



FIRST SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
1st Session — 29th Legislature

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Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13

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EVENING SITTING

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 4 — *The Construction Codes Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 4, *The Construction Codes Act*. This bill, if passed, will repeal and replace *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* with *The Construction Codes Act* as the Act which governs how construction standards are developed, adopted, and implemented in Saskatchewan. It will modernize the powers and responsibilities for building owners, local authorities, building officials, and industry.

“Construction standards” is a broad term which encompasses the National Building Code, the National Energy Code, and the National Plumbing Code. These three codes establish building energy efficiency and plumbing standards, which are fundamental components to any construction.

Over the last year and a half, our municipality sector and industry stakeholders have had the chance to provide input and to review proposals, and the results of that work is before us today.

The current Act establishes roles and responsibilities for each of the primary participants within the construction of buildings. Building owners are responsible for complying with construction standards. Local authorities are responsible for administering and enforcing construction standards through appointment of licensed building officials. The Government of Saskatchewan sets a legislative, regulatory, and policy framework. Engineers, architects, and contractors work for building owners.

The proposed Act continues this framework while providing additional powers and opportunities for each group to fulfill its assigned responsibilities. I will briefly explain on how the new Act continues this framework.

Mr. Speaker, the first stakeholder group I will discuss is building owners. Owners are looking for ways to ensure their buildings meet their needs while still being constructed in a cost-effective and safe manner. The new Act will provide owners with additional certainty when determining how they can construct new buildings or renovate existing buildings while still complying with the construction code.

The new Act allows the Ministry of Government Relations to make binding interpretations on construction codes to address Saskatchewan-specific concerns. This will allow the government to provide clarity and certainty for building owners, local authorities, building officials, and industry by ensuring a consistent interpretation of construction codes in different local authorities. These interpretations would be binding province-wide on all buildings to which the Act applies.

For example, some ambitious wording found within the 2017 edition of the National Energy Code for Buildings resulted in neighbouring local authorities making different interpretations regarding energy efficiency standards in older buildings which undergo renovations. While this issue was addressed through a regulatory amendment, the new Act provides binding interpretations as an effective and more timely means of ensuring construction standards are implemented consistently in all jurisdictions. This ability will provide certainty and consistency to building owners and industry.

Additionally, the new Act allows local authorities to register an interest on title of a building for unresolved building official orders. This allows potential purchasers to be aware of any outstanding deficiencies with the building, similar to how a prospective buyer is able to search car titles for liens and accidents. This will allow buyers to make more informed choices when considering purchasing buildings. These actions help ensure building owners are able to make informed decisions about purchases, construction, or renovating a building in a cost-effective and timely manner.

The second stakeholder group I will discuss is local authorities who are responsible for the administration and enforcement of construction standards. During consultation of this new Act, local authorities discussed a need for additional powers to ensure there are modern legislative resources and tools to fulfill their responsibilities.

The new Act provides several resources to allow local authorities more options when determining how to best regulate building construction in their jurisdiction. Smaller local authorities have expressed concern about not having the resources necessary to develop their own individualized building bylaw. Additionally, some local authorities adopted their own building bylaws several decades ago, and the wording of those bylaws no longer represents an effective means of overseeing building construction.

The new Act allows for a default building bylaw to be prescribed in regulation that would allow smaller local authorities to access a modern comprehensive bylaw without having to develop one themselves. This default bylaw would only apply to local authorities who have not adopted their own building bylaws and preserve the autonomy of local authorities to set their own fees and appoint their own building officials.

The new Act also makes it easier for local authorities to work together with neighbouring authorities in order to improve opportunities for regional co-operation in the administration and enforcement of construction standards. Regional co-operation makes it simpler for industry to operate in multiple jurisdictions, allowing building owners to choose from a greater range of contractors and allow local authorities to work more collaboratively in their neighbourhoods. Regional co-operation will also provide for more consistent application of construction standards between differing jurisdictions.

Next, Mr. Speaker, I'll discuss how the Act will improve the ability for the Government of Saskatchewan to assist local authorities in better serving Saskatchewan residents. In the past decade, local emergencies arising from regional flooding or

wildfire events have highlighted the need for the provincial government to be able to respond more quickly when assisting local authorities with disaster response and mitigation.

The new Act provides the Ministry of Government Relations with additional powers to deal with either a province-wide or local emergency situation. The minister would be able to appoint different officials, issue building permits, and occupy buildings as necessary to support an emergency response by acting as a local authority in affected areas. In this situation, local authorities, who may lack the resources or personnel, can request the government provide support in order to protect lives, safeguard property, and mitigate damages. These powers would only be in effect during the time period and in the location where the emergency is declared and intend to help residents, building owners, and local authorities more quickly recover from these events.

The Act will also strengthen the application and accessibility standards to ensure that persons with disabilities are not limited in their access to the use of buildings.

Lastly I will comment on how the new Act will help designers, engineers, and contractors. Mr. Speaker, the new Act fulfills the government's commitment, made under the Saskatchewan Growth Plan, by having the Saskatchewan construction standards appeal board be able to make binding pre-rulings where there is a difference of code interpretations between building owner, local authority, designer, and contractors. These rules are only applicable to individual buildings and would not be binding province-wide. This will help designers and builders make design decisions in a timely manner with the confidence that their proposed designs are in compliance with Saskatchewan's legislative requirements.

In closing, this bill will mark an important new step in the modernization of legislation regarding construction standards in Saskatchewan. I want to thank our municipalities and industry sector partners and associations for their participation over the past year in helping develop and refine this bill. It is the product of many people, groups, and stakeholders coming together to ensure there is a modern and effective legislative framework which will benefit Saskatchewan residents, local authorities, building owners, and industry for years to come.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill No. 4, *The Construction Codes Act*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 4 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in briefly here tonight to this new piece of legislation brought forward by the government, Bill No. 4, the construction codes amendment Act.

I listened to the minister's remarks and I appreciate what he's brought forward here today. What's critical as we move forward is that we're engaging and consulting with all within this sector. The minister's expressed that some of that's occurred. That's good. That's important. I thank everyone that's been engaged to date. I would urge anyone that's watching this debate or that

recognizes the importance of this legislation or is impacted by this legislation to share their perspective and have their input at this point in time.

It's critical that we get legislation like this right. All too often, that government, that Sask Party government, goes about building legislation without proper consultation, which sets up legislation to have flaws which potentially has unintended consequences not even contemplated by government.

So I hope that's not the case on this piece of legislation. Certainly it's critical when it, with respect to building codes, that we have legislation that's going to ensure safety of Saskatchewan people, quality of infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, that it brings in input from local authorities and from the industry itself, from the trades itself, Mr. Speaker, and that it's enforceable, and that it makes sense, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciated the minister's comments around the purpose of the legislation. One part around emergencies, around flooding and fire and those sorts of events, Mr. Speaker. On that front and many others, we look forward to scrutinizing this legislation, listening to stakeholders, and working to make sure that this legislation is as strong and effective as it can be for this very important area.

At this point in time though, Mr. Speaker, I adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 4, *The Construction Codes Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 5 — *The Business Corporations Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Business Corporations Act, 2020*. Mr. Speaker, our current corporate legislation was originally passed, *The Business Corporations Act, 1977*, and became *The Business Corporations Act* through the 1978 statute revision process. While the Act has received ongoing amendments since that time, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General determined that it was appropriate to conduct a general review of the Act as part of the ongoing plan to modernize the corporate registry and business legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed business corporations Act 2020 will replace the current Act and implement changes arising from that review. The bill is not intended to implement dramatic changes to the current legislation. Instead the goal is to modernize its provisions to reflect current practices, replace outdated rules and language, and create efficiencies for businesses by emphasizing the use of modern technologies. While there are numerous changes within the bill, I will highlight several notable examples.

[19:15]

First, the existing rule that requires at least 25 per cent of

directors to be Canadian residents is removed. The majority of Canadian jurisdictions, including British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia either do not have that rule or are in the process of removing it.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed changes achieve balance by increasing opportunities for businesses while maintaining a requirement to have a Saskatchewan resident appointed as a power of attorney for the corporation where there are no directors or officers who are Saskatchewan residents. Corporations will also be required to maintain a registered office within the province.

Second, the new Act includes a second phase of updates respecting persons of significant control. Mr. Speaker, at the December 2017 Finance ministers meeting, Canadian Finance ministers reached an agreement on six key strategies to strengthen beneficial ownership transparency. These strategies included an agreement in principle to pursue legislative amendments to ensure corporations keep accurate and up-to-date information on persons of significant control. These records will be made available to law enforcement, tax officials, and other authorities as necessary.

The first phase of these changes, which requires corporations to maintain records of persons of significant control, were passed in 2019. The new Act contains further changes that will require disclosure of persons of significant control to investigative bodies. These provisions are based on changes to the *Canada Business Corporations Act* and will provide a further tool to combat money laundering.

Third, Mr. Speaker, the new Act contains various general updates and modernizations, including reducing red tape by removing requirements for corporations to provide notices and other documents to the registrar in matters focused solely on the internal business of the corporation; clarifying that a corporation's name may be in Cree or Dene; expressly allowing for the use of electronic technology, such as sending notice to shareholders' meetings electronically; updating corporate registry provisions to more accurately reflect current processes; implementing diversity disclosure requirements for prescribed classes of corporations; and expressly allowing the current practice of filing entities not created through business legislation within the corporate registry, which are otherwise known as other legislative entities.

Mr. Speaker, this new Act is an important step in an ongoing modernization of the corporate registry and business legislation. Justice officials continue to carry on this work with plans to modernize additional pieces of legislation in the future, including *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995*.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Business Corporations Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 5 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise this blustery April evening and enter into second reading debate on Bill No. 5, *The Business Corporations Act, 2020*. As I was listening to the minister in his second reading comments, Mr.

Speaker, noting that this is a modernized proposal for legislation that takes place of a number of pieces of legislation that exist: *The Business Corporations Act*; *The Business Corporations Amendment Act, 2020*; *The Business Statutes Administration Transfer Act*; *The Companies Act*; and *The Companies Winding Up Act*, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things I think many of us talk about on this side that we're looking for when we're looking at second reading debates, is why this piece of legislation is before us now. What brought it about? Who was consulted with? Maybe what some of the impetus was for bringing this bill forward now. I think the minister touched on a number of those pieces in his comments, and I always appreciate when the ministers do that in their second reading comments, Mr. Speaker.

The fact that this legislation might need to be modernized, when it was first introduced in 1977, I think is fairly readily apparent. Some things have changed since 1977, Mr. Speaker. Modernizing to make allowances for electronic means of sending notice to shareholders, certainly something we weren't doing in 1977 but does make sense today in 2021. The updating of the legislation to allow for Cree and Dene names, Mr. Speaker, I think that's something that everyone here can agree with, is probably something that is welcome and overdue.

So the registry-related changes . . . this bill being organized into two parts. On the registry-related side, it provides clarity on the liability of shareholders, removes the requirement for 25 per cent directors to be resident Canadians as the minister spoke to. Some of these changes being done in concert with other jurisdictions in Canada, as the minister mentioned, to allow for that uniformity but also transparency across the country which I think is reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the critic for this bill has been speaking with stakeholders and will continue to be asking questions. I suspect some of the other folks on this side might have some comments to enter into the record before we get to that point. But I think that I will leave that to them, and with that I am prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 5.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Carried . . . No? All those in favour of the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those in the motion say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Opposed. Sorry. All those opposed to the motion say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — The ayes have it . . . The debate carries on. I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another day, another . . . This is rather unconventional, Mr. Speaker. I know that the member who is critic for this bill is obviously at home, Mr. Speaker, having just recently given birth, so this is an interesting twist, Mr. Speaker. I never fail to be amazed by the pettiness displayed by members opposite, but I guess here we are again, more in keeping with what we've seen.

I guess with that, the critic will have . . . You know what, Mr. Speaker, I want to put something on record. I can hear the minister chirping from his seat over there about, you know, the comments that he always has to say about folks on this side. Mr. Speaker, I think what is on full display here — again as I've said and I want this clearly on the record — is the pettiness of that member.

Obviously the critic is not here to speak to this bill because she is at home having had a baby very recently, but I know that she will be here because she takes her duty very seriously and does not mock the business of this House. And she will be fully prepared to ask the questions that she wants on the record when she speaks to this bill in committee.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we've had some, you know, enlightening events happen here. I think the minister thinks that it plays one way, but let me tell you something. When people are dealing with real problems on the outside of this building, this does not play the way that he thinks that it does. So with that, I am prepared to move this bill, Bill No. 5, to committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion that Bill No. 5 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed?

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would designate that Bill No. 5, *The Business Corporations Act, 2020* be referred 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. 6 — *The Business Corporations Consequential Amendments Act, 2020/Loi de 2020 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Business Corporations Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of *The Business Corporations Consequential Amendments Act, 2020*. This bill will implement consequential amendments to the

bilingual legislation that are necessary to implement the new business corporations Act, 2020. These amendments are housekeeping in nature and will not have a substantial impact on the operation of the Act.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Business Corporations Consequential Amendments Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 6 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as the minister was in his comments, and I think with good reason and as is usually and almost always the case with consequential amendments, I'll keep my remarks brief. I think they're self-evident. They're necessitated by the changes in Bill 5. And again, anything that needs to be canvassed will be canvassed in committee. With that I will thank the minister for his remarks, and I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 6.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 7 — *The Marriage Act, 2020*
*Loi de 2020 sur le mariage***

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to move second reading of *The Marriage Act, 2020*. Mr. Speaker, this bill will repeal and replace *The Marriage Act, 1995* with a new updated Act. The framework of the existing Act largely dates back to the early 1900s. The new Act will update provisions respecting registration of religious officials and marriage commissioners by the marriage unit.

Mr. Speaker, the new Act will revise and modernize the language used in the Act to be neutral as between religious and civil marriage ceremonies as well as between different religions. The new Act will replace Christian religious terms such as "ecclesiastical," "pastoral," and "clergy" with language that is inclusive of all religious officials. Religious bodies will continue to provide a list of religious officials eligible to solemnize marriages. Marriage commissioners will continue to apply in a form provided by the director of the marriage unit for registration as a marriage commissioner.

[19:30]

The new Act will update the marriage commissioner application process; for example, marriage commissioners are currently appointed indefinitely. The new Act sets a term for appointments which will allow the marriage unit to keep track of active marriage commissioners.

Mr. Speaker, there's currently also no fee to apply as a marriage commissioner. The marriage unit regularly receives applications

from individuals who intend on performing the marriage of a friend or family member. There are costs involved with the marriage unit reviewing and processing every application, so the new Act will include the ability to charge an application fee.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Marriage Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 7 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre. I'll get it right one of these days.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't doubt that you will.

It's a pleasure to offer initial comments on Bill No. 7, *The Marriage Act, 2020*. I appreciate the comments from the Minister of Justice. This is fairly straightforward legislation and the need for it is abundantly clear. As the minister said, it mainly is tasked with modernizing the language in *The Marriage Act*. That said, I'm sure that our Justice critic will have some questions in committee about it. But with that, I move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 7, *The Marriage Act, 2020*, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 8 — *The Marriage Consequential Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Marriage Consequential Amendment Act, 2020*. Mr. Speaker, this is the companion English bill that will amend *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Act* to repeal the outdated reference to *The Marriage Act, 1995*. This is a simple housekeeping change to ensure the legislation is up to date.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Marriage Consequential Amendment Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 8 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to offer initial comments on behalf of the official opposition on Bill 8, *The Marriage Consequential Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, I am going to keep my comments brief. This bill is fairly straightforward and I'm happy to simply move that we adjourn debate on it at this time.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 9 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Appeal Provisions) Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Appeal Provisions) Amendment Act, 2020*. Mr. Speaker, this bill and its companion bilingual bill amends 30 Acts. These amendments will require that leave be obtained from the Court of Appeal prior to pursuing an appeal under those Acts.

Members of this Assembly will know that where an Act provides an automatic right of appeal, a full panel of the court is required to prepare for and take part in a hearing to render a decision. This process takes a considerable amount of time and can be inefficient in cases where an appeal isn't warranted.

The proposed amendments will require that one judge review the merits of the appeal before a full panel is engaged. Mr. Speaker, the proposed change is a better use of the court's time and promotes efficiency. It will also provide the Court of Appeal with greater control over which appeals are heard by a full panel of the court. Over 15 Acts that permit an appeal to the Court of Appeal already require that leave to appeal be granted first by a judge of the court. Most recently, in the spring of 2020, members will know an amendment to *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* passed that required that leave be obtained prior to pursuing an appeal. These amendments are supported by the court and by the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Appeal Provisions) Amendment Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 9 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 9, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Appeal Provisions) Amendment Act, 2020*. I know my colleagues will have a few things to say about this bill. The minister obviously gave his comments about what the legislation will do and some of the amendments that will happen to a process.

I know the critic obviously will want to have some more discussions in seeing who they consulted. And it might be more of a housekeeping item as the legal minds get together and discuss the process of the appeal process and what legislation and changes, amendments that are being made to the legislation.

So I don't have a lot of comments on this bill, but I know my colleague who is the critic will definitely have some comments in committee, and more of my colleagues will have some comments later on. So I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 9.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 9 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 10 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Appeal Provisions) Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2)*
Loi corrective (dispositions d'appel) de 2020 (n° 2)

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Appeal Provisions) Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2)*. Mr. Speaker, this is a companion bilingual bill to require that leave be obtained from the Court of Appeal prior to pursuing an appeal under the listed bilingual Acts.

As previously noted, the proposed amendments will require that one judge reviews the merits of the appeal before the full panel is engaged. The proposed amendments promote efficiency and will provide the Court of Appeal with greater control over which appeals are heard by a full panel, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Appeal Provisions) Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2)*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 10 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on the second reading, as the minister made his comments on Bill No. 10, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Appeal Provisions) Amendment Act, 2020*. It's mainly housekeeping and some provisions that are in there. And I know there's going to be an opportunity from our side to have some comments. Obviously the critic will have some comments to make and to have a look at it and find out exactly the process. And obviously people are consulted and they go through a provision that makes sure the changes, amendments that are being proposed meet the need to deal with the business of the day.

So at this point, I said they were mainly housekeeping amendments that were being proposed. I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 10, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 11 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2)*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to move second reading of *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2)*. This bill will make housekeeping changes to numerous pieces of legislation in order to update and modernize their provisions. Mr. Speaker, this will include implementing gender-neutral language as well as removing references to repeal legislation such as the development fund Act. Proposed changes will also update the names of organizations to ensure they are correctly cited. For example, references to Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office will be replaced with Saskatchewan Government Insurance.

Mr. Speaker, updating the corrected references in legislation will assist those who undertake electronic searches to locate and better understand the provisions that they require. These changes will provide a benefit to everyone who relies on our legislation. Mr. Speaker, these changes are all housekeeping in nature and will not have a substantive impact on the provisions of the legislation being amended. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2)*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 11 be now read a second a time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it is my pleasure to rise again this evening and enter into debate on this bill, Bill No. 11, *The Statute Law Amendment Act*. As noted by the minister in his second reading comments, this bill appears to be exclusively housekeeping, of course updating language, which is something that we've seen a number of times come through the Assembly, something that I think is appreciated and again something that needs to be changed when that is identified.

I had to note some of the outdated references that the minister made reference to, including one I haven't heard for a long time, Mr. Speaker, SGIO [Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office] which I do remember those signs, but that is reaching back a long way into the memory to remember those references.

I know that the critic has had an opportunity to look over this bill, and I don't think that there were a lot of outstanding concerns that she had with it. I know that she did have a few questions that I think are probably best left to her and her time with the minister in committee. So with that, I am going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 11.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 12 — *The Wanuskewin Heritage Park Amendment Act, 2020*

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

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak about *The Wanuskewin Heritage Park Amendment*

Act, 2020 which will introduce five amendments to *The Wanuskewin Heritage Park Act, 1997*.

Mr. Speaker, for over 6,000 years a small, secluded valley on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River have been a gathering place for Indigenous people from across the Northern Plains. This valley provided shelter from bitter wind. It provided food, herbs, and when winter passed and the prairies returned to life, it provided the steep slopes needed to hunt bison.

For these reasons, it's easy to see why for 6,000 years, this valley became a place of worship, celebration, and of renewal with the natural world. This history began long ago, Mr. Speaker, and it's not gone or forgotten. Today Wanuskewin Heritage Park serves as a guide to the hundreds of visitors, school groups, and tourists who come each year to share these stories.

The amendments I'm introducing today will modern the Wanuskewin heritage Act of 1977 and support Wanuskewin as it continues the journey towards recognition as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization known as UNESCO world heritage site.

The first of these amendments will update the membership of the Wanuskewin board of directors. Two organizations originally included as members of Wanuskewin board are no longer in existence: Wanuskewin Indian Heritage Inc. and Friends of Wanuskewin Inc. This amendment will reassign the seven board seats formerly assigned to these two organizations as members at large to be appointed from Wanuskewin stakeholders and community. This will ensure that Wanuskewin is able to assemble a board of directors in alignment with its legislation rather than continuing to proceed with an ad hoc board composition.

[19:45]

The second amendment will extend the maximum number of allowable terms for a board member from two to three. This will allow for improved organizational continuity and corporate knowledge and retention. The third and fourth amendments relate to the process by which a vacancy on Wanuskewin board can be filled. These changes will allow Wanuskewin the flexibility to fill long-term vacancies to ensure a full board complement.

Finally, the fifth amendment will update language in the Act to reflect appropriate cultural terminology and will add language to more accurately reflect Wanuskewin's mission, vision, and mandate. These amendments were developed in consultation with Wanuskewin's board of directors and senior management. With these actions, in addition to continued collaboration with Wanuskewin, I am confident we will be celebrating Saskatchewan's first world heritage site in the foreseeable future.

To conclude, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Wanuskewin Heritage Park Amendment Act, 2020*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 12 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on the

minister's comments on the second reading of Bill No. 12, *The Wanuskewin Heritage Park Amendment Act, 2020*.

She referred to some of them. And I think individuals have been consulted and talked to. It's giving more — I think from what I'm seeing, and what the minister's comments were — bringing two boards, putting them into one, making sure that they have, you know, a complete board that's sitting there; making some provisions in there for language. And that is great to see especially nowadays we're trying to see with making sure people are feeling confident with languages, with Cree, Dene. There's many different languages and sometimes that's so important that we reflect the culture and try to show that we're working together as a province to make sure individuals have access and feel comfortable when they're there.

So there's the number of different points that she referred to, the minister referred to in this bill and amendments and changes. I think it would make the board stronger, provisions in there to be flexible with authority. So, Mr. Speaker, at this point I know we're going to spend some time, going to spend some time asking questions, debating the bills on the floor, and it'll go to committee asking questions. It gives us time. It gives us time to make sure that we consult, that people are comfortable with this legislation, that it does not go against someone's view that they don't care for the legislation that's been here.

So really, Mr. Speaker, at this point as a committee . . . And my colleagues will have more questions as we consult with individuals. And seeing in this type of legislation, I think it's pretty straightforward. If someone's opposed to it, I guess we'll ask them. If we're seeing people that are not happy . . . Sounded like the minister said they consulted with the authority, and it's something that they wanted to work with.

So at this point, I don't have much more comments on it and I'll let it go to my colleagues to have more questions and eventually go to committee and consult with individuals on this legislation. So I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 12.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 13 — *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment and Repeal Act, 2020*

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

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak about *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment and Repeal Act, 2020*. The Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood, known as C.C.U.B., a sect of Doukhobors, were a group of communal farmers who immigrated from Eastern Europe in the early 1900s.

Like many prairie farmers, the C.C.U.B. limited went bankrupt after the drought and economic depression of the 1930s. The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Act, 1980, the Act,

was established to manage service funds and remain unclaimed after the assets of the C.C.U.B. limited were sold to repay debts following its bankruptcy.

The funds were held by various banks until the mid-1970s where the Government of Saskatchewan was urged by Doukhobor communities to put them into a trust fund to further Doukhobor culture and heritage in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Times have changed since this Act was established. Doukhobor communities continue to shrink in Western Canada, and the cost and efforts of administering the current Act, both for the trust fund board and for government, outweigh the annual benefits.

As a result of the Doukhobor community, the Act is to be amended in two areas. First, an amendment will allow the trust fund board to disburse the entire trust fund, total assets of just over 300,000, subject to disbursement plan approval by the minister. Having access to all the funds — the principal amount in addition to the earned interest already available — would enable the trust fund board to invest in larger legacy projects that will have a greater and lasting impact on Doukhobor culture and heritage. Once the trust fund is fully disbursed, the amendment will allow the government to finally transition out of a historic relationship that is not the core business of government and is no longer sustainable.

The second amendment I'm introducing today removes the limit on the number of terms board members can be reappointed. As it stands now, all the trust fund board member terms expire on October 30th, 2021, and the three key players will not be eligible for reappointment. Allowing the reappointment of the trust fund board members for more than two consecutive terms will ensure continuity of existing board leadership over the next few years, which will be needed to manage the wind-down of the trust fund.

The current board members have shown commendable volunteer leadership through this change process. They conducted extensive consultations with the Doukhobor communities across the three provinces to ensure there was widespread support for these amendments. The trust fund board will continue to provide progress reports and annual financial statements prepared by the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan and the administrator of the funds until all the funds are expended.

Finally, the amendment I have outlined will prepare for the Act to be repealed in due course by order of the Lieutenant Governor in council. These amendments will result in cost savings to government and will allow the Doukhobor communities to make greater impact with their investments, all while staying true to the original intent of the fund.

To conclude, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment and Repeal Act, 2020*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 13 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for her remarks on second reading of this bill, of course,

The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment and Repeal Act of 2020.

Mr. Speaker, as soon as I saw this bill . . . Obviously it's not a lengthy bill. I think the purpose of this bill is quite straightforward in two parts — the disbursement of the \$300,000 funds, and then the term extension for board members.

But the first thing that I thought of was a little trip. And I'm going to go a little bit down memory lane here, Mr. Speaker, and if you'll forgive me, I'm feeling a bit nostalgic for times when you could just get in the car and drive with your kids and maybe some friends along, and just explore this beautiful province.

So we got to do that, I want to say five years ago, but I don't trust my timelines anymore, Mr. Speaker. But we were moving from Good Spirit to head to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, someone knows where I'm going to go with this. We were going from Good Spirit to Greenwater with the kids on a summer trip, and I drove by the highway and I saw the sign at Veregin, and I ended up, you know, I thought, you know what? I'm going to stop. Too often I kick myself for not stopping at those little attractions that turn out to be rueful about later.

So we turned around, the kids, I didn't, actually I don't even think I told my husband we were stopping. We were in two cars, and the girls and I stopped, and I'm always loathe to pass a little prairie museum, Mr. Speaker. I like to stop whenever I can, and boy let me tell you, I wasn't disappointed stopping in there.

I will admit, growing up on the southern part of the prairie, I was pretty ignorant about Doukhobor culture, and even that this place existed in Saskatchewan. But what a place. And I do encourage anyone who is watching at home, or anyone in the Assembly who hasn't been there — maybe everyone has been there, maybe it was just me — but to stop there if you get the time because it really is a little piece of Saskatchewan history that maybe isn't super well known to people.

There's a beautiful, the largest building I think, is the prayer hall, a beautiful building with a veranda all the way around on two levels, and it's remarkably neat and tidy and well-kept, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of houses and there's a shop there, and a little museum. And not only is it quite beautifully kept, it has a lot of history there, including of all things, you go into a room, Mr. Speaker, and there is a little exhibit about Leo Tolstoy, who had an interesting link to this particular village.

So while I'm up telling stories, one of the strangest things that's ever happened . . . We were in the Tolstoy museum, and there was a picture of this young girl, and I posted it on Facebook. And it turns out it was a doppelgänger for my youngest daughter, which as far as I know we're not related to Leo Tolstoy. But certainly there was a resemblance to her.

Anyway, all that to say . . . I am getting back to the bill, Mr. Speaker. This is one of those instances, you know, that there's history changing. Of course there's a request to disburse these funds to the remaining Doukhobors here in Saskatchewan and Alberta and British Columbia. And I think part of that history about why that is the case exists in that museum. Of course, as the minister noted, when they suffered some terrible losses in the '30s, some of the major players in the group moved on to Alberta

and on to BC [British Columbia]. And here we are today in 2021 looking at winding down this fund and disbursing those funds.

So I do think that this is something that is fairly straightforward. I think it's a bit of a history lesson along the way. I did appreciate the minister's comments about the leadership of the board members that exist right now and the extensive consultations that took place with the community. I think that is commendable and it's always appreciated when we know who's requesting the bill, why the bill is in front of us, and maybe some of the concerns or the issues that precipitated this legislation coming before us.

I don't anticipate that there is a lot more to say on this bill. Maybe I've said more than there was to say already, Mr. Speaker, but thanks for the indulgence. And with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 13.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 14 — *The Protection From Human Trafficking Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Protection From Human Trafficking Act*. Members of this Assembly are aware, and I don't think it's subject to any debate, that human trafficking is a heinous crime that preys on the most vulnerable in our society. It involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring, and/or exercising control over the movements of a person in order to exploit that person, typically through sexual exploitation or forced labour.

[20:00]

Mr. Speaker, Statistics Canada reports the incidence of human trafficking is growing throughout Canada. While human trafficking is already an offence under the Criminal Code, we think it's important to ensure that we are using all available legal measures to combat this terrible problem. We all have a shared responsibility in changing the attitudes and cultures of sexual violence and exploitation. This legislation will provide civil remedies to assist victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, one such remedy will allow victims of human trafficking to obtain expedited protection orders against their traffickers. Protection orders may contain any conditions that the court considers necessary for the protection of the victim, which may include prohibiting the respondent from contacting the victim by any means, directly or indirectly; requiring the respondent to return property or documents to a victim; and declaring that visual recordings of the victim are unlawful. The final point conforms to recommendations by the Uniform Law Conference regarding the distribution of intimate images, which this legislature has acted on before. The expectation is that online platforms will more readily remove images where a judicial order is presented.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will also create a slate of civil consequences to enforce the terms of protection orders, which may include fines, licence suspensions, and imprisonment; includes civil search provisions to assist our partners with locating and assisting victims; and creating a statutory cause of action to allow survivors to sue their perpetrators.

At its root, human trafficking is a crime of exploitation for financial gain. These changes are intended to make it more difficult for perpetrators to profit off the suffering of other human beings. This bill has been developed following consultation with individuals and organizations working to assist victims and survivors of human trafficking, including community-based organizations, health care providers, and police.

Mr. Speaker, this is a complex problem that requires a multi-layered solution. We view this bill as just another tool to address, or in some cases even prevent human trafficking before it occurs. Human trafficking is inherently dehumanizing, exploitative, and controlling. This bill seeks to assist victims and survivors in restoring control over their own lives. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to move second reading of *The Protection From Human Trafficking Act*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 14 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to offer initial comments on behalf of the official opposition on Bill No. 14, *The Protection From Human Trafficking Act*.

Now the minister for jobs, the member for Meadow Lake, seemed disappointed at how short my comments were on *The Marriage Act*, and of course I believe in being concise and to the point. And certainly we won't throw up any roadblocks to this government when it enacts common-sense legislation like modernizing the language to our marriage Act.

This Act is a little more complicated so I'll have a bit more to say. That's usually my approach, Mr. Speaker. This is entirely new legislation. And I thank my learned friend for the comments, and those are all laudable goals that he stated. Our questions will be around whether this legislation actually substantively or successfully addresses those goals, so we will have more to say on that. We will be asking some questions in committee and of course my colleague, the Justice critic, will speak to this bill some more.

We are interested in who in fact was consulted on this bill and whether, for example, sex workers were consulted. And we are concerned at whether this makes their work safer or more dangerous. We want to look at whether this bill actually creates new prohibitions under law or whether the things that have been discussed are already prohibited under law, because in that case it won't necessarily move along some of these goals in the way that my friend has stated. And I will add that there are a number of initiatives that can be taken by this government to address the plight of human trafficking . . . Act, but it did cut funding to, for example, gang reduction strategies which have been demonstrated to address human trafficking.

So with that, we will be doing some additional consultation. I'm

excited to hear my colleague, the Justice critic, speak to this further. And of course we will be pursuing more questions in committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 14, *The Protection From Human Trafficking Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 15 — *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020*. Mr. Speaker, this legislation amends *The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* to allow victims of sexual violence to unilaterally breach a long-term lease. The Assembly will know, in 2017 the Act was amended to allow victims of interpersonal violence to unilaterally breach a long-term lease, and I'd like to thank the former attorney general and minister of Justice for bringing those legislative reforms forward, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will extend that same process to victims of sexual violence. Sexual violence between people in the same home, or in a relationship, is a form or subset of interpersonal violence, while sexual violence between strangers is not interpersonal violence as defined in the Act. To ensure that this legislation covers all necessary scenarios, we are expanding the scope of the Act to ensure sexual violence that does not qualify as interpersonal violence to be included. The amendments are consistent with recent amendments to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* that extend the interpersonal violence leave provisions to victims of sexual violence. Mr. Speaker, survivors of sexual violence are often particularly vulnerable, and it's important that we take all available steps to make them feel safe in their living arrangements.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will also contain a number of other housekeeping and administrative improvements. The service provisions are being modernized to support electronic service and to remove outdated and unused methods of service such as fax or registered mail. Several time periods and limitation periods are also being revised to increase clarity and support more timely resolution of matters.

While the time period for notice of nonpayment of rent is being shortened in these amendments, hearing officers will continue to consider all evidence that may have led to a delay in the payment of rent. As they do currently, hearing officers will exercise discretion and consider all circumstances, including any payment of rent that is made before the application is heard, before allowing an eviction application. The Office of Residential Tenancies encourages parties to communicate before starting legal action. The office works with both landlords and tenants, and is available to explain the legislation.

Additionally, this bill will revise the rules around appeals for

nonpayment of rent to require that rent be paid before an appeal is filed. This change is being made specifically to discourage the inappropriate use of the appeal process to delay an eviction. The amendments will also confirm that two application fees are non-refundable and will add one new fee for applications respecting security deposits. All fees payable under the Act, Mr. Speaker, are subject to *The Fee Waiver Act*, which allows fees to be waived for those who have shown that paying their fees would cause financial hardship.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill includes several other minor clarifications and improvements to ensure the Act is as clear and accessible as possible for tenants and landlords. Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to providing as high degree of protection as possible to victims. This bill will provide important protections to victims of sexual violence and will make several other administrative improvements to the Act. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 15 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to offer initial comments on behalf of the official opposition on Bill No. 15, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020*.

We have significant concerns with this bill, Mr. Speaker. It makes several changes to the Act which will have a negative effect on tenants. It does not appear that broad consultation was made with tenants prior to introducing this legislation. It's not clear to the opposition whether it will actually assist survivors of sexual assault either, so we will be fleshing that out in the coming weeks. And I will say, and I know that my colleague, again the Justice critic, will have much to say on this bill and is looking forward to asking additional questions on it in committee.

But one of the things that the minister failed to just mention about this bill is that it will decrease the number of days that the tenants can be evicted for nonpayment of rent. That number of days is being reduced from 14 days. So a landlord can apply to evict someone for nonpayment of rent currently 14 days after rent is due. It reduces that to seven days. Seven days only, Mr. Speaker, and we're in the middle of the third wave of a pandemic. It is just beyond me.

So this is something that we will . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, exactly. And my colleague has pointed out that there are many situations where folks who are getting assistance from the Ministry of Social Services is behind in providing people with rent, often much longer than seven days. So this is going to create significant issues. And this is not the only concern we have with this bill, Mr. Speaker, but it is an example of one of the concerns that we have.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 15, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2020*, and I look forward to speaking to this bill further in the coming days and weeks.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 16 — *The Pawned Property (Recording) Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, police services in Saskatchewan as well as our farmers and other business representatives have advised this government that metal theft is a rapidly growing concern in Saskatchewan. Metal theft is a significant public safety risk. Thieves place property owners at risk by trespassing and stealing materials such as copper wiring, industrial batteries, and can damage and interfere with critical systems like electrical lines, telecommunications cables, and transportation infrastructure. This type of theft is driven by profiteering, by those who would seek to quickly turn stolen copper wire from job sites or catalytic converters and other metals into cash.

Criminals often steal metal from property owners and critical infrastructure in isolated areas to avoid detection. As a result, Mr. Speaker, rural property owners often bear a disproportionate burden of this type of crime. Saskatchewan's critical infrastructure advisory network has conducted a review and requested legislation to seek to address this problem by targeting illegal scrap metal sales to scrap metal dealers and recyclers.

Mr. Speaker, we have no doubt that the vast majority of scrap metal transactions in this province occur in a perfectly legal manner by honest entrepreneurs. It's not these transactions that we're seeking to address. This bill will instead learn from the existing property recording legislation to use transactional transparency to allow our honest dealers to demonstrate their good business practices while deterring, if not removing, those dealers who cannot or fail to do so.

This bill extends the reporting requirements for pawn brokers, under the Act, to scrap metal dealers or recyclers. They will be required to obtain and record identification and transaction information from their clients before purchasing or otherwise receiving any scrap metal. As with pawn transactions, Mr. Speaker, that information would then be transmitted by computer to local police services to facilitate the identification of any stolen property, and those seeking to fence stolen goods.

Mr. Speaker, the Act would also introduce an age limit of not less than 18 years for scrap metal transactions, as well as a requirement that scrap metal transactions over a prescribed amount must be conducted with traceable currency other than cash.

With this legislative framework in place, we will be conducting further discussions regarding implementation with stakeholders, including municipalities, police services, and scrap metal dealers, to determine how best to roll out these requirements. Mr. Speaker, this initiative is intended to reduce rural crime and prevent environmental hazards created by melting metal, by removing the ability to easily fence stolen copper wire and other metals. And I encourage all members in the Assembly to support this very important legislation, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Pawned Property (Recording) Amendment Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 16 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

[20:15]

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in following the minister here with respect to Bill No. 16, *The Pawned Property (Recording) Amendment Act*.

Certainly it's responding to a real challenge across the province as identified by the minister. The theft and criminal activity on this front is real. The damage and the risks are significant, Mr. Speaker. And we see that this is the kind of crime that actually has been on the rise by most of the statistical indications, Mr. Speaker.

And as identified by the minister, we're talking about theft of copper wire. We're talking about the theft of catalytic converters. I understand the precious metals that are contained within those converters are worth some dollars. I think there's platinum and also palladium and rhodium in a catalytic converter.

So certainly it is important to make sure that we have measures that respond to this crime that, you know, certainly takes somebody of their possession and leaves them with damaged goods, but also can leave dangerous situations for people, not just in rural communities but in all parts of our province.

I recognize that some of the changes that have been brought forward here are establishing a bit of a registry, more of a bill of sale and identification of who the seller is, Mr. Speaker. And I believe that's requiring the purchaser, the scrap metal dealers, to be maintaining that registry.

I have recognized that there are some concerns that have been identified by those scrap metal dealers as to how this will be organized and some questions that they have. So certainly it'll be important that they're involved in the next phases of this legislation, through committee at this point in time but also into implementation, Mr. Speaker, to incorporate, where possible, some of the concerns that they've identified. But certainly this legislation responds to a real challenge within our province, Mr. Speaker.

But it goes without saying that this is the kind of crime that we really see on the rise under this government right now, Mr. Speaker. And we speak about it often in this Assembly, but it's a direct consequence of a government that really has failed to support people when it comes to addictions and mental health within this province, Mr. Speaker, that has failed to act in an effective way on gangs, Mr. Speaker.

Of course this government has actually pulled back supports to crack down on gangs, Mr. Speaker. And there's consequences for that in communities and in human lives, and by way of crime, Mr. Speaker.

And poverty itself, Mr. Speaker. We know that this is a government that has really failed to act on poverty, to improve

conditions for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, leaving them in all too often desperate situations without the addictions supports and treatment that people need, or the mental health supports that people need, Mr. Speaker, or an economy that's simply not performing for people as well.

And these things all connect, Mr. Speaker: when you don't have the supports that you need when it comes to addictions and treatment; when you don't have the supports when it comes to mental health; when you don't have the support for the coordinated anti-gang efforts that were once in place, Mr. Speaker; when you're presiding over actions that really allow poverty to flourish, Mr. Speaker; and when you create an economy, Mr. Speaker, that's all too often low-waged, outsourced, privatized, that's shutting out Saskatchewan workers from the fair opportunity that they deserve, Mr. Speaker, and bringing forward other measures that leave our economy in a stagnant situation as we see currently in Saskatchewan, with the worst jobs record right now in the country, Mr. Speaker, year over year. These are the kinds of conditions that give rise to this sort of crime.

So these look like practical measures that are being brought forward, and responding to something that should be responded to. The theft of precious metals and copper and catalytic converters is costly, and it's dangerous, Mr. Speaker, so we do need to respond to it. Whether this legislation is as effective as it can be will be sussed out at committee, and with the engagement of stakeholders, with the lead of our critic on this front, Mr. Speaker.

But without a doubt, this Sask Party government has really failed Saskatchewan people when it comes to mental health and addictions, addressing gangs within our province, Mr. Speaker, acting meaningfully on poverty, Mr. Speaker, and then building that kind of economy that extends opportunity and jobs that people can count on, Mr. Speaker. And without addressing those things, Mr. Speaker, we're not going to get a handle on the kind of crime that's identified here, the kind of damage that's occurring in rural Saskatchewan and urban Saskatchewan on this front, the kind of community safety concerns that are prevalent as a result. So it's critical and incumbent that this government finally step up on these important fronts.

At this point in time I will adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 16, *The Pawned Property (Recording) Amendment Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 17 — *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2020*. There are quite a number

of changes to this Act, Mr. Speaker, so I will touch on the most significant ones.

Mr. Speaker, vehicle theft and fraud is a growing concern in Saskatchewan. We are proposing two changes to help put an end to this practice. The first change to help combat vehicle theft and fraud is to implement several new offences that will fill a gap for situations that fall below the threshold for what law enforcement will pursue in terms of criminal charges.

These new offences will give police the ability to charge for actions that are commonly associated with auto theft, including firstly, providing a falsified, forged, or counterfeit document for the sale or registration of a motor vehicle; secondly, altering information on a bill of sale including date, signature, or vehicle particulars; altering a vehicle identification number in any manner either on the vehicle or on the proof of ownership documentation; cloning a vehicle identification number, which is taking a vehicle identification number from a similar, legally registered vehicle and placing it on a damaged or stolen vehicle to hide its identity; and finally, knowing, selling, or offering for sale a stolen motor vehicle.

The second change is to implement a standardized bill of sale for all private vehicle sales in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this will ensure motor licence issuers have all the necessary information including vehicle details, VIN [vehicle identification number] numbers, and all required signatures. This will make it more difficult to commit fraud.

The next amendment I'll touch on relates to trusted frameworks. A trusted framework provides tools, rules, and criteria to govern the electronic exchange of information between parties while ensuring the safety, privacy, and security of that information is protected. Privacy and security are top of mind these days, Mr. Speaker, as the world seems to move more and more to digital means. Trusted frameworks serve to enhance privacy and security of personal information because that information is not shared or exchanged between agencies within the framework, instead it is only verified or authenticated.

The proposed changes will allow SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] to create a new set of regulations that will allow it to enter into trusted frameworks in a digital world at the customer's request. Certain applications or requests for a particular service will need SGI's participation to confirm credentials of a customer. Trusted frameworks will also allow SGI to create a digital wallet for a customer to use as they need to validate their identification, proof of age, and driver's licence validity, in particular. It will also allow for verification of information contained in a digital driver's licence between agencies and law enforcement at a customer's request. It's important to note the proposed change only allows the use of trusted frameworks in situations where the customer provides their consent.

Mr. Speaker, another proposed change to this Act would allow vehicle owners to sue to recover impoundment costs from a driver even if that driver had the owner's permission to use the vehicle. For an example, an employer could recover the costs from an employee whose actions resulted in the impoundment.

Other proposed changes include applying the same safety

standards for vehicles operating on permits that apply to vehicles with permanent licence plates. Currently customers can purchase permits to move vehicles or commodities as part of a commercial undertaking, but in many cases permit holders are able to bypass a number of safety and insurance requirements.

There are also proposed changes to modernize and harmonize the process of disposing of abandoned vehicles for garage keepers. Currently there are a number of slightly differing sections in the Act that speak to this, which makes it difficult for garage keepers to accurately administer.

Another revision to the Act, Mr. Speaker, would bring speed offences established by municipal bylaw under the Act. This would make ticketing more efficient for police and clarifying the limitation period to sue for non-economic loss in order to align this legislation with a court ruling.

There are several proposed changes to ensure the Act reflects current practices and for housekeeping in terms of clarity, consistency, and accuracy. Mr. Speaker, those are the most notable Act changes. With that, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 17 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debate today on Bill No. 17, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act*. Miscellaneous is right. There are a whole host of comprehensive changes here to *The Traffic Safety Act* in Saskatchewan. And for folks that don't know, *The Traffic Safety Act* is over 200 pages long. I bet it's every driver's ed teacher's dream to know all of the details that are included in there.

But of course, there are a number of quite significant provisions in there that impact daily life for people across the province. It's interesting to hear which portions the minister singled out as most significant because of course there are a whole host of changes here that are described in the explanatory notes, which are always useful to review when you're looking at an existing piece of legislation and want to get a sense of what the rationale is for some of those changes. There are a number of changes being suggested here. Many of them are related to definitions. The minister referred to the fact that some of these pieces are related to updating existing practice.

Some of these changes include authorizing the administrator to suspend, cancel, or refuse to issue a driver's licence where the holder of the driver's licence suffers from a medical condition that affects the safe operation of a vehicle. It requires the holder of a driver's licence to self-report a medical condition to the administrator. It requires the use of a standardized bill of sale for the purpose of selling a vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer.

It's interesting that the minister highlighted some of the provisions around vehicle theft and fraud. And I'm interested to hear what the standardized bill of sale looks like because I know that on every registration that is issued there is a bill of sale sort of tearaway that you use. And I hope I haven't been doing it

wrong every time I've sold a vehicle, Mr. Speaker. But you know, to me that was standardized bill of sale that we just filled out the piece on the registration and handed it over for them to go get the insurance. So I'm interested to see if that process looks different or if it's going to be expanded. I would assume there's probably an expansion of that process there.

It is certainly a huge concern, vehicle theft and fraud. You know, hearing the minister talking about altering VINs and everything that criminals will do to disguise the theft of a vehicle are quite concerning. I think that certainly we want to make sure that folks are able to get their vehicles back if they are in this unfortunate situation and that we are able to catch these folks.

I would just be curious about what's happening in other jurisdictions and whether this legislation is comparable to other jurisdictions, and how far it goes in terms of what's in the Act versus what's in regulations on this front as well, and who was consulted in this process.

[20:30]

It also requires motorcycle drivers who obtain a registration permit to carry that permit on their person or on the motorcycle, which certainly seems to make sense. It removes the requirement for charter buses to display a sign bearing the word "charter." I'm interested about the rationale for that change as well, Mr. Speaker.

It modernizes and harmonizes the processes and procedures applicable to garage keepers who store and dispose of impounded motor vehicles and procedures applicable to garage keepers who store and dispose of impounded motor vehicles. It clarifies the time period within which a court action under *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* for pain and suffering and bereavement damages must be brought.

It clarifies that the authority and process for issuing and prosecuting red light camera tickets applies to images captured by both photograph and video, and I'm thinking this is probably the provision that the minister was talking about in terms of making ticketing more efficient. I know that any time you bring up ticketing and cameras, folks across the province have a lot to say about this.

So I'll be interested to see how these changes play out in the court of public opinion and why the changes were made as well, because there are certainly a lot of comments out there about how to, you know — I've certainly never done anything like this but — how to avoid tickets and when the cameras are turned on and when they're turned off. And it is something that there is a lot of public debate around, and I know that this city has not been exempt from that either. It clarifies that speed-monitoring devices may be operated. I am also curious about the fact that it seems like this would have already been the case, so I don't know if this is a new provision or if it's just there's some clarification here.

And then I also wanted to talk about this concept of a trusted framework. So there is all of these different definitions that this amendment Act brings forward: data linking, data linking activity, data set, and it just goes on and on. And it was interesting to hear the minister explain some of this in talking about the

electronic exchange of information because we do know that we live in an information age and we have a responsibility to protect that data. And I wonder what the digital wallet is going to look like. I think that it certainly sounds like something that will streamline things for folks, but of course there are all of these concerns.

And I think 20 years from now, something that many people are going to ask me is, why weren't you more concerned about data security? Because we've gotten so used to putting our information on the internet. And I remember when we first started doing things like electronic banking, my dad was very concerned about getting banking on his phone, even though I think he was one of the first users of electronic banking on his PC [personal computer]. But it does raise all of these questions about trust, and I certainly hope that extensive research has been done into what this framework is going to look like and that it will end up being a very positive thing.

But I think those are the main components that I wanted to highlight here, Mr. Speaker. These are some comprehensive changes to traffic safety in Saskatchewan, and we're largely . . . We're supportive of measures that keep people safe on the road. So we want to make sure that these amendments are fair, that they benefit Saskatchewan people, particularly all the rules around changing disposing impounded vehicles and the electronic definitions regarding personal information.

But that will conclude my remarks for this evening, Mr. Speaker, and with that I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 17.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 18 — *The All Terrain Vehicles Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Crown Investments Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll endeavour to get better control over timing in the future so that I give the Speaker adequate time to recognize me. So with that, I thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of *The All Terrain Vehicles Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, the proposed changes to the Act are mainly housekeeping in nature. The main change relates to removing the Highway Traffic Board's oversight. There are several proposed amendments that relate to this.

The Highway Traffic Board, or HTB, authority in the Act dates back to a time when they played an active role in the issuance of drivers' licences and vehicle registrations. This is no longer the case, Mr. Speaker. The HTB has not held this role for several years. The HTB has since taken on authority as an appeal body and has not been involved in the day-to-day administration of the legislation.

However, currently under the Act it lists the HTB as being

responsible for approving ATV [all-terrain vehicle] safety courses, approving the operation of an ATV on a provincial highway, and prohibiting the operation on any provincial highway, among others. In fact there are actions that are already being done by SGI in practice. The proposed changes formalize the transition of these provisions from HTB to SGI. The one exception to this is that the authority to release an impounded ATV will remain with the Highway Traffic Board.

Mr. Speaker, another housekeeping change relates to ATV operators over age 15. The way the Act is currently written, a driver's licence is required to operate an ATV once the ATV rider turns 16, which was not the intent. The proposed change clarifies that individuals over age 15 can still operate an all-terrain vehicle without requiring a driver's licence, provided that they have successfully completed an ATV driver training course or that they are supervised or accompanied by someone who has either held a licence for at least one year or completed a training course.

Another change to the Act, Mr. Speaker, is to update the definition of an all-terrain vehicle. The current definition is out of date because it does not include an ATV with tracks. The proposed change will expand the definition to include both machines with and without tracks.

With that Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The All Terrain Vehicles Amendment Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 18 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 18, *The All Terrain Vehicles Amendment Act* here closely following the minister. I don't have a ton of comments here but I want to identify a few things. I'm just looking at my notes here because I noted the age 12 and the minister was talking about age 15 so now I'm feeling like . . . Oh, it does say on the existing provision age 12. Okay, we'll try and figure out what happened there.

So this bill amends the definition of all-terrain vehicle to include vehicles that were originally built with wheels and those that are modified to have tracks, as the minister identified. It certainly makes sense to include that modification.

In clause 4 it clarifies provisions that allow those over 12 years old to operate an all-terrain vehicle when accompanied by a licensed adult or after taking a safety course. And remaining clauses in the bill substitute SGI for the Highway Traffic Board in the oversight of various administrative functions, which does appear to be a housekeeping change as the minister identified in that the Highway Traffic Board is no longer in that role. So it's a formalization of that transition.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan people enjoy riding ATVs. We want to make sure there is a framework that ensures that people are safe, including our children. I know that our SGI critic is going to have more detailed questions to ask the minister when the bill does go to committee. And I know that many of my colleagues are going to have comments on this bill as well as we have more time to dig through.

And with that I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 18, *The All Terrain Vehicles Amendment Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 19 — *The Human Resources Profession Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investment Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to move second reading of Bill 19, *The Human Resources Profession Act*.

In Saskatchewan the people have elected our party to move forward on a mandate of strengthening and growing our economy, and to do this we need to ensure that we are giving our human resources professionals every advantage in today's competitive market. This Act will recognize the Chartered Professionals in Human Resources Saskatchewan as a self-regulating body for human resources professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I've said before that working together with stakeholders helps us to develop legislation that truly addresses the needs of individuals and groups, and this Act comes as a result of discussions with the Chartered Professionals in Human Resources Saskatchewan. Today I am pleased to say that our government is putting forward legislation that will allow this group of professionals the right to self-regulate.

The Act establishes two levels of regulation: firstly, registration for members; and secondly, certification for those who wish to pursue the Chartered Professional and Human Resources, CPHR, designation.

To be clear, this legislation does not provide for licensure. As a result, there will be no barrier to entering the profession or for interprovincial labour mobility. What it does, however, provide is the ability to protect public interest by ensuring professional competence and ethical conduct of human resources professionals. Our human resources professionals already hold themselves to a high standard but now with the ability to self-regulate, they'll be able to truly hold their members accountable for their actions. The importance of achieving self-regulation status legitimizes the human resource profession in ways that they have not had before. It also gives the profession greater control and influence in matters that impact its members.

Additionally, it enhances the status and recognizes the skills and expertise of individual members of the profession. The move to self-regulation will only work to improve the level of service that employers, workers, and their families can expect when dealing with a human resource professional.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, my privilege to move second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 19 be now read

a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was getting some cheap shots about my receding hair from the member from Cumberland and was distracted there, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into discussion here tonight, debate here tonight, with respect to Bill No. 19, albeit briefly, for *The Human Resources Profession Act*.

Certainly I would want to identify just how important human resource professionals are to organizations all across Saskatchewan, organizations and business across Saskatchewan to the Government of Saskatchewan, to public service, Mr. Speaker. They're critical in any organization.

And I listened a bit to the minister's remarks here tonight and I read a bit of the legislation. Certainly it's important to legitimize these professionals and the work that they take on. It's important that this government gets this legislation right as they build this self-governing body. There's many questions on that front exactly to the origins of this piece of legislation, as well as if it's been modelled off of any other jurisdiction or any other professional association. Certainly there's always technical questions on these fronts around oversight and around disciplinary processes, Mr. Speaker. It'll be important to determine as well, who is able to be a member of this professional association, Mr. Speaker.

[20:45]

So there's a lot of questions that I know will be taken forward in committee. I know we're inviting at this point in time, as we always do at this point in legislation, all stakeholders. So anyone involved in something that's impacted by this legislation, certainly by human resource professionals, feel free to reach out. Actually please reach out directly, of course to government, with any ways to improve this legislation, or if there's specific gaps or challenges with this legislation. But please do so to us as the official opposition and to our critic who will be engaged in that questioning process.

It's important that we get legislation like this right and that has to be done in a consultative way, Mr. Speaker. When all too often we see legislation brought about by the Sask Party that they ram forward and that they simply don't dig in and do the kind of listening and consultation that's required. And that creates a whole set of problems in many cases, Mr. Speaker, and unintended consequences. We have an opportunity right now to do something good to bolster and support the human resource professionals in our province. Let's take that opportunity to get this legislation right.

If there's opportunities to improve this legislation, let's do that as well. But certainly, a professional body is important to ensure the public's interest and the integrity of that profession and its members. And certainly human resource professionals are a part of very important work all across Saskatchewan, and I'd like to thank anyone that's involved in that work. At this point in time, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 19, *The Human Resources Profession Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it

the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 21 — *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2020*. Mr. Speaker, *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, or SCAN, deals with residential and commercial buildings and lands that are sources of chronic community problems, such as drug use, trafficking, gang activity, prostitution, or child sex abuse.

Under the Act, the director of SCAN investigates complaints received from the public regarding activities occurring at a particular property. The Act provides for the resolution of complaints by agreement or informal action or, in the alternative, a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench may make a community safety order. An order may direct individuals to vacate a property, terminate a lease agreement, close the property for up to 90 days, or allow other necessary provisions.

Mr. Speaker, the Act was originally passed in 2004 and has not undergone a significant review since that time. The proposed amendments will implement a number of updates and enhancements to the Act including: clarifying the director's authority to appoint investigators, and more clearly defining the powers and duties of investigators; allowing police, government agencies, landlords, and other persons who are not residents of a community or neighbourhood to submit a complaint about a residence in that neighbourhood; and clarifying the actions of the director can make after receiving a complaint, including representing landlords at the Office of Residential Tenancies and clarifying the director's authority to notify the director of child and family services in instances where the health or safety of children are at risk.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments will ensure that the SCAN program continues to provide an effective means to address criminal activity in our neighbourhoods and help ensure the safety of the residents. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 21 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to offer initial comments on behalf of the official opposition on Bill No. 21, *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2020*. Now this bill makes several changes to the Act. As the minister points out, there are broad powers contained in this Act, including, you know, the power to terminate a lease or close a property. And this bill takes steps to broaden those powers further — shortens the notice period, makes it possible for one of

these complaints to be made by someone outside of the community — and our concern as the official opposition is to ensure that there is a balance struck here. And of course, we want to ensure that the rights of tenants are also considered, Mr. Speaker.

The minister did make mention of some of the chronic issues that this bill attempts to address. And what I would note is this opposition is in favour of addressing some of those root causes — those being poverty, addiction and access to housing.

And I want to just read from an email that I got just two days ago, Mr. Speaker, because as critic for the Ministry of Social Services and human rights, I do hear from a lot of folks struggling on the ground. And I thought that this email was particularly apt. And I'm just going to read a short portion of the email.

This is someone who's receiving social assistance and is excluded from receiving the Sask Housing benefit that was much touted by this government but is now not available to anyone receiving assistance. This person, who I won't name, writes:

I find it very sad because many people on assistance would rather be working and providing for themselves. Reducing the benefits for many means that people will get into activities that are not above board as a means to survive.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, and it is far past time that we start addressing some of these root causes.

And I know, for example, that here in Regina our rates of criminal activity went way down recently. And I know that many have attributed that to the CERB [Canada emergency response benefit] payments, Mr. Speaker, indicating that when people have access to resources, crime rates go way down.

So with that, I will wrap up my comments. I know that my colleague, the Justice critic, has been looking at this legislation and has more to say on it. I know she's been consulting with stakeholders and we will have questions for the minister in committee, of course. And with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 21, *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 22 — *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2020*. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends *The Credit Union Act, 1998* to support electronic meetings and electronic voting by the members, directors, and shareholders of credit unions.

As members of this Assembly are aware, Saskatchewan has a strong credit union system — something that we're very proud

of in this province. Credit unions provide vital financial services to the people of Saskatchewan.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, credit unions, like many other organizations, had to consider electronic methods to conduct their business. Mr. Speaker, the current requirements in the Act respecting in-person meetings and in-person voting methods are all being revised to support electronic meetings and electronic voting methods. These amendments will significantly modernize voting processes and promote safe business practices for credit unions, both during and beyond the pandemic period.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation also confirms that if a credit union leaves Saskatchewan, that credit union will not have any claim to the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Fund. All Saskatchewan credit unions pay into the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Fund, as members of this Assembly know. If a credit union ceases to be a Saskatchewan credit union and continues as a federal credit union, the deposits of that credit union will no longer be insured by the Saskatchewan deposit guarantee fund. Mr. Speaker, this bill expressly confirms that any credit union that leaves Saskatchewan does not have the ability to make a claim on that fund.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 22 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 22, *The Credit Union Amendment Act*.

I appreciated the minister's second reading remarks here. The bill allows for electronic meetings for credit union business. It's 2021 and we are also in the age of COVID. So we have all been learning how to adapt to a different way of life and, you know, part of that is modernizing so that these organizations can conduct themselves electronically. And part of me really thinks of the moment that we're in right now as well in terms of COVID-19 and just how I think we have learned how to do so many things electronically that we never imagined that we would do, including socializing with friends and family. I know Zoom or whatever platform you want to use isn't everyone's favourite activity, but sometimes it feels like it's the only way to connect with folks.

So increasingly we know organizations are running things like AGMs [annual general meeting] electronically. Making sure that there is a way for those meetings to happen electronically certainly seems prudent. And when you think about the fact that membership is . . . In so many of these organizations it used to be that your membership was really tied to your ability to show up and participate. I think allowing for different levels of participation from members could certainly lead to a number of benefits. So these appear to be largely modernization and housekeeping-type rules and changes that are being proposed here.

I think that the main question that I have in looking at this, Mr. Speaker, is in talking about what the minister spent a little bit of

time on, if credit unions move. And so I think there's a lot of questions about what happens to . . . So the bill confirms that the assessments to the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation, CUDGC are property of CUDGC and no credit union has any claim on the fund.

I think we would certainly want to clarify the control of this deposit guarantee fund and see if there are unintended consequences, or what the rationale is for this change. I don't know how often these types of moves happen, or if it's about consolidation, so I think those are definitely some questions around how these changes came about and why they're necessary. And of course whether credit unions have been consulted in this process, whether they're bringing forward these changes, I think remains unclear to me at this time, Mr. Speaker.

So I know that many of my colleagues will also enter into debate on this legislation, and the critic will have questions for everyone at committee. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill 22, *The Credit Union Amendment Act* for today.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 23 — *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2020*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Justice Minister.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll now move second reading of *The Emergency Planning Act, 2020*.

Mr. Speaker, 2020 has been an unprecedented year. I think that's an understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a worldwide state of emergency and continues to present many challenges to the people of this great province. While there is significant progress being made with the rollout of vaccines, the government knows that plenty of work lies ahead to protect the health, safety, and economic well-being of the province.

Mr. Speaker, the long-term and large-scale nature of this pandemic has made it clear that the current emergency planning Act was not initially designed to address an emergency of this magnitude. As a result, the government has determined it is necessary to update the Act. Proposed amendments are categorized into two groups.

[21:00]

The first portion of the bill will update the general provisions of the Act and applies to the current pandemic as well as future emergencies. Mr. Speaker, these changes will increase the maximum fines for persons who are guilty of an offence under the Act. The current penalty limits have remained in place since the Act was originally passed and are clearly outdated. The proposed changes will closer align the Act's fine limits with those under *The Public Health Act, 1994*.

Mr. Speaker, while it's anticipated that the police will continue to issue tickets for most minor infractions under the Act, it's important to ensure that significant fines can be put into place to act as a deterrent and to penalize those who carry out more serious offences.

Mr. Speaker, other changes to the Act's general provisions include updating the minister's powers during an emergency period to provide and coordinate essential law enforcement services and collect, use, or disclose necessary information to address that emergency; allowing a minister's order to remain in force for 30 days after the conclusion of an emergency period to address transitional issues; clarifying the enforcement powers of the police; and clarifying the interaction between provincial emergency declarations and local emergency declarations.

Mr. Speaker, the second portion of this bill deals specifically with the COVID-19 pandemic and is based on recent changes passed in both Ontario and British Columbia. In particular, Mr. Speaker, these provisions will provide protection to individuals and corporate bodies with respect to litigation based on COVID-19 transmission. There has been good-faith compliance with emergency orders and other applicable laws.

Mr. Speaker, this pandemic has created challenges for the entire population, but the people of Saskatchewan continue to be resilient. Individuals, organizations, and businesses such as grocery stores, medical offices, non-profit groups, restaurants, hotels, delivery services, and retail stores are making tremendous efforts to provide necessary goods and services while complying with public health rules and requirements. This bill, Mr. Speaker, will honour those efforts.

Persons that have not complied with applicable health laws or have acted in a grossly negligent manner do not receive protection from liability under these provisions. The bill also provides liability protections for the Crown and its agents against COVID-related litigation. The significant efforts made by the public service in response to the pandemic should not result in litigation at the expense of the general public. The government also recognizes, Mr. Speaker, that it is important to maintain protection for workers, ensure that workers' rights are not impacted by the proposed changes. That is why these changes provide that workplace injury and compensation matters are not impacted by the protection from liability provisions.

Mr. Speaker, as COVID-19 continues to create challenges, the government is committed to taking every appropriate action that is necessary to protect the people of Saskatchewan, and this bill, Mr. Speaker, demonstrates that commitment. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to move second reading of *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2020*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 23 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to offer initial comments on behalf of the official opposition on Bill No. 23, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2020*. Rousing words and tough talk from the Minister of Justice, but one would expect those words and then, more importantly, some action on this at the beginning of the pandemic, not when we're well into

the third wave. It's a bit perplexing. We were sitting in this place not three months ago in December and there was no attempt on the part of this government to work with the opposition to have this bill passed speedily.

And apart from that, my colleague the Minister of Justice is accurate in everything he says about this bill. It strengthens enforcement — more teeth, higher penalties, longer sentences. All important things but the opposition is wondering why the government didn't take swifter action and one wonders if the feet-dragging could be explained by pandering to its anti-mask portion of its lobby and of course its tenuous truce with individuals who vote for the Buffalo Party. These are some of our working theories, Mr. Speaker, but we do intend to flesh this out in more detail in the coming weeks and at committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has . . . You didn't move it.

Ms. Conway: — I move to adjourn debate on Bill . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Sorry. I can? Okay.

The Speaker: — Go ahead.

Ms. Conway: — Sorry, Mr. Speaker, rookie MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] still. This is my first time. Bill No. 23, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act*, I move to adjourn debate on that bill, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: — There is a motion in front here. The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The business of the government being at a conclusion for this evening, I would move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn the House. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The House is adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 21:07.]

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Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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