



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 29th Legislature

Lieutenant Governor — His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M.

Speaker — Hon. Randy Weekes
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

| | |
|---|---|
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| Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP) | Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP) |
| Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP) | McLeod, Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP) |
| Bradshaw, Hon. Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP) | McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP) |
| Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP) | Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP) |
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| Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP) | Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP) |
| Cockrill, Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP) | Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP) |
| Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP) | Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP) |
| Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP) | Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP) |
| Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP) | Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP) |
| Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP) | Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP) |
| Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP) | Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP) |
| Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP) | Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP) |
| Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP) | Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP) |
| Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP) | Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP) |
| Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP) | Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP) |
| Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP) | Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP) |
| Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP) | Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP) |
| Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP) | Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP) |
| Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP) | Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP) |
| Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP) | Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP) |
| Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP) | Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP) |
| Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP) | Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP) |
| Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP) | Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.) |
| Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP) | Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP) |
| Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP) | Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP) |
| Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP) | Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP) |
| Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP) | Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP) |
| Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP) | |
| Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP) | Vacant — Athabasca |

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 47; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Independent (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 1

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Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

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CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Wotherspoon | 1111, 1113 |
| Young, C. | 1111 |
| Young, A. | 1111, 1112 |
| Harrison, J. | 1112 |
| Merriman | 1112 |
| Mowat | 1112 |
| Ottenbreit | 1113 |
| Nippi-Albright | 1113 |
| Goudy | 1113 |
| Meyers | 1113, 1114 |
| McLeod | 1113 |
| Beck | 1114 |

PRESENTING PETITIONS

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Mowat | 1114 |
| Bowes | 1114 |
| Conway | 1115 |
| Nippi-Albright | 1115 |
| Ritchie | 1115 |

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

| | |
|---|------|
| Field of Dreams Project Helps Protect Prairie Grasslands | |
| Wotherspoon | 1116 |
| Applications Being Accepted for Community, Culture, and Recreation Projects | |
| Stewart | 1116 |
| Witchekan Lake First Nation Stands Up for Treaty Land Entitlement | |
| Nippi-Albright | 1116 |
| Crime Reduction Teams Helping to Address Rural Crime | |
| Young, C. | 1116 |
| Student Wellness Centre Opens at the University of Regina | |
| Meyers | 1117 |
| Senegal and Saskatchewan Sign Memorandum of Understanding on International Education | |
| Goudy | 1117 |
| Two New Oil and Gas Processing Projects Approved | |
| Harrison, D. | 1117 |

QUESTION PERIOD

| | |
|---|------|
| Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic | |
| Sarauer | 1118 |
| Merriman | 1118 |
| Management of Provincial Economy | |
| Young, A. | 1120 |
| Harrison, J. | 1120 |
| Government-Indigenous Relations | |
| Nippi-Albright | 1121 |
| McMorris | 1121 |

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

| | |
|--|------|
| Bill No. 45 — <i>The Health Shared Services Saskatchewan (3sHealth) Act</i> | |
| Merriman | 1122 |
| Bill No. 46 — <i>The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021</i> | |
| Wyant | 1122 |
| Bill No. 47 — <i>The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021</i> | |
| Bradshaw | 1122 |

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

| | |
|--|------|
| Standing Committee on Public Accounts | |
| Wotherspoon | 1123 |

MOTIONS

| | |
|--|------|
| Appointment of Provincial Auditor | |
| Wotherspoon | 1123 |

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SECOND READINGS

| | |
|---|------|
| Bill No. 43 — <i>The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021</i> | |
| Ross, L. | 1124 |
| Sarauer | 1125 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Bill No. 44 — <i>The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021</i> | |
| Harpauer | 1125 |
| Sarauer | 1125 |
| ADJOURNED DEBATES | |
| SECOND READINGS | |
| Bill No. 38 — <i>The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2021</i> | |
| Vermette | 1126 |
| Bill No. 39 — <i>The Queen’s Printer’s Amendment Act, 2021</i> | |
| Vermette | 1126 |
| Bill No. 40 — <i>The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021</i> | |
| Ritchie | 1127 |
| Bill No. 41 — <i>The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur la législation</i> | |
| Beck | 1130 |
| Bill No. 42 — <i>The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)</i> | |
| Beck | 1131 |

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

Clerk: — I wish to advise the Assembly that Mr. Speaker is not here to open today's sitting.

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Deputy Speaker: — Where are you from? I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Proceed.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, it's my honour as the Chair of the Public Accounts to introduce very special guests seated in your gallery here today. I'd like to welcome the leadership of the Provincial Auditor's Office here today.

These guests include Ms. Tara Clemett, who's the Acting Provincial Auditor. She's joined by her husband, Mr. Chris Clemett; as well as Angèle Borys, the deputy provincial auditor and chief operating officer; as well as Ms. April Serink, communications specialist; and Ms. Maygen Ring, executive assistant. I believe our Provincial Comptroller and expert lake trout fisher, Terry Paton, is supposed to also be here. I don't see him right now, but a shout-out to him as well.

These special guests have joined us here today for proceedings as the Public Accounts Committee will present its report to this Assembly and its recommendation as it relates to the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan. I ask all members of this Assembly to give these folks a very warm welcome.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While still on my feet and respecting that I have leave for an extended introduction, it's really special for me to introduce some amazing guests, some real special guests to their Assembly here today, folks that have made an incredible difference in the life of so many in the province. We have some of those folks seated in your gallery, and we have some seated behind the bar on the floor here today.

Seated in your gallery, it's my honour to welcome an amazing, strong family, Mr. Speaker, the McDougalls. We have Chris and Twyla McDougall that are here today. They're here with their three children, here with Allegra, Soleil, and Emmanuella, also known as . . . or known to many as Ella. Maybe you can give us a wave.

Ella is a remarkably strong and inspiring young girl. She was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at 23 days — 23 days into her life

— and her journey has been one of perseverance. And this young woman is a remarkable person, and she's been an incredible CF [cystic fibrosis] warrior and advocate for so many others, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to take a moment to recognize some folks that are seated on the floor of this Assembly behind the bar. I'd like to introduce Frank and Barbara Leier of Regina — they're formerly of Francis and they farm, a grain-farming family out there as well as an electrical contractor — as well as Lorna McEwan of Tisdale. Lorna is the oldest current patient living with CF that was diagnosed at birth, Mr. Speaker, and she too is a real CF warrior, an incredible life story. And these are amazing advocates for so many in our province.

Frank has been an advocate his entire life. Frank and Barbara Leier in fact lost two of their sons to CF, Mr. Speaker. Lorna is, as I say, living and I know they're so proud of her. Frank was the pioneer and the first president of the chapter here in Saskatchewan. He was also the national chair.

Together these folks, the McDougalls, Lorna McEwan, and the Leiers have been incredible, tireless advocates along with so many others in Saskatchewan working hard to have Trikafta funded. We're here today to say thanks to them and to celebrate their victory. They're here today as well to see their petitions presented — over 1,000 signatures, Mr. Speaker, that'll be presented here today.

These are incredible leaders. It's wonderful news that Trikafta funding has been secured. And we say thanks to these members, these leaders in our community. I ask all members of this Assembly to offer our thanks and to celebrate their victory on this front.

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

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the government to welcome our interim acting auditor, Ms. Clemett, along with her husband and her lead staff from the provincial government's auditor's office. I hope that they will enjoy today's proceedings, and I look forward to a more detailed introduction later on this afternoon. So help me welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd like to request extended leave for introductions.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Proceed.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd like to begin today by welcoming to their legislature the remarkable team from Access Communications. We're joined here today by

Patrick Kelly, Carmela Haines, and Jim Deane, with whom our caucus had the privilege of meeting with earlier today.

Access Communications is a beloved and important local co-operative here in the province which does such good work certainly in regards to fundraising, outreach, community building, and engagement, and perhaps most importantly of all, working to keep Saskatchewan connected and pushing ever forward into the 21st century. So welcome to your legislature, and I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would also like to take one hot minute to introduce a number of remarkable people who have joined us in the Speaker's gallery. I have a list that I'm hesitant to read lest I miss somebody, but I want to start off by welcoming the University of Regina NDP [New Democratic Party] campus club. These young people have joined us here today to watch democracy unfold in this, their legislature.

With us we've got Josh, Style, Melissa, Isabelle, Andrea, Gurjinder, Matt, Marissa, Zhiang, Amir, Emmanuel, Rae Anne, Mason, Lesley, and Katarina, and as well Ms. Hannah Tait who's also serving as U of R [University of Regina] president for this term. And hopefully I did not miss anyone there. My apologies if I did. We're so pleased to have you here with us and we promise to behave ourselves.

And lastly, I would be remiss if I did not recognize an incredibly special person sitting in that gallery, the great Sally Housser, who may be known to many in this Assembly, our former acting chief of staff, woman of many accomplishments, many hats. Sally, I admire you. You still terrify me, and I am so pleased to be able to be the one on my feet to welcome you back to your legislature and cannot wait to see what mischief and good work you will do here in the province as we move forward. So welcome and thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the House Leader, please.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly two guests sitting in your gallery. With us today are Annie Dormuth and Brianna Solberg, who are representatives from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business or CFIB.

Annie is currently the CFIB's provincial affairs director for BC [British Columbia], Alberta, and Saskatchewan, and she's certainly no stranger to this building, Mr. Speaker. Brianna is a new policy analyst with CFIB, and I understand that this is her first visit to the Saskatchewan legislature, so welcome to you, Brianna.

CFIB has 4,300 members here in Saskatchewan, and they are strong advocates for small business in our province. Earlier today the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation and I had the chance to meet with Annie and Brianna to talk about what they've been hearing from their members and about how we can work together to ensure our province continues to be a great place to start and operate a small business.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members to welcome Annie and Brianna to the Assembly. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize again the member from Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you and to all members, I'd like to join in with the minister in welcoming our representatives from the CFIB to this, your legislature. Annie and Brianna and representatives, welcome. It's great to hear that the minister has been meeting with and hearing concerns from the small business community here in Saskatchewan, and I look forward to having some good chats with you. And on behalf of all members, we do welcome you here to this, your legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce a few members that have joined us in your gallery here from the Lung Association, and I'd just give them to give us a wave here. We have Jennifer May, Bethany Dick, Tod Boss, Pam Warkentin, and Kerri Tucker. Mr. Speaker, they were in talking to myself about radon and the impact of radon that it has on our community. Unfortunately Western Canada, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan have a very high radon count, so I'm going to be working with them, Mr. Speaker, to help improve awareness of this and continue the great work that they're doing at the Lung Association. So I'd like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also welcome the McDougall family, the Leier family, and Lorna McEwan to your Assembly as well, Mr. Speaker. Obviously this government moved very quickly on Trikafta and was able to get this approved. I was just contacted the other day, Mr. Speaker, by Cassidy and Kim Evans, who this Assembly might know as Cassidy's Lemonade Stand that sent me a great picture of Cassidy holding up her box of Trikafta and finally got that medication that's life-saving medication. So I'd like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to join in with the minister and the member for Regina Rosemont in welcoming our cystic fibrosis families here today. We had a chance to visit before we came into the Assembly, and I hope I can do them proud presenting the petition they've worked so hard on here later on today.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming the Take Action on Radon Saskatchewan Coalition: Jennifer, Bethany, Tod, Kerri, Pam, and Betty. We know that high levels of radon can accumulate in confined spaces such as our homes, Mr. Speaker, and can increase the risk of developing lung cancer. So I want to thank these folks for the work that they are doing, and I look forward to meeting them after we conclude with question period here today. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these folks to their Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

[13:45]

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with members opposite and other members in the Assembly to recognize and introduce the members and the representatives of Access Communications in your gallery here today, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Firstly, Jim Deane, CEO [chief executive officer] — just give us a wave, Jim — Wade Peterson, construction design and maintenance manager; Darcy Porter, sales manager; Heidi Pearson, Leslie Ciz, Pat Kelly; Lorna Knudson, Carmela Haines, Fran Moran, Tracey Mucha. And of course with them is Joel Peterson and Hayley Cattell, a couple of people that are no strangers to anybody in this Assembly.

But, Mr. Speaker, last but certainly not least is Arlie Matisho, commercial relationship manager with Access Communications. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Arlie's a good old Yorkton boy. We go back a long ways, his family and mine; he was a little boy when I first met him. His dad has been a pretty good friend over the years.

But his grandfather, Ray Matisho, was a stalwart — he's passed away a few years ago now — in Yorkton and the business community, the volunteer community, the church community, Mr. Speaker, whether through the Knights of Columbus, St Mary's Church, or through any of the organizations involved with the local hockey clubs, or through his business, Mr. Speaker. I was telling Arlie earlier that his grandpa was probably instrumental in keeping my dad's company afloat in the early '70s through his fuel business, and just the consideration that he would have for not only my dad, but so many businesses and farmers in the area.

So just such a pleasure to have Arlie here today, Mr. Speaker. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming them and look forward to their reception later on this evening.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Deputy Speaker. I ask leave to make an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Proceed.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — To you and through you and all members, I would like to welcome my guests, representatives and leaders from James Smith First Nation, the treaty land alliance, the ANTA, that's the Anishinabek Nation Treaty Authority. And I would also like to send a special recognition and welcome to my constituent, highly recognized ceremonialist in this province as well as nationally, my big brother, Peter Nippi. Welcome to your legislature.

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

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I also would be excited to introduce friends of ours from James Smith Cree

Nation and to welcome you here. You have a good sister here, and we appreciate you coming today. And I would welcome all of the members of this House to join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

And I would also take a moment, the lady who is sitting here, Lorna McEwan, I could have introduced her a year ago, and she might have been the old Lorna, and today she's the new Lorna. I walked in and when I saw her sitting there I . . . Do I know you? And she said, yeah, I'm Lorna McEwan from Tisdale, then the member from Carrot River . . . [inaudible] . . . But just the bright eyes. So she said, I've been on Trikafta for how long now? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . 13 days. So certainly welcome to your Legislative Assembly. We're very excited for you. And together I'd ask if we would welcome these ones to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Mr. Thomas Siarkos and Mr. Nik Selimos. They are the owners and operators of Memories Fine Dining right here in Regina.

As we know, COVID's been tough on all industries, including the restaurant industry, but those pair of gentlemen up there persevered. They've kept about 25 people on staff going throughout this pandemic. They did make the shift to do some new things. They did some takeout, you know, when Regina was going through a tough time back in May, and they've continued to persevere through the help of this government as well with programs like the SSBEP [Saskatchewan small business emergency payment]. And they're very thankful for that.

Recently Memories was recognized on TripAdvisor's top 10 fine dining restaurants in Canada. So I just wanted to say congratulations to them, and I look forward to the new patio that's coming to Memories next summer as well. So just another fine business doing well here in the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you so much for coming, gentlemen.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to join with the member from Walsh Acres to welcome Thomas and Nik to their Assembly. Certainly these are legendary restaurateurs, Mr. Speaker. These are very fine people within the community. We thank them for their role as entrepreneurs and as restaurateurs and for their service and work within our community. I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Thomas and Nik.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw.

Mr. McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, it is my pleasure to welcome to this Legislative Assembly in the west gallery Hunter Guse and his mother, Taryn. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Hunter is a grade 7 student at Lindale School in Moose Jaw. And as I said, he's here with his mother, Taryn, who's allowing him to substitute an afternoon in this

Chamber in place of an afternoon in school.

Hunter's dad, Lee, works for the government caucus office. It says here, he's a charming and capable individual who has ever walked the halls of this building. Clearly he was also responsible for writing this introduction, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But more about young Hunter. Hunter is currently working on a school project that involves the creation of his own political party. He has a keen interest in politics and political history. Mr. Deputy Speaker, with that level of interest and determination, perhaps young Hunter will one day occupy one of the seats in this Chamber. When he does, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that will make him the tallest Mr. Guse to work in this place.

I ask my fellow members to join me in welcoming Hunter Guse and his mother, Taryn, to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And just let me say how exciting it is, after months of not being able to invite guests into the galleries, to see all of these folks here with us today.

I am prepared to introduce one particular guest, Mr. Speaker, but as I look up in the gallery I see so many faces from Regina Lakeview. And I just want to quickly welcome a number of them, and if I miss anyone I'm deeply sorry. I see Style Stenberg, Trevor Herriot, Katherine Arbuthnott, Lesley Griffin, and Rae Anne Ellert. I invite all members to join me in welcoming these fine folks to their Legislative Assembly.

I also want to have a special introduction for my intern this semester, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Evan Brick who joins us in the east gallery, no stranger to this building. I think I first had the pleasure of introducing Evan back in 2019 as a member of STRIVE [Student Trustee Representative Initiative for Voice and Engagement], which is the Regina Catholic Board student trustee group. He's with me through the arts internship program at the U of R. He's a very bright young man, passionate about politics, about making the world and workplaces better for all people. He's a heck of a door knocker, Mr. Speaker. He's passionate about politics and law and labour law in particular, and he's another one to watch for sure in the seats of this Assembly one day in the future.

I invite all members to join me in welcoming him and all of our fine guests to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize again the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And although I can't see Evan up here, I would like to extend a warm welcome. I've known Evan since he was a young man, going to school over at St. Gabriel. He's been a family friend for a number of years. His sister, Neena, played a lot of soccer and played a lot of badminton with my daughter, Teigha, back in the day. And they even won the odd bronze medal at the city championships. So I'd like to extend a warm welcome to a family friend, Evan.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly for improved access to treatments for cystic fibrosis in Saskatchewan. These families worked very hard throughout the summer to garner support. We actually have almost a thousand signatures that they've gathered here. The stack was so large that it broke the elastic that I had been using to contain them, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And the reason that these folks are so passionate is because of the life-changing nature of the drug Trikafta. So here's what they wish to bring to our attention today.

That Trikafta was approved by Health Canada for use in cystic fibrosis patients with all applicable mutations for ages 12 and older; that it treats the basic defect in 90 per cent of Canadians with cystic fibrosis; it can slow and even reverse disease progression, allowing patients to live longer, healthier lives; that CF specialists have established clinical criteria for Trikafta including start-and-stop criteria, and these specialists are best suited to manage access to medications in the treatment of CF patients; and that the PCPA [pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance] has completed pricing negotiations with the manufacturer for the CF modulator medicines, including Kalydeco, Orkambi, and Trikafta.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectively request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the Ministry of Health to immediately cover Trikafta through the Saskatchewan drug plan with the broadest criteria possible, and also urge the Ministry of Health to immediately cover Orkambi and Kalydeco with the broadest criteria possible.

We know that Saskatchewan has added Trikafta to the formulary for 12 and up, Mr. Speaker. These families have waited a long time and been advocating — some of them for decades — for access to this type of drug. We will be watching to ensure that a broad criteria is applied for Trikafta and that access is widely available. And we know of course that the fight is not over, and that the next step is for our kids with cystic fibrosis to be able to receive access to this drug once it's through the CADTH [Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health] process.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from across the province. I do so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to rise again today to present our petition on pay equity. Pay equity is internationally recognized as a fundamental human right. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the systemic undervaluing of work traditionally performed by women is discriminatory. It is something our government must take steps to counteract.

Those who have signed the petition would like to bring to our attention the following points. Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation. Saskatchewan has one of the highest gender-wage gaps in Canada, and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has recommended proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation, which has not been pursued by the Government of Saskatchewan.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to introduce pay equity legislation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the petition today has been signed by residents of Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet again to present a petition calling on this government to reform the new SIS [Saskatchewan income support] program. This is something we'll do each and every day until SIS is scrapped, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The signatories of this petition wish to bring to the government's attention that the new SIS program represents cuts to what was already an inadequate social safety net. And it's resulted in increased homelessness, evictions, and we see people living in tents right here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. For the second month running, 30 per cent of SIS recipients could not pay their rent. We are heading into a biting prairie winter, on the heels of a cutting fourth wave. At a time when the systemic barriers associated with social assistance are well known — mental health, addiction, racism, trauma — this government has seen fit to bring in a new social assistance program that makes life harder for our most vulnerable.

[14:00]

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, the undersigned, call on the Government of Saskatchewan to restore direct payment of rent and utilities for income support clients.

The signatories of this petition reside in Moose Jaw and Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for the halt to Crown land sales. This government has been selling off Crown lands for quite some time without meaningful consultation with Indigenous peoples. The current process of mailing out letters or emailing letters or notices is just not sufficient. That's not the way Indigenous people want to be consulted. Without clear legislation in place or an independent body managing the duty-to-consult process, this

contributes to lack of meaningful engagement, and it's not right for the people of this province, in particular Indigenous people.

Indigenous people need to have the first right of refusal when Crown lands are being auctioned off. This lack of policy, this lack of duty-to-consult leaves the taxpayers of this province footing the bill for the Government of Saskatchewan's mistakes and losses in the courts.

I'm going to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately stop the sell-off of Crown lands, and work with First Nation and Métis communities to develop a new duty-to-consult framework from an Indigenous world view.

This petition was signed by the good people of Kinistin Saulteaux Nation, Keeseekoose First Nation, and Lestock, Saskatchewan. I do so present.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise again here today to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan calling on them to protect Saskatchewan's water supply. Over the course of the past year, I've had the opportunity to meet with many stakeholders who are very concerned on a number of fronts of the state of our water supply here in Saskatchewan and the threats that are facing it.

The undersigned residents in the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: that water is essential for human health, recreation, the health of our ecosystems, and our economy; that research from the University of Regina shows the water quality of Saskatchewan's lakes is getting worse; and that the Provincial Auditor has pointed out that Saskatchewan's lack of a wetland policy negatively impacts water quality; and that significant work remains to better regulate drainage.

Saskatchewan has sat idle as our water supply was threatened by the Government of Alberta's decision to rescind their coal development policy, and the provincial government needs to take an active role in opposing policies that have downstream impacts on Saskatchewan rivers and delta.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'll read the prayer as follows:

We, in the prayer, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to actively protect Saskatchewan waters from current and future threats to our valuable water supply.

I do here so present what residents have signed from the cities of Saskatoon and Yorkton.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Field of Dreams Project Helps Protect Prairie Grasslands

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, native prairie grasslands have incredibly high ecological value. They're home to rare plants and provide habitat for so many animals and species. They provide majestic landscapes to enjoy. They help combat climate change. And grasslands support agriculture, while livestock raising serves as a vital conservation tool.

But we're losing Saskatchewan's prairie grasslands. They're among the world's most endangered ecosystems. Grasslands are close to my heart and I know to many others' as well. That's why it's my honour to celebrate the remarkable efforts of Dr. Marc Spooner and all those that contributed to protect grassland with the Nature Conservancy of Canada through the Field of Dreams project.

Dr. Spooner organized and led the project. He encouraged those that were receiving SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] rebates and that were in a position to do so, to donate to leave a lasting legacy. Very impressively a total of \$207,500 was raised, with a \$100,000 donation coming from Heather Ryan and David Dubé. Through its programs, NCC [Nature Conservancy of Canada] will now be able to double this total to acquire and protect prairie grasslands.

I'd like to ask all members to join with me in thanking all the donors and all the supporters of Field of Dreams, and to offer a special thanks to Heather Ryan and David Dubé, Jennifer McKillop and her team at NCC, and of course to my pal Dr. Marc Spooner for leading the way to leave a lasting legacy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lumsden-Morse.

Applications Being Accepted for Community, Culture, and Recreation Projects

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Saskatchewan municipalities and other eligible organizations can now submit funding applications for proposed community, culture, and recreation projects under the next intake for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan continues to invest in renewing and upgrading infrastructure to strengthen our province. This helps create jobs, improve quality of life, and position communities for growth opportunities. In 2021 for example, the Minister of Government Relations announced over 180 new projects. This represents more than \$202 million worth of provincial investment.

Mr. Speaker, since the launch of the program in 2018, there have been 212 approved projects including a more-than-\$74-million provincial investment towards the Buffalo Pound water treatment plant renewal, a facility that provides drinking water to Regina, Moose Jaw, and surrounding communities; as well as more than \$5.2 million in provincial funding for the new Assiniboia and district recreational complex project which started construction this past summer.

Other projects include enhanced water and waste water systems,

better cultural and recreational opportunities, and decommissioned landfills, also bridges and culverts to better support the transportation of goods and commodities. These projects will leave a lasting and positive legacy, and I encourage all those eligible to apply today at Saskatchewan.ca. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Witchekean Lake First Nation Stands Up for Treaty Land Entitlement

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Deputy Speaker. I would like to acknowledge Witchekean Lake First Nation for standing up for their rights and treaty land entitlement. They are standing up to the Sask Party government. We've seen this government, time and time again, ignore their duty-to-consult policy and their TLE [treaty land entitlement] obligations, which should have offered First Nations communities and people the first right of refusal on Crown land that is up for auction. This government talks about reconciliation, but those words are meaningless.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Witchekean Lake First Nation filed a statement of claim in 2019 in response to a breach of the province's TLE framework. Last month the Federal Court dismissed the province's request for a summary judgment in the case and ordered the Sask Party government to pay Witchekean Lake First Nation's costs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the residents of Saskatchewan are tired of our taxpayer dollars paying for court rulings, failures, and anti-Indigenous practices of our government. Thank you to Witchekean Lake First Nation and all First Nation communities in our province that are standing up to this government. miigwech.

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

Crime Reduction Teams Helping to Address Rural Crime

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As part of our ongoing efforts to address rural crime, we recently announced the creation of additional crime reduction teams in La Ronge, Moose Jaw, Lloydminster, and Meadow Lake. This brings the total number of operational CRTs [crime reduction team] in this province to nine.

The CRTs have been extremely effective in disrupting, dismantling, and prosecuting organized crime. Last week a major CRT operation took place in Lloydminster. Between October 25th and 29th, the North Battleford CRT, working with other agencies, arrested 39 people. Officers seized two stolen vehicles; a number of controlled substances including cocaine, methamphetamine; and illegal weapons. These items now in the hands of police will no longer cause harm to our communities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, CRTs deploy anywhere in the province to support communities that are experiencing surges in criminal activities. They conduct targeted enforcement based on intelligence and analysis of crime trends. This includes high-visibility patrols tracking dangerous offenders with a

history of repeated offences, targeting street gang activity, and executing arrest warrants. They also prioritize collaboration with community partners to address root causes of crime and develop long-term solutions.

This expansion will add a total of 20 permanent positions to CRT operations, including 16 RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officers, two criminal analysts, and two administrative assistants. We are proud to support the expansion of this program. Thank you.

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

Student Wellness Centre Opens at the University of Regina

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Last week the University of Regina opened the first-of-its-kind Student Wellness Centre. The centre is unique among Canadian universities. It offers a full range of services and treatments focusing on primary health care. Mr. Speaker, the state-of-the-art facility, operated by nurse practitioners from the Faculty of Nursing, will focus on disease prevention, health awareness, and education. It will encourage healthy lifestyle choices and more.

These practitioners are licensed to make a diagnosis, prescribe medication, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and perform other medical procedures. The centre will engage nursing and other students in clinical operations providing them with experimental learning opportunities, and eventually expanding services to other members of the campus community in addition to students. In 2021 our government provided \$341,000 to support this initiative with a focus on fostering healthy, resilient campus communities which is particularly important with the added stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, Healthy Campus Saskatchewan was launched to support student health and well-being in partnership with the post-secondary education across the province. I now ask everyone to join me in congratulating the University of Regina on the opening, the first of its kind, the Student Wellness Centre, and contributing to a stronger, safer, healthier, better-educated, and more independent Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Senegal and Saskatchewan Sign Memorandum of Understanding on International Education

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On November 5th, our government participated in signing a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Research, and Innovation with the Government of the Republic of Senegal. This is our first MOU [memorandum of understanding] signed with a French-speaking country, Mr. Speaker.

Our government values French education and is committed to working to expand academic and global linkages between Senegal and Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this partnership will continue to build and strengthen intellectual and cultural linkages

through research, dialogue, and the exchange of students between education institutions in Senegal and Saskatchewan.

With the recent announcement of a provincial approach to international education, our province focuses on global engagements and building relationships with other countries, including French-speaking countries like Senegal, to promote and develop the vitality of our Fransaskois community.

This memorandum of understanding will provide students, faculty, and member academic institutions in Senegal and in Saskatchewan with opportunities to build and collaborate on exchange, mobility, and research. This is important to advance our co-operation in research and the exchange of post-secondary students between education institutions internationally. International students help stimulate innovation and research. They also bring global perspectives into the classroom and enrich our communities.

We value this new and important partnership with Senegal, and we look forward to continuing to advance communication, co-operation, and collaboration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[14:15]

Two New Oil and Gas Processing Projects Approved

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise today with more exciting news for Saskatchewan's energy sector in my constituency. Today our government announced that two of Steel Reef's new oil and gas processing projects have been approved under the oil and gas processing investment incentive. Steel Reef's North Portal projects reduce venting and flaring of methane gas and create local jobs. Mr. Deputy Speaker, these projects will represent up to \$40 million in investment in our province. This is great news for the environment and the economy.

The company recently expanded their processing capacity which ties in previously flared gas through their existing pipelines. There will also be investing in infrastructure to process natural gas liquids for direct access to local export markets.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our oil and gas processing investment incentive is a freehold royalty tax credit program that targets value-added projects. The program has attracted over \$200 million in private investment in Saskatchewan since its start in 2019. Mr. Deputy Speaker, our methane action plan seeks to reduce methane-based emissions by 40 to 45 per cent by 2025, which is equivalent to taking 800,000 cars off the road for one year.

I'd like to thank Steel Reef for their continued investment in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Health tried to minimize the usefulness of the modelling he hid all summer, saying he needed to listen to “other sources of information.” Exactly what other information informed this government’s choice to ignore the provincial modelling?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — As I’ve indicated in this House many times, Mr. Speaker, modelling is just one tool that we use in our actions against COVID-19. What I’ve said in the media and what I’ve said in here many times, Mr. Speaker, it is our active cases that we’re looking at, our hospitalization that we’re looking at — our ICU [intensive care unit] specifically — the test positivity rate.

And what we’ve done as soon as those started to rise, Mr. Speaker, we acted on them in the middle of September, bringing in our verification of vaccination, also public health restrictions which have worked. We’ve seen a drop in over 70 per cent of the active cases in Saskatchewan. We’ve seen our hospitalizations coming down just because all these actions that we took in the middle of September are working. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, that modelling was from June. June, July, August, September — four months where he had a chance to act and did nothing. The Health minister also told the media yesterday that the modelling didn’t take into account vaccination rates, masking, or hospitalizations. This is, to put it mildly, wildly inconsistent with the facts. The minister’s modelling briefing from August 18th included — guess what? — vaccination rates, masking, hospitalizations, and ICU admissions. If this isn’t the data that informed the choice to bury the modelling, what was?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, what I said was accurate. It doesn’t take into account when we enact all of these public health restrictions. If you look at the modelling that everybody has seen in this House, the line goes straight up. It never stops, Mr. Speaker.

So what we were able to do, Mr. Speaker, is bend that back down by the good work of the people of Saskatchewan adhering to the public health guidelines, increasing 180,000 more shots that are in people’s arms because of the actions that we took in September, Mr. Speaker. This is continuing to work. We will continue with the public health restrictions and the recommendations right now, Mr. Speaker. We’re still getting over 3,000 people . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Member, continue with the question please.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we

have done is obviously working. Our hospitalizations are down. Our case numbers are down. Everything is going in a positive direction, and I have to thank the people of Saskatchewan for helping us get there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, imagine, imagine if that minister would have imposed these measures a month earlier when so many were recommending it. Imagine how many lives would have been saved.

Important question for the minister: who exactly gave the minister the advice not to implement mask mandates that could have cut cases and ICU admissions in half?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again it’s the same question just phrased in a different way. What we did in early September, in the middle of September, was enact public health restrictions with the guidance of Dr. Shahab, Mr. Speaker.

We enacted those across the province, masking in public places, Mr. Speaker. We also had our verification of QR [quick response] code, which we’ve had hundreds of thousands of downloads on that, Mr. Speaker. That’s working not just in Saskatchewan but around the world. We also had . . . we’ve seen our hospitalizations, our ICUs go down. This is exactly what we did in September and we’re seeing the benefits of that now.

But it’s not just because of what this government’s done, Mr. Speaker. It’s what the people of Saskatchewan are doing to be able to adhere to this. And I would encourage anybody that isn’t vaccinated to get out there and get vaccinated as soon as possible. We have 350,000 vaccines sitting on the shelf. I’d love to have zero and have all of those vaccines in somebody’s arm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, October was Saskatchewan’s deadliest month for this pandemic. Who exactly gave the minister the advice not to implement mask mandates that could have cut cases and ICU admissions in half? I’ll ask that question one more time.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m confused. They’re talking about October. I just said that we did this in September. We did this in the middle of September. We put in the public health restrictions. That’s how the calendar goes: August, September, October.

To be able to say that we didn’t do this, Mr. Speaker, is just wrong. I just said we did this in the middle of September. We put in public health restrictions, not just masking in public places, but we also put in the proof of vaccination. We also have public health restrictions, a baseline in our education system, which the

boards of education can add on to that if they want. We did do this in September, so I'm not quite sure if the member opposite understands the timing of this, Mr. Speaker.

But again, Mr. Speaker, I will continue to say to the people of Saskatchewan, we need to make sure that we're getting as many people vaccinated in our province. When eligible children from 5 to 11 get the okay from Health Canada, I'd encourage their families to get them vaccinated as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Maybe I'll make the question more clear for the minister because it seems like he's the one who doesn't seem to understand. Who, in August, gave the minister the advice not to implement mask mandates that could have cut cases and ICU admissions in half and could have potentially saved Saskatchewan residents' lives?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Health minister.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I think I should go through some of the numbers that were in October. Out of the 10,000 cases that reported, 76 per cent of them were unvaccinated. That's why we put in these restrictions and these recommendations and the QR code, Mr. Speaker.

Of the 2,600 cases, Mr. Speaker, 22 per cent had comorbidity conditions. The 461 individuals that were hospitalized unfortunately in October, we had . . . Oh, sorry, Mr. Speaker. Of the 98 individuals that were admitted into ICU, 87 per cent of them were unvaccinated.

That's why we put in the QR code. That's why we're getting more people vaccinated. And I continue to say, if you haven't got your shot, make sure you do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, they didn't follow the expert modelling the minister saw on August 18th. They didn't listen to Dr. Shahab, who told the *John Gormley Show* on August 28th that his "professional recommendation, technical recommendation was to implement masking and vaccine requirements." They didn't listen to every public health officer in the province calling for the same on August 26th. Again, whose advice did they listen to when they chose not to act in August?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again this seems to be like *Groundhog Day*, We did implement . . . When the case numbers started to rise in September, we implemented our restrictions, no different than what we said publicly. The Premier and I have both said, if the numbers start to go up again, Mr. Speaker, in a significant way, we would look at what we have to do.

Right now, let's talk about what's happening right now, Mr. Speaker. Right now our hospitalizations are down. Our ICUs are

down. But I can tell you one thing that we will not do, Mr. Speaker, is that is kick thousands of kids out of school just because they haven't been vaccinated. That's not the policy of this government, but it certainly is the policy of the opposition members over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Yeah, keep fearmongering. That's worked really well for our vaccine numbers so far. And let's talk about what that minister has said in the public. On August 25th, the minister claimed this measure would infringe on personal freedoms and "people's personal rights."

The government loves to talk about paths. Will the minister admit choosing a path through the fourth wave guided by politics instead of science was a mistake?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the path since implementing those restrictions and those guidelines, Mr. Speaker, is down 70 per cent. I'm not sure what they're not understanding. The people of Saskatchewan continue to do the right thing . . . is go and get those shots. We're still getting average of 3,500 shots a day. A thousand of those are still first doses. This is directly from what we have implemented in government on the direction of Dr. Shahab. It is working, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know why they're so frustrated that things in Saskatchewan are getting better, Mr. Speaker. This is exactly what we wanted to do. This is what we said we were going to do in August until the numbers and our hospitalizations got back under control, and we'll continue to do that.

But again I want to thank the people of Saskatchewan for what they are doing right here, right now — not talking about what happened three months ago or three months into the future — what they're doing right now. And I have to say thank you to them, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the minister wants to talk about right now. Let's talk about right now. Five patients have now died in Ontario, thousands and thousands of miles from their loved ones. Twenty-seven organ donors have died without the opportunity to pass on the life-saving gift of an organ to someone in need. That means people like Jessica, who we saw yesterday, were denied the opportunity to get better. Will the minister accept that his choices led to this fourth wave that we're currently in, and will he finally apologize?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And obviously I've said this before: these are very difficult choices that we had to make as government. We saw our health care system being overwhelmed by mostly unvaccinated people, so we had to make some difficult decisions on the reduction of

programs and services temporarily.

What I've said in the media, Mr. Speaker — yesterday was well documented in the media — my expectation is that the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] will have that up and running by the end of this month, and be able to continue with organ donation, but also other critical programs for the people of Saskatchewan.

We're making sure that we get the programs up and running, Mr. Speaker. We're making sure we get the people back in place. Fifty per cent of them are going to be done right away, another 25 per cent by next week, and we're going to have 90 per cent done by the end of this month, so we can get those critical people back doing what they were doing best, is helping the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, no apology for Jessica, for little baby Helen, for all of those out there who are suffering. Will the minister finally stand up, show some humility, and apologize?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, these are difficult decisions. If the opposition members don't think that this weighs heavy on myself and this government, they are absolutely wrong. I hear from these people. I call them back just like . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . This is very serious, yes. If you ask a question, would you like the . . . Mr. Speaker, these decisions are very challenging and I understand that.

I've talked to people. The members on this side of the House and the members that form government, Mr. Speaker, are calling back their constituents all the time explaining the situation, so they understand exactly why we had to make these difficult decisions.

[14:30]

They were not decisions I wanted to make, Mr. Speaker. They're decisions that I felt that I had to make, to make sure that we were protecting the overall integrity of our health care system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Still no apology, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-seven organ donors had the potential to save more than 200 people's lives in the province. The government announced today that organ transplants will be resuming. That's a good thing, but patients like Jessica will have waited for far too long by the time procedures start once again.

Does the Health minister accept any responsibility for this cancellation? Does he recognize that these cancellations are a direct result of the Sask Party's failure to control the fourth wave?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, this is why we made those difficult decisions. We made those difficult decisions back in the middle of September, so we could get our health care system back up and running as soon as possible. We paused some surgeries, some programs, Mr. Speaker, but we're moving those people back.

This is six weeks, Mr. Speaker. And I understand for somebody that is in a dire situation that can be . . . We're still doing all of our critical surgeries. We're still trying to focus in on the children and youth to make sure that they are getting the services that they need and they expect from this government. That's why again we made these decisions, Mr. Speaker.

And the best thing to be able to help out everybody in our health care system is to go out and get vaccinated as soon as you possibly can. This is the best weapon we have against COVID-19. And the more people that get vaccinated, the faster we'll get back on track. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Management of Provincial Economy

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in October, in October we had the worst COVID numbers in the country. And in October we had the worst jobs numbers in the country. Mr. Speaker, we've seen again and again what this government has tried to do. The Sask Party tried to sacrifice public health to protect the economy, and they failed at both. Does the jobs minister recognize that our worst-in-the-nation jobs numbers are tied directly to his government's failure to control the pandemic?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very, very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say to businesses who have made the decision to invest in this province, thank you. Yesterday in this House, that member and the members opposite made some very dismissive and disrespectful comments about businesses who have chosen to make over \$10 billion of investment into this province. That member called them warmed-over, entirely dismissing the very, very significant investment and commitment that these companies are making to this province, Mr. Speaker.

These are investments that should be celebrated. These are investments that should be applauded. But we know, Mr. Speaker, that those members won't do that. They haven't done that, Mr. Speaker. Oh, the member for Rosemont I heard say, that's not true. Him, I actually will give him that. He is the only member opposite who has applauded those investments, and he's never allowed onto his feet. He's never allowed to stand up and ask a question. I think it's because he is the most sensible one over there and not like the rest of the woke crew that is opposite.

Mr. Speaker, these are investments that should be celebrated. BHP Billiton making a \$12 billion investment into this province. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to talking about more of this and giving these companies the credit they deserve.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And you know, unfortunately I'm not surprised. Not a word of empathy. Not a word of compassion. Not any indication that that minister cares about the people of this province. Jessica, who sat here yesterday, is 36 years old, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Baby Helen just turned one. Not a word of empathy from that member.

So, Mr. Speaker, to tune him in, we're currently in a fourth wave that is delaying needed patient care and driving job losses. This fourth wave has been fuelled by that minister's decision to ignore expert advice and his misguided belief that he could somehow protect the economy while letting COVID run rampant. Again does that minister, who seems to be calling the shots over there, does he take any responsibility for the impact that this fourth wave is having on his neighbours, the people of this province?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is the economy is performing strongly. We have added thousands of jobs over the course of the last year. We have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country and exports are up over 20 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

What we hear from the members opposite is the constant running down of the economy, Mr. Speaker. That's all they do. They stand up, they run down the economy, they dismiss and are disrespectful to companies who are making \$10 billion of investments, Mr. Speaker, whether that be Viterra — who are investing in a 2.5-million-metric-ton canola crush facility — Richardson International, Cargill.

And I would point to as well some incredibly significant investments into the forestry sector. One Sky Forest Products, Mr. Speaker, which is moving forward with a very, very significant OSB [oriented strand board] mill in the Prince Albert area.

We have, Mr. Speaker, we know . . . and they're heckling from their chairs. We know they don't like the forestry sector. We know that they don't like cutting down trees. We know that they don't like that because they've said it. That member opposite attacked one of the companies that was making a \$600 million investment into Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud the forestry sector, one of the largest employers of Indigenous people in this entire province. We see a bright future for that industry, even though they don't.

The Deputy Speaker: — I'll remind the members that I'll keep track of the time. Thank you very much. I recognize the member from Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — You know, Mr. Speaker, again the absolute lack of humanity and basic decency shown by that member is shocking. But what's not shocking is the fact that he's only using it to distract from his record of failure and loss — 6,500 jobs lost, 12,000 full-time jobs lost — the worst in the country.

All the while we have the highest COVID death rate in the country. Five people, Mr. Speaker, five people have died in Ontario hospitals because there was no room for them here in Saskatchewan. And the only one trying to justify this public health and economic failure is that failing, failing jobs minister. Mr. Speaker, does he have any regrets about his failure to control the pandemic, save lives, and protect the jobs of Saskatchewan people?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member of Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the question is clearly ridiculous, Mr. Speaker. Clearly ridiculous, clearly over the top, thoroughly disrespectful to this Assembly, which that member clearly has no respect for.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I would say with regard to the economy: the facts belie the member's question. The economy has added thousands of jobs over the course of the last year. We have one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada.

Exports are growing, Mr. Speaker. Exports have grown at a remarkable pace over the course of the last number of years and because of this government's commitment to international engagement and selling Saskatchewan around the world, which they have opposed every step of the way by the way they've attacked the professional public servants who work in our international relations branch, of which we are committed to expanding those relationships despite the fact that they are deeply opposed.

Mr. Speaker, we spent the summer working very, very hard in attracting investment into this province. We equally know what those members spent the summer doing, which was crushing Bohs in the Pil zone, Mr. Speaker. That was their priority. Our priority was attracting massive amounts of investment into this province, Mr. Speaker. I think I know which side of the House I'd rather be on.

Government-Indigenous Relations

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This government has put thousands of acres of Crown land on the auction block, these lands that belong to all of Saskatchewan people and the lands that are important to First Nation and Métis rights.

We are joined here today by many Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who are concerned about the loss of Crown lands and the impact the sell-off of Crown lands have on our treaty and inherent rights. My question to the provincial government is this: what good are the rights to hunt, fish, and gather, if there aren't any Crown land left for us to do that on?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Government Relations minister.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to say that, you know, we work very, very closely with the federal

government and First Nations on treaty land entitlement, so much so that there have been 33 treaty land entitlements that have been signed that was worth \$595 million, that have been settled. Not only that, Mr. Speaker. That adds up to 884,000 acres in this province, that have been settled under treaty land entitlement. There are three more that are in the making that will hopefully be signed by the end of this year.

Mr. Speaker, this government has more settlements on treaty land entitlement than any other jurisdiction in the province. Mr. Speaker, there is more work to do. Absolutely there is more work to do, but our record stands for itself — 884,000 acres.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — First Nation and Métis people aren't just frustrated with the sell-off of the Crown lands. They're also fed up with this government's broken duty-to-consult policy. To the minister: please tell us, how successful is the current duty-to-consult process working for the people . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I'll tell members of the gallery that you are not allowed to participate in any part of the debate, and that includes speaking, clapping, or making any other gestures. And I'd remind all people to continue to respect that rule please. Continue with the question.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — First Nation and Métis people aren't just frustrated with the sell-off of Crown lands. They're also fed up with this government's broken duty-to-consult policy. To the minister: please tell us how successful the current duty-to-consult process is working for Indigenous people in this province.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, our government has worked very hard over the last 14 years to follow along with the duty-to-consult and follow those guidelines. But even more than that, we stepped up more than that, Mr. Speaker. Just in the Speech from the Throne, talking about reconciliation, there is a residential school monument that's going up at the Government House, put forward by the Lieutenant Governor, the first First Nation Lieutenant Governor of this province. Have I heard a word from them supporting that? Absolutely not, Mr. Speaker.

We've talked about treaty boundary signs going up, Mr. Speaker, between Treaty 4 and 6 . . . Well she's yelling from her seat. That was put forward by the Treaty Commissioner of the province. It wasn't government's idea. And she's dead set against that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if it's a gaming enhancement agreement put forward . . . That's what this government has done. In fact there are so many different things on reconciliation in this last Speech from the Throne. That opposition hasn't had a positive thing to say about one of them, Mr. Speaker. Shame on them.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 45 — *The Health Shared Services Saskatchewan (3sHealth) Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 45, *The Health Shared Services Saskatchewan (3sHealth) Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 45, the health shared services Saskatchewan Act be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Health.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 46 — *The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting of the legislature, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Next sitting.

[14:45]

Bill No. 47 — *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 47, *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021* be now introduced and read the first time.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of

Highways that Bill No. 47, *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act* be introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading.

The Deputy Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Bradshaw: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Next sitting.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to present its first report. I move:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be now concurred in.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

MOTIONS

Appointment of Provincial Auditor

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be moving a subsidiary motion to the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in regard to the recommendation of the appointment of the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has been active for the better part of a year with respect to the process of selecting a Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan. I would like to thank all members, and specifically our Deputy Chair of the committee, the member for Lloydminster, for the work in this important

process.

As such, we've shared with this legislature the process that was followed to determine our recommendation to the Assembly of the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan. The Standing Committee has adopted and has presented a report, titled the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, to this Assembly. Please refer to that report for the detail of specific activities, processes, and individuals that were engaged through the selection process. This report includes the dates of activities and meetings.

I'd like to provide sincere thanks and appreciation to all individuals that assisted our committee in carrying out its responsibility. Pursuant to 21(1) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, your committee sought the assistance of two recognized, independent, subject-matter experts from the audit committee to assist in the Provincial Auditor selection process on an independent screening panel.

Your committee wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to its appointed subject-area experts: Mr. Pat Pitka, Chair of the audit committee, and Dr. Regan Schmidt, member of the audit committee. I'd also like to thank Rob Park, committee Clerk, and Hannah Ly, principal director of human resources, for administration and human resource assistance with that screening panel.

Following the retirement of former auditor Judy Ferguson, our committee began its process of determining the next Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan. I'd like to recognize our Acting Provincial Auditor, Ms. Tara Clemett, and to thank her for her service to our fine province.

The independent Office of the Provincial Auditor is vital to Saskatchewan people, as it is critical to ensure good government with its role of accountability and its focus on the efficiency and economy of government programs. The specific role of Provincial Auditor is one of great importance, and that individual that fulfills that role provides valued leadership and service to our province.

As Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, it's my honour to welcome and introduce the recommended candidate for the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan, Ms. Tara Clemett.

As background, Ms. Tara Clemett has been acting as the Provincial Auditor for the province of Saskatchewan since July 2021. She has worked at the Office of the Provincial Auditor for more than 20 years, most recently as the deputy provincial auditor responsible for the health division. Her portfolio encompasses the ministries of Health and Social Services, as well as all the regional health authorities in the province and health care organizations such as the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. She directly leads the annual integrated audit of the Authority.

Ms. Clemett is a chartered professional accountant, a certified information systems auditor, and holds a Bachelor of Administration degree from the University of Regina. She actively works with advisory groups under the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors. Her experience includes financial and performance audits, as well as those focused on information

technology, health care, child welfare, and advocacy, as well as the environment.

It's my honour to welcome Ms. Clemett as the recommended candidate for Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan. And if this Assembly grants their support, I thank her in advance for the leadership and service that she will provide the people of Saskatchewan.

I move:

That, pursuant to 3.1(1) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, your committee unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly the name of Ms. Tara Clemett for appointment to the position of Provincial Auditor for the province of Saskatchewan.

I so move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts:

That, pursuant to 3.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, that this Assembly appoint Tara Clemett to the position of Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. On behalf of the government and on behalf of the legislature, I would welcome Tara Clemett as the new Provincial Auditor. Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 43 — *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021*

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

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Today I rise to speak about *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021*. The Royal Saskatchewan Museum is one of our province's oldest cultural and scientific institutions. It preserves, studies, and educates the people of Saskatchewan about our history and the traditional cultures of our Indigenous people. It discovers, cares for, and tells the story of Saskatchewan.

It has enlightened and entertained generations of Saskatchewanian people since it was first created in 1906. Over the years millions have visited its world-class dioramas and taken pride in the international reputation for excellence its scientists have established in its fields of paleontology, the study of

pollinators, and Indigenous ethnology.

Most recently it drew national and international attention to the province with its presentation of Scotty, the world's largest T. rex uncovered by the museum's scientists in the Frenchman River valley. Mr. Deputy Speaker, prior to COVID, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum was on track to attract 200,000 visitors in the 12 months following the opening of the CN T.rex Gallery.

This past summer the T.rex Discovery Centre in Eastend, which is operated by the museum, opened a new, interactive attraction, the paleo experience. As a result it set an all-time visitation record and provided an enormous boost to the southern Saskatchewan economy. Those are outstanding accomplishments. A great many of those visitors were families with young children. In addition to tourists, many others were newcomers to our great province and are anxious to learn everything they can about Saskatchewan.

This last year the Royal Saskatchewan Museum has recorded visitors from every province, 49 American states, and many international destinations. Busloads of students from across the province came to the museum to learn about the land that sustains them and the species that surround them. The Royal Saskatchewan Museum plays a very important role in preserving our Indigenous past and building understanding through its traditional knowledge keepers and other programs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum is a hub of activity and learning within our province and is a key driver in Saskatchewan's tourism economy. As such it is important that the museum be equipped with all the legislative tools it requires in order to be able to continue its great work in the service of the people of Saskatchewan as the keepers and the tellers of their stories, their science, and their history.

That's why, through *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021*, it will grant the museum the ability to earn the revenue it needs to reinvest and continue to expand its role, its reputation, and its contribution to the economy. It will give the museum the ability to continue to discover more about our province's past and study the health of its ecosystems, its species such as the pollinators that are so vital to our agricultural industry. Through this Act the museum researchers and exhibit planners will continue to be able to refresh and renew current exhibits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in doing this we are modernizing the structure of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. Similar institutions such as the Royal Alberta Museum, the Royal British Columbia Museum, the Manitoba Museum, and the Royal Ontario Museum all have this ability. This amendment for Saskatchewan's provincial museum will equip it with the same tools. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm pleased to say this change has been endorsed by the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, who have long supported the museum and will continue to support its research and fundraise on its behalf.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move second reading of *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Act, 2021*. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 43 be

now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise and enter into the discussion around Bill No. 43. And I thank the minister for the remarks and explanation of the amendments that are here, prior to me speaking.

I think the most important change that's in this legislation as the minister had mentioned that would be of interest to the public in particular is the allowance of the museum to generate revenue through admissions. It says, "... admissions, sponsorships, facility rentals, programming fees or any other activities it may create that may be approved by the Minister." This is a new subsection, 4.1, Mr. Speaker.

I think it goes without saying that the Royal Saskatchewan Museum is beloved by everyone in this Chamber. We want to ensure that it remains sustainable and viable for generations to come, but we also want to ensure that it's accessible for everyone of every socio-economic background, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I'm sure that will form a lot of the conversation that we have on this legislation moving forward.

I also just wanted to add, because this bill came up, like I said, we're all huge fans of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. My family is a huge fan of the museum. We've gone there, we've taken my daughter there several times. She is a huge fan of dinosaurs, and when we heard that November was dinosaur month at the museum, we decided last weekend that we would take her. She's got a little stuffie T. rex that we got her from the last time we were at the museum. We thought we'd take her for another tour, show her around, maybe get her a stuffie, another dinosaur. I'm trying to think of what the ... the triceratops. Triceratops was the stuffie that we bought her this time. We called her Cera, obviously, after *Land Before Time*.

[15:00]

But before we got the stuffie, Mr. Speaker, and while we got the whole family in and I was taking off the snowsuit for the littlest one, my husband ran Olivia in to see Megamunch, because last time she saw Megamunch she was pretty excited, kind of indifferent. She was, you know, I think around two — she's about two and a half now — but she thought it was all kind of neat. This time she took one look at Megamunch, and she ran screaming for the door.

She was terrified, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mommy, Mommy, Mommy! I don't want to stay here. Please take me home — climbing all over me. It was really tragic, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because we were really excited to show her the rest of the museum. And we're looking forward to hopefully four months from now, she's forgotten all of that, and you know, she'll be closer to three. Maybe she'll be excited to see Megamunch this time. I think it was the roars that kind of freaked her out. And she's a little bit more opinionated now than she was six months ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And all that is to say that this museum is incredibly important to this province. We want to ensure that it is sustainable for generations to come, but it's also incredibly important that every citizen of Saskatchewan has access to places like the museum.

So I think that's a really important discussion to have when we're talking about this amendment.

And to allow for further discussion on this bill by my colleagues on future days, I am prepared to now move adjournment on Bill No. 43.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 44 — *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021*

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move the second reading of Bill 44, amendments to *The Corporation Capital Tax Act*. These amendments implement a legislative proposal to clarify that associated corporations and affiliated persons are both included in determining if a corporation is subject to the resource surcharge. This clarification will reduce the risk of litigation, protect the revenue base, and ensure a level playing field.

To implement this initiative, specific amendments to *The Corporation Capital Tax Act* are required to amend the definition of a resource corporation to include associated corporations and affiliated persons, and to add a new section extinguishing any claim of loss or damage resulting from this clarification.

The legislation includes housekeeping amendments to update ministry names such as update the term "department" to "ministry" and updates "Department of Industry and Resources" to "Ministry of Energy and Resources."

Mr. Speaker, these changes strengthen the Act, sustain the province's revenue base, and ensure a level playing field in today's ever-changing business environment.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present these legislative changes today, and I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021*.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 44 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition Deputy Leader.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise and begin the debate around Bill No. 44. And I thank the minister for providing some opening remarks and helping to explain the bill to all of us, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will admit tax law is not my speciality. I'm not sure. I'm sure it's the Finance minister's, but it's certainly not mine, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will try and make my remarks as coherent as possible with that in mind.

From what I understand, there is a lot of housekeeping amendments in this legislation to make changes to wording. Like we've seen in many Justice bills, this happens periodically to

ensure that legislation is modernized and up-to-date, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There are a few provisions here that I think are of note for those who understand this area a little bit better than I do.

There is some discussion around the resource surcharge, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which I understand from the explanation notes. It's an additional tax to the corporation capital tax and is only payable if it exceeds a corporation's corporation-capital-tax calculation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There's also I think would also be interesting to note a new section that's being added after section 24.1 to protect the revenue base against refund requests and potential litigation related to the proposed change. I believe there's also the addition of an immunity clause for the Crown and members of Executive Council and those who work for them, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is something we often see in legislation that might be of interest to the public and open for discussion.

Of course we're always keen to hear from members of the public. If they do have feedback or commentary about these legislative changes, I would encourage them to reach out to the critic on the opposition side to express those, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we'll do our best to make sure that those are passed on to the government side as well.

I know I have a lot of other members who are very interested in entering into the discussion around this legislation. And in order to facilitate that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 44.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 38

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 38 — *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on adjourned debates, Bill No. 38, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2021*.

I was listening to the minister when he did second reading of the amendments that come forward and the change that's being amended to the legislation. And it was interesting that a year, two years ago, I think the member from Regina Douglas Park in her response to the second reading talked about legislation coming in that was changed, amendments that were done I believe a year, maybe two years ago at the furthest, you know, if I remember

correctly. But it's interesting that she kind of said, like why weren't these changes made back then? Was there something that, you know, come forward?

And sometimes, you know, you go out and you do the work that needs to be done, and you talk with, you know, different professionals. You talk with enforcement, police, different justice. There might be a reason why police or police officers within the province, those that do certain work, when we're looking at seizure of property, illegal property, and I guess laundering . . . They talked about organizations, different ways of people getting . . . And we're not sure . . . and I know we're going to get a lot of time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to ask some questions in committee.

And truly it's nice to hear, you know, they're making a few amendments here, and we're going to get an opportunity with the critic, members of the committee, to question the officials and the minister in committee to find out exactly why did they have to make these amendments and how is it going to impact and is this the right . . . And get to ask them questions too like who did you consult with? And what's the purpose and the reason for making these amendments if you've amended legislation a little while ago? And sometimes things happen, I guess, that they have to do that.

And I think, you know, really we're going to be asking some questions, and we'll get the opportunity to question the minister and the officials and to find out exactly what it is and see where . . . And I guess like anything, you know, you have, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you want to make sure legislation is right and you're getting the right legislation and making sure it's used in a way that protects, you know, our residents, but also it does what it needs to do to, you know, do the work that needs to be done, especially to get individuals who maybe are, you know, money laundering or illegal activity. And that's what they're talking about — seizure of those properties.

I don't know if I have much more to say on this bill at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I know there will be a lot of work, and I'll have more of my colleagues to join in. But I think a lot of the work will definitely go when we're in committee and ask those questions and figure out exactly what's going on. So at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill No. 38, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2021*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment. Is the Assembly in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 39

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 39 — *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm prepared

to have some opening comments on Bill No. 39, *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021*. I listened to the minister when he did second reading on this bill and my colleague had a chance to talk about it. And what they're proposing used to be printed and the process of printing the information for the public, I guess legal counsel, different bodies that use the printed copy of the Queen's Printer.

At the end of the day, we are now going to . . . With technology moving the way it is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, many people are online. There's opportunities to look at information, and so much information technology has given us the opportunity. And I think the minister had talked about referring to different ways that people use online and the information, so it is now going to be available for those that use the information.

Back then it would have strictly had . . . the legislation said it had to be printed. It is now going to be digital, and it's changing and giving that flexibility to make sure those that use it, so they get it quicker rather than waiting. Sometimes I think the minister referred to, it takes a little bit of time for them to print it and post it. So now it's going to be instant when it gets posted. There'll be an opportunity for the digital process to be used and have access to it pretty quick. When they post it up online, people will have access to that instantly, immediately, and that'll be good.

I don't know if there's really much more I could add to that. If there is any questions we will have, we can do that in committee, ask the minister and the officials to make sure what's the purpose. But I mean, as he said, it's mainly housekeeping the minister referred to. I could use other examples of it, but at this point I have no further comments on this bill, and it's Bill No. 39, *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021*. I'm prepared to adjourn debate on that bill.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 40

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 40 — *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to rise to debate the Bill No. 40, *An Act to amend The Trespass to Property Act*. And it's a deep honour to be speaking on this bill here today, Deputy Speaker, because I'm very troubled by the ongoing assault that we're seeing here in terms of a bill with so little justification and so many prospects for harm to the good people of Saskatchewan.

So on its face this is a bill which is focused on deterring rural property crime. It's proposing to increase the minimum penalties from 2 to \$5,000 for a first offence and up to 25,000 for a second offence for repeat offenders on the same property. It introduces

the possibility of imprisonment to a maximum of six months and also a \$200,000 maximum penalty for corporations that counsels or aids in the commission of an offence. Also it establishes a statutory tort for trespass, which I understand will allow for civil cases to be brought forward.

[15:15]

Now in our past deliberations on the last trespass to property amendment Act, 2021 — which has still not come into force, I might add — you know, we spoke on the many concerns that we had for this bill, and I will start to get into some specifics around those in a moment.

You know, there had been various stakeholder groups that had come forward at that time expressing concerns about amendments to the Act and the fact that the bill did not address those concerns, and in fact came forward initially on the strength of an opinion survey that went out and received responses back. It has been acknowledged by government that, you know, that survey really didn't sort of meet the threshold for what would be considered a duly undertaken public consultation process. But nevertheless I believe it was the minister of Justice at the time who said that it gave us a bit of a snapshot.

So I mean, for me I find that very troublesome, very concerning that, you know, even the basis for bringing forward the amendments in the initial case and now in this subsequent amendment Act — which is really only adding insult to injury, I would say — has no basis in good public policy in addressing the social determinants of health, addressing the root causes of crime or the deep divides and polarization that we see increasingly being evident across the landscape in terms of relationships in rural and urban settings, relationships between landowners and others who have rights, legitimate rights on the landscape.

Now you know, I guess I have to start by acknowledging that I'm not a property rights lawyer. Goodness not. But I do try to listen to expert advice, knowing that there's areas that I don't consider myself an expert on, and I think that's always an important consideration to be made. But certainly in reviewing the facts and the information and the perspectives around the table on *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act* and its former bill from previous . . . You know, there's a number of very concerning things that have been brought to my attention.

I'll maybe, in no particular order — I'm not that organized, so we'll go in no particular order — but I'm going to start with some initial impressions that I have, and I thank the House for their patience and their consideration as I go through these remarks.

I would first of all note that this amendment Act is building on a theme we saw very prevalent in the Throne Speech, one that had the audacity to try to change the channel and focus on reducing crime over the far more greater crisis in our province right now which of course, in case you need reminding, would be the COVID crisis. And yet here we are addressing amendments to a bill which comes forward on the most flimsy of justification, and again is only trying to drive the wedge in further by increasing penalties and fines and increasing the opportunity for statutory torts and the like on a bill that, really, I have yet to see a strong argument for in the first instance. So that's number one. That's number one.

It also happens at a time when there is great concern for the sell-off of Crown land. My esteemed colleague and very good friend from the constituency of Saskatoon Centre just earlier today delivered a member statement on that very subject.

And so it's also very concerning that we have a bill that in its outcome has the potential to further inhibit the rights of, not just but very egregiously and concerning First Nations, but all those other good Saskatchewan people who have very legitimate interests for accessing the land. And so whether it is privately held land or Crown land, which of course is increasingly in short supply, they will no longer have that ability to do so. Or at least not presumably able to do so with more of these kinds of discriminatory kinds of practice.

I mean, you say on the one hand that this is about reducing crime, but you know, the outcome is one where it limits access for everyone. They've reversed and flipped on its head a prior model of landowners posting signage and now leaving it up to those who want to enter private land to now go to landowners and seek permission. So it, you know, it throws up a number of barriers. And it really calls into question, really, what is the actual motive here. Is it crime reduction in its original intent or is there more to it? And people are asking that question for valid reasons.

And I know the Minister Responsible for Water Security is very interested in these issues, and I'm very happy he's listening so intently — thank you so much — and I'll continue to listen for your remarks from across the way, although I hope you won't be interrupting too much.

So when I talk about the intent of the bill, the intent of the amendments to the existing Act, the change in the framework and the legal policy around this, it is not insignificant or apparent to those at least on this side of the legislature, that it happens on the heels of a very serious event that occurred here in Saskatchewan a few years ago. And that involved, of course, the death of Colten Boushie. There you had a case of a young man who was shot and killed by a landowner, and justice was not served. It created a number of, you know, very serious concerns in Saskatchewan about systemic racism here in the province and the way that relationships had deteriorated.

So it weighs heavy on my heart, very deeply, knowing that we continue to divide and create rifts. And my deep concern with this bill is that it is furthering to increase the divide. It is doing the opposite of what we need to do, and that is repairing relationships and working together as treaty people, honouring the treaties, honouring the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. And instead, we're imposing a crimes model here that purportedly is doing one thing, but I would submit really is really an attempt at wedge politics. And that really, really, I find very troubling.

Now there's been some good models of how to move forward with good intent and goodwill. And there was one in particular that I had the deep privilege to learn about when I attended the Treaty 6 signing at Fort Carlton. You of course will all remember when I talked about that event in my response to the Throne Speech, and I know you were all listening so intently then. And I mention it now because it was . . . Here is a model: the Treaty Land Sharing Network. Perhaps you've heard about it. If you haven't, I highly recommend that you take the time to learn about

the framework and learn about the work that they're trying to do to move forward in a good way, repairing relationships, particularly as it relates to this very topic, which is access to property privately held.

Now just for the record, there's a little bit of information. I just prepared some cheat notes for you, if you don't have time to look yourselves. I'll share a little bit right now about what their focus is. So the Treaty Land Sharing Network is a group of farmers, renters, and other landholders who have come together to begin the crucial work of honouring treaties. In the spirit of sharing the land, they welcome Indigenous people to access the land, and they farm to practise their way of life. They are committed to implementing the treaty relationship, engaging in ongoing learning together as we all practise being treaty people and establishing a different way forward for rural Saskatchewan.

This is groundbreaking stuff. I mean the people that have come together across the landscape to come up with this innovative model for sharing the land is just truly inspiring and humbling to learn about. I mean they recognize that the land is fundamental to Indigenous ways of life, and yet in Saskatchewan the overwhelming majority of land below the treeline is privately owned, and only 10 per cent of the original native prairie remains; also that reserve land constitutes only 2 per cent of Saskatchewan's land base, which is not sufficient for Indigenous people to sustain their cultural survival and livelihoods.

And I do think it's important to recognize and acknowledge that during treaty negotiations, Indigenous nations agreed to share the land with settlers, not to cede or surrender it. And in fact, you know, in my research preparing for my remarks here today, it came to my attention that there have been . . . not facts but notice made that this law might not even stand up to a court challenge, that it impedes on the ability of Indigenous nations to exercise their treaty rights. And that's particularly troubling and problematic, I suppose, more to the point.

I would go on further to say that as part of the sacred commitments to live together in peace, take care of shared lands, and ensure one another's well-being, Indigenous people at the time of treaties' signing were guaranteed that their way of life would be protected, that they would be able to move freely throughout their territories and continue to relate to land through their own laws, practices, and protocols.

So I think it's quite clear we have a problem here, because when you bring forward an amended Act that not only increases fines but also further pursues a legal framework that requires permission in order to enter onto lands, that that goes against the original treaty arrangement.

[15:30]

And not only that but the need to honour treaty responsibilities is more critical than ever. And because of ongoing privatization of public land, as I mentioned earlier, combined with racism, systemic discrimination, this is compounding historic land loss and making it increasingly difficult for Indigenous people to safely exercise their treaty and inherent rights.

So there's some binding principles I think it's worth mentioning in terms of how the Treaty Land Sharing Network has been

structured. Those four principles are: first off, Indigenous people hold both inherent and treaty rights to move freely throughout these territories and to use and steward the plants and animals. Second, access to land is critical for the cultural survival and livelihood of Indigenous people. Third, as treaty people, settlers have a responsibility to share the land they currently steward, and work to actively remove barriers to safe access. Finally, it is critical for settlers to engage in ongoing learning together to deepen their practice of the treaty relationship, even when this work requires them to set aside their own ways of doing things, challenge their perceptions, and feel uncomfortable.

And so as I mentioned, I was deeply grateful for the opportunity to learn about the land sharing network, to learn, as I always do, continue to learn about what that treaty relationship means both in terms of my own personal engagement but also government's responsibility towards it through the development and enactment of laws and legislation. So that's just one piece of it.

I mean I'm sorry, I've got more time. There is more to say about this but, you know, as I thought about this more . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Thanks for the encouragement. Appreciate that from across the way.

You know, I'm thinking about who are the actors in this framework. So we have the Crown obviously. The Crown has a role, particularly when it relates to Crown land but also when it relates to water rights as well. Then of course we have the landowners. Landowners have rights and, by extension, corporations. We have First Nations, of course. I talked about their rights a moment ago. There's an evolving area of law, not here in Saskatchewan of course — my goodness — but in other parts of the world, where they talk about environmental rights. And that even sort of comes in terms of protecting native species and habitat for various things. And then of course we also have the rights of subsurface rights holders.

And I guess when I thought about that, you know, it occurred to me that there is a bit of an inherent contradiction with this legislation in terms of attempting to protect landowners' rights. And yet landowners have their rights already being seriously undermined through the subsurface rights Act and the failure of this government to implement their own proposed legislation, right, you know, for surface rights holders, landowners in particular obviously, and that relationship between those accessing minerals below their land.

And I just don't get the disconnect in terms of how we have on the one hand purportedly a bill here that's all about, you know, reducing crime, protecting landholders' rights, and yet when it comes to the rights of landowners and access by subsurface rights holders, they are being really neglected and taken advantage of. I've had the opportunity to meet with several landowners who talk about their frustration with that piece of archaic legislation and the need to modernize it to reflect sort of the current state of energy production, and to do with things such as other infrastructure beyond just well pads and the like.

I'm not going to get into that aspect too much at this point, but I am just raising it in terms of it's an area of legislation that . . . I mean if we're talking about doing things on balance, as you've said, as you've talked about in your opinion surveys, I mean we have a group here that's been seriously underserved by this

government when it comes to that particular issue.

Another one that I want to touch on here today . . . And I mean I think you'll start to see kind of where my concerns lie right now within my critic portfolio. And that has to do with, you know, when it comes to the rights of landowners and their use of the land when it relates to water. Need I remind everybody here that we have a moratorium in the Quill lakes water basin, right? It's there to protect water quality. It's there to protect the use of land by landholders.

And yet when I had the opportunity . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . It has to do with the inherent contradiction between, you know, trying to right the balance and pursuing things that are in the interests of the people of Saskatchewan. Well you're ignoring the real issues, whether we're talking COVID, whether we're talking, you know, surface rights, and the abhorrent lack of government action on protecting wetlands, protecting water quality.

I delivered a petition on that very subject, you'll recall, earlier today. Landowners, not just landowners but everybody who accesses land for enjoyment and understands that water is life, are very concerned about the neglect of this government in addressing these real crimes on the landscape that are occurring — large equipment bulldozing through wetlands in an area that has a moratorium and then setting it ablaze, setting them on fire. I mean my heart just bleeds looking at it. It's interesting because, as I said, I'm not a property rights lawyer . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And if you don't mind, you I'm sure will get your chance to speak on the bill so please allow me to finish here. I promise I won't go on too much longer.

An Hon. Member: — Yes, you know, she'll have to start over again.

Ms. Ritchie: — Yeah, I'll have to start over. So this is the part where it gets a little bit philosophical, I suppose. But you know, when it comes to property rights, property rights aren't absolute. I mean if you go back . . . And again, I've done a little bit of research on it. You know, we talk about the earliest social theory on property going all the way to St. Thomas Aquinas, and humans having a natural right to the use of or ownership of property, and the fact that it's based on need and no one being entitled to more than they need to survive.

And so, I mean in terms of, you know, we think about whose rights are we . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I'm speaking to the bill. I'm speaking about property rights and amendments to a trespass law about property rights. So my goodness, I am right on track. I am right on track.

And it's important that we have a philosophical debate, because these issues do, you know, they have philosophical underpinnings. You are making certain assumptions about who has rights, and what constitutes trespass, and who has to be notified, and when it's a crime, and when someone's going to be fined. And I mean it doesn't sit right with people in Saskatchewan.

You took an unscientific opinion poll and rammed through some legislation as a way to change the channel and infringe upon rights of First Nations peoples and others who have the rights to

the enjoyment of the land.

And you think you're reducing crime. And you know, you're doing the opposite of that. You're creating a whole new category of crimes, and that's counterproductive, I would say.

So in terms of property rights and the concept of property rights, you know, it is about not infringing upon the rights of others. So how do we go forward in a good way so that everyone's rights can be respected, not just landowners, but all those who have rights to the access for human enjoyment?

And I think I'm just going to sort of set that there, put that out there. I know that my colleagues here on this side, my good, esteemed, moral colleagues will have more to say about that aspect of it as we move forward.

And as I said before, I do encourage you to take a look at the Treaty Land Sharing Network. It is an innovation in public policy that you'd be well served to take a look at and think about, you know, how we move forward in ways that are going to unify and bring together all of the good people of Saskatchewan in a good way, and not drive these kinds of destructive rifts between parts of society. And I think I'm going to . . . You'll be happy to know that I think that's where I'll conclude my remarks.

[Applause]

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you. Thank you very much. And I will move to adjourn debate on this dubious Act for further consideration tomorrow. Thank you so much.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 41

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 41 — *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur la législation*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

[Applause]

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . [inaudible] . . . this afternoon to enter into second reading debate on this Bill No. 41, *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021*. I was going to say this is the first second reading speech I've done in some time, mister deputy deputy speaker, but I have to note that I think that's the best response I've ever received from the members opposite. So I hope that I can live up to that kind of applause.

[15:45]

The bill that we're looking at today, Mr. Speaker, and the one

that I'll be speaking to next are largely housekeeping in nature and one of the pieces . . . I think this Bill No. 41 specifically looks at allowing more efficient changes to consequential amendments to regulations when they're made at once. So instead of, I think currently, if I understand this correctly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when there is an amendment, there have to be separate changes made to all of the regulations that are impacted. And this, excuse my sort of layperson's terminology here, but I think is sort of almost like a search-and-paste function, so that if one change is made that it's assumed to be changed in all of the regulations that would follow.

So I think we can find agreement on both sides of this House, things that are done to improve efficiency are good things and worthy of debate in this legislature.

And I always find, mister deputy deputy speaker, that I've always looked through the explanatory notes and followed the second readings speech that the minister introducing the bill brings to this Assembly as well as the response. And as has been noted, we sure do miss the member from Athabasca. But our Deputy Leader is doing a heck of a job on second readings here as well, and it's a pleasure to listen to her.

One of the pieces, and I think the member from Nutana canvassed this, is that those who serve in this Assembly — we all are here elected by our constituents and we come with qualifications and the support of those who put us in this place — but we aren't all policy-field experts, and certainly will acknowledge that, off the top, I'm not a lawyer. We're lucky to have lawyers on this side as well, although not as many as we used to have. And every once in a while when there's something I don't understand, I have to turn to that expert advice. And I think that's good for all of us.

So I did learn something today, mister deputy deputy speaker, and that is the term, it's a Latin term, *mutatis mutandis*, which translates directly as things having been changed that need to be changed. So I learned a little bit of Latin today. In this context when you're comparing two or more things, it means that necessary change is being made, but only that change is necessary, I believe if I've got that. I'm looking to the minister. So, Mr. Speaker, these changes would be made throughout the corresponding regulations, but wouldn't necessarily change more than they're meant to, the interpretation of those different statutes. There we go. I'm getting a nod, Mr. Speaker, so I have indeed learned something today.

In the introduction to this bill, the minister noted these changes were brought about in collaboration through the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, so looking at other jurisdictions across the country, the Dominion of Canada, and ensuring that legislation best practices shared amongst different provinces. And I think that's certainly a strength, not only to listen to that expert advice, but to look to our counterparts right across this country and, you know, think about the ways that we can improve legislation in each province. And I think that's certainly a benefit of being part of this large and beautiful country.

Mr. Speaker, the other pieces that I wanted to note . . . Oh, and again learning from those who have a different set of eyes, I read the speech from the member from Regina Douglas Park, and she read into this legislation a whole bunch of things about the sovereign's potential demise. And it wasn't something that I saw,

but certainly if there's a change in the sovereign, how that impacts things. We think of, I suppose, Court of Queen's Bench, Queen's Counsel, all of those things, and how that would impact that terminology.

We are in good hands, certainly, with our critic here. As is usual, she will do her due diligence and speak with stakeholders and have a little more time in committee with this Bill No. 41, but with that I think I am prepared to conclude my remarks and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 42.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 42

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 42 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, mister deputy deputy speaker. And I believe this is the last second reading, the last bill that we'll be considering in second readings today, so I'm going to take a little bit of time with it before we are all off to our various functions this evening.

I mentioned that the previous bill, Bill No. 41, was largely housekeeping — I think probably a little more consequential when compared to Bill No. 42, which seems to be largely around modernizing language, as was noted in the minister's second reading speech. In fact I will quote him in the second reading speech: "This bill will make housekeeping changes to numerous pieces of legislation in order to update and modernize their provisions."

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we found some agreement when we said all members in this place are in favour of things that are more efficient, and I think we can all agree on modernizing of language being something that's really important.

One of the things that is mentioned, and I think something that would be rectified — and perhaps I'm wrong — with the passage of Bill No. 41, would the statute law . . . For example, one change here is *The Construction Codes Act*, which is the new terminology replacing *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*. So that is the change that's been made, and then there is clause after clause here, mister deputy deputy speaker, making those changes in the Acts and regulations where that change needs to be made.

So definitely housekeeping. I think there's modernization of gender-neutral language. One that stood out for me was changing the name of the department of Community Resources and Employment to Social Services. Mister deputy deputy speaker, I was a social worker when the DCRE [Department of Community

Resources and Employment] came in. It was an interesting change, interesting time. Certainly something that needs to be updated.

You know, sometimes when we think about the bills that are here, modernizing language, updating is certainly important. If we get a wish list on this side — and I'm sure the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre will agree with me here, as will all members on this side — one that we'd like to see, not just the change in this Act of a name from DCRE to Social Services, but a substantial bill from that side on changing the disastrous SIS program. And we'd love to see those changes brought to the floor, Mr. Speaker.

It is okay and it happens that people make mistakes. And you know, that's one thing. It's another thing to move ahead bullheadishly knowing that your mistakes are causing such suffering and hardship for people right across the province. So while I'm getting near concluding here, I do want to make that plea. Because again, what happens here matters.

And not that subsequential amendments aren't important and statute law isn't important. It is, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's foundational and important, and I thank the experts that help us with making those changes. But legislation as important and as frankly life-saving as reversing those changes to the SIS program, you know, mister deputy deputy speaker, even we can dream coming up with a better program that actually meets the needs of people in this province.

People have come through COVID. When we're dealing with the rates of mental health and addiction that we are in this province, housing shortages or inaccessibility of housing, that's something that I think would be very worthy and important to bring to the floor of this legislature. So we will continue. I'm sure the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre, she's not going to stop — I know that, mister deputy deputy speaker — ensuring that those voices are heard and those changes, those needed changes are brought here.

But back to Bill No. 42. You know, the change from DCRE to Social Services is important. I hope to see that other legislation on this floor very soon. It also mentions changes around the Global Transportation Hub. And I really could talk about that for some time, mister deputy deputy speaker. In fact we have new members here who probably haven't been in this Assembly when we saw one of the lawyers who used to sit on this side, the former member for Saskatoon Nutana — I believe I can use her name now — Ms. Cathy Sproule from Saskatoon, and some of the debates that we saw in this Assembly, uncovering, asking for a forensic audit, answering questions. And we saw this government wanting to, again and again, channel-change on that issue.

People of Saskatchewan haven't forgotten, much like other issues where we need an audit, we need accountability. But of course our minds right now turn to more immediate needs. But don't think that the people of Saskatchewan have forgotten about that. The last time . . . We saw there has been, to be fair, a new announcement at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub]. The last announcement before that, mister deputy deputy speaker, was in 2020 when it was announced that the debt at the GTH had grown to 46 million.

So glad to see some investment out there, but that doesn't mean that all of the questions that need to be answered on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan have been answered. And that will be something that we've got tucked away and will continue to press for answers on. But that said, mister deputy deputy speaker, I think I have come to the end of my remarks on Bill No. 42, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021*, and with that I will move to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow, 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:59.]

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