



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

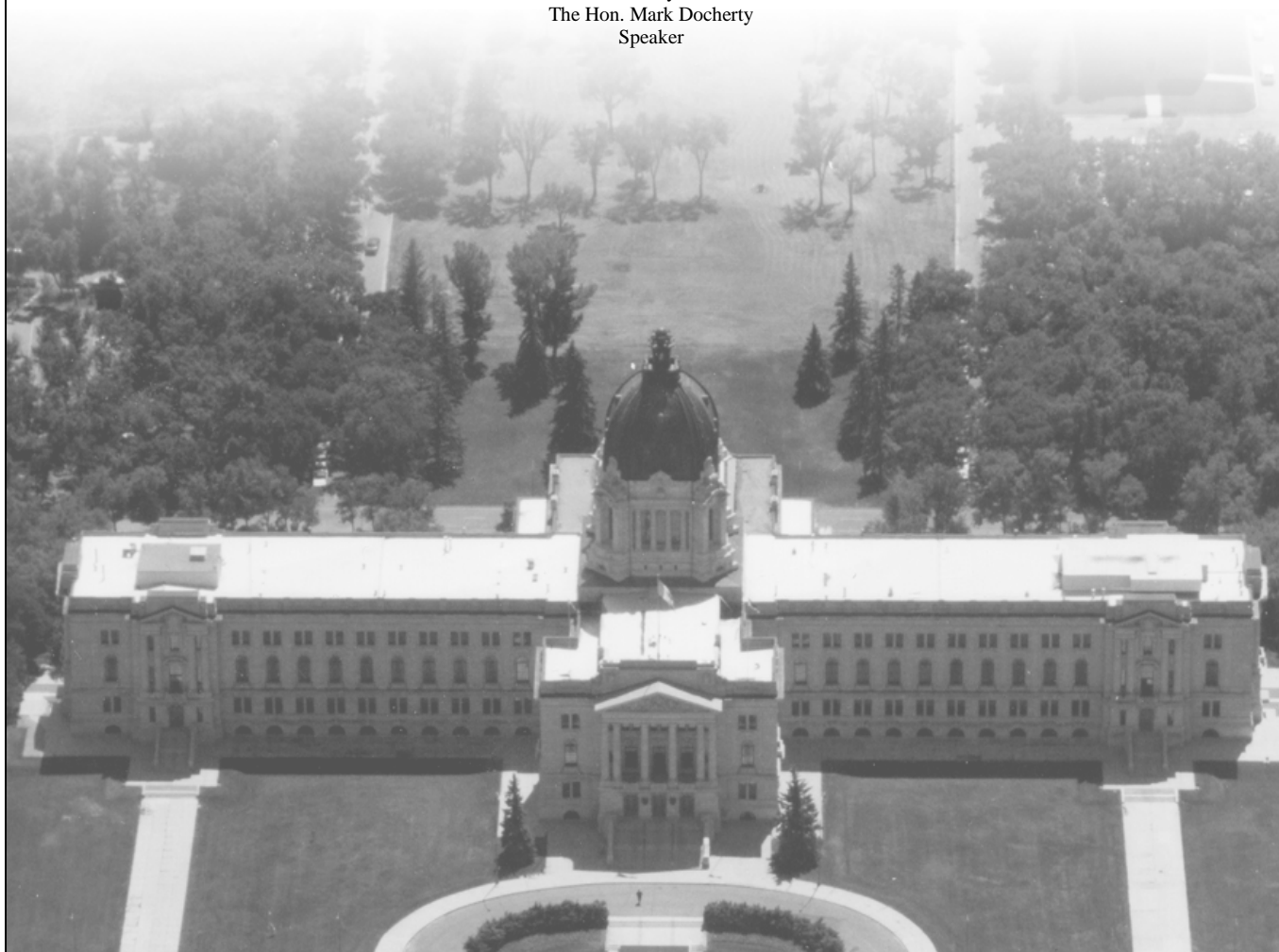
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)  
Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Mark Docherty  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**2nd Session — 28th Legislature**

**Speaker** — Hon. Mark Docherty  
**Premier** — Hon. Scott Moe  
**Leader of the Opposition** — Ryan Meili

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<b>Hart</b> , Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	<b>Vermette</b> , Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
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<b>Kirsch</b> , Delbert — Batoche (SP)	<b>Wyant</b> , Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
<b>Lambert</b> , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	<b>Young</b> , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Northeast

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**Party Standings:** Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Vacant — 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 member from Estevan.

**Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The member has asked leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With us today we have Advocis, The Financial Advisors Association of Canada group. With more than 13,000 members across the country and 500 right here in Saskatchewan, Advocis is the definitive voice for the profession, advocating for professionalism and consumer protection. Professional financial planners and planners are critical to the economy, helping consumers make sound financial decisions that ultimately lead to greater financial stability and independence.

Mr. Speaker, Advocis works with decision makers and the public, stressing the value of financial advice and striving for an environment in which all Canadians have access to advice they need. Their members are in every community across Saskatchewan and participate in charities and community-based initiatives.

Advocis has a long-standing tradition of working co-operatively with government and regulatory bodies to ensure the consumers of financial services are adequately protected, have ample choice and access to professional financial advice, and that the financial advisory industry continues to be an important part of Saskatchewan's economy. I had the opportunity to sit with them this morning and saw first hand the true advocacy that they bring to their profession.

Mr. Speaker, with us today we have Peter Tzanetakis, Greg Pollock, Jim Virtue, Abe Toews, Brian Mallard, John Dean, Edward Ortiz, Curtis Kimpton, Jeff Rask, Kris Birchard, Walter Klassen, Lyn McGaughey, Tammy Richmond, Bill Odishaw, Christine Iles, Terry Brownell, Becky Brenner, Brian Golly, Neil Smith, Jake Ripplinger, Ken Ripplinger, Gil Ennis, Brian Leipter, and Chris Hengen-Braun.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members welcome this group to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Requesting leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Rosemont has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour to join with the member opposite to welcome Advocis here today, a national organization representing financial advisors and the financial industry, the personal financial industry. Very strong representation within our province as well, and certainly we valued the time to sit down here today and to talk about the financial advising industry and how we work to make sure that we have the most robust environment around accountability, transparency, and integrity to that system. These are all things that Advocis champions.

So I thank them for their voice. I thank their 500 members across Saskatchewan that play a very important role within the Saskatchewan economy, that also play of course a very important role with Saskatchewan people. I'm thankful for their voice around measures that would support greater consumer protection.

I've also been very thankful for their voice and so many of their members against the imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] on insurance in last year's budget. And I believe the changes that have been recently brought forward are certainly reflective of the voice of so many of these within the industry. And their voice around matters around financial literacy in education are also valued.

So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Advocis, all those representing the financial industry within our province and across Canada.

And while still on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce a friend seated in your gallery, Jason Hicks from Saskatoon. He's a proud pipefitter. He's been down here working on the refinery shutdown. He's a member with UA [United Association of plumbers and pipefitters] 179, a real good guy, Mr. Speaker. He's heading back to his family here today. He has a strong history of standing up for workers within our province. He was once a minister's assistant in this very building. And he's got a wonderful family that he raises along with his wonderful partner, Ashlee. So it's my pleasure to welcome Jason Hicks to his Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, it's indeed my pleasure to once again introduce a great grade 10 class from the Yorkton Regional High School led by Mr. Perry Ostapowich and Mr. Jason Payne in the west gallery, 37 grade 10 students, Mr. Speaker, that are here. With them also is their bus driver, Pat Rawlick, whose name is scratched off my list again because he stays out in the bus, but we're going to get him in here one of these days.

As is customary with this class, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ostapowich encourages them to contact their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to get them used to interacting. So those that contacted me this time are Jaden Collins; Bryanna Jack; Maggie Robertson, who's father is also Quintin Robertson, the director of education for Good Spirit School Division; Johntee Ostapowich, who is Perry Ostapowich's son. I told him some nice things about his dad, which is very fitting. Also with them is Ka Wayne in the group there, Mr. Speaker.

Also something that Mr. Ostapowich pointed out is, with this group, is over 1,000 students that he's escorted to this Assembly — well-educated group, people always very informed on what happens in this place. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Tochor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to also introduce a good friend of mine that has been introduced already today, but Curtis Kimpton has joined us with Advocis. He's a good friend of mine. We met during my stint with Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon as a member. And actually, by the way, the people watching at home right now, the Kinsmen Home Lottery is going on and you can go online right now and purchase their ticket.

And if Curtis would give a wave, or members give a wave at Curtis. Everyone that has waved today, I'll be hitting up to buy a Kinsmen Home Lottery ticket after question period. So with you, please everyone welcome Curtis Kimpton to his Assembly.

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

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to acknowledge two members of the Advocis group: Brian Leipert, who is a constituent of Regina Rochdale, so thank you very much for coming and having the opportunity to meet with the government to talk about the importance of education in Advocis.

But I also want to acknowledge Chris Hengen. I didn't recognize Chris. Chris came to see me this morning, and the last time I saw Chris I think he was 6 years old. And so he said, I don't know if you'll remember me, and I went, no, because he's a fine strapping young man today. But I worked closely with Chris's mom and dad, Tom and Shelley Hengen. So it was a real treat to kind of catch up with Chris and to touch base and find out how his mom and dad are doing, and again to have a very fruitful discussion in regards to the importance of education with the Advocis group. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to provide trapping licence exemptions for residents 65 years or older. That trappers are a very important group of people that maintain traditional values in

Saskatchewan. The fur harvesting industry provides many economic benefits to the province. The province has exemptions for fishing licences for residents over 65 years or older, but there are no age exemptions for trappers yet.

And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to immediately show their support for Saskatchewan trappers and provide a trapping licence exemption for Saskatchewan residents over the age of 65.

It is signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens 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 citizens of Carrot River. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics. And the undersigned residents of this province want to bring to your attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations, unions, and individuals, even those living outside the province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties. And we know that the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money cannot influence politics.

And we know that over the past 10 years the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations, and, of that, \$2.87 million coming from companies outside Saskatchewan. You know, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people. And we know that the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and now British Columbia have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties.

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan call on the Sask

Party to overhaul Saskatchewan's campaign finance laws, to end out-of-province donations, to put a ban on donations from corporations and unions, and to put a donation limit on individual donations.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Lumsden and Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to stop the cuts to our kids' classrooms. These citizens wish to bring to your attention that even though the Sask Party is making us all pay more, our kids are actually getting less; and that Sask Party cuts mean that students will lose much needed supports in their classroom, including funding for buses for kindergarteners, and programs to help children with special needs and autism.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, the undersigned, call on the government to reverse the senseless cuts to our kids' classrooms and stop making families, teachers, and everyone who works to support our education pay the price for the Sask Party's mismanagement, scandal, and waste.

This is signed by individuals from Saskatoon and Regina, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for critical workplace supports for survivors of domestic violence. Saskatchewan has the highest rate of intimate partner violence amongst all of the provinces, and we know that we must do much more to protect survivors of domestic violence.

For many who experience domestic violence, that violence will follow them to their workplace, which is why the signatories to this petition are calling for five days of paid leave and up to 17 weeks of unpaid leave be made available to workers who are survivors of domestic violence, and that critical workplace supports made available to survivors of domestic violence be also made available to workers living with PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] as a result of domestic violence, Mr. Speaker.

This is what those who are on the front line of this crisis are calling for, in particular those who work at the Regina YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] and PATHS [Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan], just to name a few organizations. It's what we called for in our private member's bill, No. 609, which is the fourth time we've put those provisions forward in this House in the last two years. It's time for the government to step up to the plate, do the right thing, and pass that bill.

[13:45]

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to pass legislation to ensure critical supports in the workplace, including reasonable accommodation and paid and unpaid leave for survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition today come from Regina. I do so present.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

### Number of Physicians in Saskatchewan

**Mr. Dennis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as of this week the latest census on physician numbers province-wide is in. Today we are proud to announce that we have nearly 900 more physicians in Saskatchewan than we did in 2007. Mr. Speaker, that represents an increase of 51 per cent in just over a decade.

In just over a decade since taking office, we've increased the number of general practitioners by 43 per cent, the number of pediatricians by 98 per cent, and the number of psychiatrists by 37 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, we owe the success to the number of recruitment and retention initiatives that have been launched over the years, including implementing one of the best physician compensation rates in the country, increasing the number of medical undergrad seats from 60 to 100, doubling the number of medical residency positions to 120, establishing more family medicine resident training sites across the province, and recruitment of more than 200 internationally trained physicians.

Mr. Speaker, although there is much more to do, we have made tremendous progress in building and sustaining our physician workforce in the province. And we will continue to invest in the physician recruitment and retention initiatives to ensure Saskatchewan residents have high-quality and timely health care services. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

### Final Year for the Regina Police Service Half Marathon

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today, if but a little slowly, to recognize the 2018 Regina Police Service Half Marathon which took place this past Sunday, April 29th. It was the 15th and final RPS [Regina Police Service] half-marathon, and I was happy to participate in it along with hundreds of runners and volunteers and supporters.

Mr. Speaker, the half-marathon started out as an initiative of the Regina Police Service wellness program in 2004 to promote healthy lifestyles for the members of the police service and the community of Regina. And it has been a tremendous success in

doing just that, Mr. Speaker.

I want to recognize the winners of the half-marathon: Iain Fyfe, who posted the best men's time of the day at 1:19:35; and Kaytlyn Criddle, who posted the top women's time and third overall with a blistering 1:27:35. These two incredible athletes are no strangers to the RPS top spot as both athletes have each won this event before.

A special congratulations as well to the four members of the RPS SWAT [special weapons and tactics] team that completed the 21.1-kilometre run in mostly full SWAT team gear, Mr. Speaker.

Congratulations to all participants, and thanks to the legion of volunteers who have made the RPS Half Marathon such a success. Thank you to Chief Evan Bray and the Regina Police Service on yet another great run. And thank you so very much and job very well done to Patti Sandison-Cattell, RPS Half Marathon founder and organizer for these 15 years of running with Regina's finest. We are all better off for your work, Patti. Thank you so much.

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

#### Brain Tumour Awareness Month

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brain Tumour Awareness Month. Every day 27 more Canadians will be diagnosed with some form of brain tumour. The Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada estimates that there are 55,000 Canadians that are surviving with a brain tumour.

Mr. Speaker, within the first year of being diagnosed, a patient on average makes 52 visits to their health care team. Brain tumours are complex because they can affect a person's vision, hearing, memory, balance, language skills, and mobility. Thankfully brain tumour patients, their loved ones, and caregivers can receive the support from the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. The Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada offers funding for researchers, supplies information about brain tumours, and offers support by phone, online, and in person with local support groups.

Saskatoon is very lucky to have a brain tumour support group that meets every month from September to June and is led by two wonderful volunteers from the Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland constituency, Ms. Karen Kowalenko-Evjen and Mr. Gary Evjen. I would like to thank them for all their time and their support that they give to their support group members over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing May as Brain Tumour Awareness Month in order to support those that are surviving with a brain tumour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### May Day

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, today is May Day, a very

important day for workers and workers' rights everywhere. Also known as International Labour Day, May Day traces its roots back to the 19th century fight for an eight-hour workday, something many of us take for granted in these modern times.

It was on this day in 1886 that thousands of workers from all over North America came together to fight for change in Chicago's Haymarket Square. For more than a hundred years, workers have marked May Day as a time to remember the hard-fought gains that have been made to advance workers' rights and to improve workplace safety.

Mr. Speaker, it's also a time to reflect on what we all can do to make our workplaces safer and what the idea of workers' rights means in the modern era. May Day has always been about promotion and protection of rights on an international scale, and when we look around the world, we know there is so much more that needs to be done. Now more than ever, we should be setting the bar for labour standards and standing in solidarity with workers around the globe who are being denied their basic fundamental labour rights.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of the House join with me in recognizing May Day. I am honoured to stand in solidarity with workers throughout the world in calling for fair, safe working conditions for everyone. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### STARS Helipad in Lloydminster

**Ms. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, great news for Lloydminster is on the horizon. Patients in Lloydminster and surrounding area will soon benefit from a STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] helicopter landing pad at the Lloydminster Hospital. Mr. Speaker, the helipad will reduce the number of patient handovers, which will be safer for patients as well as lessen the challenges for health care teams during patient transfers.

STARS transport, via the helipad, will provide better continuity of care. CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Health Authority Scott Livingstone said that the helipad will provide critical service to the Lloydminster area by allowing health care professionals to treat patients more quickly. The Lloydminster Hospital is a 66-bed acute care hospital serving a referral population of approximately 72,500 people.

Mr. Speaker, the helipad project is estimated to cost \$350,000 and Husky Energy has provided significant support to the project, offering the required land and financial support as well as assisting coordination of the plan from beginning to end. The Lloydminster Regional Health Foundation is leading a fundraising campaign to pay for the remaining costs of the project, which is around 200,000. The Lloydminster Rotary Club has also contributed \$50,000, and Musgrave Agencies is providing in-kind donations as well.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly a community coming together to take care of its people. I'd ask that all members join me in thanking Lloydminster health region, Husky Energy, the Lloydminster Rotary Club, Musgrave Agencies, and everyone else involved for their work in making sure this project is a success. Thank

you.

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

#### Notre Dame Hounds Win Telus Cup

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Notre Dame Hounds from Wilcox, who this past weekend won the National Midget AAA Hockey Telus Cup which was held in Sudbury, Ontario, which happens to be home of Letterkenny.

Anyway it's been eight years since the Hounds have played in this tournament. After an impressive regular season and playoff season, the Hounds defeated the Quebec representatives in the championship game 5-1. Luke Mylymok led the Hounds in the final game with a hat trick, having scored two goals in the second and an empty-netter to seal the deal. Zach Plucinski and Ethan Ernst also added their names to the history books, scoring one goal each. Mr. Speaker, although the Hounds were out-shot 30 to 22, goaltender Aaron Randazzo had an impressive performance, allowing only one puck past him.

This was a huge win to cap off a perfect tournament for the Hounds, as they went 5 and 0 in the preliminary round. This victory marks the fifth national title for the Hounds, making them the most successful Midget AAA team ever in Canada. And I think there's somebody in the gallery that had something to do with that many, many years ago actually. We're extremely proud of all the success the Hounds have had over the number of years.

On behalf of all the members of this Assembly, I want to congratulate the amazing group of players, the coaches, and the staff of the Hounds from Notre Dame on winning the 2018 Telus Cup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship Banquet

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tuesday last week, along with many other members of this Assembly, I had the pleasure of attending the MLA banquet hosted by the Saskatchewan chapters of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship in Canada.

This year was the 25th anniversary of the MLA banquet in this Legislative Building. Every year at this event, the Saskatchewan chapters recognize people within Saskatchewan for their contributions to their communities and how their faith calls them to action. Mr. Speaker, recognized this year was Harold Stephan of Lloydminster, recipient of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal by the Government of Canada, for his contributions to improving the lives of his fellow Canadians through business and now his Battle River Ranch Camp.

Harold thoughtfully brought beautiful handmade crosses for all government and opposition MLAs to the event. For that we truly thank him. The crosses are handcrafted by him from horseshoe nails that are wrapped with 16 winds of wire to represent the lives of those lost in the Humboldt Broncos

tragedy. Wires are also crossed at the centre of the cross to signify a united province.

Also recognized this year was his son Blaine Stephan, co-owner of Guardian Plumbing & Heating. Blaine and his family were also recognized by the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce in 2017 with the Business of Excellence and Employer of the Year Awards.

Mr. Speaker, both of these individuals spoke at the event, providing attendees some insight into the work they've done and that they continue to do. By sharing their personal Christian testimonies, they shared how their accomplishments are only able to be achieved through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Assembly to join me in congratulating Harold and Blaine on their awards, their contributions to their communities, and their faith. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Measures to Prevent Domestic Violence

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the Walk a Mile awareness-raising event yesterday, a number of members of this Assembly were rocking some red pumps to show support for survivors of domestic violence and to show our determination to address what is that shameful reality, that we have the highest rates of domestic violence in the country right here in Saskatchewan. And supporters of and survivors of domestic violence, supporters of survivors and the survivors are looking to us in the Assembly to take action to address those circumstances.

And so my question is for the Deputy Premier. What actions will this government take to move further to address those growing concerns around domestic violence here in the province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is a problem that is shared by all members in the legislature and certainly by citizens all the way across the province. It's something we should take seriously. We do have an unacceptably high rate of domestic violence in our province. Some of the things that we have done is we've passed legislation to allow for the breaking of a lease. We've also allowed 10 unpaid days for victims and families to access services. We're doing now consultation on a Saskatchewan variant of Clare's law, a law that was passed in the United Kingdom that allows the police to disclose information about previous violent or abusive behaviour.

We have created a legal advice line for victims of domestic violence, providing for . . . It's a four-year program and will apprise up to two hours of coverage. So we've amended the legislation in some things. We also have *The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act* which extends non-contact provisions to victims' schools and workplaces. We've added harassment and deprivation of necessities as prohibited forms of

interpersonal violence. We've also had prohibitions on electronic communications between parties. Mr. Speaker . . .

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And one certainly hopes — and sees that — the mile that we walked yesterday is in many ways a mile of common ground, common ground in wanting to decrease the number of people who are living in fear, who are unable to leave an abusive situation, Mr. Speaker.

Now four times, our House Leader and Justice critic has risen to introduce a bill to really make a real difference in the lives of survivors of domestic violence, to introduce 5 days of paid leave, 17 weeks of unpaid leave as required, and support for those survivors who are experiencing PTSD.

[14:00]

So my question again for the Deputy Premier is, in this session, will he and his government stand and support Bill 609, *The Sask Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act*? We'd really like to see that passed this session. The people in this province who are affected by this issue cannot wait.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we've looked at different approaches that were taking place across Canada. We've chosen to align our province with the protections that are in place in the province of Alberta. And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to monitor and watch what takes place elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I want to let the members opposite know that it was this government that opened the first new transition house in Saskatchewan since 1989. That is in Melfort. In 16 years of NDP [New Democratic Party] government, there was not one that was opened.

We provide \$11.4 million annually for interpersonal violence and abuse services. There are three domestic violence therapeutic courts, five domestic violence victim services programs, six Aboriginal family violence programs, nine children exposed to violence programs, police-based victim services in 92 police jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, we have proclaimed Domestic Violence Week. It's the fourth time that we've done this. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to do those kind of things.

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

### Costs and Benefits of Public-Private Partnerships

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, this year the Sask Party will be handing over \$13.5 million in maintenance and interest charges to the consortium that they hired for their costly P3 [public-private partnership] rent-a-school scheme. Last night we asked the Education minister how much of that money is actually going to keep these brand new schools in good shape and how much is going into the pockets of that consortium, but

the minister wouldn't answer.

So I'll give him another chance, and I'll remind him that these are the hard-earned dollars of Saskatchewan people. Of the \$13.5 million in this year's budget, how much is going to maintain these brand new schools, and how much is going to pad the bottom line of this consortium?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, first of all I reject the premise of the question. I mean, nobody's pockets are being lined by this, Mr. Speaker. This government has committed to the largest infrastructure, education infrastructure build in this province's history, Mr. Speaker. We're proud of the 18 schools that we opened last year, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the record of the New Democrats when it comes to education capital is nothing to look to. It's been abysmal, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'll answer the question directly. Of the maintenance and infrastructure . . . This is the question that they asked and they'd like the answer, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to give it. Of the maintenance and interest, Mr. Speaker, there was a total of \$13.5 million, Mr. Speaker. Interest accounts for \$8.6 million, with the balance of maintenance and snow removal, Mr. Speaker, of \$4.8 million, Mr. Speaker. Those are the direct answers to the questions that were given in committee last night, which I undertake to give, and I put them on the floor of the House today.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the numbers just don't add up. They're spending almost \$50 million on maintenance for the 710 schools all across our province. That works out to just \$71,000 per school. Meanwhile at the P3 schools, they're spending \$13.5 million to maintain and for the high interest costs for 18 brand new schools. That's \$750,000 for maintenance and interest on these new schools — 10 times what they're spending on all the other, each of all of the other schools.

Do these shiny, new schools really need 10 times the dollars, or will the minister finally admit that taxpayers are being ripped off by a deal signed by that government in their rent-a-school scheme?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — I'll admit nothing, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member should go and talk to the teachers and talk to the parents of the children that are attending these schools and see how thankful that they are, Mr. Speaker, that their children are attending these schools.

Mr. Speaker, what the member does, the member forgets . . . and it's always convenient on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker, that they only ever get one side of the equation. These buildings will be maintained by the proponent for 30 years, Mr. Speaker. So these maintenance costs will be paid over a course of 30 years. And at the end of 30 years, Mr. Speaker, these schools will be returned. These schools will be returned to the maintenance of the Government of Saskatchewan in a like-new



condition, Mr. Speaker.

We're very proud of the P3 schools that we built, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to put a P3 lens on any project that we do bring forward, Mr. Speaker. But this is a good investment for the taxpayers of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Saved over \$100 million, Mr. Speaker, to the taxpayers of this province by moving through a P3 scheme, all of which, the particulars of which, Mr. Speaker, are online for the opposition members to see.

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

### Wage Rates in Saskatchewan

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of layoffs coming to workers of two different mines. That's hundreds of families all within entire communities of Allan and Vanscoy that will be impacted by these layoffs.

Mr. Speaker, this is a significant hit to our province's economy. Saskatchewan's job growth is one of the slowest in the country, and recent reports show that other than Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan has the slowest growth in weekly earnings since last year. So the Premier really had to twist those facts yesterday to highlight the exact opposite. In reality, people are leaving to find opportunities elsewhere. Even Brad Wall had to go all the way to Calgary to find a job.

So what's the plan to get our economy back on track and to ensure jobs for the people of the province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well personally, Mr. Speaker, I think it's a ridiculous cheap shot from the NDP about our former premier who served this province with a huge amount of dedication and integrity over the course of the last decade. Mr. . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, a ridiculous cheap shot from the members opposite. The former premier is going to continue to reside in Saskatchewan. He's working for a national law firm, and we wish him the very best, Mr. Speaker. And I would hope that all members would hope him and wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

With regard to the member's question, the reality is, on average weekly earnings we've seen an increase over the course of the last decade of over 38 per cent, Mr. Speaker. An increase in average weekly earnings, the second-highest percentage growth in the entire country, Mr. Speaker. Those are the facts.

We've also seen the second-highest growth rate of job creation in the entire county, Mr. Speaker. And the one way, one way . . . We know that they only have one economic policy opposite, Mr. Speaker, that they've put on the record. And that one policy is a carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, and that policy will kill jobs.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is second last in the country. The minister can spin this all he wants, but those statistics are telling. Since this time last year, average weekly earnings grew by just 1.6 per cent in Saskatchewan. In BC [British Columbia], they grew by 3 per cent. In Alberta, they grew by 4.3 per cent, almost triple Saskatchewan's increase. It's clear that under the Sask Party's watch, Saskatchewan workers are being left behind and families are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet.

So can the minister explain why almost everywhere else in the country is doing better than Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is just wrong. And I would posit, Mr. Speaker, for this House that if you want to see horrendous economic stats going forward, do exactly what they're advocating for, Mr. Speaker. And what is that? What is their one single, one single economic policy that we know of from the members opposite? It's to impose Justin Trudeau's job-killing \$2 billion carbon tax on this economy, Mr. Speaker. We know, we know if you want to see job losses, if you want to see reduced economic activity, vote for those members, Mr. Speaker, because their job-killing carbon tax will have a devastating impact on our economy.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, we've seen from the Leader of the Opposition a very, very weak position who advocates to wave the white flag, who advocates to surrender to Justin Trudeau, who's called our campaign against the carbon tax a pointless crusade, Mr. Speaker. You know what? On this side of the House, under the strong leadership of our Premier, we're going to continue to stand up for this province every day of the week, and we're not going to apologize for it.

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

### Global Transportation Hub and Land Transactions

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week we heard that instead of selling land to Brightenview, the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] now will be leasing it. Now to lease this land, the GTH will buy it from the province. But they're only paying a tenth of what Brightenview originally agreed to pay.

Mr. Speaker, that land is owned by the people of Saskatchewan. This is taxpayer's money we're talking about, and they're willing to sell it to the GTH for one-tenth of what it was worth. Mr. Speaker, the hypocrisy runs deep. How can the Sask Party justify this outrageously low price to the GTH when they used the original price, which was 10 times more, to justify a flip to Sask Party's friends?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we went through this earlier with the members opposite. Initially, Brightenview had indicated they wished to purchase 30 acres. We're willing to sell them 1, 2, 50, 100 acres — whatever they would like to

purchase. We're in the business of selling and developing that land. Mr. Speaker, they chose to only purchase 10 and to lease another 10.

And, Mr. Speaker, we'd rather they purchase more. We'd rather other people purchase more. And with the help of some members opposite, if they'd like to help us do some sales and speak positively about the GTH, I'm sure that would help the rental market and the sales market in this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. It's the Sask Party who said the price Brightenview was paying justified the high price that was paid to the Sask Party supporters who made \$11 million.

Just last week, the minister responsible for the GTH said, and I quote, "... we don't become embroiled in the individual business decisions on a day-to-day basis, hour-by-hour..." But with the east parcels, we know that's exactly what happened. The minister at the time had his right-hand man arrange the sale, even though the GTH had already hired a company to complete the transactions just like that one.

So I ask again: how can the Sask Party justify this low price when they used a much higher original sale price to justify the land flip to Sask Party supporters?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, when we were in a period of rapid escalation of prices, the members opposite complained vigorously that, oh we shouldn't be paying more, we shouldn't be paying more.

And in fact, Mr. Speaker, market conditions go up; market conditions go down. And, Mr. Speaker, we're conscious of what the changes are in market conditions. They do that at GTH. That's their job out there. And if market conditions have changed one way or the other, that's something they intend to do. And the members opposite should know better than to complain that you can't go up and complain one way, go down and complain the other. Mr. Speaker, let's be reasonable. Let's be fair, and let's let the GTH do their job.

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

#### Administrative Segregation in Correctional Facilities

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the minister about the use of administrative segregation in our correctional facilities. While I appreciated the minister's talking points on what she called the most recent review in 2014, I was referring to her ministry's 2016 administrative segregation report. And in contradiction to what the minister has claimed, this review found that segregation was frequently used in ways that don't meet international standards and are in contrast to the ministry's own policies. This report indicates this review was undertaken to develop alternatives to this practice and to develop a baseline to track progress.

Has the minister caught up with the most recent report, and can she provide an update on what specific progress has been made to mitigate this practice?

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Mr. Speaker, our most recent review, which focused on addressing issues that emerged during our 2014 review, is currently in its final stages. The issues this most recent review is looking at include ensuring appropriate use; limits respecting the length of stay in administrative segregation; possibility of independent oversight, just as I said yesterday; exploration of reasonable alternatives in general; alternatives for inmates with mental health and cognitive problems; standards with respect to the conditions of confinement for segregated inmates.

Mr. Speaker, we are working in light of the Charter challenges against Correctional Service of Canada that have also been identified in academic research, Mr. Speaker. We're on the tail end of finishing off our review. New policies, new conditions will be introduced and it's expected that these new policies will be followed. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister also questioned yesterday the link between segregation and prison capacity. Now that I believe she's had the chance to read it, and she should now know the report's primary recommendation was a review of provincial population management, saying population counts were the strongest barriers to reducing the use of segregation. The report also called for the development of a therapeutic unit to support the shocking number of inmates with mental health diagnosis and more resources to deal with increasingly complex behaviours.

[14:15]

What specific actions have been taken to provide this much needed support?

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm really pleased that the member opposite brought up the issue of inmates in our correctional facilities with mental health problems.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked about the hospital in North Battleford will be having a secure therapeutic mental health facility there for inmates who are experiencing extreme to very tough situations, inmates with mental health issues, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know what the member is asking that question for. This has been talked about forever. We're set to, very soon, be opening this correctional facility in North Battleford. And we're very pleased and proud to be one of the first ones in Canada to do so, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Support for Mental Health and Addictions in the North

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When this government announced that they were shutting down the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre, it was a devastating blow to the community. And many people are still very angry, not just because those in the system had been able to stay near their loved ones, but it also led to the loss of good northern jobs and good rehabilitative services.

The community of Buffalo Narrows has since bought the former centre, and I hope it was sold for a nominal fee of a dollar. Now the community is seeking government guidance and support for an addictions centre. Can they count on that commitment?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Athabasca for the question. I've actually spoken to Mayor Bobby Woods about this very thing a number of times. They talked about possibly having a proposal for this should they come into possession of the Buffalo Narrows facility.

To date, Ministry of Health officials have tried contacting the community to organize a meeting. It hasn't quite happened yet, but we're looking forward to discussing with the community, with the mayor, and others what proposals we might look at when it comes to mental health and addiction services that could be delivered in that facility in the North. So we're looking forward to that proposal coming forward.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have to remember that we are investing this year \$11.4 million in mental health and addiction supports in new funding, aside from the 280-some million dollars that are already in the budget. And Mr. Speaker, we have to keep in mind too the other funds for mental health and addictions that do impact patients in the North when it comes to other ministries that, whether it's Education or Justice, that impact addictions and mental health. So, Mr. Speaker, we have over 340-some-odd million dollars going towards mental health, and we're going to increase those numbers over the next coming years.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your government's own mental health and addictions report called on the government to improve access to addiction supports in northern, rural, and remote communities. Mr. Speaker, the ability to help heal northerners in their home community is an incredible opportunity, and the community of Buffalo Narrows has both the will and the way. We need these services, Mr. Speaker.

I want to hear from the minister today a commitment to not only sitting down and discussing the community's opportunity and their plans, but to provide real support and meaningful resources to help get this project off the ground.

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. As I committed to Mayor Bobby Woods conversationally — whether it's at the New North summit, whether it's through SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] when he questioned from the floor, I believe, or other conversations we've had — we're absolutely committed to working with the community to see what they would put forward with a proposal, Mr. Speaker.

If we look at, even in this year's budget, specifically targeted to the North is \$400,000 for Prince Albert, northern Saskatchewan, providing specialist consultation services for physicians and other health care providers operating in Prince Albert and the North, Mr. Speaker. And I could go on to some of the other initiatives that we've put forward over the last couple of years. And I'm happy, if the member asks another question, to detail some of those, Mr. Speaker.

But absolutely, we're waiting to hear from Mayor Bobby Woods and the community as to what their proposal would look like. Ministry of Health officials are ready to take up those conversations as well as working with Justice and other ministries to see what we can do when it comes to providing more mental health and addiction supports for our northern citizens.

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

### National Pharmacare Program

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week we had a debate here in this Assembly about pharmacare and objections were raised on the other side about the potential problems a universal pharmacare program might have. And it was a little bit confusing in what way universal pharmacare, universal first-dollar care, would be worse than the current patchwork of programs that leave so many Saskatchewan people having to choose between paying their rent, paying their power bills, or paying for the medications they need to stay healthy.

Now of course we do want to make sure it is the best program possible, which is exactly why — and I understand advocacy at the federal level has not been the strength of this provincial government, Mr. Speaker — but this is exactly the reason we need your support on this important file. And so I ask the Minister of Health, is he willing to stand up with us and join in our call for a universal, first-dollar, high-quality pharmacare program for all of Canada?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, what this government is more than willing to do is to work with the federal government, to work with Eric Hoskins, the former Health minister from Ontario who's going to head up the review of a proposal for a national pharmacare program, Mr. Speaker. But we do want to tread cautiously because, Mr. Speaker, the opposition just blatantly accepts whatever's going to come down from the federal government, Mr. Speaker.

He talked about the debate last week . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . That's exactly the case, Mr. Speaker. What if what's proposed by the federal government is actually a less

comprehensive program than what we have in Saskatchewan? He makes light of it. He calls it a patchwork but, Mr. Speaker, it is the best in the country. What it does is ensures the most needy, the lowest income people are covered, Mr. Speaker. There's catastrophic coverage. Anybody over 3.4 per cent of their income's covered, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I find it kind of unique. On this case, Mr. Speaker, he's criticizing us. But what have they done in the past with the federal government, Mr. Speaker? They just capitulate.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 129 — *The Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive Act*

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

**Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move the second reading of *The Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive Act*. This new legislation is designed to increase investment in early-stage technology start-ups in our province. It will do this by offering a competitive 45 per cent non-refundable tax credit for individual, corporate, and venture capital corporations investing in eligible technology-based start-ups. This will be capped at a maximum annual benefit of \$140,000 per investor.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a growing technology sector. It employs about 5,000 people and, according to Statistics Canada, it contributes 1.45 billion to the province's economy. Several technology companies and start-ups in the province offer innovative products and solutions used in Saskatchewan, across Canada, and in other parts of the world. In addition, Co.Labs, the province's first technology incubator which started barely a year ago, coached and mentored 37 technology start-ups in its very first year of operations.

It is obvious that there is a lot of momentum in this sector, and the Government of Saskatchewan recognizes its immense value and potential. For example, according to Statistics Canada, Saskatoon is Canada's second fastest growing technology job market, trailing only Waterloo. There have been a number of significant developments in the province's tech sector in the past few months. Siemens acquired Saskatoon semiconductor company Solido in the biggest technology deal in the province's history. Siemens has big plans to grow their new Saskatoon office.

7Shifts and Coconut Software, two rapidly growing rising stars in our tech sector, each closed Series A investment rounds in the ballpark of 5 million. And local technology companies Vendasta and Solido were named Deloitte's top 50 fastest growing companies in Canada.

There's a lot of energy in this sector, and our government wants to see this rapid growth continue. And this is why we are committed to fostering the best and most forward-looking

business environment possible to support the sector's expansion and successes in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we know that technology start-ups identify access to capital as the number one barrier to the growth of their companies and the sector. This is particularly acute for female-run entrepreneurial enterprises. This could lead them to moving their young, rapidly growing companies out of Saskatchewan to access investment in other jurisdictions.

Removing the barriers to securing early stage investment, typically referred to as angel investment, is critical for our province because they outperform non-angel-backed companies in sales growth, employment growth, wages paid, research and development expenditures, and profits. They tend to employ highly skilled workers and they grow entrepreneurial talent and management expertise, and often spur spinoff companies and economic activity.

The province currently has the smallest venture and angel capital pool in Western Canada, and is also the only one without an investor tax credit program for technology-based start-ups. This needs to be addressed, Mr. Speaker. This pace and scope of technological change continues to accelerate through every sector of the global economy and, as such, Saskatchewan's prosperity is increasingly tied to its ability to foster strong innovation commercialization outcomes.

Studies suggest that purposeful government intervention is vital to developing a healthy technology start-up ecosystem, though no single intervention can achieve this on its own. Establishing a leading incentive to grow the number and size of Saskatchewan technology start-ups is key to achieving this ecosystem. It will help the province hold its own in the increasingly competitive areas of innovation commercialization, as well as talent attraction and retention.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan technological start-up incentive Act builds on the best practices of a proven policy solution implemented in other Western Canadian jurisdictions, and is tailored to address the challenges faced by Saskatchewan technology start-ups in accessing patient and risk-tolerant capital.

The program's features and benefits, including a 45 per cent tax credit rate and the ability to claim up to 140,000 per year in tax credits, make it one of the most appealing incentive programs available compared to other western jurisdictions. It will address a critical funding gap for Saskatchewan technology-based start-ups. As a two-and-a-half-year pilot program, the Saskatchewan technology start-up incentive will grow the province's innovation ecosystem and will become a key investment and talent attraction tool in its own right.

Mr. Speaker, this new program will complement other recent innovation commercialization policies and programs government has developed, for example: Co.Labs, the province's first technology incubator; the reformed Saskatchewan research development tax credit; and the Saskatchewan commercial innovation incentive.

To qualify for the program, eligible technology-based start-ups must be located in Saskatchewan. They must also have 50

employers or fewer with at least 50 per cent of those employees located here in the province. The Saskatchewan technology start-up incentive will be managed by Innovation Saskatchewan and will be funded through the agency's \$7.2 million surplus funds, which will support tax expenditures and program administration.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to inform you that in developing this program, Innovation Saskatchewan worked very closely with the Ministry of Trade and Export Development. The program also has the support of Saskatchewan's investor community, which has been requesting an angel investment tax credit for several years. And of course the technology sector itself is also very, very supportive of this.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very, very pleased to move the second reading of *The Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive Act*. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the second reading motion moved by the minister that Bill No. 129, *The Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive Act* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And as is becoming the norm in the Assembly here, I'm very pleased to stand up in my place and give the initial comments on the bill being proposed by the current government on many fronts, but more in particular *The Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive Act*.

[14:30]

Now, Mr. Speaker, I understand that this particular Act is a pilot project in nature, that there is an effort to recognize that there are potential opportunities when you look at the technology and the start-up of the technology on some innovative approach that Saskatchewan companies may have, or other companies that want to relocate to Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's very, very important that as a province we continue being a place where investment is attracted to, and we have to be all that we can be as a province to attract companies of all sorts to the province of Saskatchewan. So it's really, really important for the people of Saskatchewan to know, from our perspective as the opposition, these are some of the things that we pay very close attention to.

And the reason why we pay close attention to these particular bills, Mr. Speaker, is that we must ensure that the desired effect of bills like this is being achieved by the Sask Party government and that they're not simply going through the motions of making these bills and making these incentive programs and putting them in place, and then people aren't really taking the province up on this opportunity because there's some rule or some process or some hindrance that would prevent the companies from locating to Saskatchewan or building a business here in the province of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's fine to look at the fact that you want to have targeted incentives. And the minister made reference to companies having fewer than 50 employees, that 50 per cent of

their employees must be based in Saskatchewan, their head office must be located in the province. And some of the other points, Mr. Speaker, is that . . . [inaudible] . . . over the bill, like not having previously raised over \$5 million in equity capital.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's important for the opposition to know what the desired effect is, as I mentioned. It's also important to know what particular companies that we want to keep or attract here. What is the objective attached to this particular bill? These are the important points that we need to research and we need to find out. And we also need to network with various companies out there that may have issues or may have problems with how the incentive program is being built.

Now we saw evidence time and time again from the Saskatchewan Party of how they have made many messes of many files, Mr. Speaker. And I would point out under the Energy and Resources department, they had a program that was talking about companies that will want to set up in Saskatchewan for oil and gas. And yet they made reference to 60,000 barrels of oil or less, Mr. Speaker, as one of the parameters for operating that incentive program. Well no one took advantage of that program, Mr. Speaker.

And now I'm hoping that this particular program under Bill 129, that there are people taking advantage of these programs. Because it's really important to know from our perspective that this is not another shell game, that this is not the government announcing a bunch of incentive programs that nobody's going to take advantage of, and all it is is just money in the books to make their finances look balanced, Mr. Speaker, when in fact some of the parameters on some of these incentive programs make it impossible for companies to come and thrive in the province of Saskatchewan.

This is the reason why we have to make every effort to understand what exactly the targeted objectives of these bills are. What companies are we trying to attract and why were certain rules put under these incentive programs? We need to know those details, and this is the reason why we need to speak to as many companies as we can.

On this side of the Assembly we embrace the fact that there are many companies that have some very unique ideas when it comes to technology. Some are based in Saskatchewan; others are based throughout the world. And do we want to attract that mindset here? Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. Do we want to attract that investment here? Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. But it's important that, as a province, that we get it right — we make sure that, if we're going to embark on this particular journey, that we get it right.

And that's the reason why it's important, from our perspective as the opposition, that we go through these bills. And we encourage people that may be listening to the Legislative Assembly to participate and give us information that they feel is important, to make sure that the objective of this bill is met with the greatest of investment and greatest of opportunity for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. That's so very important and vitally important, and that's the role that the opposition plays.

So as we look through Bill 129, we have a lot of questions. As I

said at the outset, we are encouraged that we need to look at all venues of opportunity in the province of Saskatchewan, because we have seen how our finances have suffered over the years under the management of the Sask Party. We have seen the crisis in grain transportation. We have seen the fact that they have not built one inch of pipe to tidewater, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing the challenge in getting our product to market.

So in the event that we have a government that can't produce on the larger challenges that the people of Saskatchewan face in this day and age as a landlocked province, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we also say, look, there's other areas that we need to always pay attention to. And technology's one of the areas that we should.

And based on their record, Mr. Speaker, of how they've managed the big files and how they've failed miserably on that front, this is the reason — on any new initiative that prompts investment, attraction of young, intelligent companies to our province — we have to make sure we take the time to understand what the bill is all about so we can help them achieve the desired effect, Mr. Speaker. We hope that this is not a shell game and we hope that this isn't meant just to balance their books without spending any money, because money is accounted in the books but not expended. Well, Mr. Speaker, that shouldn't be the norm when we're trying to create an economy that is firing on all cylinders, Mr. Speaker.

But again, based on the point that I raised earlier, they have made a terrible mess of getting our product to market as a provincial government. So any incentive, any initiative that they have, it is incumbent that we as the opposition stand in our place, assess this, share our views with the people of Saskatchewan, and understand as best we can what the objectives are, and to make sure that the Saskatchewan Party follow through with some of their announcements here and that this isn't merely an exercise and a shell game to pad their finances to continue to hoodwink the people of Saskatchewan on the incredible bad job that they're doing of managing our finances and managing our economy, Mr. Speaker. Because again, the place that we're at financially is a direct result of the Sask Party's mismanagement, scandal, and waste.

We need to make sure that every bill is thoroughly vetted and thoroughly discussed and thoroughly understood by the opposition and by the people of Saskatchewan, because we simply cannot trust the Sask Party anymore. They have to go, Mr. Speaker.

On that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 129, *The Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive Act, 2018*.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 129, *The Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive Act*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 127

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 127 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today to enter into the debate around Bill No. 127, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018*. Now luckily I sit next to my esteemed colleague from Saskatoon Fairview, who is always prepared when it comes to adjourned debates and was very helpful and instrumental in helping me prepare for my remarks about 30 seconds ago, Mr. Speaker.

So this legislation is actually quite interesting. And I'm looking forward to the critic on this file having the opportunity to ask questions of the minister at committee, because what it's doing is essentially walking back a promise that we saw the government give during the last budget cycle. So during the last budget cycle for the 2017-2018 budget, there was a promise to reduce the personal income tax rates. And their promise in 2017 was this was going to be done in two stages, with an initial half-point reduction on July 1st, 2017 and then a second half-point reduction on July 1st, 2019.

And what does this bill do, Mr. Speaker, but it — as in the minister's own words — it “. . . will temporarily suspend the tax rate reduction plan,” Mr. Speaker. And that's from the minister's second reading speech about this bill. This is yet another example of many examples of the reality of this government, a government that has no long-term plan, that clearly had no idea what they were doing when they put forward the last budget. We've seen walk-backs and promises broken left, right, and centre on the last budget, and now we're seeing another example of that in this bill today, Mr. Speaker.

Like I said, I'm really looking forward to our critic having the opportunity to ask questions of the minister about this walk-back, this plan change, this promise no longer kept, Mr. Speaker. So with that in mind, I am prepared and ready to allow Bill No. 127 to move on to committee.

**The Speaker:** — Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion that the minister, that Bill No. 127, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 127, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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

### Bill No. 128

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 128** — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to enter into the debate around Bill No. 128, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, from what I understand, the purpose of this bill is to implement some PST initiatives that were announced on April . . . during the 2018-2019 provincial budget. To further that change and to implement that change, Mr. Speaker, some specific amendments are needed to *The Provincial Sales Tax Act*.

One to remove the PST exemption for used light vehicles effective April 11, 2018. Another one to reinstate the trade-in allowance so that the PST will only be paid on the difference in price between the trade-in and the purchased vehicle. And a third to exempt from PST from the private sale of used vehicles with a purchase price of up to \$5,000.

This is an interesting change, Mr. Speaker, as it's in complete contrast from what we heard the former premier say when he was Leader of the Opposition about this specific measure. And he said that essentially a tax on a tax, which is what this is, is not a good idea. And I'm actually saying it nicer than he said it at that time. And now what we're seeing is again like I was talking about with the last bill I was speaking to: another walk-back, another change of plans, Mr. Speaker, from this government.

And I've been hearing and I know my colleagues as well have been hearing a lot of concerns about this change. And I know sometimes when we talk about this in question period members opposite will yell to us that it's in line with the other jurisdictions across the country, Mr. Speaker. Well, you know, that doesn't change the fact that people across the province are actually really upset over this change.

What we're hearing in particular is the unfairness when they have reached a sale agreement with a private buyer and a private seller and then they go to SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] to have it registered and they have to pay the red book value, Mr. Speaker, which is sometimes thousands of dollars higher than what the purchase price was

for that vehicle.

[14:45]

And I was actually looking at some Facebook posts about this particular issue just a few days ago. There's quite a few folks who are speaking up against this change on social media, Mr. Speaker, and one of them had asked the individual that worked at SGI, well if this is the red book value, is this what I would get from SGI should this car have been totalled? And they said no, actually they wouldn't. So SGI won't replace the vehicle for that amount but they will make someone pay PST for that amount, Mr. Speaker.

It's interesting to see, from this government, an intrusion into a private sale between private individuals first of all; a second level of taxation, Mr. Speaker, on an asset that has already received tax on it, Mr. Speaker; and thirdly, a valuation that SGI actually wouldn't honour if that particular vehicle had been totalled, Mr. Speaker.

So the concerns on this issue are growing. The voices are getting quite loud, and I hope members opposite are listening. But sometimes I wonder if they ever are, Mr. Speaker.

So I know that the minister will have the opportunity to ask questions about that and many other issues around this bill at committee. I look forward to her having that opportunity, so with that in mind, I am prepared to allow Bill No. 128 to move to committee.

**The Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 128, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize . . .

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill 128, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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

### Bill No. 107

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Makowsky that **Bill No. 107** — *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and always good to take my place in this Assembly and rise and join on the debates of the day. The signs are up already, Mr. Speaker, and this one's a particular pleasure in terms of the affairs of the province. And I, of course, am up in a debate on Bill No. 107, *An Act to amend The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act*.

Well it's a storied tale that goes straight . . . It's quite the tale that goes along with this one, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if it's to scale, that tale, but we'll give it a whirl.

But you know, this government, not content to have a contest, wherein they had a contest, I believe, which you were very familiar with, Mr. Speaker. Not to involve the Speaker in the debate. But a contest to decide the provincial dinosaur, the provincial dinosaur . . . or pardon me, no, not the dinosaur — the fossil, which was the provincial fossil.

Now of course casting my gaze around this Chamber, I'm sure there were a lot of, lot of horses in the running, Mr. Speaker. You know, prehistoric horses of course. But in terms of this, the final seven that made the cut for that contest, it's a list worth reviewing, Mr. Speaker. And then of course getting up to the big reveal as the Speaker's already laid down the signs for. But in terms of that crisp November day, 2015 at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum — favourite place for so many of us in this province — where the big reveal took place in terms of the seven fossils that were in the running.

And of course the seven options, the first one up was Mo. The first fossil up was Mo. I don't know, like you know, is it history repeating itself? Or where we are in this time-space continuum, Mr. Speaker, it's hard to figure that out sometimes. But of course the first nominee was Mo the long-necked plesiosaur, found near Ponteix. You know, that's a that's a good one. That's an honourable nomination there. They rule, I think is what my colleague from Saskatoon Centre is saying. In terms of it being a 30-foot long marine reptile, a new species in science when it was discovered. And you know, great thing, Mr. Speaker, great thing.

And then of course, not satisfied with that, the next nominee was Scotty. So first we've got Mo and then we've got Scotty, the Tyrannosaurus rex discovered near Eastend. So again for those following along at home, Mr. Speaker, to be very clear, first one was Mo and then there was Scotty, in terms of the fossil contest that this government held and again which you're very familiar with, Mr. Speaker. So I don't know if, reading the tea leaves on that one, Mr. Speaker, where the future of the province is going to wind up. Who's going to win the contest? Who is going to win the contest for the fossil? You know, who knew it would have so much to do with other matters germane to the affairs of the province?

A long-necked austerity-osaurus was not in the running, with thanks to my colleague from Regina Rosemont. So again, first up was Mo. And then there was Scotty, of course, the Tyrannosaurus rex found out by Eastend, one of the great sort of dinosaur fossil beds out there in the province, and certainly

proudly on display. But the T. rex at Eastend, of course one of the largest and most complete T. rex skeletons ever found. A great thing, Mr. Speaker. So first we had Mo, then we had Scotty. And you know, I'd pretty much call it a contest right there.

Yes like, you know, no need for down ballots in that one, Mr. Speaker. Winner, winner, T. rex dinner. Like there we go.

But there were of course other entrants in the contest, Mr. Speaker, and we'd be remiss if we didn't give them their due. But certainly there was the Kyle Mammoth, the Kyle Mammoth, a 12,000-year-old giant elephant-like woolly mammoth, the Kyle Mammoth. I don't know if I'm hearing rumblings about the contest from Walsh Acres. I don't know what's going on over there, but you know, okay.

Then there was the Herschel Short-necked Plesiosaur. The Plesiosaur's, of course, reminding us that once upon a time this was all under water, Mr. Speaker. No sort of tangents to go off on the budget on this end, Mr. Speaker, but certainly the Herschel Short-necked Plesiosaur. And then of course there was the Brontothere, the rhino-like mammal found near Eastend — again that great fossil bed out in Eastend — from 35 million years ago.

My personal favourite, if . . . You know, sometimes when you're a legislator, Mr. Speaker, you don't get to vote in these things. But I've got to get on the record here at this point and say that I've always had a lot of love in my heart for Big Bert, the most complete and best-preserved specimen of the 92-million-year-old crocodile found near Carrot River. I'm hearing a lot of Big Bert love from the other side there, Mr. Speaker. There's some good represent going on out of Carrot River Valley, you know. But Big Bert, of course, hardly got out of the gates. And well when you've got Mo and Scotty ahead of the pack like, you know, it pretty much writes itself there, Mr. Speaker.

And then last but certainly not least in the rounding out the field, Mr. Speaker, a vegetarian, a vegetarian in the field, the Thescelosaurus, a plant-eating dinosaur species unique to Saskatchewan, again hailing from that wonderful fossil grounds out in Eastend, Mr. Speaker.

So I don't know, I don't know if they all had scrutineers in for the contest or if they figured, you know, Mo was, you know, out so far in front of the pack that, would Scotty catch him? You know, would Big Bert's hopes be realized? You know, how this would all work out, Mr. Speaker. But again it's most interesting that this government would have a fossil contest, and completely lacking any sort of sense of irony or any sort of like, you know, no write-in ballots in terms of ways to zeek your caucus colleagues, Mr. Speaker, or practical joke your caucus colleagues.

But I'm not sure how many ballots it went. Perhaps we could figure that out a little bit later behind the bar, Mr. Speaker. But certainly, you know, when your options are Mo and Scotty, that's a pretty tough decision there, Mr. Speaker. But of course Scotty, the Tyrannosaurus rex from Eastend, prevailed. And you know, as is the king of the dinosaurs, you know, so it goes. So that contest was decided.



And you know, hindsight being 20/20, were there lessons that we could've taken from that, you know, who's the most popular fossil contest, Mr. Speaker, for other races that took place in the province? And you know, could we have but thought, well this is pretty plain what's going to happen here, I'm sure maybe that would've influenced some of the wagering that went on in terms of various of the contests. Or in terms of the endorsements, you know, who knows what would've happened there? But hindsight always being 20/20, there it is, Scotty emerging as the king in terms of Saskatchewan fossils.

So not being satisfied with just having a contest, it's now been moved into *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act*. And of course, we've got the Act to amend *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act*, Bill No. 107, with the section 7.3 being added after section 7.2 wherein:

**Fossil emblem**

7.3 The fossil of the species known as *Tyrannosaurus rex* and called 'T. rex' is the fossil emblem of Saskatchewan.

Obviously this is an idea that's time has come. I'm glad to see the government taking urgent action, both in having a contest and then bringing forth legislation to enshrine the results of that contest in legislation, Mr. Speaker, in terms of settling once and for all which fossil is top of the pops for this government and for the province of Saskatchewan.

So the people have spoken: T. rex is king. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd urge my colleague, the Government House Leader, to do what he needs to do to move this pressing piece of legislation on to committee so that it might be enshrined in law. Thank you much.

**The Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 107, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 107, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

**Bill No. 94**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cox that **Bill No. 94 — *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate as it relates to Bill No. 94, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017*. This is a disappointing piece of legislation by the Sask Party government and it represents another attack on students within our province who in this case were just looking to save for their future to provide for themselves that opportunity that education provides.

And it has a real impact on families all across the province that are working hard to put a little bit away to plan for post-secondary education, for students that are working to put a little bit away for post-secondary education, and an education that all too often is getting further and further away, that's getting less and less accessible with barriers becoming larger for students all across our province because of the actions of the Sask Party government who have really gone at the post-secondary education system in a way that's caused damage, in a way that's made education much less accessible for students all across Saskatchewan, particularly for rural students all across Saskatchewan, having a massive increase to the cost of tuition year after year, Mr. Speaker, because of the underfunding of this government. And then of course the costs and consequences as well of underfunding our incredible post-secondary institutions across our province — Sask Polytechnic, regional colleges, our universities, Mr. Speaker — who are feeling a lot of hurt because of the choices of the Sask Party government and a failure to recognize the importance of advanced education, higher education to the future of our province.

[15:00]

You know, it's almost day after day that we see another consequence of the Sask Party's underfunding and cuts being rolled out across our province. We've witnessed of course the 4.8 per cent increase to tuition at the University of Saskatchewan, something that President Peter Stoiceff has stated directly is a consequence of last year's devastating budget from the Sask Party government. That's real, Mr. Speaker, a real barrier, a real impact for students across our province, or prospective students.

And the problem is that when we see tuition increases like that all across our province, it shuts students out. It shuts out far too many from being able to access post-secondary education. Of course that limits their future, Mr. Speaker, but it limits the future of our province. It's not in our interest from an economic perspective, a social perspective. It's short sighted, Mr. Speaker, much like what we see on many other fronts with this tired, worn-out Sask Party government.

Mr. Speaker, the actual bill that's been brought forward here, if you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, actually peels away what was a

modest support for families that are saving for education. The program that was in place allowed for families to put a little bit away into a registered education savings plan, an RESP. And a small portion of that was then matched by the provincial government, a bit of an incentive to save and a little bit of support, and modest support at that, Mr. Speaker.

What it represented was matching the investment into an RESP up to 10 per cent to a maximum of \$250 per child per year. So if a family were in a position, and so many families simply aren't in the position to do this, but if a family were in a position to put away \$1,000 a year for their child to build some support for post-secondary, the province would then contribute \$100, and an investment would be made of \$1,100 in that fiscal year. It would grow in time for that student, certainly supporting that family a little bit in saving for that ever-increasing cost to post-secondary education.

But if you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, at the same time as this Sask Party government has cut funding and forced tuition to go through the roof, at the same time as this Sask Party government has cut funding to post-secondary institutions which has caused layoffs and job losses at our post-secondary institutions, degradation of programs across our province, they're actually eliminating this very practical savings tool that families had across our province. And I think it represents again a government, a Sask Party government that's tired, worn out, but more than that simply out of line with the realities that face Saskatchewan people and families.

And if you think of the reality that faces young families out in rural Saskatchewan as the example, Mr. Speaker, who are hoping to support the education of their child, Mr. Speaker, this is a government that's making things much, much harder on this front. Because of course if you're in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, it's not just the tuition which is significant and major increases that we've seen being brought upon students because of the Sask Party's choices on this front to tuition, but of course you have significant housing costs as well, relocation costs as well.

And I see benches opposite with the Sask Party that are filled with a bunch of members that actually have been elected to serve rural communities on this front, Mr. Speaker. And I certainly don't see any leadership or voice from those members to make sure that rural students, that rural families have the supports that they need to access post-secondary. And that hurts of course our economy as a whole. It certainly hurts those young people and those young families that are working so hard, Mr. Speaker. And so the impacts are many.

As I say, day after day we see the impacts of the Sask Party's choices to underfund and to cut post-secondary education. We see it with the 4.8 per cent increase to tuition at the University of Saskatchewan. We see it with job losses in important programs across our province. We see it in the school of Social Work out of the University of Regina, for students in Saskatoon that no longer have options for the needed courses that they need to conclude their degrees, Mr. Speaker, and get out and do the meaningful work that we need those social workers doing all across the province.

So because of the very cuts of this government, they're leaving

students stranded. And worse, they're leaving students that have invested a lot of time, a lot of money, a lot of energy to get to the place that they are right now, leaving them stranded within that program. And it's past time that the Sask Party step up and provide those students within the Faculty of Social Work, and students all across our province, the kind of certainty and supports that they deserve and need. But instead they're going the other way.

You know, I opened up the sports page this morning, Mr. Speaker, in the *Regina Leader-Post* and I saw another consequence of underfunding, insufficient resources for post-secondary. I saw the cut, if you can imagine, to the nationally renowned, the nationally proud U of R [University of Regina] wrestling team, Mr. Speaker. We saw the same to the men's volleyball team. These are costs, these are consequences of the Sask Party's choices in their underfunding.

That wrestling program, Mr. Speaker, is something that our whole province has been proud of. It's something that the University of Regina is proud of. And I know so many wrestlers today and over the years that have competed as wrestlers all around the world in an international forum, Mr. Speaker, made Saskatchewan proud, made Canada proud, and doing all of that while they were pursuing an education, Mr. Speaker.

And I think of Leo McGee who built that program over there for decades, Mr. Speaker, a legend in the wrestling community, Mr. Speaker. And I think of so many others that have dedicated their lives to that program, volunteered their time for the betterment of that program. But I know as well, I know those that have dedicated their time to that program, who have volunteered as coaches long after they were athletes, Mr. Speaker. They were doing so with recognition to what that sport means for the development of individuals and students, and the opportunity that it provided them and what it can offer so many others.

So we're at a pretty sad time within Saskatchewan where we see a government making choices that's making post-secondary education so much less accessible, placing barriers in front of so many students to ever access post-secondary education. A government that's making choices that are cutting programs and laying off staff and degrading programs. A government that's making choices to leave students like those in the Faculty of Social Work stranded without certainty that they're going to be able to complete their degree and put that degree and that knowledge and that learning and that passion to use within our province for the greater good of all, Mr. Speaker.

And we see a government that's attacking programs that have made Regina and Saskatchewan and the University of Regina proud through athletics, recognizing that athletics are important within the life of a community, the life of a university, and certainly the life of a student.

And I just think it's a very sad day that the Sask Party has, you know, underfunded education to the point that they have, that we're now losing that nationally renowned wrestling program at the University of Regina, a program built by so many, a program that's supported the development of so many exceptional athletes, Mr. Speaker. And so many of those athletes then that went out and utilized their education, but also

all that learning through sport as well, Mr. Speaker, within our province.

So I hope it's serving as a wake-up call to this new minister and certainly the new Premier, Mr. Speaker, and a recognition that there's consequences to their choices and their behaviour. And I hope there's immediate action to address these matters, to address the tuition, to address the job loss, to address the degradation to programs that they're causing, to address the cuts that are so disappointing in athletics, Mr. Speaker, that we see at the University of Regina right now, Mr. Speaker.

And I sure hope they reconsider this legislation, Mr. Speaker, legislation that supported families to put just a little bit away, matching them with a very modest percentage of dollars supporting them in that investment, Mr. Speaker. And so I sure hope they scrap this legislation. And I sure hope they work to make sure that there's some support in place once again for parents and for students across our province. And I hope this Sask Party wakes up to the reality that they're not serving a whole province, that they're not serving their constituents.

And when I look across the other way, Mr. Speaker, that government won a large majority in the last election. Of course we know they weren't straight with Saskatchewan people on a whole lot of fronts. But what I witness now, Mr. Speaker, are rural member after rural member after rural member that fails to stand up for their constituents. Because when you're hiking the cost of tuition along with the cost of housing and all the other impacts to post-secondary education, it hits those in rural Saskatchewan particularly hard.

And I would urge this government to sit down at some kitchen tables across this province, to get a reality check as far as the household economics for hard-working families across our province. Families that are facing job loss, far too many families that are working two and three jobs to keep their head above water, working in precarious employment, and simply not in the position that they should be and that they want to be to support the education of young people across our province.

So I see a Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, that's worn out, that's tired, that's out of touch with the reality that faces Saskatchewan people and families, and sadly are no longer willing to even represent the interests of the people that they've been entrusted to represent, Mr. Speaker.

So with Bill No. 94, I guess at some point the government's going to try to ram this through committee, try to ram this through the legislature, just like they rammed through the sell-off of STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] or, you know, the bill to try to sell off the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. But I sure hope, I sure hope that they start to think about those they serve.

I sure hope they start to think about the consequences of their choices. I sure hope they start to think about what this piece of legislation and scrapping this tool that allowed some support for families saving hard for education across our province, I sure hope they reconsider that, that they pull this piece of damaging legislation back, that they support families that are saving across the province and of course very importantly, that they step up with the investment needed to support post-secondary

education to make sure that tuition is accessible, to make sure that there are supports for students when it comes to housing, and to make sure that there's a recognition for the importance of programs across our province who are right now being devastated by underfunding.

So I implore the government to get to work, to step up, to not watch programs get scrapped under their watch, to instead realize that we shouldn't stand by and let this happen. And certainly I implore them to scrap this damaging Bill No. 94 that takes away just a modest bit of support for students and families who are working hard to save for education across our province.

**The Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 94, the Saskatchewan advantage grant for educational savings amendment Act, 2017 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 94, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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

### Bill No. 85

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 85** — *The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time.]

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

[15:15]

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to add my 2 cents into the debate around Bill No. 85, *The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Amendment Act*. Now based on my understanding of this bill, it will allow for the minister to now require that a site holder has provided acceptable financial assurance before a closed site can be accepted into an institutional control program.

Now there's some questions around the ministerial authority for that, as well as what the acceptable financial assurance will be.

There's also a new section that outlines that the minister can transfer a closed site from the institutional control program to a responsible person. It also allows for a new section . . . or there's also a new section, Mr. Speaker, that allows the minister to appoint a fund advisory committee to advise on the Institutional Control Monitoring and Maintenance Fund and the Institutional Control Unforeseen Events Fund which I think will be dealing mostly on the long-term investment of those funds.

Based on my understanding of the bill, this committee will be exempt from liability for any investment decisions that the committee may make, which leaves a few questions around who will have liability then, should there be something that goes south. If it's the minister that therefore accepts liability, that's not usual that . . . Usually there's Crown immunity clauses in these pieces of legislation, so I'd be surprised if that's the case, Mr. Speaker. But there are some questions around that and how that's supposed to work. Now based on what we're seeing so far, it looks like the committee will be comprised exclusively of employees that work within the Ministry of Economy.

The bill will also maintain that the minister must conduct a review of the Act every five years, but it also removes the specifics on who this review must consult, and the requirement to review that the money in the funds is sufficient to meet the needs of the sites accepted into the program. Now what I understand, the stakeholders involved in this area are quite supportive of the five years, but there's some serious concerns about what will happen when they're reviewing specific agencies and entities and who is going to be consulted on those sorts of reviews, Mr. Speaker, when the legislation removes specifics around who the consultation has to comprise of. That's a little alarming, and it's just particularly alarming for stakeholders, Mr. Speaker.

So I know that the critic is going to have some opportunity to ask some questions of the minister at committee. I know he's looking forward to that opportunity, so I'm prepared to allow Bill No. 85 to move to committee.

**The Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 85, *The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 85, *The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Economy.

**The Speaker:** — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Economy.

### Bill No. 126

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 126 — *The Energy Export Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to enter into debate on Bill 126, *An Act respecting Energy Exports*. And it's a serious matter that we find ourselves in for sure, and so it's appropriate for us to be having this debate. It's appropriate for us to make sure there are no unintended consequences, it's thoughtful, and it is the right piece of legislation.

Our position, our party position, our caucus position has been clear now for some time that this is a federal project that's in Saskatchewan interests and it needs to go forward. We do support a triple bottom line on that process that is well known, that has been accepted for some time, that ensures all three — social, economic, and environmental — benefits and that there is appropriate assessment to make sure the risk is appropriate.

And we know that the National Energy Board process has gone through with this and the permits are in place, but the Trudeau Liberals really do need to step up. They really need to show leadership to ensure that this project gets built. It's one that they have approved. They do have the jurisdiction, and it's in the national interest as well as the provincial interest that this work gets done.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we do support the workers at Evraz. I understand there is some 1,100 workers at Evraz who will be supplying the pipe for this project. And it's not just a small amount. This is 75 per cent of the pipe for this project. So we want to make sure that this is done, that this work they have, we have within this province the interest for creating the jobs and maintaining jobs. And this is what we do, what people do at Evraz. They make pipe.

But we do have some deep concerns about what the Sask Party has done really in terms of the issues that are related to this, particularly in climate change. And they have lost any credibility that they might have had to make sure these kind of projects get built and that they can garner the support through the communities to make sure that they are listened to with respect. And they've done this for a couple of reasons that they've lost the respect and the credibility in the communities.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we have said this. We say it over again because it's a fact and it's one that they hate to hear. But you know, during the 10, now going on 11 years of being in government, they have failed to lay a single inch of pipeline to tidewater. What a record that is. What a record. They love to get up and they love to speak about their record, but when it comes down to actual actions, it's just not happening. They have failed to lay a single inch of pipe to tidewater. And they begin to chirp. They begin to chirp. They want to have a different version of reality, maybe an alternate set of reality, but this is the fact.

And then the irony — I say this as the Environment critic — they've cut funding for climate change and green energy. Eighteen per cent they've cut this year's budget in the climate change branch. And what a time to be doing it when we need the resources. We look at their plans and they've left big holes and they need to do their work, and they've yet cut 18 per cent of the budget. Unbelievable. Unbelievable. And they've cut funding for green energy appliances where they could have used that as an incentive, that money they saved there, put incentives for buildings.

Mr. Speaker, they have no credible plan to reduce greenhouse gases so indeed this is a serious, serious issue that we're debating. And as I said, our position has been clear, has been clear. It has been for some time now. This is a federal project that needs to go forward. It's in Saskatchewan's interest that it does go forward. It's in the national interest that it goes forward. And the National Energy Board has done its work and so Trudeau needs to step up, and he needs to step up quickly and with real leadership and make sure the work gets done.

So we will have the debate on this bill. It's important that there's no unintended consequences. We are concerned of course that we want to make sure that Saskatchewan jobs are protected, that we can get those good jobs continuing at Evraz. That's so important as they are responsible, I understand, for supplying some 75 per cent of the pipe for this project. So with that . . . I don't want to go on long just because we want to make sure we're clear on that, but I would adjourn debate now on Bill 126, *An Act respecting Energy Exports*. Thank you so much.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 126, *The Energy Export Act*. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 124

[The Assembly resumed debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 124** — *The Environmental Management and Protection (Environmental Handling Charges) Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to rise to enter into adjourned debates on Bill No. 124, *The Environmental Management and Protection (Environmental Handling Charges) Amendment Act*.

So the basic summary of what's being proposed as an amendment in this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, is that the bill increases the fees for environmental handling charges on all beverage containers by 2 cents per container. And this bill makes the fee change retroactive to April 1st of this year, April 1st, 2018, Mr. Speaker.

So we do have a few things to say about these changes, Mr.

Speaker, and we'll look at them in a little bit more detail as well. So in the environmental protection Act of 2010, in section 40(2), it laid out what the environmental handling charges were to be remitted to the minister and it said, with respect to a designated container that is a metal can, it was 5 cents. That's now going to be 7 cents. With respect to a designated container that is a plastic bottle, it was 6 cents. It's going to be 8 cents. With respect to a designated container that is a non-refillable glass bottle, that was 7 and will be 9 cents. With respect to a designated container that is a multi-material, shelf-stable container, it was 3 cents and it will be 5 cents. And with respect to a designated container that is a paper-based polycoat gable-top container, it was 3 per cent and it will be 5 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to highlight the fact that, if folks haven't had a chance to look at the bill, that we're not talking about the deposit here, Mr. Speaker. We're not talking about the money that goes back into the pockets of the dutiful consumer who's concerned about recycling — which we hope everyone is — that will go back and return their bottles to get the deposit back.

What we're talking about here is the environmental handling charge, which is a fee that is charged to the consumer for purchasing that container, that is used in the handling of that container as the recycling process continues. So this is not money that is going back into people's pockets. And I think it's an important distinction to make when we're talking about fees that are associated with beverage containers, Mr. Speaker.

So this increase falls on top of increased deposits that came out last year. So in the deposits that we saw last year, the argument was made, well it's not an increase if you return your bottles. But this, like I have said, is not refundable. And it also is . . . There's also added costs already onto families and consumers as the PST went up. So for example, if I was to go to a convenience store or gas station and purchase a container of a juice from that location, the increase on PST went from 5 per cent up to 6 per cent as well.

So when we're talking about these containers and all the different ways that we've seen the cost of that container add up for consumers, it's concerning, Mr. Speaker, when you look at how all of these pieces start to fit together and what the overall burden is that ends up on consumers' laps.

The other concern that we have, Mr. Speaker, is in relation to what happens to this environmental handling charge and where this money goes. And I understand that half of it is going to be kept by the government. It's going to go into the government coffers. So half of this increase is going to go toward the government which adds up to quite a large commission that the government is making in this endeavour.

[15:30]

I do want to say that there were some concerns that, you know, we have this growing debt in our province and we've seen our debt payments increasing. Our Finance critic has talked about the debt payments increasing and how we have the highest net debt per capita that Saskatchewan has ever seen right now. And the comment was made, and I tend to agree, the comment was made that this feels like a bottle drive to save the province's

debt, Mr. Speaker. And unfortunately there's so much debt, there's so much debt to deal with so I'm afraid it won't make the dent that the ministers are expecting, but it feels like a bottle drive to save us from the debt. And that's concerning when we get to the point where we have to use our beverage containers.

There's a few things that I want to raise as we talk about this, Mr. Speaker, a couple of articles that existed in the *Regina Leader-Post*. This one was published on March 26th, 2018 and the headline is "Saskatchewan government fee increases 'a backdoor way of raising taxes': NDP." It goes on to say:

The government's hike in fees announced Friday presents another burden for families . . . [I'm quoting the article] MLA Cathy Sproule said Monday . . . [after] question period.

The government plans to add 18 million to its coffers in 2018-2019 by increasing fees on various items.

This includes \$10.2 million from . . . the deposit on recyclable beverage containers by two cents each.

And the MLA from Nutana pointed out juice boxes, juice boxes are the thing that we're increasing fees on, we're increasing taxes on, Mr. Speaker. It just points to the fact that we have a government that's put PST on children's diapers and clothing and now we see an additional fee on items that many, many families purchase on a regular basis.

According to the Finance minister these fee increases are due to the cost of running the programs. But how about the fact that the government is going to keep half of this money in its coffers. So I don't know if there's the direct tie for cost of programs to the incremental charge here, Mr. Speaker, and that's certainly a question for my colleagues who will be taking this to committee, as well as curious as to following this money a little bit and seeing what's going to be happening with it.

And so just so you know I didn't come up with the clever phrase of the bottle drive, I've got the article as well. I would like to have taken credit for it, Mr. Speaker, but I've got the article here from March 23rd, 2018, in the *Regina Leader-Post* and the title of this one is "Bottle drive: Province adding \$10.2 million in revenue by hiking deposit on beverage containers." So in fact there's an article referring to the fact that this is a bottle drive, Mr. Speaker.

And when you look at the fact that last year's budget increased taxes by nearly a billion dollars, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about taxes on everyday families, everyday families. They're going to be increasingly hurt by these charges. We need to be doing some serious investigating into what's happening with the money in this province, Mr. Speaker. After 10 years of record revenue, we have the highest net debt per capita that we've ever seen in Saskatchewan. For a government that's supposed to be considered good fiscal managers, I sure think that maybe they should start taking advice from members on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. And with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 124.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 124, the environmental

management and protection amendment Act, 2018. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 125

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 125 — *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise into the debate today on Bill No. 125, an Act respecting the Saskatchewan value-added agricultural incentive.

And so this is an interesting one we have before us. It's one that the member from Meadow Lake brought forward. And of course we'll have a lot of questions in committee on this. But it is an odd one because some of his comments were kind of sentimental. On one hand he's looking forward to how Saskatchewan's an economic powerhouse within Canada — we have 40 per cent of the arable farm land — and then, you know, sentimentally looking to the role of farmers.

But I do have to think about the strong comments . . . my colleague from Athabasca talked about the family farm and how this will impact them and the sustainability of the family farm, and how really, how many jobs will this incentive really create.

He talked about this bill creates a 15 per cent non-refundable tax credit for value-added agricultural facilities on a new capital investment and that companies will be required to apply to the government for a Saskatchewan value-added agricultural incentive certificate. And in order to be eligible for the certificate, an applicant must invest at least \$10 million in new capital and submit to inspections from government officials to ensure that all the rules are being followed. And redemption of the benefits is limited to 20 per cent, year one; 30 per cent, year two; 50 per cent, year three. And there's a maximum carry-forward of 10 years on any remaining credit.

So it'd be interesting to know the size of farms or agribusiness that will be able to qualify for this. I mean it sort of reminds me of when we were debating a small-business tax credit earlier, or last year, and of course we found out a very small number of businesses could actually qualify. And the folks over there wrapped themselves up in the small-business flag, but really it was the big business that were reaping the benefits. And so with this, who will actually be getting the benefit? How many jobs will be created from this? Where did they come . . . Where did this idea originally come from? These are the kind of questions we'll have in the House.

You know, we get worried about this government when they do come up with some ideas like this, and was it from somebody in the airport where . . . gave them, pitched them on an idea? How many corporations will actually be able to qualify? And will they actually, if they are able to qualify on such a size of a

project, to \$10 million . . . at least \$10 million in new capital, do they really need this? So on one hand, you're saying, the government's saying, well we're an economic powerhouse; we're feeding the world. But at that time, and they're saying, but we really need support. We really need support.

So it's interesting when we do get into committee to find out, so what's the real story here? Who was the Minister of the Economy talking with, you know? And we watch daily in the House, spin the numbers in terms of job creation and what's really happening. Unfortunately over an economy that they have decided that that minister has been responsible for some time now and how it's just not doing as strong. It's not as robust as it should be. And here one hand needs to be, you know, they say we should all be thinking happy thoughts and be positive. Turn on the positive. And that's all we need to do except for those folks who can afford \$10 million in capital investment. They do need the support.

Well I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, when I look . . . And I just think about my colleague's comments earlier about organizing a bottle drive to help deal with the debt here. How many bottle drives are we going to have to have? You know, how many times are the families, ordinary families going to be nickelled and dimed to death? And really it is nickelled and dimed, you know, because on one hand all these things are just adding up, adding up. When you start to think about a container of juice bought at the convenience stores now being hit three times in the last 12 months in terms of an increase. And what's the bottom line? What's this government getting out of that?

We know we have a good recycling record. We know that people need support in making sure that they can afford this. But if this is all, if this is all to support the debt and the kind of decisions these folks have made, and the economic ideas that these folks have come forward with. And I think this is the same minister, this is the same minister who had the Enterprise Saskatchewan of which we just repealed. I don't know if that bill's actually been repealed yet . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . It's gone. So we can't really talk about that in the past. Enterprise Saskatchewan which was, as one writer said, it was going to be the greatest thing or that the biggest flop in Saskatchewan.

**An Hon. Member:** — Guess what it was?

**Mr. Forbes:** — Guess what it was? Guess what it was? So forgive us if we're a little cynical over here when this minister comes up with a bright idea but has nothing really to back it. Where did he get that idea? How many people are going to . . . What are the details? What are the details? The only details he can provide in his speech is that we have 40 per cent of arable farm land in Saskatchewan. Well that's news, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we need to focus on what really matters to people in Saskatchewan. And when we have the minister having a shiny object and maybe this is what it was on budget day, just one little shiny object that the minister was trying to distract us from what was really happening, what was really happening. The effect of these two budgets together . . . Actually well we can say since the last election when we've seen the kind of things that this government has come forward with in terms of their economic management, people do have the right to be a

little worried about what the future holds for them, what the future of this province might be.

Here it seems to be the gift of the day from the Sask Party to former MLAs — luggage. Everybody's getting a matching set of luggage. They're getting jobs in Alberta, and one in BC. And what did they get? What did they get? Luggage. What about the ones who want to go to Ottawa? What will they be getting? Everybody wants out of here on that side, you know, and I can just see they're, probably got decals on the front of, you know, where they've been, and they're leaving hints for the new Premier about the luggage they'd like to have, the luggage they'd like to have, whether it's Samsonite, or Swiss, you know. What is the way, you know? And Samsonite is more fashionable I understand in Ottawa. Not quite so cool as in BC where it is the Swiss type of luggage that is more cool, I guess, more cool. I think that's what you've got to be thinking about. So you know, five sets of luggage can be quite a charge . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You know, I know.

But there's only been one of them who stayed back here, and I don't think he got luggage. He got baggage.

**An Hon. Member:** — Lots of baggage.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Lots of baggage there. So we don't want to talk about that. That's, you know . . . But I digress, Mr. Speaker, and I'll get right back to the task at hand, and it's about 125. I apologize for talking about luggage and baggage.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this bill . . . We will have lots of questions in committee . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I think it's not a single inch of pipeline, but we're seeing lots of baggage, a lot of luggage around that.

But, Mr. Speaker, I digress. I digress. There will be lots to talk about on this piece of budget bill that's before us, Bill 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*. Where did it come from? Hopefully it'll work. We all want to make sure this province achieves great things, and especially with our heritage.

And I wear this pin with pride, this wheat sheaf that actually ironically those folks over there wanted to get rid of, this wheat sheaf pin. I wear it with pride every day because that is our tradition here in Saskatchewan. Agriculture is one of the, one of the many activities that have driven this province to the place it is today.

And I want to say that we'll be asking a lot of questions about this of the Minister of Economy. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move adjournment of Bill 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*. Thank you very much.

[15:45]

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 81**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 81 — *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise again today and enter into adjourned debates on Bill No. 81, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act of 2017*. And we'll take some time to go through what some of the changes are that are being proposed in this bill, Mr. Speaker. And we'll go through what some of the concerns are that we have on this side of the House that we want to make sure are being carefully thought through by the government as they put forward this legislation.

So one of the things that I often find useful when going through adjourned debates on amendment Acts is to go through the explanatory notes which explain a little bit or provide some detail on what the changes are that are being proposed here. So I'll provide some background on what some of those changes are here.

So some of the changes that are being proposed are updating the definition of “dealer” to include a trailer dealer, defining “service vehicle,” updating the definition of “trailer” for registration purposes so that small farm trailers don't require registration, whereas other trailers require registration. The exemption for registration is set out in regulations. It also defines “trailer dealer.” There is a change to indicate how an administrator may use the facial recognition software, sets out restrictions on the use of facial recognition software, and allows the administrator to provide specific information obtained through its facial recognition technology to law enforcement when the administrator suspects identity theft or identity fraud. It:

Adds a requirement that permits issued in ... [other jurisdictions] for the purpose of moving a vehicle must be issued by the jurisdiction of the vehicle's origin for a registration exemption to apply in this jurisdiction.

[It] allows for prescribed exceptions to the requirement that certificates of registration be used only in respect of the vehicle to which the registration was issued.

Protects law enforcement officers from liability for damage to an individual's electronic device when it is used to display a driver's licence, vehicle registration or auto insurance credentials.

It defines a class B vehicle and requires that class B vehicles, seating capacity of 10 or fewer persons, need to file proof of insurance with the administrator when registering a vehicle.

Updates cross-reference as a result of ... [the] Highway Traffic Board's authority.

Removes the board's ability to issue registration permits.

Removes reference to the board's ability to set registration fees as this authority now rests solely with the administrator.

And I won't read what all the explanations are, Mr. Speaker, but there are a number of other changes that I want to highlight and that I want to go through as well. The explanatory notes for this particular bill are, I think here, about 43 pages long. So for the sake of the folks at home, I won't provide all of the explanation of what the changes are, but I'll provide a bit of a summary of what I think some of the key pieces are here that folks should be paying attention to.

So when we talk about the blood alcohol content of drivers and what the repercussions are, I think that there was a good summary on this piece done by my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale. So I'll just provide a bit of a recap of what some of the changes are that have been proposed here with regards to the blood alcohol content.

So the main change here, Mr. Speaker, is that a driver with a blood alcohol content level of .04 or higher who's transporting children who are under the age of 16 will face longer licence suspension and vehicle seizures that are associated with repeat offenders. So the idea here is that a higher bar is being set for folks who are driving with children under 16 in their vehicles.

So my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale talks about what this means, and I think it's important, particularly if folks have children or find themselves transporting children. You know, I am an auntie as well, so I find myself transporting children probably more often than I thought I would in my duties as an aunt. And so I think it's important for all of us to know what these are and that we have a big public education piece around this as well.

So my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale said:

... drivers with a blood alcohol content between .04 and .08 or who fail a field sobriety test will face a seven-day administrative driving suspension if they have a child under the age of 16 in the car with them. So instead of getting a three-day licence suspension on the first offence, that would be a seven-day suspension. Instead of a 21-day suspension on a second offence, it'll change to 30 days. And for a third offence, it increases from 90 to 120 days. So that's the licence suspension part.

The length of time a vehicle will be seized is also increasing, Mr. Speaker. Both new and experienced drivers will have their vehicles seized if they have a child under 16, Mr. Speaker, for seven days on the first offence, up from three days. It increases from seven to 30 days on a second offence. On a third offence it increases from 60 days, up from seven days for new drivers, or 14 days for experienced drivers, Mr. Speaker.

So I think she clearly identifies what the changes are here and how people who are going to be driving children under 16 are held to a higher standard, are held to a higher bar with this bill, Mr. Speaker.



Some other changes that have taken place, the looking-back period is extended from 5 years to 10 years, allowing for tougher penalties for repeat offenders. So meaning if someone had an incident eight years ago in their record, that will be considered a repeat offence, Mr. Speaker, where it wouldn't have been previously. So again, introducing harsher penalties here.

Law enforcement can offer an indefinite administration suspension, making roadside consequences for those charged with impaired driving under the Criminal Code consistent with those charged with exceeding .08 blood alcohol content or refusing to comply with a demand for a test.

Slowing to 60 kilometres per hour is now required when snowplows are stopped on the side of the road and when passing other vehicles that are providing assistance if prescribed lights are in operation. So if you see the flashing lights, slow down to 60 and make sure . . . And of course this is for everyone's safety, Mr. Speaker. And I'll want to see what additional public awareness campaigns have been put out on some of these pieces.

I know there's still questions about blood alcohol content and the changes that were made there. And we're looking at about a year and a half ago now, Mr. Speaker, that those changes were made. So I think public awareness is key in these pieces because if we're going to change the culture, and I think what we're arguing here is that a cultural shift needs to take place around drinking and driving in Saskatchewan, if we're going to change the culture so that it's not expected that folks will still drive after drinking, public awareness campaigns are a key piece of doing that to be able to change and almost stigmatize folks who have a couple of drinks and then think it's okay to get behind the wheel.

I know I have colleagues on this side of the House who are good allies in this and will check around and ask if you've had a drink or two — are you okay, you know, should you be getting another ride? — or offering rides to people. And I think that that's the culture that we need to be able to foster in order to see meaningful change in this area. And we all know someone who's been impacted by drinking and driving and some of the deaths that have taken place. It's an important piece for us here, so we have to make sure that we get it right. So I think public awareness is going to be a key piece of this campaign as well.

There's also a concern that we have about the fact that this bill, in the many different things that it does, it repeals the requirements for operation authority certificates. So this means that those who are operating a vehicle on the highway for the purpose of transporting passengers no longer need an operating authority certificate. We're going to be having a lot of questions for the minister on this as it removes a lot of transparency and accountability.

I know that my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana spent a great deal of time talking about this in her second reading. I remember it well and was here for it. And some of the concerns that this deregulation poses for us, and she said . . . She's talking about the justification for this, and she says on November 8th:

Now that sounds like pretty important stuff, Mr. Speaker, when you think about it. If someone's going to be operating a vehicle, carrying passengers for hire, you kind of think that maybe routes, insurance, rates, background checks are kind of important things when the members of the public are getting into these vehicles, Mr. Speaker.

Now what he tells us [is that], and this is something that came out very clearly in June of this year, "Over time the Highway Traffic Board has been issuing them in a much more general way, and they have almost evolved into a rubber stamp." [She's referring to the minister here, of course, Mr. Speaker.] So rather than making sure the Highway Traffic Board takes these processes seriously, what does he do? Well . . . he says, Mr. Speaker: "Thus it makes sense to deregulate this process."

So we're concerned about the process of deregulation. We're talking about some important details that were previously required in order to get the operating authority certificate. Routes, what route are you taking to take your passengers? Insurance, what the rates are going to be, and background checks of drivers, Mr. Speaker. So when we're talking about deregulating this system, we're discussing the idea that when transporting members of the public for hire, these pieces are no longer required.

So when you think about public getting into these vehicles and the possibilities for deregulation, this is of serious concern to us, and particularly in light of the fact that what we're really talking about here, Mr. Speaker, is drivers who are set up to replace, on the major routes, the service that STC was providing to the good people of this province. We're talking about what was an essential service in this province being replaced by drivers who, you know . . . And I applaud them for taking advantage of an economic opportunity but, in that case, government has a responsibility to regulate that system to make sure that the public are safe and to make sure that when they're getting into that vehicle, they know that a background check has been done on that driver. They know that it's a safe situation for them.

And we know that there were a number of pieces that STC provided here in terms of safety and peace of mind for folks. And there's actually a . . . I was going to bring up an article. Just indulge me for a minute here if I can find it here, Mr. Speaker. So this is the article here in the *Regina Leader-Post*, and it's on June 7th, 2017: "Highway traffic board hears objections of two STC-replacement applications." So these are some of the concerns that are raised here. Safety is a concern:

. . . as was cost of service and accommodation for vulnerable passengers, including cancer patients and people with disabilities.

STC buses . . . [used to be] equipped with cameras and the Zonar safety system . . . which allowed drivers to easily connect with ground transportation and police, track the speed of the bus, the hours the driver spent behind the wheel, and maintenance issues.

STC drivers were also trained to de-escalate dangerous situations. STC had "exemplary" safety standards, and new

companies should have the same standard . . .

[16:00]

So these are some of the concerns that have been raised and a number of different articles that have existed here. The public has shown quite a bit of interest in this file. We need to make sure that we get it right. And ideally we'd love to see the government bring in a province-wide bus system that would service the province, Mr. Speaker, as we do see it as an essential service, and there have been a number of concerns with that.

If the government won't bring that in, I would encourage them to have a look at the regulation and to make sure that the people of this province are in good hands, the public is in good hands when they're travelling as passengers on highways across Saskatchewan.

So those are my thoughts on this particular bill, Mr. Speaker. I know my colleagues will have a lot more to share and will have more questions in committee. But with that, I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 81.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 81, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2017*. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 83

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 83** — *The Environmental Management and Protection Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure this evening to rise and enter into debate on Bill No. 83, *The Environmental Management and Protection Amendment Act*.

Mr. Speaker, of course any time that we are talking about the management and protection of our natural resources, particularly in a province as both reliant and defined by our natural resources and our natural spaces, I think this is something that certainly requires our attention, our diligence. And I hope to provide some of that today, as have my colleagues when they've entered into second reading debates.

Just a quick overview of this bill, some points that I'd like to make. It allows the minister to appoint new members to the Saskatchewan Environmental Code advisory committee instead of having them, as currently the case, appointed by an order in council. I think there's a move to go from a three-person board to add two more, making it a five-person board, I believe, with representation from SUMA. And perhaps I am mixing my bills up, Mr. Speaker, but it does provide changes for the Environmental Code advisory committee, changes them from

being appointed by Lieutenant Governor in Council to an order in council, Mr. Speaker. It provides more power to the minister. And anytime that that happens, Mr. Speaker, we worry about a decreasing accountability, so I think that that's something that we will have additional questions on when this bill does go to committee.

There's some reference to the definition of human health when referencing adverse impacts from water supplied by waterworks, Mr. Speaker. I guess that's been neglected to this point, to be included as in the list of adverse effects from water. I guess there are others, but the adverse effects to human health certainly needs to be up there, and it is important that we see this oversight and these protections in legislation.

There are very few things in life that are more fundamental than access to clean drinking water, and that certainly is something that most people in this province enjoy. But I can't let that go by, Mr. Speaker, without making note of something that we do allow to exist in this province, across the country certainly is under federal regulation, but something that we do allow to exist.

So just as a bit of contrast, the level of water security and assurance that those who live off-reserve in this province reasonably have, and ought to have security and confidence in their drinking system. We have a situation on-reserve in this province where 90 per cent of Saskatchewan First Nations have faced bad drinking water, that they . . . A CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] analysis — I'm reading now from 2015, but I'm afraid that things haven't changed that much — is the revelation that 65 of the province's 70 First Nations have had at least one drinking water advisory since 2004. That's 93 per cent and that number is well above the national average of just over 60 per cent.

So I enter that into the record because although it's not strictly under provincial jurisdiction, it is a shocking and I think indefensible contrast that exists in our province today, where on one hand we are and ought to be looking at increased regulation and oversight with regard to drinking water for off-reserve communities, provincially regulated communities, and yet we allow this to exist in our province at a rate of 90 per cent of communities, Mr. Speaker.

And I know that not always . . . When there are matters that are technically under federal jurisdiction, it's not that we can't raise our voice and insist on better from our federal government, and I think this ought to be reasonably one of those places. If there is an understanding that people in Saskatchewan deserve access to clean drinking water, surely that must apply to all residents of this province.

So again outside the purview of this particular Act, but certainly should be the business of this Assembly when we are talking about governing for the people of Saskatchewan regardless of where they live. So I just wanted to make sure that I put that on the record, Mr. Speaker.

There are some other provisions in this Act, provisions to deal with people trying to redeem out-of-province beverage containers. Of course Saskatchewan has a very robust recycling program, charging fees. Some of that is returned to Sarcan,

some of that is returned to provincial coffers, certainly an increased amount in this last budget that we saw. The bottle-drive budget has been not coined, but quoted by my colleague from Saskatoon.

I guess that this is a problem, certainly something you've heard of people from jurisdictions where that levy isn't collected, trying to come into Saskatchewan to collect money. And so I guess that there are some provisions to deal with that and including penalties outlined, Mr. Speaker, which does seem rather reasonable.

There's a new authority to the minister that's granted to operate a product stewardship program, which could be used to update programs or take over when a stewardship program isn't meeting at schools. So again that's increased authority for the minister and is something that bears further scrutiny.

This bill also allows inspection powers for environment officers to conduct inspections and audits. Certainly I think this appears at least on surface to be a positive move. Any time that you have regulations, that's only part of the piece if you can't enforce them, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I think we'll have some more questions about that, but certainly on surface seems to be reasonable and perhaps a strengthening of this legislation.

Of course we're seeing this legislation this year. It was part . . . This legislation played a big role in 2014 when the now Premier, then Environment minister announced a new environmental code, and part of that announcement included changes to this Act and also *The Forest Resources Management Act*. I note that the minister, the now minister noted in his second reading comments that, and I quote, "The amended legislation is consistent with other provincial resource management legislation, and is also in line with Saskatchewan's results-based approach to environmental regulation."

So when that announcement was made that was a cornerstone of that announcement, this results-based approach to environmental regulation. I'm looking for the quote here. This is something that at that time was touted as being a made-in-Saskatchewan solution, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that was innovative, forward looking and good for our environment and our province. So it was a big announcement.

I believe there was quite a robust and lengthy consultation period before this code was announced. There was an online survey and I believe there were interviews with over 200 stakeholders or the like. And it was looking at a different way of regulation or of conducting regulation. I think the term used was targeting high-risk projects and perhaps loosening of regulations on other projects.

At that time, when it was announced in 2014, it was noted that one significant advantage of the code is that it may be updated without the need for new regulations certainly which caused some concern around oversight. But the research advisor with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society and member of the code development committee, Ann Coxworth, noted:

The sections of the environmental code announced today will provide an opportunity to test the viability of this approach to regulation . . . [So hopeful but it's a test.] It's

my hope that the code will be an effective tool for environmental protection, provided the necessary commitment and goodwill is shown on all sides.

Mr. Speaker, so that certainly is a positive but rather tentative statement about this type of results-based approach to regulation. I think that in between the lines in that comment are some concerns noting that it's a test. Let's see if this works. And a hope, a hope that there would be commitment and goodwill on all sides, which was something that she was noting needed to be present in order for this code to be effective and fulfill its stated goals. In some ways dual goals, both on the environmental protection side, but also very heavy in that announcement and in this announcement as well, the balance with keeping pace with growth.

So there's a bit of a tension there between environmental protection and laxening permits to keep pace with growth. And certainly that's a very delicate balance — an understandable balance — but one it's very important that we get right, that we don't tip too far in one direction or the other.

As has been noted by the minister, by many speakers to this bill, our very . . . Of course our lives, our health depends on the water and the air and so much of our economic activity in this province relies on the land. And so it is very incumbent upon all members of this Assembly to ensure that we are awake at the switch and paying attention to this legislation, ensuring that we've got that balance right, ensuring that we are providing adequate oversight again to our air, our water, and our land.

We not only have to be doing the right thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also have to be perceived and be trusted as doing the right thing by members of the public. When we're . . . You know, of course there's a big debate about transportation of natural resources, and it's really important that we show those who have concerns, a confidence in the system, that there is sufficient oversight, that there is sufficient regulation, that there is, when problems do happen, that they will be quickly rectified.

And I think of the Husky oil spill that I don't think anyone in this Assembly or in this province will soon forget, and that was a spill that had put the drinking water of some, I believe it was 70,000 citizens of this province in jeopardy in the middle of the summer.

[16:15]

And I'm not sure that that process and both the spill and the subsequent transparency of information and events is something that has instilled confidence, Mr. Speaker. And I think that's unfortunate because there's an opportunity there when, you know, to do the best that you can to make sure that nothing goes wrong. But there's also a need that when something does go wrong, that leadership is shown, that the people of the province have confidence that we are taking this seriously, that we are protecting waterways, that we are protecting the land. And when that's lacking, Mr. Speaker, we, people act in fear. And I'm not sure that that's the best situation for anyone in this province, again especially when we're dealing with a resource-based economy like ours.

So all that to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it's very important

that we get this right and that we pay close attention to this legislation and any changes that are made to it.

Just wanted to take a chance to get this book a little closer to my eyes, and look at some of the comments of the minister on second reading, again talking about the new results-based approach to environmental protection and resource management that emphasizes outcomes and not processes. You know, processes for processes' sake of course, I think we can all agree, are redundant and perhaps cumbersome. Processes that do fulfill their intended purpose maybe shouldn't always be done away with. So I hope that we are keeping a keen eye on that.

The code reduces government red tape by replacing [the] . . . permits with notifications and allows timely authorization of various activities such as water and sewage main construction, hydrostatic testing, and spill reporting.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I think any time that we talk about spill reporting, about water, it reasonably perks up the interest of people in this province and they want to be assured that we are getting this balance right.

I believe, if memory serves, there's also an amendment here that I think is rather curious, and I know that the critic and my colleagues will have further comments about this:

A further amendment will include provision for a person to request that information of a commercial, financial, scientific, or technical nature that may reveal proprietary business, competitive, or trade-secret information to be kept confidential beyond the original five-year time period. Every five years a person may reapply to have that information kept confidential. This will be done through the original application process.

So I'd be very curious to know, first of all, what the reason is for making that in a status quo way, why that information is seen as being beneficial to the public to have that information, and why this amendment would keep that information from the public. And again, it's important that we get that balance right. I know that there have been concerns about release of reports following the Husky oil spill. There have been a number of high-profile concerns about environmental regulations in this province. And again, I hope that folks are paying attention out there and insisting that the government get this bill right. I know that members on this side will be, as will the critic in committee.

That said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that this is an important bill and requires further oversight, but I think I have come to the end of my comments on Bill No. 83, and I do move to adjourn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 83, *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*, 2017. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

## Bill No. 89

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 89** — *The School Choice Protection Act/Loi sur la protection du choix d'école* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in, very briefly here today, on Bill No. 89, *The School Choice Protection Act*. And certainly we look forward to discussions in committee as well. And we've had very important discussions with school boards all across the province. And I want to thank the Catholic school board, certainly for their leadership and for their voice.

We recognize that this decision that was brought down really had the potential of really upsetting our education system and, most importantly, the school life of children and families all across our province. The relationship that a child, that a student builds with a school community, with educators, with education workers, with a school itself, is something that really should never be jeopardized. It needs to be leveraged for the greater good of that student at every opportunity.

And the potential of having students being pulled from one division and into another because of this decision was something that is a concern to me and certainly we, right from the get-go, in the end along with government as well, have supported the appeal of the Catholic school boards on this front. I think that appeal is very important. Certainly boards need time and clarity on this front. And certainly we're going to stand as a constructive ally with students and with our school boards.

I do want to recognize just the incredible education that students receive in all of our publicly funded school divisions across the province. Of course that's our public divisions, that's our Catholic divisions, Mr. Speaker. And speaking to, you know, Catholic education itself or Catholic boards across the province, it's important to note that they have an incredible history in this province of providing high-quality education and helping build our province. They also have a constitutional . . . or the students have a constitutional right, as parents have a constitutional right to Catholic education, Catholic school boards, within the province, Mr. Speaker. And I've witnessed first-hand, of course. I'm a teacher before coming into this Chamber and I have continued to build and maintain a relationship with the education sector in every corner of our province and with our school boards, public and Catholic, and I've witnessed just incredible work of our Catholic educators and boards across our province.

It's frustrating to me that this issue didn't get the leadership it needed from the Sask Party government over the last number of years. It's too bad that we had a decision that was handed down with such, you know, potential impacts for our school system. It's the kind of issue, Mr. Speaker, that would have required some hard work on behalf of government, bringing together boards and working together on that front.

But it's a reminder, I hope, I hope to government opposite but

to all of us, that it's sometimes these projects that aren't real flashy but very important that require hard work and attention and they need to stay on the top of the desk of a premier, top of the desk of an Education minister. But as we move forward, we'll be engaged as allies on this front. We'll be standing strong to make sure that students have peace of mind in those Catholic schools across our province. Certainly the appeals should provide that too, while it goes through various courts, Mr. Speaker. It's important for students across Saskatchewan and for families and parents to have that peace of mind and that certainty, and that the relationship that a family and a student builds with a school will not be compromised, Mr. Speaker. And certainly I'll be standing as an ally on that front.

We'll look forward to further discussion within this legislature on this front within the committee, and we'll continue to meet with school boards across Saskatchewan. And I guess what I would say: this is an important matter that needs to be dealt with, but what we need to be doing today for every last school across our province, for every last student across our province, for every last school division across our province, public and Catholic, is we need to make sure that that investment is there.

We have a Sask Party government that has shortchanged the education of students today and into the future. They've shortchanged school boards, public and Catholic. They've compromised the education that our students deserve. They've eliminated needed supports and programs because of their underfunding, Mr. Speaker. They've eliminated programs that were essential to students — all students, but I think of students with intensive needs, Mr. Speaker, who have lost the kind of supports that they need.

So this is an important file and we'll work through the process with the courts and stand as a strong ally. But the action we need today and the action that we need from this government is for them to step up with the investment that's needed for students today and for schools and school boards — all school boards across our province, public and Catholic — to make sure that the resources are there to prepare the next generation.

Education is the foundation of our future, Mr. Speaker. And after years of underfunding and disrespect by the Sask Party to the education sector and to school boards and partners, Mr. Speaker, what we've seen is dramatic cuts that are devastating classrooms, Mr. Speaker. And when we look at students within our province, students that are in classrooms across the province, we have one chance to get it right.

So we implore this government to of course take the ruling and this decision seriously and to support that appeal through the courts and to provide peace of mind and security to students, but most importantly do the thing that they have direct control over right now, which is to step up and to reverse the damaging cuts that they've imposed upon all school divisions across our province and work to make sure that we build the best education for every last student in our province.

Ultimately education provides the ability for young people to live up to their full potential. In so doing we allow our province to live up to its full potential. And rest assured, to every last parent across Saskatchewan, every last student across Saskatchewan, every school division across Saskatchewan, the

Saskatchewan New Democrats, the official opposition, will fight for students and work to make sure that their needs are met and to make sure that the damaging cuts of the Sask Party are reversed and that we put the investment where it counts, in classrooms across Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'll adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 89, *The School Choice Protection Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 111

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doke that **Bill No. 111** — *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise again this afternoon and this time to speak to Bill No. 111, *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act, 2017*. This bill was announced by the minister going all the way back to November of 2017 when he rose to enter introduction or second reading comments to this bill.

It was noted at that time by the minister that the Act was first introduced in 1968 and established a tax-sharing system for municipal taxes on potash mines. Of course the intent was to share some of that revenue with the surrounding communities that supported that mine, in order to benefit those communities. And I'm sure that lots of good works have been created and maintained with this revenue sharing.

1968 is a fair amount of time ago. I think that there was some small changes made in 2005, but the last substantive change to this Act came in 1978. So certainly that's 40 years ago so it would seem reasonable that we're looking at this. Of course the issue of municipal tax sharing has been much in the news of course out of last year's budget. And I certainly understand why municipalities and communities would have . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the member opposite would like to talk even further back, but I'm trying to bring the discussion to current day and talk about the concern around municipal revenue sharing that certainly got people's attention during the last provincial budget. Some agreed-upon arrangements that I think municipalities thought were in place and were to be counted on, turned out weren't so counted on. So I'm sure that the opportunity to have some oversight and provide some clarity, as is the stated intent of this bill, would be appreciated by those bodies.

[16:30]

It's noted that this bill by the minister is intended to modernize the Act. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Act is in so much need of

modernization, as one of the provisions is to update the term “mile,” to update it to use “kilometre.” So I don’t know if anyone in this Assembly . . . I’m old enough to remember the switchover from the old imperial system to metric and the commercials that used to be on TV with your Saturday morning cartoons, telling you that zero degrees was . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — I didn’t think you were that old.

**Ms. Beck:** — I’m even older than that . . . was the temperature at which water froze. So certainly if we’re having to make those changes, it has been a long time since we opened up this Act and gave it a good look. So certainly I am sure that it’s appreciated, and much has changed. We have metric now, and so much more has changed in the last 40 years in this province. So it certainly is reasonable to . . . Well I’m getting a bit of a history lesson from the member from Cannington, but I think I’ll stick to my notes here. There’s a lot of history in this province that we could debate, but I’d like to keep my comments more or less focused on the Bill No. 111.

Some of the other pieces that are in addition to modernizing, it redefines the actual municipal mill rate. It sets a standard formula to be used for all municipalities, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I’m sure that predictability and the upholding of agreements and definitions is very important to people of this province. I think of, as we’ve seen particularly, municipalities. And they rely on the agreements that they sign with the provincial government, so I hope that it does have the stated intent here in making . . . that the formula is clear in how the mill rate is to be calculated for potash tax sharing to avoid improper calculations in the future.

So any time we can spread some clarity and reduce improper calculations, that would seem to be certainly a goal worth pursuing, as has been stated with this legislation, and is something. How exactly the measures in this Act are going to work towards those ends, I think is something that the critic will be asking in committee.

There is also a new section that outlines a standard date to be set for when the board announces the mill rate for the next year, and that they will inform individual potash mines and the Potash Producers Association. That certainly seems to be a reasonable thing. If you think that the announcement of the mill rate is going to come around the time that you’re setting a budget, and it’s delayed and delayed, certainly something that anyone who’s sat on a school board, for example, in the province unfortunately has a lot of familiarity with . . . The transparency, the predictability is very important there. And I understand that that was asked for by a number of stakeholders, so it would seem to be a positive addition to this Act.

A new section clarifies that tax tools are prohibited, but that tax incentives are not. Municipalities can continue to apply discounts to tax on potash mine assessments, so I guess that’s left in the purview of the individual municipality. If there are agreements that they want to enter into, I don’t know if there are any parameters on that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There are some parameters on this agreement in that it doesn’t include the cities of Humboldt, Saskatoon, and Yorkton despite their proximity and involvement with the potash industry. So I

would be curious, and I know the critic will be curious too, to know why those communities in particular were left out.

And again I’m sure that the critic has and will continue to meet with the stakeholders and ensure that their voice is present here and that the proposed changes have rolled out the way that they would like to see them, and in a way that maybe updates this Act so much that we don’t need to open it up again for a while. Maybe it’ll be a little bit before another 30 years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but make sure that we get it right and make sure it’s predictable and it is equitably applied across those communities that are impacted. Again I’m sure the critic will have even more questions. There may be more questions and comments from members on this side, but I think I’ve come to the end of mine and I will move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 111. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 112

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 112 — *The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair, to join in on the miscellaneous vehicle and driver stats cannabis legislation amendment Act, 2017. Easy for us to say. Just want to get in and share a few comments about where it’s coming in, and I realize that the federal legislation with cannabis is coming in. We know that, and the government is getting ready to respond to it.

But before I get into it, I guess this bill is coming forward and it’s going to change . . . make some amendments and make some change. But it’s coming in because of the new federal . . . under the Criminal Code Act, so they’re coming in compliance that they have to adopt. And there’re certain ways that that comes in for the province, so the province is doing what it needs to do to make sure that the legislation, the rules that are required in the province to be done when you have federal laws coming in, and some of the changes they will . . . and they’re going to make some of the changes into certain Acts. I think it’s *The Traffic Safety Act*, another one that they will go into.

Definition, you know, of “drug” will be in there, where I guess used to talk about alcohol; now you’re going to have drug. But having said that, I was doing just some thinking about it, and I know currently right now the law is if you’re impaired, under the influence of alcohol/drug . . . And I suspect there’s a way to do it. I’m no expert on it. And you know, if they’re suspecting you’re under the influences of drugs, then there was . . . And I was talking about enforcement having some special training. And there were officers, I remember hearing, have certain

training to detect, and they have certain ways of detecting if somebody's impaired driving. Right now we have the Breathalyzer. And I know there has been a lot of talk about what way would you have to detect somebody who's been under the influence of drugs.

And I guess it's not just, you know, cannabis. It's whatever drug that's out there that people might be under the influence of . . . they're suspecting, you know. Maybe whatever the side effects the officer who's trained to, you know, whether it's a smell, whether it's the look, whether they can tell. So there's obviously a training that goes down and takes part in that. But I guess overall it's to stop . . .

And it is about, again at the end of the day, let's be honest and say it's about safety. We want Saskatchewan residents who are on our highways to be as safe as they can. And that means we utilize our law enforcement. We know that we ask citizens if they suspect somebody, you know, is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, to turn them in. There's tips. There's different numbers you can call, you know, report an impaired driving. So there's different avenues that we try to utilize as a province to make the awareness how dangerous it is for people to not only be impaired, but also under the influence of drugs. And that is important.

And the government's changing their legislation. And they're having that part that will come into play that will create the rules, I guess, and what ways that the law enforcement will carry out their everyday duty when it comes to dealing with cannabis when it becomes legal. And when it's legal, there's going to be . . . And we've talked about some of the bills.

And I know I have, you know, had an opportunity on some of the other bills previous to this bill, talked about the concerns that are out there. And you know, the government took too long and they should've moved quickly on it and should've been doing work when they knew in 2015 this was something that was going to come forward. And that's what the federal government, was one of their campaign, I believe . . . [inaudible] . . . So it's coming through and we're going to have to be dealing with it.

But having said that, at the end of the day we're going to be dealing with . . . I'm not sure how, once an officer suspects an individual of impaired driving when we're talking with alcohol, they can do the Breathalyzer, blood . . . I understand that. And they go through that. Then you go through the court if you're found guilty. And until you go through the court and you're found guilty, right now, you know, they'll impound your vehicle. There are many things that they will do. You might get a suspension until you go to court. With your driver's, you can't drive. So there's all these things that are coming into play with alcohol, and law enforcement have these tools and the courts deal with it as they can. And there's consequences for that. We try . . . because there's been too many fatalities and too many people willing to take chances drinking and driving.

So now you're having, you know, moving forward on that, you're going to have where you're going to ask your police officers and the law enforcement to catch people that are using drugs once they're legalized. And I know that's . . . you know, you can't have it in your possession.

So let's just say they do suspect. They pull somebody over and they find a bag of marijuana. Well in the legislation prior that I talked to, when you're going to purchase marijuana for your own personal use, you're allowed 30 grams. But when you buy that from the retail outlet that's going to be selling it — and that they should be following the regulations that they need — you're supposed to take that product and go straight home to your residence or to the place where you're going to consume that, you know, well legal drug now, that they'll say cannabis as it will be legal to do that.

But again I go back to that you're going to have situations, maybe somebody . . . If the officer suspects that maybe they can smell it, that suspects that you're . . . I'm not sure, and it is going to be interesting to find out, how are they going to . . . what information or what tools are they going to have?

And I think it's going to be good for us as legislators to know and as MLAs to understand what it is and maybe, you know, do a little bit of, I guess, research on our own. And maybe some have, and that's good. And maybe when we get into committee and asking the minister and officials, they'll be able to explain some of this stuff when they come in with, you know, whether it's members from SGI or whoever when it comes to the safety Act, and they'll be able to provide some information on that.

But again I go back to saying this. So now I've talked about using the alcohol, and again, now you're . . . Officers suspect you've been using cannabis, that you didn't just purchase it and go home. He's smelling it and he pulled you over for whatever routine, and he suspects that somebody in the vehicle has been using it because he smells it.

So now let's just say he's suspecting the driver. Now I don't know what tools they're going to have to be able to detect that you're under the influence of cannabis or under the influence of a drug. You know, I'm not sure if it's a piece of equipment they're going to have, if it's the training that they're going to have to be able to detect and suspect that somebody's doing it. So it's going to be interesting to see, you know, when did you . . .

[16:45]

And I think about this and I think there's going to be questions, and I think . . . I guess the person will hire a lawyer and take their position to court. Now having said that, they may go to court, and what tools are there for that individual to say, well no, I consumed that. Now if it's blood tests, is it some type of test? When are they going to tell when you consumed that? Is it THC [tetrahydrocannabinol] level? Like I'm not sure, and I know we're going to have to. So there's going to be a lot of questions and I think I'm going to be curious to see how law enforcement is going to . . . I know this is going to be the changes in the law, and how are they going to enforce that?

But it goes even further, Mr. Speaker. If the person's found guilty and at the end they go through the process, and we understand how that's going to happen. That the individual goes through the court system and is found guilty of using cannabis and under the influence. Now in the legislation, from my understanding, there is no way, you know . . . The interlock system for impaired driving, you have to blow in it. It's a

machine that's a device . . . will allow you as the driver to operate a motor vehicle. You go through special training. You pay for the equipment to go in it, and it's mandatory if you want to be driving again. So it tries to help somebody. Now if . . . and from my understanding you're not going to have that when it's coming with the cannabis. You will not have the interlock system as well for cannabis. That's my understanding as I've read through the information, if I'm clear on that.

And I know we'll get more clarification, because maybe as technology and things progress, as we see it now being legal cannabis, there may be ways that it's going to have to . . . And industry and those that do the research will find a way to . . . to find ways to provide this in vehicles. And I don't know how it is, and maybe there's not going to be anything, but I guess that's part of the process right now if they're not going to have that. So I don't know what's going to happen.

And the other side of that too, when I think about the legislation of it overall, for law enforcement I can just imagine how . . . I haven't talked to any of them but I'm going to. Like I'm curious now, thinking how that's going to play out for them. Like how are they going to . . . Is it more of them getting trained? And they might know and it wouldn't hurt to . . . I got some local members I think I'm just going to — back home — ask them how this will play out and do they see it as . . . Are they being trained? Are they getting ready for it? And what kind of . . . they're already being . . . We're already working them hard as it is dealing with the crime that we see all over the province. So I guess again I go into . . .

We're still going to have more questions and lots of questions, and I think the government owes those questions to Saskatchewan residents to keep them safe from individuals who are travelling on road. And this legislation I guess is trying to deal with that. I don't know if it's going to go far enough. I don't know if there's more that will have to be changed, more amendments, more things that will come in, but at this point the information that I have and that, you know, is being shared with us and that will go forward is . . . Again it's limited that I feel from my side of it, understanding it. And I guess the research will have to be done, Mr. Speaker, and find out.

But we're definitely going to have more questions for the minister, the minister's officials in committee when the committee work goes. And we'll do that. So at this point I have no further comments on Bill 12 and I'm prepared to adjourn on it, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 112, *The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 113

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doke that **Bill No. 113** — *The*

*Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill No. 113, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act*. Now this bill has some amendments in it which ensure that the conflict of interest provisions apply to members of the district development appeals board and members of any regional planning authorities, Mr. Speaker, which seems quite prudent to members of this side of the House.

Currently there are 10 cities in Saskatchewan that have been granted approving authority status. And there's also an amendment that allows the minister to modify the terms of an order granting authority status to achieve a provincial interest. So there's some concern about provincial government imposing any type of political will on a municipality as it relates to this amendment. Essentially, from our reading of the amendment, the minister will be granted ultimate authority to be able to amend or modify any term of an order if they deem that it's in the provincial interest to do so, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And we're always concerned about ensuring that our locally elected leaders — in particular those folks who are, you know, council members and what not — are respected in the role that they do. They do a really important role; they serve a very important function in our communities. For many they are the front lines of concern of many folks I find when I go door knocking. The first concern that's shared to me are usually around sidewalks and snow clearing, Mr. Speaker, and conditions of streets, which is the jurisdiction of city council. So I very much respect the work that they do. They're not doing it for the money, by any stretch of the imagination, and are doing a really important service.

So we want to ensure that their voices are being protected and that their independence is being respected by the provincial government. This is a government that has continuously downloaded responsibility, provincial responsibility onto municipalities while at the same time cutting funding to them, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So we worry when we see more of that encroachment by the government on municipalities.

There's another pretty clear example of that, Mr. Speaker, in this city, and that's the Wascana Centre Authority, which was an organization that for decades has been operating well under the structure that it had been operating until very recently that allowed for . . . They're the folks that were sitting on the board comprised of city council, University of Regina, and the provincial government, Mr. Speaker. But the numbers of folks that were sitting there made it so that at any time two of those groups could cancel out the other group. But very recently that structure has changed so that the provincial government now has the majority on that board, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So city council has had their ability to raise their voice essentially neutered, as well as the University of Regina, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And we're seeing the encroachment of further privatization on



the Wascana Park, which is really the gem of the city, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I raise that as an example of this provincial government, the Sask Party using their power to encroach on the power of municipalities. And so when we see this amendment here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is why we're raising this type of concern because we've seen how this has played out in other facets, and we worry about what this is going to mean for the future.

Another example that this could be used would be land that's used for P3 schools, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So if the municipality hasn't designated something as school land, the provincial government can come in and, to my understanding of the amendment, the provincial government can come in and designate that it's for provincial interest for this land to be designated as is for a school, for a P3 school, and just go in there and usurp the power of the municipalities.

Any order that a minister issues under this new section must be published in the *Gazette*, so it will give us the opportunity to know what's going on if that change is made, if a term is modified. But it will be after the fact. So it's not like it's a piece of legislation that we're going to debate in the House and we're going to raise concerns. It will have already been done. The order will have already been issued, and we'll know after the fact as it will show up in the *Gazette*.

Now currently the ability to apply policies for site plan control is limited right now to commercial and industrial land, but this bill will expand to include institutional and mixed-use development. We've heard that some developers are concerned with this bill, so I know that the critic is going to be asking questions at committee and will likely ask many questions around consultation. Have developers been made aware . . . Well we know developers have been made aware of the bill, but what feedback have they received with respect to developers? And what is their arguments for going against the concerns that have been raised by those developers, Mr. Speaker?

Municipal planning bylaws will now, subject to this bill being passed, will be submitted to the director of community planning instead of the Minister of Government Relations. But despite this, the minister had and still continues to have the ability to require municipalities to amend their official community plan to achieve consistency with provincial interests, which again is a concern, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we see encroachment by the province into municipal planning.

So if a municipality makes an official community plan, the minister can . . . and it has always had the ability to force municipalities to amend their official community plan, which makes me again think about Wascana Park.

Now the city of Regina has developed a downtown improvement plan, which talks about ensuring that we're focusing growth, especially in terms of the commercial sector in the downtown area, Mr. Speaker. But when we hear threats of selling off buildings in Wascana Park, which again is a gem for this city, when we hear about the sound stage, for example, maybe being sold off to a corporate interest for maybe an office tower — which is something that we've now learned is going to be built in Wascana Park — while at the same time we're seeing vacancy rates, higher vacancy rates in downtown, in the

downtown Regina core, it doesn't match with the city of Regina's downtown improvement plan, with their community plan, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So there's some concerns. We're already seeing the province encroach on the city of Regina and do what's best, what they feel is best for the Sask Party's interests, Mr. Speaker, but it's not necessarily what city council would say is best for the city of Regina's interest, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So it's concerning when you see that there is this power, that although we have locally elected city council members, that their power can be usurped by the province, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There's also a new section that adds some flexibility for timelines, that the municipalities have to abide by the minister's orders. There's also another section which requires municipalities to develop their school site policies collaboratively with the Minister of Education, any local school division in any municipalities that the Ministry of Education determines is necessary, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There's really good people at the municipal level who know their areas, who know the wards in their locations that they represent, and again there's some concerns about that.

There are many changes throughout this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that will impact municipalities and how they can plan, develop, and address regional issues. So I know the critic has been having a lot of discussions with municipalities and other stakeholders about how this bill is going to impact them. We've already heard some concerns from developers about this bill.

I know the critic has been doing really good work on this. We really appreciate the consultations that the critic has been receiving, and we are sure that there will be more to come. I know that the critic is looking forward to speaking about that when that opportunity arises. But I do know that there's other colleagues of mine who are looking forward to entering into the debate on Bill 113, so at this point I'm ready to adjourn debate on Bill No. 113. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 113, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, so committees may sit tonight, I move a motion that this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This House stands adjourned.

until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Carr .....	4119
Wotherspoon .....	4119
Ottenbreit .....	4119
Tochor .....	4120
Ross .....	4120

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

Vermette .....	4120
Bradshaw .....	4120
Forbes .....	4120
Mowat .....	4121
Sarauer .....	4121

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### Number of Physicians in Saskatchewan

Dennis .....	4121
--------------	------

##### Final Year for the Regina Police Service Half Marathon

McCall .....	4121
--------------	------

##### Brain Tumour Awareness Month

Merriman .....	4122
----------------	------

##### May Day

Forbes .....	4122
--------------	------

##### STARS Helipad in Lloydminster

Young .....	4122
-------------	------

##### Notre Dame Hounds Win Telus Cup

McMorris .....	4123
----------------	------

##### Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship Banquet

Ottenbreit .....	4123
------------------	------

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Measures to Prevent Domestic Violence

Meili .....	4123
Morgan .....	4123

##### Costs and Benefits of Public-Private Partnerships

Wotherspoon .....	4124
Wyant .....	4124

##### Wage Rates in Saskatchewan

Mowat .....	4125
Harrison .....	4125

##### Global Transportation Hub and Land Transactions

Forbes .....	4125
Morgan .....	4125

##### Administrative Segregation in Correctional Facilities

Sarauer .....	4126
Tell .....	4126

##### Support for Mental Health and Addictions in the North

Belanger .....	4127
Ottenbreit .....	4127

##### National Pharmacare Program

Meili .....	4127
Reiter .....	4127

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 129 — *The Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive Act*

Beaudry-Mellor .....	4128
Belanger .....	4129

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 127 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018*

Sarauer .....	4130
Brkich (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee) .....	4131

##### Bill No. 128 — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018*

Sarauer .....	4131
Brkich (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee) .....	4131

<b>Bill No. 107 — <i>The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2017</i></b>	
McCall .....	4132
Brkich (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee) .....	4133
<b>Bill No. 94 — <i>The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017</i></b>	
Wotherspoon .....	4133
Brkich (referral to Human Services Committee) .....	4135
<b>Bill No. 85 — <i>The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Amendment Act, 2017</i></b>	
Sarauer .....	4135
Brkich (referral to Economy Committee) .....	4136
<b>Bill No. 126 — <i>The Energy Export Act</i></b>	
Forbes .....	4136
<b>Bill No. 124 — <i>The Environmental Management and Protection</i></b> <b><i>(Environmental Handling Charges) Amendment Act, 2018</i></b>	
Mowat .....	4137
<b>Bill No. 125 — <i>The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act</i></b>	
Forbes .....	4138
<b>Bill No. 81 — <i>The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2017</i></b>	
Mowat .....	4140
<b>Bill No. 83 — <i>The Environmental Management and Protection Amendment Act, 2017</i></b>	
Beck .....	4142
<b>Bill No. 89 — <i>The School Choice Protection Act/Loi sur la protection du choix d'école</i></b>	
Wotherspoon .....	4144
<b>Bill No. 111 — <i>The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017</i></b>	
Beck .....	4145
<b>Bill No. 112 — <i>The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017</i></b>	
Vermette .....	4146
<b>Bill No. 113 — <i>The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017</i></b>	
Sarauer .....	4148

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