have a sitting

Premier that hasn't taken the time in his two terms to engage throughout northern Saskatchewan with meetings. Because we have a lot of wealth in the North by way of our resources but, Mr. Speaker, we have tons of wealth in our North by way of the people and by way of the opportunities, and government should be an active partner on these fronts.

We know this government as well has collapsed their responsibility of First Nations and Métis relations and have placed that within Government Relations, Mr. Speaker. It seems again to be a minimization of that very important role that a government should have with First Nations and Métis people in this province, recognizing the critical opportunities and the significant challenges that we face, Mr. Speaker. And I note it's different than places like Alberta where the new Premier has taken on that responsibility himself, I believe suggesting that there's some recognition of how important that relationship and that partnership is, Mr. Speaker.

So with that being said, you know, we'll continue to listen and work with municipal leaders from across Saskatchewan of our rural municipalities, of our urban municipalities, whether it be villages, towns, and cities, Mr. Speaker. We'll hold this government accountable and hopefully hold them to their promise when it comes to the commitment to the municipal revenue sharing, the operating grant that's so important to those municipalities. It's a real concern for municipalities and certainly for property taxpayers that this government's actively looking at tearing those dollars back and breaking that promise, Mr. Speaker.

And members opposite can shout from their seats, Mr. Speaker. What would be preferable is that they could provide a firm commitment back to municipal leaders in this province and to property taxpayers and families who deserve nothing less, Mr. Speaker. And as I say, it's too bad at a time that this government is actively pulling away its commitments from municipalities that we don't see them actually expanding that role of laying out plans of how this government can be a better partner as it relates to infrastructure.

But we'll have time to follow up with the minister to have a full understanding of his consultations to date, the analysis that they've had, Mr. Speaker, and provide clarity on the legislation. We don't have any side-by-side analysis at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, but we'll certainly be following up in due course.

So with that being said, Mr. Speaker, we'll engage and can look forward to engaging in committee as we move forward on Bill No. 168, *An Act respecting Government Relations*.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

[15:00]

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Interesting bill to join debate on today, Bill No. 170, *The Fire Safety Act*. This was of course brought forward to the House by the Minister for Government Relations in his capacity as having responsibility for fire safety in the province and what used to be the old public safety function of government, but also the office of the fire commissioner and indeed working with the different partners that present when it comes to the question of fire safety in the province of Saskatchewan.

It's an interesting bill, Mr. Speaker. And we've certainly got far too much evidence in front of us in terms of what can happen when fire safety isn't correctly secured, when we don't get it right and the terrible consequences in terms of lives and property that can be exacted but particularly in lives, Mr. Speaker, and well-being when fire safety isn't properly looked to.

In terms of the legislation that is brought forward here, we're not entirely certain that some of the more outstanding problems that are there as we look across the province to assess whether or not fire safety is there for every community, that every citizen should have that basic expectation of what happens in the event of a fire.

In terms of again the legislation itself, on the whole, sort of a refresh, the last major rebooting of the legislation taking place in 1992 but the current Act seeking to replace that or to repeal *The Fire Prevention Act* and then replace it as such.

In terms of the innovations we see in the Act itself, there's section 11 that allows for the creation of fire chiefs in provincial and regional parks, a provision that did not exist in the previous Act, and section 51(e) of the bill which gives cabinet many powers to create regulations and provide exemptions for almost any provision of the Act, stating specifically section (e), exempting on terms or conditions "... any land, premises, person or thing or any class of land, premises, person or thing from all or any part of this Act or the regulations."

So that's the legislation that has been ... or what's new and what's different in this Act, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the minister

had a lot more to say than that in his speech but in terms of the brass tacks of the legislation, those are them — allowing for the creation of fire chiefs in provincial and regional parks or the carving out for cabinet a great deal of residual power as regards the conduct of fire safety activities in this province.

And I guess, Mr. Speaker, in terms of again what we've seen in recent days and indeed in recent years as regards the conduct of fire safety activities in this province, given the role and the authority that the provincial government has laid out in something like Bill 170 here today, you'd think there'd be more to be undertaken at least as regards to the legislation than what we have here under consideration. But that is not the case, Mr. Speaker. And we think of the situation as regards the provision of fire safety on First Nations and again the kind of complexity that that can kick up as regards jurisdiction and the need to partner in this province. But certainly what should be foremost is the safety of citizens and, as we've seen too tragically, Mr. Speaker, the safety of our children.

And I think of the work of a fellow by the name of Ken Gaddie that I had the honour of knowing, and just to put on the record, Ken Gaddie was a 30-plus-year member of the Regina Fire Department, retired as a fire captain and passed away at the beginning of February, all too soon, at the age of 62, Mr. Speaker. And in his retirement, Ken Gaddie and a fellow firefighter friend of his and partner, a fellow by the name of Laurie Gervais, were seeking to provide better fire safety education prevention work in conjunction with First Nations, Mr. Speaker.

And Ken Gaddie was not just a 30-plus-year member of the Regina fire department, but he was also a proud member of the Cowessess First Nation. And when he, as somebody with a tremendous amount of expertise, looked around the province, and he and his partner, Laurie Gervais, when they looked around the province, they saw that need on First Nations, Mr. Speaker, in particular, as something that needs address, needs redress in this province.

We've seen too much talk and too much walking away when it comes to the work of partnership, the work of sincere consultation, but the work of providing something which is a basic expectation and should be a basic expectation of citizens right across this province as regards fire safety.

And it's I think a capstone on a life and a career that was dedicated to the service of others that in retirement Ken Gaddie was seeking to provide that better way forward where it was most needed, by his account and his assessment, in conjunction with First Nations and partnership with First Nations.

And you know, it was a tremendous occasion when the community came out to honour Ken and his family and friends. The honour guard that was provided by the Regina fire department and many of Ken's former co-workers and people that had had their lives impacted in a really positive way by Ken Gaddie came out to pay salute to their fallen comrade.

And again, Mr. Speaker, that bond that grows up — and you see this not just with the professional firefighters but certainly also with volunteer firefighters and people that work on the question of better safety and fire prevention and fire safety — you see

that bond that is pretty inspiring develop between these people as they work in such dangerous conditions for the service of the broader community.

And it's that spirit that I don't know if we've done justice to, that approach to public safety, that drive for looking out for our neighbours. I don't know if that is fully given its due by this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

And when I think about the work that Ken and Laurie were doing in terms of trying to again turn their two lifetimes of expertise as professional firefighters working with on-reserve populations to try and improve the whole question of fire safety, that's to me what I think of in terms of what should be driving us forward, is that look to the well-being of our neighbours, that look to the well-being of the broader community. And you see that certainly in the question of the professional firefighters. You see that with the volunteer firefighters around this province, Mr. Speaker. You see that with the chiefs of the professional firefighter association departments, and you certainly see that with the chiefs of the volunteer fire departments.

And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I don't know that this legislation straightens out questions as to what is the inventory as we look across the province of today. What are the gaps that exist as regards to the securing that basic level of fire safety and fire prevention work in this province? What are those? Where does the system fall down? And again, Mr. Speaker, the consequence to not being able to answer that question properly and appropriately is of course one of life and death. And that's not . . . Sadly that's too accurate a statement, Mr. Speaker.

So as regards to the whole question of what this does to reset the relationship, and certainly the minister had made reference to the whole question, and I quote from December 2nd, 2014 *Hansard*, where he said:

Whether volunteer or paid departments or shared services and mutual aid agreements with other municipalities and First Nations, the new Act ensures these are accommodated and not limited in any way by [the] legislation. In fact, the new Act will better facilitate inclusion of First Nations, regional entities, and private industry in fire service agreements and arrangements to encourage area and intercommunity co-operation.

And, Mr. Speaker, would that be so. Would that be so in terms of providing and having that peace of mind for citizens across this province that fire safety is assured, that, yes, these are still emergency situations, Mr. Speaker, and there's certainly no guarantee of everything turning out all right. But in terms of response times, in terms of the provision of basic service, Mr. Speaker, there is still . . . We find too much left to chance as regards to what are the gaps in the provision of this basic fundamental service across this province.

And you know, where we see a need for more partnership, for cooler heads to prevail, we don't see that at present, Mr. Speaker. And I guess that is my hope is that, as we go forward with legislation like this, that that's, you know, those that do the work, be they volunteer or professional, those that do the work of fire prevention and fighting fires, fire safety, Mr. Speaker . . .

And might I say, I know this in spades in terms of the fire hall that is located in my home neighbourhood and the great work that is done. Again, Mr. Speaker, I always think that the thing that's remarkable about firefighters is you've got, you know, usually when you've got an emergency situation, folks are running away from it. These are people that are running towards it, running into the danger to see if there's something that they can do.

So in terms of the legislative regime that we're bringing about, Mr. Speaker, does that support the individuals that put themselves on the line like that? Does that support a structure that makes sure that our citizens, in terms of the basic expectation they should have of fire safety being secured across this province, does this legislation improve that circumstance or does it not? And these are the questions that I think we should be asking ourselves as we evaluate this legislation.

And as I get back again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of there's been some good work done in recent history in terms of reaching across jurisdiction to address the needs of citizens first and asking the questions about jurisdiction second, and would but that that is the mindset that is brought to this whole question. But we see some very great causes for concern on that in a situation where the need for partnership and for open and honest communication is even greater. We see a lot of cause for concern in that regard, Mr. Speaker.

And again it's not the various politicians that pay the price for that. It's people that pay the price, people that pay the price in terms of life, in terms of loved ones, and in terms of danger and property loss, Mr. Speaker.

So as regards to this legislation, I don't know that there's much to argue against the trend we've seen of late, Mr. Speaker, in terms of not making certain that that basic level of security that citizens in this province should be able to expect, I don't know that this legislation raises that bar in a way that it should be, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

It's not to take away from the good work of our volunteers and our professional firefighters or the folks in the fire commissioner's office or the people, the hard-working civil servants that work in conjunction on all of these kind of questions. But rather, Mr. Speaker, it's to remember the work of people like Ken Gaddie and Laurie Gervais and the far too many people that we've lost because of an inadequate response, Mr. Speaker, some of them children that should have their whole lives in front of them but have been laid to rest. These are the things that should be motivating us as we look to this legislation and see if there isn't a new path forward, a better path forward that secures that for all people.

I know that we've got some interesting questions that we'll certainly want addressed as this bill approaches committee, Mr. Speaker. But for the time being, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 170, *The Fire Safety Act*.

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 Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in Bill 172, *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*, to get in and have I guess a little bit of a discussion. And seeing from the minister's comments, it's modernizing the Act and the legislation to modernize from the year, whether there was amendments were made or not. But what it refers to is modernizing the Act itself and bring it into today's, I guess, legislation, the way that we look at legislation that's past and modernize, and that's what this bill is doing.

It also takes the name of the association that represents naturopathic doctors. It actually refers it to the college now, and does that name change and gives that body I guess . . . We'll see what kind of duties they do under their own organization. And something like the college of physicians, they set up their own organization, and I guess kind of have a process to oversee the practice.

But at the end of the day, it's to make sure that we have individuals who go through the process and seek that it's with the public, that they have access to that. And it kind of refers to, you know, giving the protection to the public, and the minister's comments talked about that. But I know for myself and members on this side, in committee sometimes you get to flesh out some of the questions you want. But looking at the minister's comments, he referred to a few points on the Act, like I said, and I have referred to that.

So at this point, I have no further comments on this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 172.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 172, the naturopathic Act. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy 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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Glad to join debate on Bill No. 174 and 175. Of course 174 is setting the table, and then there'll be consequential amendments

coming in 175 shortly thereafter, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

It's an interesting piece of legislation and again, as is the case with a great number of the pieces of legislation that come forward in this House, it deals with the question of regulating a professional body. Now as regards the regulation of a professional body, you know, you want to make sure that that leans towards self-regulation. It would seem that after a sort of interesting start, or sort of an inflammatory start to the whole question, Mr. Speaker, that the government settled down and did some actual consultation with the sector, education being very much a partnership in this province. And when it's worked best for kids is when those traditions have been respected, that partnership has been respected.

But with the bills, Mr. Speaker, 174 of course creating an arm's-length regulatory board that will oversee teacher discipline and certification where the board will be made up of seven teachers and two members of the public, the provincial government having the power to appoint three teachers and two members of the government, the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] having the ability to appoint three teachers, and the League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents being able to appoint one teacher, LEADS of course, Mr. Speaker.

And again in terms of the whole question of self-regulation and making sure that the questions of appropriate credentials being retained and that problems that arise being dealt with in a timely and transparent and just manner, and not just having due process being done, but having it seen to be done, this legislation, we've got some cautious optimism in terms of both the scope and the ability of the legislation to get that done.

Now we'll be interested to see how much this particular legislation costs. When it was introduced by the minister, he had estimated that there'd be about a \$2 million price tag attached to this. The question remains, will that be borne by teachers themselves or how does that cost get paid? Of course it's certainly a concern that that question hasn't been satisfactorily answered at this point, but we are hopeful that the government again will not be looking for another way to tax teachers on their time and on their resources, Mr. Speaker, but instead will look for a way to address this concern.

We're interested that Alberta and Manitoba have similar processes, and we'll be interested to gain further clarification in terms of what lessons there are to be learned from those jurisdictions. We take again some encouragement from the fact that from different of the sector partners, there is a measured support being stated. We think that that's obviously important.

And again, Mr. Speaker, it'd be interesting to see how this goes ahead in terms of what happens when a complaint's being brought forward, be those complaints put forward by students or parents or teachers or school administrators, in terms of complaints being directed to the board, how those are adjudicated, the obligations for different of the partners around reporting. We've had a case in the news just recently, Mr. Speaker, where there is an incident that went unreported, and then when there was a change in personnel in the particular school division, then that change was reported. We think that again it's good to clarify the responsibilities as regards what

should be getting reported.

In terms of the way that the arms-length nature of this works out, again it got off to a fairly rocky start, Mr. Speaker, but we do take some encouragement from the work that has been done since, so we'll be interested to see how that shakes out. And in terms of the overall relationship with the government, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, and groups like LEADS, we'll be watching closely to see how this legislation continues to progress.

But certainly we'll have more questions come the committee stage hearing of this bill, and I know others of my colleagues are interested to take their place. Some already have, but I think some may still be yet to come. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on *The Registered Teachers Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn 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 Deputy 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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Bill 175, the consequential amendments, certainly I've just discussed the bill that has rendered necessary the consequential amendments.

Just to briefly go through of those, certain of them deal with rendering bilingual the changes necessary. But again as is often the case, consequential amendments are just that. The main event is Bill No. 174, and this is but an afterthought or the rippling forth of legislative change that is brought, that is made necessary by Bill 174. Certainly we'll be dealing with these as a package, and I'd anticipate that we can see them going to the committee in the not-too-distant future, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And in that regard, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 175, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Registered Teachers Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn 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 Deputy 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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to enter into the discussion on Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014*. This Act, Mr. Speaker, is doing a couple of things here. And these amendments have come out of some concerns that businesses raised with the government this summer around vehicle impoundment and not having the capacity to appeal that, so a vehicle impoundment if you were arrested, or if your vehicle was impounded under section 280 of *The Traffic Safety Act*.

Section 280 under *The Traffic Safety Act*, Mr. Speaker, is a piece, a part of the Act that allows police officers the opportunity to act without a warrant when they see things that they need to respond to. I just want to tell you a little bit about what section 280 does, Mr. Speaker. And in my conversations with police officers a couple of years ago when we had the Traffic Safety Committee, examining the many causes of traffic deaths in Saskatchewan — whether it's speeding, impaired driving, use of cellphones, intersections, those kinds of things — in leading up to that, I had the opportunity to, prior to that process I had the opportunity to speak to several police officers who expressed their concerns at that time that 280 was going to be taken out or obliterated at one point. But it has remained in. But there are people who've expressed some concerns with it.

280, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read it into the record, of the original Act:

When vehicle may be seized and impounded

(1) In this section, “**impounded vehicle**” means a vehicle or a combination of vehicles seized and impounded pursuant to subsection (2).

(2) Without a warrant, a peace officer may seize and impound a vehicle or a combination of vehicles:

(a) if that vehicle or combination of vehicles is being operated in the prescribed manner; or

(b) if that vehicle or combination of vehicles is parked on a highway at a place, or in a manner, that constitutes a hazard to other users of the highway.

(3) An impounded vehicle must remain impounded for the prescribed period.

(4) A peace officer may retain the impounded vehicle in the peace officer's possession or direct a garage keeper to impound the vehicle.

(5) A garage keeper who impounds a vehicle pursuant to this section is deemed to have a lien on the vehicle

pursuant to section 3 of *The Commercial Liens Act* with respect to vehicle for all unpaid amounts prescribed fees, costs and charges relating to the impoundment of that vehicle, and that Act applies, with any necessary modification, to the enforcement and realization of that lien.

[15:30]

I think you get the picture here, Mr. Speaker. It provides peace officers the opportunity to seize vehicles when they see dangerous things happening, Mr. Speaker. An Act to end the dangerous behaviour.

The bill, Bill No. 176 amending the Act, will be adding into this particular bill, which is added after section 280.1 in the section.

- (a) **‘commercial vehicle’** means a prescribed vehicle;
- (b) **‘driver’** means the operator of a commercial vehicle.

In the prescribed circumstances, if a peace officer seizes and impounds a commercial vehicle pursuant to section 280:

- (a) the peace officer shall immediately:
 - (i) suspend the driver from driving a motor vehicle;
 - (ii) if the driver is the holder of a driver’s licence or any other permit authorizing the driver to drive a motor vehicle, require the driver to immediately surrender his or her driver’s licence or permit; and
 - (iii) issue and serve a notice of suspension on the driver; and
- (b) on being required to do so pursuant to subclause (a)(ii), the driver shall immediately surrender his or her driver’s licence or permit to the peace officer.

(3) If a driver is served with a notice of suspension pursuant to this section, the driver is suspended from driving a motor vehicle for a period of 72 consecutive hours.

(4) If a peace officer suspends the driver’s licence of a driver pursuant to this section, the peace officer shall:

- (a) keep a written record of the driver’s licence suspended by the peace officer;
- (b) provide the driver whose driver’s licence is suspended with a written statement, in the prescribed form, of the time from which this suspension takes effect;
- (c) if the driver surrenders his or her driver’s licence, give the driver a receipt for the driver’s licence; and
- (d) promptly send the driver’s licence of the driver to the administrator.

(5) A driver’s licence surrendered pursuant to subsection (4) must be returned to the driver by ordinary mail at the address shown on the licence unless the driver calls for the driver’s licence in person.

(6) A driver whose driver’s licence is suspended pursuant to this section may, in the prescribed circumstances, apply to the board for a review of the suspension.

(7) An application for review pursuant to subsection (6) must:

- (a) be in the prescribed form and manner; and
- (b) be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(8) A review pursuant to subsection (6) must be conducted in the prescribed manner.

(9) An application for review pursuant to subsection (6) does not stay [on] the suspension.

So, Mr. Speaker, the minister has pointed out there were some concerns when changes had been made and vehicles were being impounded, Mr. Speaker, a seven-day impoundment that commercial owners . . . So hypothetically, Mr. Speaker, I have several employees and someone is caught, one of my drivers in my commercial vehicle is caught texting or speeding, a police officer could seize that vehicle. And there was no consequence to the driver, just simply the vehicle was suspended for seven days, Mr. Speaker, but there was no consequence for the driver.

So the minister now has put in place . . . This bill will introduce a three-day licence suspension, but on top of that I think another provision that was missing is the opportunity for the owner of the business to be able to appeal that. So this is adding the driver’s licence suspension for three days, and as well adding an appeal process for early release of the vehicle due to actions of the employee. So right now the vehicle can be impounded for up to seven days, Mr. Speaker.

And actually I have strong feelings on vehicle impoundments. I think in many circumstances it’s been shown to serve very well as a deterrent, particularly when we talk about alcohol. We can look to BC [British Columbia] and Alberta, Mr. Speaker, who in their warning range, in the .05 to .08, put in place vehicle impoundment for first-time offenders, Mr. Speaker, a three-day vehicle impoundment. And this started in 2010 in BC and I believe it was 2011 in Alberta, but I could be mistaken about the Alberta date.

But with respect to BC, or both these jurisdictions, they saw a 50 per cent decrease in impaired death rates, Mr. Speaker, which is substantial. Having spoken to many people who work in the area of traffic safety, they said that . . . Well one person in particular, who’d been in this field for 30 years, said they’ve never seen a public policy in traffic safety that had such a dramatic effect, Mr. Speaker. So I think the seven-day impoundment of people, of employees who are driving commercial vehicles, who are caught texting or speeding — putting other people’s lives at risk — is fair, but adding that mechanism to be able to appeal is very important and necessary as well.

So I think that that is a good response to concerns that people have brought forward, and adding and ensuring that there is also a punitive measure placed on the driver who's actually texting I think or speeding for that matter, is actually important as well. Although one could argue, if you get your employer's vehicle seized, chances are that may have some impact on your employment as well, Mr. Speaker. So although we might argue that there was no penalty for the driver, I think if someone had their boss's vehicle seized because they were breaking the law, I suspect that there will be some employment consequences, no doubt. But again just to emphasize, I think the impoundment is a fair measure but putting in that mechanism to be able to appeal is a good step, Mr. Speaker.

But with respect to Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014*, we'll have an opportunity in committee to speak a little bit further about this and ask questions of the minister, and I look forward to that opportunity. So with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn 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 Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill 177, *The Insurance Act*. Initially if you look at the Act itself, I think it's about 300 pages, and I guess, you know, they're doing a complete overhaul of *The Insurance Act*.

And I guess, you know, many families rely on insurance. And we know that in our province we have many insurance companies, brokers, who sell insurance. There's ones that provide, you know, the liability, whether you know, fire insurance. I mean the list goes on — your car insurance, your registration. You pay insurance. There's certain policies that you want to make sure you have to protect you. Sometimes I guess people look at the costs, and some will shop around, and they make sure that they have and provide themselves and their family with the best insurance plans that they can. And sometimes it's affordability, and individuals want to make sure.

But overall to see what the government's doing, and like I said, a complete overhaul. It's over 300 pages, 300 pages, the bill itself. And I know there's going to be a lot of opportunity. I know there was even a . . . They had an opportunity briefing to see what's kind of being shared to the public or what's being changed or what the amendment is in the Act.

And when you take a bill the size that it is, obviously there's a

lot of work to be done. And we're hoping that at the end of the day, you know, those individuals, whether they're individuals who use a service of insurance for whatever, whether it's personal liability insurance . . . I know there's many different types of insurance and different agencies, whether they're in Saskatchewan, Canada, you know. Even some boards have board liability insurance. I know there's that. There's fire insurance, you name it, slip and falls.

If you own a business, you want to make sure you're protected. Should the public come in to your facility, you want to make sure that you have adequate insurance to cover you. Should something happen and you're found or you're, you know, hauled into court and there's an action being taken out against I guess for whatever, a slip and fall — there's many of them — you know, retail stores, they deal with that.

So overall the insurance is something that protects I guess those individuals who want to purchase insurance, so they're going over and having a good look at it. Again I'm hoping they'll consult with the industry, consult with those individuals who are using it, obviously, and require that type of a plan or, you know, a policy to protect them.

And you think about all the different areas where nowadays, a liability, people are left with. And many people have the extra insurance, and there's a good reason why you want to have good insurance. I mean just thinking out, you know, they own a package policy, like I said, fire insurance, flood insurance. There's many different types of insurance. And you're seeing nowadays that those that can afford flood, and we've seen some have insurance. And there are individuals who for whatever may not be able to afford or don't have the opportunity to have flood insurance . . . [inaudible] . . . So you have PDAP [provincial disaster assistance program]. It's a program that covers those individuals. It's supposed to be a program that covers those individuals.

So there are opportunities to, like I said, to get the insurance. I know in committee we'll have the opportunity to question, and my colleague who is the critic will obviously want to ask a lot of questions and get details, being that this document is so thick to go through, and I guess getting information from officials and the minister as to the details and see exactly where to go, what kind of changes are they talking about. Like just the size of the bill itself is huge in going over it. But I know that we'll have an opportunity at some point in committee, and my colleagues will have more questions in the House and debate the bill, and then we'll go through that process and maybe, you know, consult with a few individuals, organizations to find out, is it something that they requested? Is it good? Is it covering off what they do? That we're not rushing this bill, that we've made sure we've done due diligence or the government has, and that's sometimes not always the case over there.

But it's important for them to do the due diligence to make sure they're not coming in later to fix things up and say, well oh now we've got to make these amendments. So let's make sure, you know, that they do it right, that they go through the process, they consult, they get it right, and that we move forward and don't have to make a bunch of amendments to the bill and legislation. Take the time, do the due diligence, make sure you get it right. And if that's the case, then great.

And it helps for Saskatchewan people, protects them. But also for those that are providing insurance service in the province, it gives them the added security that their voice is heard, and the challenges facing their industry, if it can be all with government changing Acts and legislation, regulations, gives them that protection they need.

So at this point I have no further questions on this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'm prepared to adjourn debate on the bill.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House does now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — It's carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:43.]

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