



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

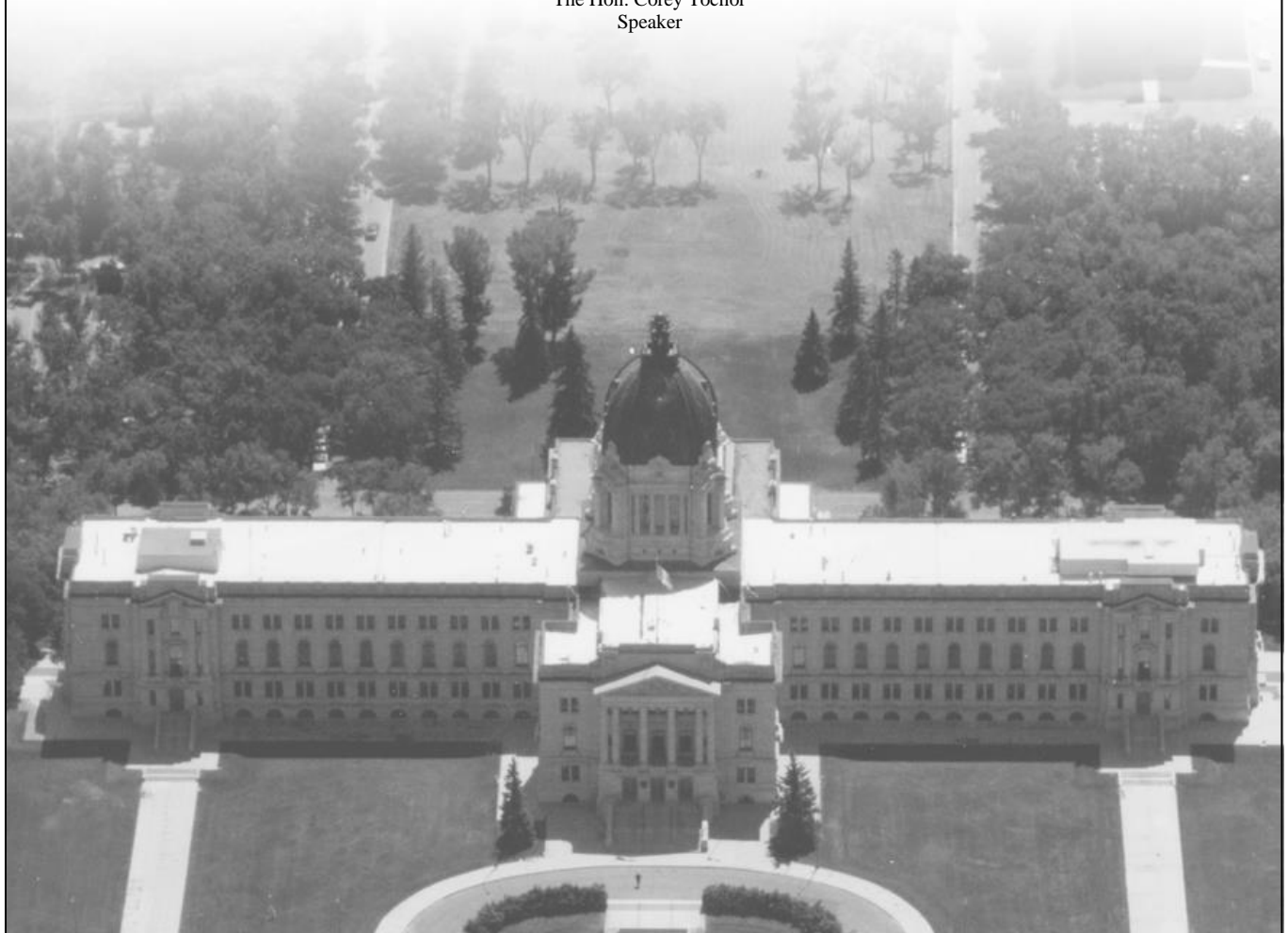
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Corey Tochor  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**1st Session — 28th Legislature**

**Speaker** — Hon. Corey Tochor

**Premier** — Hon. Brad Wall

**Leader of the Opposition** — Trent Wotherspoon

**Beaudry-Mellor**, Hon. Tina — Regina University (SP)

**Beck**, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

**Belanger**, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)

**Bonk**, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

**Boyd**, Bill — Kindersley (SP)

**Bradshaw**, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

**Brkich**, Greg — Arm River (SP)

**Buckingham**, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

**Campeau**, Jennifer — Saskatoon Fairview (SP)

**Carr**, Lori — Estevan (SP)

**Chartier**, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)

**Cheveldayoff**, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

**Cox**, Herb — The Battlefords (SP)

**D'Autremont**, Dan — Cannington (SP)

**Dennis**, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

**Docherty**, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)

**Doherty**, Hon. Kevin — Regina Northeast (SP)

**Doke**, Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

**Duncan**, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)

**Eyre**, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)

**Fiaz**, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

**Forbes**, David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

**Hargrave**, Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

**Harpauer**, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)

**Harrison**, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

**Hart**, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

**Heppner**, Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)

**Kaeding**, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

**Kirsch**, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

**Lambert**, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

**Lawrence**, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

**Makowsky**, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

**Marit**, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

**McCall**, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

**McMorris**, Don — Indian Head-Milestone (Ind.)

**Merriman**, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)

**Michelson**, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)

**Moe**, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)

**Morgan**, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

**Nerlien**, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

**Olauson**, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)

**Ottenbreit**, Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)

**Parent**, Roger — Saskatoon Meewasin (SP)

**Phillips**, Kevin — Melfort (SP)

**Rancourt**, Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)

**Reiter**, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)

**Ross**, Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

**Sarauer**, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

**Sproule**, Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

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**Steinley**, Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

**Stewart**, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)

**Tell**, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)

**Tochor**, Hon. Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)

**Vermette**, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

**Wall**, Hon. Brad — Swift Current (SP)

**Weekes**, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

**Wilson**, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

**Wotherspoon**, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

**Wyant**, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

**Young**, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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**Party Standings:** Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 50; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 10; Independent (Ind.) — 1

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

**Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel** — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.

**Principal Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Burianyak

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature, a group of nine guests seated in your gallery. We have the members of the board of the Estevan Host Society for the 2016 Saskatchewan Summer Games here with us today.

Mr. Speaker, Estevan was a happening place this summer. The member from Estevan tells me it's always a happening place, but this . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Even Weyburn's agreeing. So hey, we're all good.

They're seated in your gallery in their smart-looking Summer Games golf shirts. Joining us today — if you wouldn't mind giving us a wave — are Brian Smith, Brenda Lyons, Blaire Ulrich, Jeff Walters, Josh Leblanc, Greg Hoffart, Sheila Guenther, Mark Bracken, Lorne Lasuita. And Nicole Clow was the manager. She's not able to join us today, but we'd like to recognize her contributions as well.

The games ran from July 24th to 30th this summer, and there was great involvement from the community, both supporting the athletes and holding all the community events. Over 2,000 athletes from across Saskatchewan were treated to great Estevan hospitality. And, Mr. Speaker, one of the lasting legacies of hosting the games are the facilities that the community gets to use into the future.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members in joining me and thanking all these volunteers for their work on the 2016 Saskatchewan Summer Games, and I'd like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly this afternoon. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And you know, I just want to get my words in before the member from Estevan. I'm sure hers will be better.

But I just want to say congratulations on behalf of the official opposition, and thank you very much to the Estevan hosting committee for this 2016 Saskatchewan Summer Games. One of my neighbours was there swimming, Mr. Speaker, and was just . . . couldn't have been more excited to be there participating.

And certainly as the minister states, the games were well run; the hosts were wonderful, hospitable; and our young amateur athletes had an amazing time, which is the point of the thing. So again, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, as the critic for Sport, I just want to say thank you so much to the host committee from Estevan and job well done.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Estevan.

**Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, seated in your gallery as we already know is this wonderful group from Estevan. I want to send a special thank you to . . . We have one of the Co-Chairs with us today, Brian Smith. There was also Brian Senchuk. Give a wave, Brian, so they know exactly who you are. Awesome. He managed to assemble an army of volunteers that helped put this entire thing together. And I just want to thank him and Brian Senchuk for their leadership in being able to do this.

I had the opportunity of volunteering at several of the venues, and it was just amazing — the comments from the people that were there visiting, the athletes that actually took part in the events. If anything went wrong, I didn't see it, and I was just about everywhere. So thank you so much to all of you for being here in your Assembly today, and thank you from Estevan.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm still on my feet, there are two other gentlemen seated up in your gallery. First I'd like to introduce Gary St. Onge. Gary is a former mayor of Estevan. When I was elected in 2003 to Estevan City Council, he was there with me and he became a great mentor and leader for myself. So thank you so much for Gary for being here today.

And also seated in the gallery is Mr. Don Kindopp. Don, could you stand up? Don Kindopp is the . . . Well he was my grade 6 teacher way back in the day . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . and Greg's also. So everybody knows Mr. Kindopp.

He's a great leader in the community now. He's head of the St. Joseph's board and is actively pursuing the new Estevan Regional Nursing Home that will come our way some day. And just thank you, gentlemen, for being a part of our community. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House, a gentleman sitting in your gallery, someone who is not a stranger to this Chamber. He's been a visitor many times — Gunnar Passmore. We often think of Gunnar in terms of the building trades and the good work that he does for especially the sheet metal workers, and he's here probably watching the proceedings thinking of how it's affecting working men and women.

But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, today, this month during Movember many of us . . . And I just talked to Gunnar. Gunnar is a survivor of prostate cancer, and he's very proud of that, the good work. He took that on bravely, and we talked a bit about that. I know he talked even with the Minister of Agriculture about the situation at a time.

And so I know there's just a few days left in Movember for us to give generously, and I have seen that happen. But please, everyone, this is about men's health and men's prostate cancer, so give generously for all the people that have had that happen in their lives. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all

members to welcome Gunnar Passmore to his legislature. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Mr. Passmore to the legislature today. I've had the opportunity of introducing him as well, many times, when he would sit in the east gallery as a labour representative. And I'm pleased to see that he has now moved into your gallery. I suspect it's only a matter of time before we see him in the west gallery, but I leave that to him.

And I want to as well, Mr. Speaker, commend him for the great work that he's done with regard to prostate cancer, and I want to wish him very well with both regard to his health and his endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to introduce in the west gallery 29 grade 12 students from the Bert Fox Community School in the beautiful community of Fort Qu'Appelle. They're accompanied by their teachers, Kaitlyn Geis and Michael Koops.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to meet with them earlier, and they had done a little bit of a homework assignment where they had a list of names that . . . or a list of words that they kind of had to find the definition of on their tour. I got one too. I see one guy waving at me. I've got one too.

And it was going along very well. We were kind of going through some of the words and I was covering off some of the words, and then one of the students asked me what bicameral means. And so as I look across the benches, how many know what bicameral means? Some do. I had to kind of do what I used to do in question period every so often is just talk for a while until I kind of understood what the answer might be. And I think I came up with it.

But anyway, I just would like all members to welcome this school group to their Legislative Assembly and have a safe trip back to Fort Qu'Appelle after your visit here.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to rise and introduce to you and through you one of Regina Lakeview's newest residents, Monique Goffinet Miller. Monique and her husband Dean are homeowners in Lakeview as of this morning, and are relocating to Regina from Victoria.

For the past four years, Monique worked in the Lieutenant Governor's office in British Columbia. She has a background in broadcasting and worked previously for the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia with Hansard broadcast. She's also a board member with the Canadian Women Voters Congress.

Monique's partner Dean will be teaching applied police

sciences at the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] depot here in Regina. And I wish to welcome her to Regina, to Regina Lakeview, and I invite all members to welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for extended introduction of guests, leave for that please.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With us today are the Tobac and Shae family, who have moved to the city and have moved to Saskatchewan 21 days ago. And this is quite a story, Mr. Speaker. It's quite a journey for the Shae-Tobac family because originally they are from Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories. And Fort Good Hope is 25 miles from the Arctic Circle on the shores of the Mackenzie River. And the population of Fort Good Hope is roughly 750. Mr. Speaker, Fort Good Hope is only accessible by boat in the summer and the winter road. And obviously, Mr. Speaker, to travel this distance it is a total travel time of 11-hour flights and of course stay-overs at different airports.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Shae-Tobac family, one of the things that's really admirable about this family, is they have come to Regina and to Saskatchewan to participate in a family program aimed to help them in building a better life for themselves and their family. They've been in the city 21 days and are really enjoying their time here. And as the Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition, we wanted to share with them that Saskatchewan, as well as all of our cities and towns and villages, is an excellent place to raise a family.

And I want to quickly recognize some of the children because these are my heroes. First of all we have, well the mother I think is . . . The father, Derrick Shae, enjoys watching and playing hockey. He enjoys hunting and cooking. He also likes to work and spend time with the children.

Melanie Tobac enjoys reading and listening to music and loves to learn and spend quality time with her children as well. And the children are Melina Tobac — and this is the big sister I believe — and Melina enjoys visual arts, drama, and dancing. And she currently attends Thom Collegiate High School and is in grade 11 and she's very good at math.

We also have Angie Tobac, enjoys visual arts, dancing, and music, and attends Imperial elementary school and is currently in grade 6. Ashton Shae Tobac couldn't be here as he's on a school trip, but Ashton enjoys playing sports and being active and he also attends Imperial School and is in grade 4.

The two little ones, Samuel and Madeline Tobac. Samuel is a very adventurous three-year-old but is very independent. He's active and enjoys watching *Toopy and Binoo*. And finally, Madeline loves to draw, sing, and interact with people, and

she's always smiling.

So, Mr. Speaker, the people that have sponsored the family to come this distance to make themselves a new home is, of course, the people attached to the Ranch Ehrlo Society. And I want to give them a plug as well because it's such an admirable task raising families nowadays. To have those kinds of supports in place is very key, but to the family that moved here such a distance to create a new life, especially for their children, is something that we all admire.

So as an Aboriginal member of this Assembly, it's always nice to see Aboriginal families try and better themselves, especially for the sake of their children's education. And leaving the comforts of home is always a daunting task, but I want to say to you, we wish you very well in building your brand new life. And we wish your children great success, health, happiness, and prosperity.

On behalf of the entire Assembly, I would ask all members to welcome the Shae-Tobac family to Regina, to Saskatchewan, and to their new Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition for the advance notice of our special guests here today. I want to thank him for his warm introduction here in the Assembly for the Shae-Tobac family, and I want to offer on behalf of members on this side of the House, the Government of Saskatchewan, a similar welcome, Mr. Speaker. Obviously what the member has just said couldn't have been better said. This province has a wonderful reputation for welcoming newcomers.

[13:45]

They have come a long, long way and so it's heartening to hear that they're enjoying their time here. We want that to continue, Mr. Speaker. And I would also ask all members to join with me in welcoming the Shae-Tobac family to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I see someone else that's entered the east gallery that I would like to briefly welcome, and that's someone I am proud to count as a friend. That's Graham Barker, someone who's a business leader for many years within our province, a key builder of Phoenix advertising, somebody who's given back on so many fronts within our community, has always had that sense of compassion to give strength back to our community and to be involved on so many fronts. He grew up just south of Weyburn, in fact down at Midale. And he's a good golfer and all around good person. It's a pleasure to welcome Graham to his Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my constituents opposed Bill 42 that was introduced in this House in 1973 by the NDP [New Democratic Party] government. They opposed the national energy program of the 1980s. And I'm pleased today to rise to present a petition from citizens of my constituency who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good people of Ogema, Glasnevin, Oungre, and Weyburn. I so present.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise again in this House today to present a petition to reverse the cuts to the Lighthouse program. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that in April 2014, the minister of Social Services said that the Lighthouse in Saskatoon would "... take pressure off of existing detox facilities, hospitals, and police cells while keeping people safe, especially in our brutally cold winters." Mr. Speaker, the petitioners also point out that that very same day, the then minister of Health said, "We want to ensure that individuals with mental health and addictions issues have a safe place to stay."

And they also point out that since that time, since those two statements, Mr. Speaker, this government continues to repeat or has repeated over time that the Lighthouse stabilization unit keeps individuals out of hospital emergency rooms and jail cells. We couldn't agree more, Mr. Speaker. We just need to look to the Saskatoon Health Region where they've experienced record over capacity in the last month, Mr. Speaker, and obviously the Lighthouse isn't the whole part of the problem there with over capacity, but making this cut to the stabilization unit certainly does not help, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately reverse their recent cuts to funding that allows extremely vulnerable people to access the services of the Lighthouse stabilization unit in Saskatoon, and revisit their imposition of a strict and narrow definition of homelessness in November 2015 which forced the Lighthouse to cut back its hours of essential service in February of 2016, and take immediate steps to ensure that homeless people in Saskatoon and in Saskatchewan have emergency shelter, clothing, and food available to them before more lives are lost.

Mr. Speaker, today the citizens who have signed this petition are from Regina, Warman, P.A. [Prince Albert], and Saskatoon. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand in my place today to present a petition as it relates to a second bridge for Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and that the Saskatchewan Party government refuses to stand up for Prince Albert and this critical infrastructure issue, and that the need for a second bridge for Prince Albert has never been clearer than it is today. Prince Albert, communities north of P.A., and businesses that send people and products to Prince Albert require a solution. So, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan ask that the Saskatchewan Party government stop stalling, hiding behind rhetoric, and refusing to listen to the people calling for action, and to begin immediately to plan and then quickly commence the construction of a second bridge for Prince Albert, using federal and provincial dollars.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I've said time and time again, there are many pages of petitions that have been signed. And on this particular page that I'm presenting today, the people that have signed are primarily from Regina and Saskatoon, and I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition regarding surface rights in Saskatchewan. The people who have signed this petition want to bring to our attention the following: that *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act* is an old and outdated piece of legislation that remains largely unchanged, despite amendments over the years. It is in desperate need of modernization to reflect the current challenges that farmers and ranchers are facing today. And, Mr. Speaker, we know that this government introduced . . . tabled legislation to be introduced two years ago now, and there's still no sign of that legislation forthcoming. So I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan to introduce legislation that would modernize *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act*, classify land value as industrial rather than agricultural when oil and gas development takes place, remove pipelines and flow lines from the surface rights Act, and establish a new maximum in compensation to be paid for damages.

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens from Saskatoon. I so submit.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of renewing funding for heritage language instruction here in Saskatchewan. And we know that after 25 years, the Government of Saskatchewan has discontinued all support for heritage language learning in Saskatchewan. Since 1991, heritage language schools have depended on this modest

funding from the Ministry of Education to help sustain their programs.

The heritage language schools contribute to the retention of immigrants in Saskatchewan by helping them maintain their cultural identity and traditions while at the same time learning about Canadian ways of life. Furthermore, studying additional languages offer many benefits for all Canadians, especially in today's growing international markets.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to reconsider this decision and restore funding for heritage language education in Saskatchewan heritage language schools.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the cities of Regina and Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition regarding child care in Saskatchewan. Those citizens signing this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: across Saskatchewan, licensed non-profit child care centres are taxed inconsistently and many of our licensed non-profit centres pay commercial property taxes. Mr. Speaker, this is not done in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, BC [British Columbia], or New Brunswick.

Child care is essential to the economy yet most centres struggle to balance their budgets. This issue threatens both the number of child care spaces as well as the quality. Quality child care has an enormous impact on a child's future outcomes and yields high rates of economic return. Child care centres are institutions of early learning and childhood development, and it is appropriate that they have the same tax treatment as schools. I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan recognize that licensed non-profit child care centres provide programs that are foundational to a healthy society by including them in *The Education Act*, and exempt all licensed non-profit child care centres in Saskatchewan from property tax through changes to the appropriate legislation.

Mr. Speaker, residents signing this petition today reside in Rosetown. I do so submit.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to

present a petition calling for a stop to the Sask Party sell-off of SaskTel. The petitioners point out that in the recent election campaign, the Sask Party promised that they would not privatize SaskTel, but the petitioners also point out that instead of looking at their own waste and scandal to address the budget shortfall, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party is now talking about breaking their promise and looking to sell off SaskTel to make a quick dollar, among other things, Mr. Speaker.

In the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to keep their promise, stop their plan to sell off SaskTel, and to keep our valued Crown corporations in the hands of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this particular set of petitions is signed by citizens from Saskatoon, Regina, and Biggar. I so present.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise yet again today to present a petition calling on the government to reverse the cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program. The Government of Saskatchewan cut the budget for the Aboriginal court worker program in the 2016-2017 provincial budget, resulting in layoffs of Aboriginal court workers throughout the province. Those on this side of the House know that Aboriginal court workers play an important role helping Aboriginal people in criminal and child apprehension cases. Aboriginal peoples are disproportionately represented in Saskatchewan's correctional centres and Aboriginal court workers successfully help to make our communities safer through reduced recidivism rates. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan reverse its short-sighted and counterproductive cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program.

The individuals signing this petition today come from Regina, Saskatoon, and Broadview. I do so submit.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to stop the redirection of funding of the Northern Teacher Education Program Council, Inc. A recent report shows that 94 per cent of NORTEP [northern teacher education program] grads found employment in the North. NORTEP has improved teacher retention rates in the North. NORTEP has a positive economic impact in northern Saskatchewan. NORTEP provides a high-quality, face-to-face instruction and services to students. The province's financial deficit cannot be fixed by cutting indigenous education in the North and a program that has served the North for over 40 years. And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to immediately restore the five-year agreement to fund the Northern Teacher Education Program Council, Inc. and to continue funding

NORTEP-NORPAC programs in La Ronge.

It is signed and supported by hundreds and hundreds of signatures and leaders in northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

#### New Canadian Blood Services Office in Saskatoon

**Ms. Lambert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a beautiful day in September, it was my pleasure to bring greetings from the province at the Canadian Blood Services grand opening of their Saskatoon office. It is great that this new office, which is the first modernized office in Western Canada with new techniques and automation, is in my constituency. The grand opening showed the local support for this vital part of our health care.

Mr. Speaker, giving blood is one of the most important things that someone can do. It is literally giving life to someone. The fact of the matter is that on any given day someone in Canada needs blood every minute, and that someone may be a close relative, a friend, a loved one, or even you. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that I am a blood donor and have passed the 30-donation mark.

I would ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in recognizing the hard work of the staff, professionals, and volunteers that are a part of the new Saskatoon office, and all of those at Canadian Blood Services nationally who ensure there is a safe supply of blood and blood products for all Canadians. Further, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all my colleagues and everyone watching and listening to call 1-888-TO-DONATE and book an appointment to give blood today. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

#### Revera and Reel Youth Film Project

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was delighted to be part of a special audience, together with several dignitaries, including Sheri Benson, MP, Saskatoon West, at The Franklin in Saskatoon on the evening of November 8th to watch a Saskatoon premiere of the Revera and Reel Youth Age is More film project.

Revera, a leading owner, operator, investor in the senior living sector, have partnered with Reel Youth, a charitable organization that empowers youth to create engaging films about important social issues. Together they have created the Revera and Reel Youth Age is More film project.

Ageism and breaking down the myths and stereotypes that surround it is the reason the Revera and Reel Youth Age is More project exists. Revera has an initiative called Age is More. They have conducted two national research studies on ageism and published two Revera reports on ageism. Both of these studies showed that ageism is Canada's most widely tolerated form of social discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, through this project, 10 Saskatoon youth were paired up with 10 older adults from The Franklin. They all spent two weekends together getting to know each other and creating the 10 films that we saw that evening. There have been 110 films produced as part of this project over the past four years. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in acknowledging Mr. Stephen Foster of Revera, Mark Vonesch and the team from Reel Youth, Jillianne Nagy and all the staff at the Franklin, but even more importantly the 10 seniors and youth who've participated in this great project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Melfort.

#### **Melfort Citizen Celebrates 109th Birthday**

**Mr. Phillips:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to speak about Reita Fennell. Reita celebrated her 109th birthday this past Sunday. This wonderful lady still lives on her own where she still does her own cleaning, cooking, and laundry. And, Mr. Speaker, at 109 that's pretty good, but it doesn't stop there. She is an avid baker, known for her cookies, cakes, and especially her famous cinnamon buns. And at her 109th birthday party, she walked around the room and greeted all her guests and even played a couple of tunes on the piano.

Reita is fondly called "Grandma Deat" by family and friends and most of Melfort. The name "Deat" originated with her younger brother, who could not pronounce Reita when he was a little boy.

Mr. Speaker, Reita remains healthy and has a great sense of humour. She loves practical jokes, especially on family members. She is active in her church and loves to visit with her grandchildren, nieces, and nephews that live in Melfort. It's very fortunate that Reita has many family and friends that live close by, as her nephew picks her up every Saturday to take her to get her groceries for the week.

Mr. Speaker, Grandma Deat is a wonderful, gracious lady, and I am proud and honoured to stand here and invite fellow members to wish Reita a very happy birthday with many more to come. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Remembering Sheila Martin Roberts**

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Sunday, family and friends gathered at the Mackenzie Art Gallery to share memories and celebrate the life of Sheila Martin Roberts. A long-time resident of Regina Lakeview, Sheila passed away on September 19th of this year after a long struggle with illness and injury. Sheila's husband, Joseph Roberts, was a companion and faithful caregiver to the end. Sheila's also survived by her daughters, Natalya Kuziak, Sara Kuziak; her stepchildren, Eric and Mona, Chris and Katherine; as well as her grandchildren, Bryony, Adam, and Claire.

Sheila attended the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964, and continued her studies throughout her life. She was an accomplished organizer, negotiator, facilitator, and leader in the Saskatchewan arts and cultural community. From 1974 to 1989, Sheila was the Saskatchewan representative for the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists, ACTRA, in Regina. In the early '90s, Sheila became a visual and literary arts consultant for the Saskatchewan government, liaising with cultural organizations and contributing to the status of the artist legislation. She was a lifelong community activist who believed in social justice, civil rights, women's rights, and she participated in countless social movements.

Sheila was a passionate woman. She had many interests including theatre, dance, art, music, gardening, and birding. She was also a great fisherwoman, and I'm told an expert filleter, taking many fish out of her beloved Jan Lake. She was known for her cooking, gourmet family meals, and fabulous dinner parties. She loved to travel, including time spent as a child with her parents in Asia, in England, and Scotland for school, later to China, Europe, the US [United States], and across Canada.

As her obituary noted: "Hers was a rich, satisfying, but too short life." She was someone to admire, and I invite all members to join me in offering condolences to Joe and her family in celebrating the life of Sheila Roberts.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

#### **Local Farm Families Featured in Advertising Campaign**

**Mr. Doke:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize a couple of multi-generational farms from my constituency. The Schaefer family farm and the Scott Carson farm were recently featured in area newspapers as part of the fall advertising for Dekalb. These exposés are not only promoting Dekalb's canola hybrid, but features farms that show the best of Saskatchewan agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, the Schaefer family, the first family featured, have been farming in the Meota area for 112 years, over 5 generations. The youngest Schaefer to farm actually bought back his great-grandfather's homestead when he was graduating from grade 12. Mr. Speaker, I know this family and they are passionate about the farming industry.

Scott Carson, as the fourth generation on the farm near Maidstone, has seen a role reversal: whereas he used to help his dad bring in the harvest, now he brings in the harvest. The Carsons are friends of mine and I know their passion for farming runs deep.

Mr. Speaker, farming is in our blood and the Schaefer and Carsons are two examples of types of modern innovation farms that are helping to keep Saskatchewan strong. I would ask all members to join me in thanking the Schaefer and Carsons for their hard work, to thank Dekalb for featuring two farms from my constituency in the engineered canola advertising campaign this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.



### Pioneering Artisan Cheese Producer in Moose Jaw

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Coteau Hills Creamery is an exciting new business operating out of Moose Jaw. The creamery is Saskatchewan's only artisan cow's milk cheese producer. Mr. Speaker, Kirby and Crystal Froese moved home to Moose Jaw to be closer to their family after working for years in the wine-making business in British Columbia and abroad. With a wealth of experience in the food and beverage industry, Kirby decided he wanted to return to food production. Earlier this year, Coteau Hills released its first cheese to market — a Balkan feta-style cheese that is creamier than Greek feta. They currently also produce bloomy rind and washed rind cheese, and they're looking at making a Saskatoon berry-rubbed Tomme cheese in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the creamery sources its milk from Saskatchewan producers including Caroncrest Farms, owned and operated by the Blaine McLeod family at Caronport. The McLeods are also principals in this company.

Coteau Hills plans to expand its production to other small-batch, handmade cheeses which contain no preservatives or additives. Several local businesses have already begun selling Coteau Hills Creamery cheeses in Moose Jaw and Regina, and the creamery is looking to expand to Saskatoon and Swift Current in the future.

I ask all members to join me in wishing Coteau Hills success as they continue to pioneer the artisan cheese industry in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Westview.

### Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month I had the opportunity to attend and present plaques to the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame 31st annual induction ceremony and banquet at TCU Place in Saskatoon. Although, Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I was a little out of my element as the only sports award I've won was a blue ribbon in high jump in grade 7.

The first Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held in 1987, and today the Hall continues to be a focal point in the celebration of Saskatoon athletes, builders, and teams. This year's inductees included four builders, which were Don Bates, Bob Fawcett, Percy Hoff, and Raymond Wight.

There were five inductees in the athlete category: Jaime Cruickshank, Duane Dmytryshyn, Kelsie Hendry, Randy Smith, and Joey Stabner.

Two teams and one sports organization were inducted as well. They were Stephanie Hart and Casey Napper, U of S Huskies '86-87 Men's Track and Field team, and the Marian Gymnastics Club.

Mr. Speaker, it was great to see such a wide range of sport representation including hockey, soccer, cycling, football, gymnastics, track and field, and more. These inductees are an

inspiration to all Saskatchewan athletes and our province is very proud of their achievements. I ask all members to join me in congratulating these inductees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### State of the Provincial Economy and Details of Land Transactions

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, more proof today that the Sask Party simply can't balance the books. We are seeing the consequences of their mismanagement scandal and waste piling up for Saskatchewan people. And it's crystal clear that they're unwilling to come clean to Saskatchewan people on front after front.

Mr. Speaker, a place for them to start coming clean would be the tens of millions of dollars that they've mismanaged and wasted through their GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Guffaw and laugh at this government's running a financial mess and making cuts for Saskatchewan people all they want, but Saskatchewan people deserve answers, Mr. Speaker.

And I know the Premier probably has a lot on his mind here today, so I'll put to him a question that he's failed to answer day after day in this Assembly. When did the Premier learn that the numbered company that first owned the land was owned by a Sask Party-supporting Alberta land baron who also rented land to the minister, the very minister that was pushing this deal? When did he learn this?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well I do think it's important to comment on the mid-term report that's been presented by the minister, and the Leader of the Opposition referenced it in his preamble to the question. Mr. Speaker, there have been some significant challenges now for over two years in terms of great pressure on commodity prices. And we've seen revenues soften even this year in respect of income tax, in respect of PST [provincial sales tax] and potash royalties, PST revenue and potash royalties.

That notwithstanding though, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to report to the people of the province through this forum of the Legislative Assembly that Saskatchewan maintains the second-lowest debt-to-GDP [gross domestic product] ratio in all of the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to report to members of the House that we've taken the decisions, we'll continue to take the decisions to meet the fiscal challenge, the kind of approach that has earned us a AAA rating, Mr. Speaker, the first time ever Saskatchewan received a AAA rating. We'll continue to make progress after having balanced the budget on the operating debt that we've inherited from previous governments, on top of the 32 per cent reduction in operating debt we provided, Mr. Speaker.

As to the GTH question that the member asked again, Mr. Speaker, this was all the subject of the Provincial Auditor's investigation. Everything available for the Provincial . . . Well

he's saying no. Of course the Provincial Auditor had full purview to look at all of these matters, Mr. Speaker. Her conclusion is on . . . Her recommendations we accept. Her conclusion's on the record, Mr. Speaker, and we support the work of the Provincial Auditor.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, more ridiculous by the day. And the fact that this Premier will try to sell as good news the financial mess that he's created speaks to where this Premier's at these days: \$3.5 billion of debt added in two years, and a Premier who won't come clean with Saskatchewan people with a very simple, straightforward question around his GTH land scandal that wasted millions of dollars.

We know this first went to cabinet, and at that point the Minister of Justice flagged it that there was a concealed identity. Of course we've also learned that that concealed identity was the landlord of the minister who was pushing the very deal, the minister of the GTH. My question to the Premier, it's a pretty simple, straightforward one that he should come clean to Saskatchewan on: when did he learn this?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, never have so many questions been asked about a transaction that never happened, that actually that was never followed through. This is the first transaction . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition wants to yell from his seat.

Mr. Speaker, I completely reject the premise of the question. The premise of the question is that the government has not been forthcoming in answers.

More than that, Mr. Speaker, the government asked the Provincial Auditor to look at the entire matter. Let's review for those who are guests here who might not know, the Provincial Auditor doesn't work for this side of the House. The Provincial Auditor doesn't work for that side of the House. The Provincial Auditor is an independent officer of this Legislative Assembly. She has her own team. She took her team . . . And the Leader of the Opposition's shaking his head. Maybe he doesn't think she's independent. We on this side of the House do think she's independent.

Mr. Speaker, moreover she took her entire team, she took her entire team and looked at the GTH transaction, Mr. Speaker. On that team was an accountant that had a speciality in forensic audits in the case they found anything that would require a further forensic audit, Mr. Speaker. She went through all of the transaction. Cabinet made documents available to her upon request, Mr. Speaker. There were no limits — they keep heckling because they don't like the answer to the question — and she provided recommendations to this side of the House that we're acting on.

But she also said in her press release that accompanied the audit that, the press release said, Mr. Speaker, that the audit found no evidence of conflict of interest, of wrongdoing, or fraud, Mr. Speaker, on the part of the board of directors, which includes

the minister. Why won't the opposition accept the work of the Provincial Auditor?

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

### State of the Provincial Economy

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — That non-answer is weak and pathetic from the Premier of Saskatchewan. The concealed identity made \$6 million, the one with the relationship to that minister, and that Premier needs to come clean.

But it's that kind of answer that explains the mess that we're in on the finances, the financial mismanagement of this government. Their deficit for this year is already over \$1 billion. In just two years, they're adding \$3.5 billion of debt, and that's on top of the \$1 billion a year that they've already added year after year after year.

Mr. Speaker, they couldn't get the job done during the best years. Now times are tough, and they've left Saskatchewan people vulnerable. And they're looking pretty desperate. They've already blown through the surplus, drained the rainy day fund, and they claim that revenues are down. But those were the Sask Party's projections, the ones that we called into question from day one, Mr. Speaker. The first step to finding a solution is admitting that you have a problem. All this information, all this information was available to the Premier months ago, Mr. Speaker.

To the Premier: why did the Premier hide the true state of our province's finances and the Sask Party's financial mismanagement? Why didn't he come clean?

[14:15]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, once again I reject the premise of the question. The premise of his question is completely false, Mr. Speaker.

I would also point out that we are now, well now beyond two years of low commodity prices. Oil prices started to fall in the fall of 2014 and have stayed lower longer than any analyst or expert predicted at the outset. This has been complicated by the fact that potash prices have also been low. And so therefore there's been a drag on PST. There's been a drag on corporate income tax revenue. There's been a drag on income tax revenue in response to this, Mr. Speaker.

The government has acted with restraint, I would point out. That's referenced in the mid-term report. Mr. Speaker, the government has also laid out a plan to manage further and responsibly into the future, working towards a balanced budget next year.

And, Mr. Speaker, consider what's happened on either side of us, where in Manitoba they're dealing with a much larger deficit inherited from an NDP government, even though they get 1.4 billion in equalization dollars. And over to the west of us, Mr. Speaker, in the province of Alberta where there is also an NDP government, Mr. Speaker, they have an \$11 billion

deficit, Mr. Speaker, when their province is roughly four times the size of the province of Saskatchewan.

Here in our province, we have a manageable situation. We're going to get to balance. Here in our province, we have a AAA credit rating, Mr. Speaker. Here in our province, we've reduced the operating debt inherited from members opposite and other governments by 32 per cent, lowering interest costs, Mr. Speaker. Here in our province, we've reduced taxes by \$6 billion in nine years. Here in our province, we've increased infrastructure investment by \$9 billion, creating over the last number of years the second-best job creation record in the Dominion of Canada.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, this Premier has no credibility on this file. It's simply not believable that the Premier, who was pretending that he had a couple hundred million dollars of a deficit, now is running billion dollar deficit after billion dollar deficit. And it's no surprise, I guess, that he's trying to put on a brave face, but we'd expect something different from him.

What we're dealing with is \$3.5 billion of new debt in just two years. We have a \$1 billion deficit already here this year and growing, with no sign that things are turning around. They have no plan, and they're desperate, desperately grasping at straws to try to sell this as good news here today, which is a complete disrespect to Saskatchewan people, desperately cutting the things that help give us strength for the future. Next we know they'll be trying to sell off anything that's not nailed down, Mr. Speaker.

It seems their only plan is damaging and callous cuts that cost us far more, far more in the long run, making things worse. Instead of accepting responsibility and working on a plan, they're hiding the reality. They're making Saskatchewan people pay the price with disgraceful cuts and desperate sell-offs.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: why didn't he come clean to Saskatchewan people about the financial mess that they created? Why does he think it's right for Saskatchewan people to pay the price for Sask Party mismanagement, scandal, and waste?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this side of the House, the government has paid off 32 per cent of the operating debt of Saskatchewan. We have financed infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. Do you know who else supported financing, borrowing for infrastructure in the provincial election just a few months ago? Do you know who else called for the financing and the borrowing to support infrastructure in the election on April the 4th? He's nodding his head again because he knows what's coming.

Mr. Speaker, here's a letter that the NDP furnished with their own campaign platform, wherein they laid out borrowing for infrastructure. They got Andrew Jackson, who's an adjunct . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, they don't like this, Mr. Speaker. They don't like this at all. Now here's a letter from the

professor of the Broadbent Institute at Carleton University that they asked to review their plan, their plan to borrow infrastructure, and here's what he says about the NDP:

You are also taking advantage of historically low borrowing costs and a federal commitment to support growth oriented public infrastructure investment by the provinces. A recent study . . . [by] the Broadbent Institute by the Centre for Spatial Economics showed that such investments boost employment, growth and provincial government revenues in the short term and expand the long-term revenue . . .

The quote goes on, Mr. Speaker. This was all part of their platform which forecasted — what? — a deficit budget, Mr. Speaker, and missed, by the way, in their forecast, \$1 billion worth of NDP promises. The member opposite will forgive the people of the province of Saskatchewan if they're not interested in any budgeting lessons from the NDP.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, those responses are as weak and pathetic as the display we see day in, day out on the GTH land scandal. This is a government that couldn't get the job done during the best days, drained the rainy day fund when the revenues were flowing, didn't save a dime, and piled on debt, leaving us vulnerable during this period of time, and a Premier who knew the full picture which was before him months ago when he was saying something very, very different to Saskatchewan people.

How can that Premier, how can that Premier defend not getting the job done during the best years, leaving Saskatchewan people now to pay the price?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — I think this is an interesting debate here in the Chamber here today, Mr. Speaker. What we've seen from the opposition NDP over the last number of days, and I've listened very, very carefully as they come into this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, day after day after day — whether it's their petitions that they present here in the Chamber or whether it's questions asked by the opposition critics of the various ministers in the government, Mr. Speaker — every single day, that opposition comes into this Chamber and says the government should be spending more money, Mr. Speaker, in virtually every area of the government.

So we have said, Mr. Speaker, given the fact that resource revenues are down \$1.2 billion over the last two years, tax revenues are down \$400 million in this year, Mr. Speaker, and that opposition comes into this Chamber every single day and says the government ought to spend more money. Mr. Speaker, we are going to deal with the challenges, faced with the uncertainties in our economy right now, Mr. Speaker, particularly in the oil and gas sector and the commodities sector.

When the opposition critic was asked today what she would do differently, pressed pretty hard by the media to say what would you do, here is her quote, Mr. Speaker: Well they'll have to

look at either increasing revenues or management of our expenses. Well why didn't we think of that, Mr. Speaker? That's brilliant advice here in the Chamber. Mr. Speaker, we're not going to take any further advice from that Finance critic.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We know the people of Saskatchewan deserve a government that takes the situation seriously, but even that answer has a deficit of its own. The only thing this government has proven is that they can't be trusted. We know now why they didn't want to reveal the numbers for the first-quarter update: they were embarrassed. And now, putting newspaper over their mess and pretending it wasn't there has only made matters worse.

Mr. Speaker, the Finance minister told us everything was fine. Well I've got news for him — it's not. And we, along with the people of Saskatchewan, have been telling him that all along. The minister says he's happy to use debt financing but, Mr. Speaker, what is the minister's plan for dealing with interest rates if the province's credit rating goes down? One of the problems identified in the spring was the Sask Party's poor projections, which we see again here today. Well if they got their deficit projection off by about \$600 million, so how does the Finance minister think it will affect the province's credit rating?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — Mr. Speaker, I think again it's important to have this debate in the Chamber, Mr. Speaker, and I welcome it. I recall, when we wrapped up the budget debate here in the Chamber back in June, Mr. Speaker, when I gave my wrap-up speech to wrap up the budget debate, I implored members of the opposition to provide us some solutions. I implored members of the opposition to send over some of their ideas, Mr. Speaker.

What we have done is embarked upon transformational change across the entire spectrum of government. Do you know who's participating in this, Mr. Speaker? The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is participating in this. Public servants are participating in this. Citizens across the province are participating in this, understanding full well that when you lose \$1.2 billion in resource revenues in the course of two years, Mr. Speaker, you can shut down hospitals. You can lay off teachers. You can lay off nurses, Mr. Speaker. What we've asked the people of the province of Saskatchewan is to engage with the government to say, look, we need to get back to delivering the core services that the people of this province want and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, we've not had one idea come from the other side except spend more money.

**The Speaker:** — I caution members to please listen to the question and response from government. I recognize the minister from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When is the Finance minister just going to admit that he had it all wrong?

Now I can admit that I had the time-stamp wrong about his Facebook fight last week. I made a mistake. I'll admit it. I'll even apologize — I'm sorry. His diatribe Thursday clearly ended before midnight. See, Mr. Speaker? That was easy.

So now I'd like to remind the Finance minister of some of his mistakes: 11,000 people, more people looking for work today than a year ago; \$3.5 billion more in debt in two years; a \$1 billion deficit this year alone. Mr. Speaker, his plan is to cut deeper? His plan is to borrow more? Is it to raise taxes?

Mr. Speaker, the flailing around and hiding from Saskatchewan people is what got the Sask Party in the position they're dragging us all into now. So will the Finance minister admit he made some terrible mistakes, admit that his projections could not have been more wrong if he had thrown darts at a chart of random numbers? Will he come clean and commit to working with us to get the finances back in order and put Saskatchewan people back to work?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for acknowledging her mistake from yesterday, and I appreciate her apology.

Mr. Speaker, let's just take a look at the picture in the province of Saskatchewan today. Their own platform document, their own platform document advocating borrowing money to invest in infrastructure . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well see I don't think they've read their own platform document, Mr. Speaker. It's right there. I can send a copy over to you. I can send a copy over to all of you, all 10 of you over there if you've not read your platform document. It's advocating borrowing money to invest in infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.

The member opposite, the member opposite made reference to the fact there's 10,000 less people employed in the province today than there was last year, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge that. That's as a result of the downturn in the commodity sector in our province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if we had not been building 18 new schools in the province, if we were not building a new mental health facility in North Battleford, Mr. Speaker, if we were not building a new children's hospital in Saskatoon, if we were not building a new bypass around the capital city of Regina, Mr. Speaker, can you imagine what the employment figures would be in this province today? We're not going to take the advice from that member today.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, all he has to do is admit that he's making all the same mistakes over again. If he works with us, we can get things back on track before things get as bad as they were when the last government he worked for got thrown out.

Mr. Speaker, going into debt to create jobs can be a good strategy, but you actually have to create jobs. This Sask Party can't create Saskatchewan jobs when they build highways. They can't create Saskatchewan jobs with abandoned and

orphan well cleanup. And they certainly can't create Saskatchewan jobs efficiently with their \$1.5 billion job-killing carbon capture tax. They didn't even protect the technology for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. Precious investment in this province should be in job creating projects that actually create jobs here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, when will this minister admit that his party couldn't even build pipelines when times were good? And they certainly can't be trusted to create jobs and infrastructure now that times are tough.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — Mr. Speaker, do you know what's going to kill jobs in this province and other provinces across this country is a nationally imposed carbon tax. We asked one simple little thing. We asked the Leader of the Opposition to sign a letter in conjunction with the Premier to send to the Prime Minister to say, do not impose a national carbon tax; certainly do not impose a carbon tax in the province of Saskatchewan. That Leader of the Opposition refused to do that, Mr. Speaker, because of politics.

Then we have this Finance critic, who also happens to be the Agriculture critic, who ironically also happens to be the Environment critic, Mr. Speaker. What's her solution to the job situation in the province of Saskatchewan? A carbon tax. She wants to start up a tech fund and have emitters in the province today put money into a tech fund, Mr. Speaker, for the green economy. It's a carbon tax, Mr. Speaker.

This is the same Finance critic, do you know what her plan is, Mr. Speaker? She won't stand up and defend it. She went off to Edmonton earlier this year and stood on the floor at the NDP national convention and voted in favour of the Leap Manifesto, Mr. Speaker. Have a look at the Leap Manifesto. It would destroy the economy in the province of Saskatchewan. That's her plan.

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

[14:30]

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, you think he'd save some of that anger for himself and his colleagues and their \$1 billion deficit that they didn't have the guts to tell the people of Saskatchewan about before the election. They don't get it, Mr. Speaker. They don't get it.

There are 11,000 more Saskatchewan people looking for work today than there were a year ago. In Saskatchewan we've lost jobs in the resource sector, in construction, in real estate, and throughout the private sector. And, Mr. Speaker, we know that the Sask Party can't stop cutting jobs in the public sector. From front-line health staff to people who work in our kids' classrooms, they just keep handing out pink slips. To make matters worse, Mr. Speaker, they're also cutting job creation and training programs, and we see that here today from the Ministry of the Economy to Advanced Education. Every program to help Saskatchewan people back to work is under attack from this Sask Party government.

Mr. Speaker, they may be hoping that this helps them out in the short term, but who is going to help turn this economy around when the Sask Party cuts mean more and more Saskatchewan people are out of work?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of the Economy and the GTH.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Let's review the facts on job creation, Mr. Speaker. From 2007 to today, this province has the second-best job creation record in the entire country. In the last nine years of the NDP government, do you know what position Saskatchewan ranked then? Dead last. The worst in Canada was their record. That's their record, Mr. Speaker, the worst in Canada.

And what is their solution offered? What is it? A carbon tax — that's what they come up with. The Leader of the Opposition, I'll actually quote him, the Leader of the Opposition says, "Well I think you need to make sure that you're protecting the interests of the province and families and farms, but the concept of a carbon price is something we support." So their solution is a carbon tax. And we know the Finance critic, the Finance critic votes . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — The Finance critic goes to Edmonton to the national convention of the NDP, and she votes for the Leap Manifesto, a document that's a virtual declaration of war on the economy of this province. And they have the temerity, with the worst job creation record in the history . . . well in the entirety of Canada during their term, and have the temerity to speak about creating jobs when we have the second-best record in this country.

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

### Funding for Education

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, day after day the Education minister tells school divisions to work harder at finding efficiencies in their schools. And we all know what that's code for, Mr. Speaker: cuts to our children's classrooms.

According to the minister, school divisions just aren't cutting enough. Two years ago school boards were asked to find \$5 million in savings. School divisions have dug deep and managed to cut 15 million, three times the amount of savings they were told to find. Nearly half of those savings that divisions found were through staff reductions. That means fewer teachers, fewer educational assistants, and fewer support staff for our children's classrooms.

But that's still not enough for this minister. Mr. Speaker, the fact is these school divisions have had to cut more than they were originally asked. School divisions have been forced to dip into their emergency funds just to cover day-to-day operations. Will the minister admit that his government's scandal, waste, and mismanagement are out of control, and will he leave our

kids' classrooms alone?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite talks about leaving classrooms alone. That's what they did and that's why the people went to Alberta. Mr. Speaker, we will provide resources and we will provide supports to the classroom because we want to have good, good results for our students, Mr. Speaker.

In 2013, 65 per cent of our kids were reading at grade level; 2014 was up to 70 per cent; 2015, 73 per cent; 2016, 74 per cent. Mr. Speaker, that's what we're doing inside our classrooms. We're not leaving it alone; we're working with the teachers.

Mr. Speaker, our goal was to have 85 per cent of our students graduating on time: 2013, it was 74.7; 2014, 75.2; 2015, 75.6. More work to do, Mr. Speaker, but definitely making progress — better than closing schools, better than sending kids to Calgary.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Ms. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Crown Corporations' Fiscal Year End Standardization) Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 2, the miscellaneous status (Crown Corporations' fiscal year standardization) amendment act, 2016 and the bill now be read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 2 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Crown Corporations' Fiscal Year End Standardization) Amendment Act, 2016*

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It is moved by the minister that Bill No. 2, the miscellaneous status amendment Act, 2016 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — On division. Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Ms. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 37, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 37, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 37 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016*

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 37, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the

motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — Recognize the member from Lloydminster.

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Ms. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 32, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016* with amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 32, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016* and the bill be amended, be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. When shall the amendments be read a first time? I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

#### FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

##### Bill No. 32 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016*

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — First and second reading of the amendments.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 32 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016*

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill 32, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cannington.

##### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 12, *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 12, *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Health.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 12 — *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016*

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 12, *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING  
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cannington.

**Standing Committee on Human Services**

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 26, *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 26, *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act* and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Health.

**THIRD READINGS**

**Bill No. 26 — *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act***

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 26, *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*, be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 14:42 until 14:47.]

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 48]

Wall	Moe	Stewart
Wyant	Reiter	Morgan
Harpauer	Doherty	Duncan
Beaudry-Mellor	Hargrave	D'Autremont
Heppner	Boyd	Cheveldayoff
Marit	Tell	Eyre
Merriman	Harrison	Ottenbreit
Ross	Weekes	Brkich
Hart	Kirsch	Steinley
Makowsky	Phillips	Lawrence
Wilson	Campeau	Docherty
Michelson	Doke	Cox
Olauson	Steele	Young
Fiaz	Dennis	Bonk
Carr	Nerlien	Lambert
Buckingham	Kaeding	McMorris

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 10]

Wotherspoon	Chartier	Belanger
Sproule	Forbes	Rancourt
Beck	McCall	Sarauer
Vermette		

**Principal Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 48; those opposed, 10.

**The Speaker:** — Motion passes.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING  
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cannington.

**Standing Committee on Human Services**

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 13, *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016* with amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill, and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 13, *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016* and the bill and its amendments be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. When shall the amendments be read



a first time? I recognize the Minister of Health.

#### FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

##### Bill No. 13 — *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016*

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk** — First and second reading of the amendments.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Health.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 13 — *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016*

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 13, *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Ms. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 1, *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in the Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill No. 1, *The*

*Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016* and the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Leave is not granted. When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Later this day.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

#### TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, it is my pleasure to submit supplementary estimates accompanied by a message from Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

**The Speaker:** — Would you please rise for the message from the Lieutenant Governor. The message is as follows:

The Lieutenant Governor transmits supplementary estimates — November, of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2017, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly. Hon. Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question 195.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has only tabled the responses to question 195. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question 196.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has ordered the response to question 196. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 197 through 214.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 197 to 214.

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

**Principal Clerk:** — Committee of the Whole on Bills.

**The Speaker:** — I do now leave the Chair.

[15:00]

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

**Bill No. 1 — *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016*****Clause 1**

**The Chair:** — Members, I'll call the Committee of the Whole to order. The item before the committee this afternoon is Bill No. 1, *An Act to amend The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*. I'll ask the minister responsible for . . . that's presenting this bill, I'll ask him to introduce any officials that he may have, and if he wishes, to make a very short opening comments if he so wishes.

But before I recognize him, there's a couple of housekeeping things that I should do. First of all, this is a little bit different than what we usually do, so I'll just review a couple of things: Rule 90, or part of rule 90 that applies to Committee of the Whole on third reading. Rule 90 is as follows, and I'll just state a couple of parts of it. First:

Two hours will be allotted to Private Members for questions and comments.

Private Members may be recognized more than once but must yield the floor after 20 minutes; should the list of speakers be exhausted before the two hours are up, Members who have already spoken may be permitted to speak again.

So what is going to happen here, the clock will be set at two hours. And when private members are making comments and asking questions, the clock will run. But when the member is done making their comments and asking questions, it'll stop. The time does not include comments by the minister or comments by the Chair. So those are the standing orders that we're operating under. So now I will recognize the minister and ask him to introduce his officials.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I only have one official. It's Barry Lacey, to my right here. He's the president and CEO [chief executive officer] of SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority]. And I have no additional comments.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview. Please stand when you speak.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Lacey, for attending this meeting today. I do sincerely appreciate that. And thank you to Minister Hargrave. Mr. Chair, just for the information of the members here today, we're here today because as an opposition we have some serious and significant concerns about how this bill, although a CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] bill, the consequences it will have for SLGA in particular.

Last night at committee, the Minister for Crown Investments Corporations was unable to answer many of the questions that I had about the impact that this bill will have on the people of our province. And when I asked to have the Minister for SLGA appear before the committee by way of motion, that motion was

voted down.

The minister responsible is stating that at that point, it was not indicated that it was not possible to have the Minister for SLGA to attend, Mr. Speaker, so that motion was voted down. Those questions remain, and I think that they are questions that should be answered, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we find ourselves in this Assembly today in this Committee of the Whole. And as I noted at the beginning of my statements, I understand this has probably been a change in your day, and I do sincerely appreciate you being here.

My first question is this, and maybe a little by way of preamble: when this bill was read for the first time, it triggered the policy committee. So we had submissions as is prescribed in the Crown protection Act, the opportunity to sit as a committee and have a number of presentations from members of the public. There was some information that came forth in that committee as well as comments in introduction of second reading of this bill by the then minister that I have some specific questions about.

And the first question is this: what is the current state of the RFP [request for proposal] process that this bill allows the government to enter into with regards to the 40 liquor stores that are about to be privatized?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is too bad that . . . The opposition did know about the committee and did know about the bill well in advance to last night that we could have arranged to have the officials from — all of the officials instead of just one — from SLGA present and to answer questions last night. And it would have made this afternoon not necessary and would have made last night go a little easier for us, right? And so but that's fine. Anyway we'll deal with it today, and that's what we're here for.

The current state of the RFP is . . . It's very imminent. We expect that the successful proponents should be announced very, very shortly.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that the RFP process was to have been completed in September, and I'm just wondering what the reason is for the delays.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you very much again, Mr. Chairman. Many elements of the RFP were completed but not all of them. We had an extremely high response rate to the RFP, a very high response rate, and so officials, together with KPMG. . . It was a lengthy process because of the sheer number of applicants, of respondents. It was quite the long process to go through it. And it's just finalizing now, and we do expect that to be completed and announced very shortly.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — To clarify, Mr. Chair, to the minister: have there

been any decisions finalized with regard to sale of those stores? Have the successful bidders been notified or the unsuccessful bidders been notified of the results of that RFP?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To the question from the member opposite, decisions have been finalized in response to the RFP and the respondents are in the process . . . We are in the process of contacting and notifying all of the respondents. Again as I say, there was a number of respondents. There was a large number of respondents, and that process is under way at this time.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you. Could you tell us how many respondents there were to that RFP?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, it's a very high number, and that number was over 274.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Were there RFPs forwarded for each of the 40 stores? I would suspect that the number over 200 might be concentrated in certain areas. Did you receive RFPs for each of the 40 stores?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Mr. Chairman, yes. The answer is all 40 did receive RFP proposals. All 50 received RFP proposals.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wonder if the minister can tell me if there were any proposals put forward by former SLGA employees. There was indication that there would be some preference given to employee group bids to the RFP process.

[15:15]

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Mr. Chairman, in regards to the question regarding former, or SLGA employees, yes, there were some SLGA employees that did put forward RFP.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I understand from the minister's previous responses that we can expect that these decisions will be finalized. I wonder if there is a specific time frame that we can be looking at for public disclosure of the successful bids to the RFP process?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Mr. Chairman, that will be

imminently, so that's very, very soon.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wonder if the minister can tell me what the total anticipated revenue will be from the sale of these 40, the 40 privatized stores?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the process, these stores were not sold. There was no revenue to be gained from these stores. These proponents won the RFP, and we just vacate the area. There's no new permits issued. Just the same . . . the one permit for that store.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering then what the total net impact was on revenues for going through the RFP process, the tendering, and subsequent successful bid of both the 40 stores and the additional private stores. Was there any impact on revenues for SLGA or costs?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — This process was . . . This process was revenue neutral.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the things that was brought up frequently in committee as a concern and a question that we had with regard to the neutrality, the revenue neutrality of this transaction was the lack of transparency about that revenue neutrality. Will there be a breakdown provided to the public, to members of this Assembly, breaking down exactly how the sale, the privatization of these 40 stores, the addition of these 10 new stores as well as the decrease in the markup on wholesale alcohol, how that will break out to be revenue neutral?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process of course was very complex. And well, you know, one of the things was simplified — the mark-up process of the liquor — and we're very confident that that will be revenue neutral. Where the money is made with SLGA is on the wholesale end not on the retail end. And that's sort of been . . . And that's historical, and that's the way it will obviously remain.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the answer. The question was whether or not that neutrality will be presented in some transparent and coherent way to members of this Assembly and members of the public. And I recall from committee that there were some concerns that, given the fact that now SLGA will be a smaller piece of the wholesale purchasing process, that those revenues with regard to wholesale alcohol sales might be reduced.

So to clarify, the question is, when can we expect or will we expect to see those costs and the net impact presented in a public way?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Mr. Chairman, the figures that you're requesting, well they will show in the annual financial reports that are produced by SLGA — you have to go in to the summary financials of the government — and are reported on regularly. So that's where those . . . So there will be transparency. They will be right in there.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is this: have there been any studies or reports on the impact, particularly on rural economies? We heard in committee a number of concerns. I think particularly of the town of Gravelbourg, their chamber of commerce presenting concerns that this decision to remove SLGA entirely from the Crown protection Act will have particular impacts on rural communities. So my question, to clarify: have there been any studies or reports, and do you anticipate tracking what that impact will be on those rural communities, the impact of this legislation and the privatization and addition of additional private stores?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will continue to be in all these locations, all the 40 locations that are being redone, there will continue to be service. There will still be alcohol provided to those communities through the service providers that were successful in obtaining the RFP. So there should be very little impact to the communities as far as obtaining alcohol because it still will be there.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the minister for that answer. Some of the concerns that were outlined specifically, if I can recall, in the instance where there is no longer an SLGA store in a town and perhaps you have two or three small grocery stores vying for the right to have the liquor licence in that town, the concern was that you might see a negative impact on the two stores that don't receive the liquor licence. So it was along those lines, Mr. Chair. It was also along the lines of the number of jobs that might be lost, and particularly good-paying jobs, good unionized jobs in these small communities.

So I guess I'll move on to this question. How many jobs have been lost as a result, SLGA jobs have been lost as a result of this RFP process?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I'm taking that as two questions. And business owners, I know as being a business owner for many years, are not afraid of competition. We look forward to it. And all the business owners in the community did have a chance to bid through the RFP process. So as a business owner, I'm never afraid of competition. I welcome competition. And so there

should be nominal impact and the business owners in there that did not win the RFP should be happy they got an opportunity. And they had their chance, so there should be nominal impact on them.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To the minister I guess or through the Chair, the second part of my question was, how many SLGA jobs have been lost as a part of this process?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I believe the number . . . We're just actually getting a firm number right now, so we should have that answer very shortly. I believe it was just over 100 FTE [full-time equivalent], but we'll get the right answer and then we'll provide it to you as soon as we get it. It should be in just a few minutes.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a question I want to revisit, and that is the fundamental question to this whole piece of legislation, and it's this: why was the decision made to have SLGA totally removed from the protection of this Act? Certainly as has been conceded both in this Assembly and in committee, the government, the Sask Party did campaign on the privatization of 40 stores, but not on removing SLGA entirely from the protection of the Crown protection Act, and certainly that wasn't widely circulated during the campaign. So specifically, why the decision to remove SLGA entirely from the Act?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Two answers. The first one was from the last question: 116 FTE, 1-1-6.

In relation to the latest question, I'll answer that, Mr. Chairman. As I pointed out last night, it was in our platform that we were campaigning on, and we did campaign through the entire election about the removal of the stores and the conversion of the stores, in our campaign. It's being amended accordingly to ensure that there is no legal uncertainty about the legality of converting of the stores. That's why the Act had to be changed.

[15:30]

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Would it have been possible to privatize the 40 stores, as you campaigned on, and add additional stores without removing SLGA entirely from the protection of the Crown protection Act?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — No, it was our opinion that to remove any doubt that there was and to . . . there was legal certainty that we could proceed and convert the stores, that they all had to be removed, that the whole SLGA had to be removed and not just those 40 stores.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — This is just a question that has just occurred to me now, Mr. Speaker, or Mr. Chair, rather. So there's no other way that partial privatization could have happened without removing SLGA from the Act, perhaps a change of definition about privatization?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. It may have been possible to remove just the 40 stores, but to ensure legal certainty and to avoid any challenges we felt it necessary to amend the Act as presented.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Removal of SLGA from the protection of this Act, will that make it easier to privatize additional stores?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — The government has no plans to privatize additional stores.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to hear that. So just to clarify, there are no plans now or in the future to privatize additional stores?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I will clarify the remarks. There are no current plans to privatize any additional stores.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the questions that I have about further privatization, as was mentioned earlier, that a lot of the assumptions about revenue neutrality come from revenue from wholesale liquor, and if we were to see further privatization within SLGA, would that impact . . . upset the balance of the model of revenue neutrality? Would the SLGA have less power to garner good wholesale prices for their product?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. The government has no current plans to further privatize, further convert any of the liquor stores. We're comfortable that there will be revenue neutrality and that should continue. So we're quite comfortable with that.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the minister confirm that \$32 million in net profit was realized by those 40 stores in the year prior . . . in the past year?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These, the 40 stores that were converted, upon review, they were the lowest performing 40 stores that we had and we're extremely comfortable that, going forward, that there will be that revenue neutrality in, within that. So we'll pass . . . [inaudible].

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the minister for that answer. The question was the net income in 2014, cumulative income of those 40 stores. Can he confirm that it was approximately \$32 million?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

[15:45]

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would request leave to allow the president and CEO of SLGA to answer that question.

**The Chair:** — I think it's been a long-standing practice of this House and according to the rules and procedures that we have, that in Committee of the Whole and the Committee of Finance, only members of the House are allowed to ask questions and give answers. I would encourage the minister to find another way of giving the information, perhaps making a commitment to providing it later or sending it across the floor in written form. I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your remarks. Then we'd like to undertake to provide leave to . . . or not leave, but to have the . . . a response prepared, and just a little bit of time, more time, to respond to the question. And we'll advance that response at a later time just before we're done. Okay?

**The Chair:** — The minister has made a commitment to provide the information. I recognize . . . The member from Regina Lakeview would like to ask some more questions. She currently has the floor. I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Minister Hargrave noted that these were the least profitable stores in the province. Melfort appears to have had a net income of over \$2 million in 2014. So just to confirm, the remaining 35 stores all had a net profitability of below that amount of that Melfort store?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — As I've mentioned, it was actually the lowest performing, the least profitable. Profitability was definitely included in our consideration, as was potential future capital expenditures. There were a number of factors considered to come up with what we considered to be the lowest performing stores.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. So regardless . . . I think I can move ahead with this question regardless of the amount, if it's 32 million or another amount. Was there money being transferred onto the GRF [General Revenue Fund] as income

from these SLGA stores? And if so, what was that amount?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Mr. Chairman, that does fall into the other question that we were asking for an undertaking to provide the answer later because it falls under that same category as two questions ago.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that, of the 40 stores that have had requests for proposals that have been privatized, 28 of them were owned by SLGA, by the province. And my question is, what was the value of those 28 assets?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again because of the short notice for my officials, he doesn't have everything at his fingertips here. So we had asked for an undertaking to provide that as well, and we are trying to get that value.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Perhaps in an effort to understand the RFP process a little bit better, the minister indicated the proposals were undertaken and decisions have been made to grant — I'm not sure; I'm struggling with the right word — licence to the new private owners of these stores. Can the minister or the officials run us through the details of how that RFP process — not the particulars of any individual RFP, but in general — how that process was undertaken and how the successful bidders were selected and what the process is to transfer, I suppose, title of these buildings to the new private owners?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Assets are not going with the proposals. They're a separate thing. A request for a proposal process was used to select the operators. Proposals were evaluated on criteria like financial capacity, experience and qualifications, proposed site, time limits, and whether there was any ownership involvement by an SLGA employee directly affected by conversion of the existing liquor stores. These RFPs were evaluated by senior officials at SLGA and KMPG without any political involvement whatsoever.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. So just so I'm clear, there was part of the — and I thank the minister for the answer — there was part of that answer that I wasn't quite clear about, not being familiar with this process. I believe he noted that the assets are not going with the proposals and they're a separate thing. I'm wondering if the minister can clarify what was meant by that.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RFP process was to apply only for the permit, so none of the assets would convert over to the new people. The buildings would not convert over. None of the assets in there, the shelves, nothing. Nothing like that would transfer over. All they were applying for was the retail permit for that locale.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — I thank the minister for that answer. So just so I'm clear and just to clarify, so then SLGA will retain ownership of those 28 buildings.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RFP process did not include the sale of any SLGA assets. SLGA store properties will be disposed of following the government process, which includes ensuring no other government agencies will make use of the buildings, and then proceed to disposal.

Disposal may take place through a bid process on SaskTenders or through a commercial realtor. If successful proponents indicate they are interested in the existing stores, SLGA will be working with them to make sure they understand the disposal process.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I just want to make sure that I have this clear. The RFPs are for operating the outlet, for lack of a better term. What will come subsequent to that will be the sale of those 28 buildings.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Yes. The RFP was for the permit and not the assets. And following the normal government processes, the assets will be disposed of.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. So you have . . . I believe I'm waiting for the answer on the combined value of those 28 buildings. Okay. I would add to that what you would expect to receive with regard to how much you would expect to sell those 28 assets for.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The net book value of all the combined properties is just under \$2.5 million. The market will dictate actually what we get for those properties, but the net book value is just under 2.5 million.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Back when committee met, with regard, back in June, at that time it was indicated that the RFP would go out in communities of less than 2,000 people for submissions of new private retailers where they would be allowed to sell liquor from existing businesses. At some point it seems subsequent to that, that threshold has been moved up to

communities under 5,000, and I'm just wondering when that decision was made and why that decision was made.

[16:00]

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member's right. That number did move from 2,000 to 5,000. SLGA officials, under their review when they were reviewing it, and current practices that they reviewed, that they had the opportunity to re-review before the final RFPs went out, indicated that that number should be 5,000 and . . . 5,000 people and under. And so that's why it was suggested.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I'm hoping for a bit of an expansion on that answer. Originally there was a target or a threshold arrived at, presumably for . . . There were some reasons that went into that 2,000 population threshold. I'm just wondering, was there new information that was received, or what went into the initial decision to arrive at 2,000? And what changed and caused SLGA to move that number up to 5,000?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Mr. Chairman, once it was reviewed prior to, and the step back and re-reviewed, it was strongly felt that 5,000 better reflected the business as it was prior to, and that this would be a better option and for the RFPs rather than the 2,000.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm going to go back to one of the previous answers, and that was regarding how many jobs had been lost as a result of this process. And I believe the number was 116 FTEs. I'm just wondering if there have been any programs or any transitioning, bumping . . . What has happened to those employees who . . . 116 or more, if there were part-time workers included in that, what is the plan? When did they finish their work and what provisions have been made for them, if any, to transition from their employment to, I guess, unemployment or other employment?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister. Sorry.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — That's okay. Everybody's busy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. SLGA and SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] negotiated a plan regarding affected employees, and all employees have elected severance or bumping. The SGEU and SLGA worked together to communicate this information and assisted these employees through the process.

**The Chair:** — Oh, I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's my pleasure to enter in and ask a few questions to the minister. I'm going to move back to a line of questioning that my colleague was asking earlier with respect to the sale of the assets. And when

I'm talking about the assets, I'm talking about the physical structures . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, the buildings. What's the projected timeline for the sale of those assets?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each store will be a little bit different. Once the proponents have decided and are finalizing the transition, the stores will be put into the process. However if a proponent is interested in purchasing that building, we'll be acting on that, obviously at that time, as soon as a proponent indicates that they are interested in that building, that we'll be looking at. Otherwise all of them will be varied. There's no one specific date for that.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. Have any proponents expressed interest in purchasing the buildings?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — All of the proponents are still actually being advised so there's . . . A number of them have no idea yet if they've actually won the RFP. So once they're all advised . . . We're in the process of advising those that won and those that lost. So we don't know yet if . . . until they're decided, then they can ask about the assets.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. So just to clarify your answer, there was no proponent that had built into their RFP the offer to purchase the building?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the location was part of the RFP process as to where they wanted it. Some did identify that they would like to be in the existing SLGA facilities. However, that was . . . All those people are still being notified, and it would probably not be advisable to say who they were and when they were because not all the people have been notified. And it might lead to a little complications and quite frankly, it would be a breach of confidentiality, my personal belief is anyway.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — I thank you for the answer. So you've indicated in your answer that there were some individuals who've expressed interest in purchasing the assets. Can you provide a number?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned, there were a number in the RFP process. That number should remain confidential until after these people have been announced. I mean, in theory it could be all of them, and so . . . Or it could be none of them. So we strongly feel that that's information that should not be made public at this time.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you for the answer. You've indicated that there were approximately 295 individuals, 274 who have entered into the RFP process or who have made a bid. I'm wondering what the difference is between providing me that number and providing me the number of how many of those 274 indicated that they were willing to purchase the assets.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we don't feel . . . or we cannot get into the details of the proposals. That wouldn't be fair with the announcements to be made. And the announcements are imminent so we don't feel it's the right thing to do at this time

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, and thank you for the answer. I'm happy to hear that the announcement will be imminent. We've moved from soon to very soon to imminent, so that's very exciting to me. We are getting closer and closer in time I guess, as the clock ticks. So I do have one question. Was preference given to individuals who bid, who entered the RFP process, who expressed interest in purchasing the assets?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Whether or not they had the building as part of their RFP proposal did not give them any additional advantage in the RFP proposals. The main advantage was if they were employees. That gave them a distinct advantage.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. And I understand that the sale of these assets will be dependent on when these RFPs are completed, essentially, and the new buildings, or the new operations I guess is the best way to describe them, begin operating. So that sort of will affect when these assets will be sold.

I'm just curious to know if there is any work being done in terms of the projection of these sales. You're going to have to work that into your budgeting for the future. So what work is being done in those terms? Is there any ballpark estimate for when you expect to realize some of the gains from selling these assets?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Mr. Chairman, all these markets vary on their current market conditions. And so we're not sure if they will sell this month, next month, the month after, six months from now. That depends, just like selling your house. So when the sale takes place, that's when the numbers will be booked by the SLGA, be it this year or be it next year.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — I'm curious to know how many SLGA

properties are currently vacant.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — The only vacant SLGA property at the current time is the old warehouse.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. Can the minister update members on what is currently the status of the old SLGA store that was in Ituna?

[16:15]

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — The specific store in Ituna, we have no idea what the current use of it is. We don't own that store anymore. That store is not part of the SLGA assets. It's been sold.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. Who was that property sold to, that asset sold to?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I'll have my official check. I think I know who it is only because my wife is from Ituna, and so I travel to Ituna regularly. So I have a little inside information. However we'll check just to make sure we know who the first owner was after us.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. I would also like to know the dollar amount of that sale and exactly when it was sold. So that's my question to the minister.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I'll undertake to find that out at the same time.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. What about the SLGA asset that was in Kerrobert? Can the minister advise of the status of that?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — The Kerrobert buildings have been sold as well.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. I was hoping the minister would anticipate my next question: can you please advise how much the sale was and when it was sold?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.



**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — We'll undertake to provide that, and I'll get you on the next one.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. What about the property in Langenburg? Has that also been sold? And if it has, can the minister please provide the amount of sale and the date of sale and to who it was sold?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — We'll undertake to provide all the answers to the three questions, yes.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. A similar line of questioning about the property that was in Ponteix, if the minister can advise if that property has been sold and, if it is, to whom, when, and how much?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I'm advised by my official that of the four stores we've just been chatting about, three were owned and one was leased. He's just checking to get that information, if it was Ponteix that was leased or which one it was. But I will undertake to get that back to you as soon as I can.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. Before I started my line of questioning about those stores, the minister had advised that the warehouse is currently vacant. Can you please elaborate on that?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Officials advised me that we've just recently finished, completed the move to the new warehouse and they're fixing up or preparing the other, the old warehouse for sale. And it should be up for commercial sale here very shortly — not imminently, but very shortly.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, and thank you for the answers to those questions. I want to move on. You had mentioned when you were speaking with my colleague . . . And I had the opportunity to speak with the former minister about this during estimates, but I wasn't able to get a clear set of answers as to what exactly revenue neutral is going to mean with respect to these sales. So could the minister elaborate a little bit more on revenue neutral with respect to this process?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I assume that the question was not about the buildings. It was about the other process, and on this it's a very complicated, obviously it's a very complicated matter. And a number of factors go into the calculations on

whether or not that it will be neutral. SLGA officials are very, very confident that the entire process will be revenue neutral, and that'll show up in the regular financial reports that are provided.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you for the answer. I'm curious to know what factors will go into the calculation to show that it is revenue neutral.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Okay. I'm not sure if the minister heard my last question, so I'll repeat it. I was curious to know what factors go into the calculation to show that it is revenue neutral.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — As I mentioned, it's a complicated process. And just like the question asked by the member from Regina Lakeview . . . So what I'll undertake to provide you is a list of the factors that go into determining the revenue neutrality. But needless to say, there's a number of them. And we'll undertake to provide that to you.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, and thank you for that undertaking. I'm curious to know if you can tell us at this time — I understand that you can't tell us all of the factors right now but you will be telling us in the future — whether or not a projected increase in liquor sales is going into that, is one of the factors.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — We projected neutrality based on no increase in volume. No increase.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, and I thank you for the answer. I want to go back to a description you gave to my friend about the RFP process. I think we also talked about it, about what factors went into deciding on who would be successful in the RFP process. You had mentioned that of course, as had been mentioned in the past, that former SLGA employers would be given a preferential . . . or some weight would be given to RFPs that came from former employees. I understand that, and I'm looking at . . . I'm just curious to know if financial capacity or the ability to raise a large amount of money, large amounts of money, was also included in your weighting of who would be successful in the RFP process.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you may know, I ran many businesses successful, and some just marginally successful. However, financial capacity is always a factor and it has to be a factor when considering. Nobody wants any business to fail so it has to be a factor, and it was a factor.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. What was the actual percentage weight given to that factor?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — The RFP process was completely independent by SLGA officials and by KPMG. However, that would be part of the confidential information that can't be released, would be how much weight was given to financial capacity and how much was not. And you know, I'm sure that when the winning proponents are announced that you'll see that it was fair.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. I'm wondering if at the time you will announce the successful bidder, will you also be providing us with exact details on the RFP process, including what factors were being weighted and to what percentage?

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — The weightings were in the RFP proposals and . . . Were in the RFP process, not proposals — were in the RFP process. None of the weightings are made public in any of the RFP issued by, not only these but any RFP issued by SLGA.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member.

[16:30]

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you. I'm curious to know why the details of the RFP proposals . . . or why the details of the RFP process can't be made public.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Well the answer to that would be commercial confidentiality. We don't disclose the weightings because it affects the confidentiality of the whole RFP process. The process was done thoroughly and without any . . . by KPMG and by our SLGA officials, and it was entirely . . . And no political involvement.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I've got a couple of statements I want to make as it relates to this particular bill. And first of all, I want to welcome the minister. He's fairly new to the Assembly and certainly to cabinet, and it's obviously a time for learning to see what's going on and what nefarious activity occurred prior to you becoming the minister responsible for SLGA or for CIC.

But one of the points I want to make on this whole process, it's never too late to admit that a mistake is being made. From my perspective, I think this is a dry run on the Sask Party's plan to privatize a heck of a lot more than a few liquor stores, Mr. Chair. And I say that because this is obviously something that we've been watching very carefully, and it's something that we

should be concerned about. And the people of Saskatchewan are certainly being made aware of what the plan is overall.

We know that there are plans being drawn up for SaskTel and SaskPower and SLGA and, I think as well, the land titles branch were probably dry runs initiated by the former member or the former deputy premier on how the Sask Party can privatize everything that's not nailed down to the floor.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, since the minister's a new guy that obviously has a business background, a very impressive business background, you have to really assess this from the business perspective, from the people of Saskatchewan's perspective because this is an asset we own. The liquor stores are assets we own. They generate revenues. They create jobs. They stimulate the economy in many rural parts of Saskatchewan, something that the Sask Party hasn't been able to do in a number of years. And they also don't go into debt.

What they do is they generate revenues and they make money for the people of Saskatchewan. And when you make money for the people of Saskatchewan, guess what that means for all of us as taxpayers? Less taxation. It's very, very simple, Mr. Chair. Less taxation.

So on that point, when we look at some of the people that have waded into the debate . . . And we're not talking about a far-left-wing NDP think tank, Mr. Speaker; we have gotten advice from a lot of organizations on what this means for Saskatchewan finances. And the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, CCPA, Saskatchewan branch, this is what they have said about this particular bill. And I'm going to quote, I'm going to quote, Mr. Chair:

The Saskatchewan Office [of the CCPA] has been particularly active on the issue of liquor privatization in the province, releasing four major studies in the past four years, including . . . commentary and opinion pieces.

And their advice on Bill No. 1, *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act*, the bill we're talking about today, right now:

. . . should not go forward. This submission will focus on two inter-related issues — specifically the ability of the government to remain revenue-neutral under the current privatization proposal and the challenges a privatized liquor retailing environment will pose for the maintenance of government revenues in the future.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is all about revenue generation. And this ministry and this government pretends that the sale of 40 profit-making stores is going to be revenue neutral for them. Why? Because we don't have to operate buildings anymore.

Well, Mr. Speaker, being that the minister is a businessman, still a very current, successful businessman, he would know what generates revenues and what doesn't. And he would also know in his business practice that you've got to be very careful making some of the decisions because some of the costs of maintaining a business — and SLGA is one of them — is there are revenues generated. And that if you're going to sell an asset, you better make sure you have those revenues maintained in the

future, forever. And even the word “revenue neutral,” Mr. Chair, doesn’t apply here because they’re going to end up having the people of Saskatchewan pay more and more taxes. That is the bottom line. The customers of his business, if you will, will end up paying more prices for the products that he is trying to sell.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is what’s really important, I think overall, is we within our own perspective look at how the sale of 40 stores really affects the ability for SLGA to give us some of the money we need to operate health care and education and so on and so forth. So when we sit here and look: the costs coming in, the revenues coming in, how are they going to replace it? So when they say, revenue neutral, it concerns me because before this we had profits from SLGA. We had profits that really lessened the stress on the taxpayers to come up with more taxation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I can’t figure out, I can’t figure out how the Saskatchewan Party doesn’t get it. I would encourage the minister to really put on his business hat and look through this deal very carefully. And I think he will quickly assume that this is nothing but a chance for the Sask Party to privatize much more than our liquor stores in the province of Saskatchewan, SaskPower, SaskTel included.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is the argument that they make on this bill, which is really not worth the argument that they’re putting forward because we all know on this end they simply want to sell off these stores and have a wall-to-wall sale on all our Crowns, Mr. Speaker. That’s what they want to do. So no matter how much spin they put through this process, it’s going to cost the taxpayers money. Why? Because we’re losing revenue from the operation of these Crowns, owned for and by the people of Saskatchewan.

And the liquor stores that we’re talking about today do generate revenues. And I would submit to the minister — he probably doesn’t have them in his file because he’s new — but I want to forward to the minister a copy of the revenues that these various stores make. They do generate profits, sir. They generate a lot of profit for the people of Saskatchewan. They create jobs, Mr. Deputy Chair. They stimulate the economies in rural Saskatchewan. And they all do this, Mr. Speaker, under the whole pretence of — guess what? — creating profits for the Crowns and therefore creating profits for the people of Saskatchewan. It is that simple and straightforward.

So what’s the other argument that the CCPA also argue, is the whole notion around the higher wholesale cost as a result of privatization. And these are guys that are thinkers, not driven by their political ideology, but by thinkers. And this is what they are saying, and I quote from page 5 of their report:

Adding private retailers and removing public stores will create a more fragmented, complex, and in all likelihood costly distribution system. For instance, the SLGA will no longer be the sole agent responsible for deciding how most of the liquor shelves in the province should be stocked and then purchasing that liquor wholesale. Instead, the private retailers, such as major grocery chains, will have control over what does and does not get stocked on their shelves. Therefore, liquor producers and their agents will have to

market their product to several different customers, rather than simply the SLGA. Moreover, the SLGA may find its purchasing power and ability to negotiate wholesale prices with the major liquor producers significantly limited as its economy of scale is diminished since it would be operating less than half of the full-line retail stores in the province.

So it’s very simple. They’re explaining to you guys exactly what the end result would be, Mr. Speaker. So on this side of the House, you’re not going to fool anyone. We know that you have plans to do a lot more selling of every Crown corporation that you could sell. You started off with the Information Services Corp. You started off now with the liquor stores. What’s next is SaskTel, and maybe SaskPower, because you can’t manage your way out of a wet paper bag.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say again that this exercise is a waste of time when you look at the committee process in terms of their answers. We have a minister that should know how business works. Do a good business analysis of what you’re trying to do here. Do not let the philosophy of your colleagues dictate whether this is a good investment for the people of Saskatchewan or not.

Now one question I have for the minister, Mr. Speaker, is when people came forward, when people came forward and they had an opportunity under the RFP process, and they already selected who they wanted to — that’s my belief — they already selected who they wanted to have these profitable stores. That’s my belief, Mr. Speaker.

But what they’d done was they put a whole bunch of obstacles and different organizations, including the employees . . . They put a whole bunch of obstacles in front of them so they will never, or could never compete with those that they’ve already lined up to own these stores, Mr. Speaker. And one of the things they put in place is . . . Why would they expect auditor fees of \$35,000 on any proposal for any store to be paid upfront or to be shown to be available upfront before they entertained offers from different groups and organizations that were looking to participate in these purchases?

Plus, Mr. Chair, it’s also surprising that any other store that any particular group was looking, they had to find an additional \$20,000. Which entity out there could afford to pay \$35,000 for a project that they had no guarantees, and being fairly considered for that purchase of that asset, plus an additional 20,000 if they had other assets in mind?

So, Mr. Speaker, that’s one example of how they have manipulated the system to do what they’ve always wanted to do, is do a dry run on the Crowns so they can do the bigger Crowns later on, which include SaskPower, SaskTel. And, Mr. Speaker, that’s the one question I have for the minister.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I did recognize a few things in that preamble. One was I am new to the whole political process. I am, I have to admit that. I was only elected April 4th. But I’m not new to business and I actually am very good at business. And that’s probably why I’m in the position that I’m at right now.

You know, KPMG and SLGA officials acted properly. They did the proper step. I can be done with the question . . . [inaudible] . . . Oh no, I can answer, try to answer whatever question there was. There was maybe 30 or 40 in there. But it seems to me that converting of the franchises, converting of the liquor franchises is not new. The NDP did it.

[Interjections]

**The Chair:** — Order. The minister has the floor.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — So converting of franchises of the liquor stores is not new. I mean, other members on the other side know that for a fact. I mean that was what they did when they were in power. They converted a number of stores. So this is not something that is new to them.

And I assure the member from Athabasca, when I last looked, the sky was not falling in, that he should maybe wait until they are announced before he's decided who has gotten all these franchises. So he does seem to know that . . . I don't know how he would know because I don't know who's got them all. But maybe he does know and that he has . . . That the sky is not falling, and that if he was to wait and see who's got these, I'm sure that he'll find that even he will admit that the process must have been fair and equal to all those that applied. So I'm not sure if that answers his question, but whatever, that's my reply.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we initiated this process today, we had asked for one to two hours to ask questions of SLGA officials and the minister.

[16:45]

And I do want to express sincere appreciation for Mr. Lacey making time available today to come and answer questions. There were questions of course that I had last evening in committee that pertained . . . While this bill is specifically a CIC bill, of course it has very serious implications for SLGA in particular, by proposing to remove it completely from the Crown protection Act. So it does seem reasonable to have someone here from SLGA to answer those questions. And again, I just want to express my gratitude and my appreciation to Mr. Lacey and to all of those present who made it possible for us to ask these questions.

I think that they are important questions, Mr. Chair. We certainly have concern for the 116 employees who have lost employment, 116 FTEs. We continue to have some concerns about the claims of revenue neutrality and how the 32 or approximately . . . I guess we'll get the answers later, \$32 million in net revenue of these stores will be recouped and have fulfilled the claim of revenue neutrality.

As well just to reiterate some of the concerns that were expressed in committee and were brought again today: the impacts on local businesses; some of the concerns that the MADD [Mothers Against Drunk Driving] chapter brought forward with regard to increasing access to alcohol; and what some of those social impacts, or impacts on drinking and driving rates, what that might be, Mr. Chair. And we will

continue to be watching and expressing those concerns.

We have particular interest, as has been noted, in the transparency and fairness of the RFP process, what the net result will be of the sale of assets and the net impact on SLGA. Of course the dividends that SLGA returns to government helps to pay for things that we all care about in this province — education, health care — and anything that would negatively impact that, particularly at a time of difficult financial time, we have great concerns about.

And the impact of, of course, removing SLGA entirely from the protection of this Act, we have concerns what the future might hold with regard to future privatization of SLGA stores and what the impact would be on the people of this province, on those factors that I just mentioned here. I noted that the former minister, when introducing this in second reading, had noted that removing SLGA from the Act would expedite privatization, and so we certainly do have concerns there as well. But with that I will conclude my remarks. Thank you.

**The Chair:** — I don't see any other members wishing to enter the debate, so at this time I would invite the minister to make a few short closing remarks if he so wishes.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the members of the committee, and I'd like to thank my official, Barry, for his attendance here today — it's on very short notice — and his assistance that he provided to me. And I'd like to thank you, Mr. Chair, and your associates for going through this process with us. Thank you very much.

**The Chair:** — Seeing no other members, we will proceed to vote the bill. Clause 1, short title, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — On division.

**The Chair:** — Carried. Carried on division, clause 1.

[Clause 1 agreed to on division.]

[Clauses 2 and 3 agreed to on division.]

**The Chair:** — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, enacts as follows: Bill No. 1, *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016*.

I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Mr. Chairman, I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. No, wrong one.

**The Chair:** — I'd invite the minister to move that the committee reports the bill without amendment.

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the minister that the committee report Bill No. 1, *The Crown Corporations Public*

*Ownership Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that the committee be now adjourned and report . . . or sorry, the committee rise and report, rise and report progress. How's that, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

**The Chair:** — I heard the Government House Leader move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Committee of the Whole on Bills, Bill No. . . . I'll try this again, Mr. Speaker. It's been a bit of a busy afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Committee of the Whole on Bills to report Bill No. 1, *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be read the third time? I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 1 — *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016*

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 1, *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — On division.

**The Speaker:** — On division. Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the committee sit again? I

recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees tonight, I move that this House be now adjourned.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:54.]

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