



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.

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

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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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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Leave is asked for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery, I'd like to introduce Andrew Davidson from Royal Helium and his wife, Karen; also Patty Thomas from North American Helium; and Jim Baker and Greg Robb with helium exploration, Mr. Speaker.

North American Helium's Battle Creek purification facility, which opened earlier this year, represented an investment of over \$30 million to the province of Saskatchewan. It's the largest purification facility in Canada. Saskatoon-based Royal Helium has undertaken extensive recent exploration work, and in May it announced a very large helium discovery at its Climax project, potentially the largest helium discovery ever made in Saskatchewan. Helium Evolution recently secured over 3 million acres of helium permits in the province to explore and eventually produce Saskatchewan helium.

Mr. Speaker, these fine people joined me earlier for the launch of our helium action plan, of which I'll be speaking more about later. Helium is a key area of diversification in Saskatchewan and has a very impressive environmental footprint. We have world-class resource concentrations here in the province and expect to achieve up to 10 per cent of global market share by 2030, as well as a lot of 500s, Mr. Speaker: 500 million in capital investment, 500 million in future exports, 500 jobs, and thousands of associated service jobs. Most important of all, helium builds on our strengths, our energy strengths, Mr. Speaker.

Please join me in welcoming members of this exciting sector to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to welcome into your gallery the folks from Royal Helium and Helium Evolution today for a significant announcement to an industry that is world class, and that we welcome seeing the development here in the province based on years of geological surveys and exploration to identify this resource that is going to be part of the

future for Saskatchewan in the province. And I look forward to meeting with you in the future. Thank you and welcome to your gallery.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to you and all members of the Legislative Assembly, I rise today to introduce some special guests that are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. With us today we have the executive director and staff of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation. So I ask you to please give us a wave when I introduce you. We have Darrell Crabbe, the executive director; Marilee Heron, the executive assistant; Lyubov Horpinchenko, the accountant; Darren Newberry, director of habitant lands; Doug Gibson, director of education; Courtney Devins, director of communication and marketing; James Villeneuve, director of fisheries; and Blaine Olfert, program technician.

Mr. Speaker, they're here today to help the province celebrate Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation is a non-profit, non-government charitable organization of over 32,000 members in 125 branches across Saskatchewan representing every walk of life. I believe members of both sides of the legislature are members, Mr. Speaker. Per capita they are the largest wildlife conservation organization of its kind in the world. Established in 1929, the Sask Wildlife Federation has become an acknowledged leader in the conservation field.

Today is the day where the SWF [Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation] invites individuals and businesses to participate in honouring the Saskatchewan men and women who promote conservation, fishing, trapping, hunting, the shooting sports, and wildlife-oriented activities that this province has in so much abundance.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone proudly wears the multi-use camo patch that has been so generously provided by Sask Wildlife Federation in commemoration of Camo Day, which leads off our heritage day today. Mr. Speaker, I would like all members to welcome the executive and staff of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation to their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, while on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to introduce another two special guests seated in your gallery. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Harvey Kroll, board Chair; and Roy Anderson, acting CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Commission of Professional Outfitters, to their Legislative Assembly.

Saskatchewan offers an incredible variety of fishing and hunting

experiences. Outfitters and guides employed by outfitters assist both residents and visitors to the province in accessing many memorable experiences. Outfitting operations run throughout the province, Mr. Speaker, from game-bird hunting in the South to big game and fishing in the North. They contribute over \$129 million into Saskatchewan's economy each year, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking forward to our meeting after session, but now I'd like the Assembly to welcome Harvey Kroll and Roy Anderson to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to, all here present in the gallery today, I would like to also extend my heartfelt and warm welcome to the executive team and staff represented from the wildlife federation here in honour of Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day in Saskatchewan. Certainly it's a group that is doing commendable work here in the province, being the eyes and ears on the landscape, ensuring efforts to conserve wildlife and also promote a sector that's involved with quality-of-life activities through hunting and trapping and fishing, something that I've had the opportunity to, of late, spend more time doing. And certainly really appreciate their work in informing the public and ensuring that we have conservation occurring in the province.

Also at the same time I would also like to recognize and welcome to your gallery, Mr. Speaker, the representatives from the professional outfitters association, Harvey Kroll and Roy Anderson. Thank you also for the excellent work you do in promoting the industry and in supporting its development here in the province. We welcome you all to our gallery this morning. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance].

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure and my privilege to introduce Kevin Waugh, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Grasswood, who's seated in your gallery. Mr. Speaker, for the members that are not familiar with who Kevin Waugh is, he's the only one in the gallery who's not dressed like he stepped out of a Cabela's ad.

Many of you will know Kevin from his very, very, very long career as a CFQC sportscaster. Some will question whether it was too long. But in any event, others will know him from his time on the Saskatoon Public School Board. He became the Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Grasswood in 2015 and was re-elected in 2019 and again in 2021. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to Kevin and to some of his counterparts that in Saskatchewan we've moved to a four-year electoral cycle, and he might want to take that suggestion back to Ottawa.

Kevin and his wife, Ann, used to live across the back and a couple of houses over from where Sandy and I used to live. He described the distance between our houses as roughly a nine-iron, which in my case translates to a three-wood. Kevin and Ann have two children, Geoff and Courtney, both of whom are teachers. Courtney worked in this building for a year or so after she was done high school, and is no doubt a far better teacher for what she learned in this building. Mr. Speaker, she has two children,

Avery and James, and we wish them well.

Kevin is here today to meet with us about his private member's bill C-218, which legalizes single-event sports betting. Mr. Speaker, passage of this bill was no small feat. I want to put that into context for the members that are here. Kevin is an opposition backbencher from the province of Saskatchewan who successfully persuaded Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and MPs [Member of Parliament] from all parties to support his bill.

Mr. Speaker, we could learn from Kevin, or we could just send some of our bills back with him to get them passed. They might include carbon tax, carbon capture offsets, equalization, Criminal Code changes, and I've got a long list. But in any event we're going to fill Kevin's briefcase with our list of bills. I'm going to provide the same list to the Leader of the Opposition so he can forward them on to his counterpart, Jagmeet Singh.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to welcome Kevin Waugh to his legislature today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to Kevin Waugh, who is my Member of Parliament and has been so in Saskatoon-Grasswood since 2015. Mr. Waugh has served admirably, and I remember his time as a school board trustee with the Saskatoon public schools. And I'm also aware of the work that his children, as the member opposite pointed out, do as teachers within the system.

I want to also acknowledge and thank my Member of Parliament for joining Saskatoon Eastview in the summer when a walk took place to stand up against Islamophobia and hate in our community. And Mr. Waugh showed up, and that's where . . . We had met previously — he might not remember that — under other circumstances. But I appreciated that my Member of Parliament attended that walk, that he joined in the community to stand against hate. We had a good conversation that evening, and I'd like to just again give him a warm welcome to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would, through you and to you, like to introduce Chris Rod, who is up in your gallery. Chris has a long list of handles. I'll give a few of those. One, that introduced myself and actually the member from Swift Current, he organized the Filipino street festival in August in Saskatoon this year. He's the founding director of the Filipino Canadian National Congress, and he sits as the Chair of sports, recreation, and tourism. As well, he's the organizer and president of SAFE, the Saskatchewan Association of Filipino Entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I think all of us in this House have a large Filipino community. And you know, the attitude, the culture that they bring, I think there's five things that Filipinos seem to stand for that I've seen, and it's faith, family, food, basketball — which is surprising — and even more surprising is karaoke. I think Chris Rod is a good example of a good community person that we're glad to have. So to you and through you, I'd like us all to

welcome him to his legislature today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the member opposite in welcoming Chris Rod to his Assembly today. Chris is a constituent of Saskatoon Fairview. We've had the opportunity to meet on a number of occasions.

As was mentioned, he's a founding director of the Filipino Canadian National Congress, in representing Saskatchewan, and the producer and host of the Chris Rod Show, which I know a number of members and other elected officials have participated in.

And you know, he shows such a willingness to participate in community affairs, to get to know all the elected officials around the scene in Saskatoon and across Saskatchewan. So I want to thank you for your leadership in the community, Chris, and welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

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

[13:45]

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce two individuals seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Leslie Genoway is here with her son Crawford. Crawford is just a few weeks older than my son Ronan. We're trying really hard to make sure that they are and remain lifelong friends. Crawford is teaching Ronan how to eat solids right now. Ronan is trying to teach Crawford how to crawl.

Mr. Speaker, Leslie is a very busy and well-established entrepreneur in Regina. She's the owner of several businesses, two most notable for me, Mr. Speaker: Homestead Restaurant she owns with her partner, Josh McLean; and LG Fitness, Mr. Speaker.

LG is a small community gym that's actually located in my riding, Douglas Park, now. I've been going there for about three or four years. I know members opposite always ask me, how are you so jacked? Where are those muscles come from? Well, Mr. Speaker, I owe all of it due to Leslie Genoway and her hard work at the gym.

One thing that's so unique and special about the gym is the community that she's created. And it's really a welcoming space for everybody, especially if you have littles. She strongly encourages you to bring your littles to the gym with you so that exercise becomes a family affair. It's an honour to have her here today. It's an honour to call her a friend. I ask all members to join me in welcoming Leslie and her son Crawford to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I would like to introduce two very special guests who are here with us today in the east gallery. Lori Johb is the president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, and Kent Peterson is the

secretary-treasurer of the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour]. Mr. Speaker, just last month Lori was re-elected to her role as president at the 65th annual SFL convention, and Kent was newly elected to his role as secretary-treasurer. I'd like to sincerely congratulate them both and warmly welcome them to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to join with the member opposite and to welcome Lori and Kent to their legislature and offer them both congratulations on their election. I've known both of them over the last number of years and know that they're strong advocates for their members.

In particular I've worked with Lori in the last year or so on moving forward with things that we can do to make workplaces safer and reduce the injury rate in our province. She's been remarkably helpful and co-operative, and for that I cannot thank her enough. There are people that are alive and well in our province today strictly because of the work that she's done. So for that we thank them very, very much and want to continue working with them. I know we're not going to agree on everything, but I think, Mr. Speaker, when it comes right down to it, we agree on far more than we disagree. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to rise today and give a particularly special welcome to my good friend Kent Peterson who is in attendance today. Many of his qualifications have already been listed, Mr. Speaker, but because reading is fundamental, I think I'll hit a couple more here.

As has been mentioned, he's the regional vice-president of CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] and newly elected secretary-treasurer of the SFL; also a proud son of White Fox, Saskatchewan; proud daddy to Jackie and LaLa; and as well, a board member and volunteer with many organizations in the province including Family Service Regina. Mr. Speaker, in addition to this, I am well aware that this is the same old Kent who is a close personal friend of the member from Saskatoon Southeast.

But seriously, Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to rise and welcome my close friend, someone of whom I'm an enormous fan and lucky enough to have as my constituency president in the great state of Regina University, Kent Peterson.

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

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to you in your gallery today is Sara Beckel. Sara, if you can give us a wave. Sara lives in the wonderful constituency of Regina Walsh Acres, and I'm proud to represent her.

She also does some great work with the Regina Perinatal Health Network. It's a not-for-profit providing mental health supports and coordination of care for new or expectant families here in

Regina and clear across the province. And as we look across this Assembly, we have lots of new families, new ones on the way. And it's very important work that's going on, not only during the pandemic but beyond that as well. So I just want to get everybody to give Sara a very warm welcome to her Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be remiss if I didn't join in, to you and through you, in welcoming the president of the SFL, Lori Johb, who is a dear constituent of mine, a strong advocate for working people, a fiery speaker. And I couldn't agree more with the minister: there are working people that are alive today because of the good work she's done in this province.

While I'm on my feet I'd like to join the member from Walsh Acres and welcome Sara Beckel, who I went to high school with and I have been admiring the work she's been doing in prenatal care from afar. I have a young one of my own, and of course one on the way, and the work she's doing in the community . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I know, it's shocking. Was keeping it secret. The work that she's been doing in the community is just so valued and appreciated, so I want to welcome her to her legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan is a growing province, and the unoccupied Crown land that we still have must be protected for First Nation and Métis people to continue to exercise their inherent treaty right to hunt, fish, and gather. This government has been selling off Crown land with no meaningful duty-to-consult process. The current duty-to-consult policy is outdated and does not reflect the TRC's [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] Calls to Action and UNDRIP [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples].

The current process of mailing, emailing notices, one-off meetings with one or two people is not duty-to-consult and it does not work. Indigenous people do not see this as a meaningful engagement, let alone duty-to-consult. Without clear legislation in place for duty to consult in a meaningful way leaves little accountability for the province. The lack of meaningful duty-to-consult policy leaves the taxpayers of Saskatchewan footing the bill for the Government of Saskatchewan's mistakes and losses in court.

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 land, and work with First Nation and Métis communities to develop a new duty-to-consult framework.

The signatures of this petition reside in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon. I do so present. miigwech.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to protect contract workers from harassment, abuse, and exploitation. Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: not all workers are protected by Saskatchewan's occupational health and safety standards. Contract workers and gig workers, particularly women working in arts and culture, face a disproportionate amount of abuse and are at higher risk of exploitation, assault, and trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, language in occupational health and safety standards to address mental illness would help workers targeted by harassment and abuse in the workplace. And finally, Mr. Speaker, other provinces' occupational health and safety . . . protect against sexual harassment and domestic violence in the workplace. Ours does not.

I'd like 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 modernize occupational health and safety protections to protect all workers, including contract and gig workers, and include comprehensive provisions on mental illness, domestic violence, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, those signing the petition today come from Saskatoon, Regina, and Sedley. I do so present.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. These individuals wish to bring to our attention that many rural health care disruptions are due to staffing shortages; that recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's rural health care facilities; that the ongoing pandemic has created burnout and led to early retirements and resignations which has had rippling effects for small cities and towns; that health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan communities and local economies.

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 fix the rural health care staffing crisis.

This petition today is signed by individuals from Indian Head, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to be on my feet again today presenting our pay equity petition. Since this

petition was launched in March, we have gathered hundreds of signatures from people across the province, all of whom understand that pay equity is crucial to Saskatchewan women achieving equality. I sincerely hope this government will come to recognize this as well.

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, which is the result of systemic gender discrimination in compensation for work that must be corrected with pay equity legislation.

I'll now 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. Speaker, the signatories today reside in Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to be on my feet to present again a petition calling for reforms to the new social assistance program, SIS [Saskatchewan income support]. Since its inception, SIS has led to a dramatic increase in arrears, in evictions, and homelessness.

One of the things that this petition calls for is a return to direct payment. We did see an announcement that direct payment would be reinstated for some vulnerable people; not a lot of detail about who or how they will access this. We will continue to monitor this. But I have heard in the following days from stakeholders, many of whom have signed this petition, that these changes are a slap in the face. They don't go nearly far enough in reforming what is a broken program.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the government to restore direct payment of rent and utilities for income support clients.

The signatories of this petition reside here in Regina as well as in Moose Jaw. I do so present.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly today calling for the government to reject the proposed Lambert Peat Moss development. Many Saskatchewan residents have contacted my office pleading for this government to not sell out the people of Saskatchewan, and they've expressed concern for the environmental assessment process to represent the concerns of theirs in a fair and balanced manner.

The undersigned residents of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: Quebec-based Lambert Peat Moss has proposed the creation of a peat moss mine near La Ronge in northern Saskatchewan; many local residents, hunters, trappers, and traditional land users are opposed to the proposed peat moss mine and are concerned about the potential for damage to habitats, including critical habitat for woodland caribou, trap lines, and drinking water sources as well as climate impacts. More than 20,000 people have signed an online petition calling for the proposed peat moss mine to be stopped.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the provincial government to protect the boreal forest and reject the proposed Lambert Peat Moss development.

Signed by the residents of Saskatoon. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Community Support for Camp Hope

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to acknowledge those who work to support the more than 150 residents of Camp Hope — organizations like the Regina needle exchange, Queen City Wellness Pharmacy, Nēwo-Yôtina Friendship Centre, the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association], RAMP [Regina Alternative Measures Program], Carmichael Outreach, and many others, joined by community members and volunteers working around the clock to care for their most vulnerable neighbours, often at great personal sacrifice.

We've really seen an incredible outpouring of support from all corners of the city, and this work has made more visible not only the existence of poverty and homelessness in our community, but the inadequacy and often cruelty of this provincial government's response. Homelessness is a symptom of a system that lacks real supports, including lasting responses to addiction, mental health, trauma. Without meaningful changes and livable rates, people will continue to suffer, and the high cost of poverty will continue to be felt by the community as a whole.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, with the announcement of small changes to SIS last week — really laughable in their inadequacy — this NDP [New Democratic Party] opposition will continue to fight for the meaningful reforms we need. But these changes are a testament to the coalition of concerned community members who fought back. Likewise the creation of 40 shelter beds, not nearly enough to house even the residents of Camp Hope, but a response to the work of a community that will keep pushing for reforms and changes to our broken social safety net, not only as they relate to SIS.

So with that I'd ask all members to join me in thanking the volunteers at Camp Hope and honouring those they have been working so hard to support.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Hafford Vikings Win 1A Provincial Football Championship

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. After this past weekend, there's many people across the province that are talking about football today. Mr. Speaker, in particular, the member for Carrot River Valley is a fan of football. We all know this because, one, when the Carrot River Wildcats are playing, he is sure to tell us that they are playing. I also extend my support to the Carrot River Wildcats, Mr. Speaker, with a caveat, with a caveat of on the odd occasion when they play in the 20-21 1A six-man provincial championship and when they play against the Hafford Vikings.

Mr. Speaker, that was a game that took place this weekend. Happy to say the Hafford Vikings came out victorious with a 54-31 win. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the members of both teams, Mr. Speaker, in particular the coaching staff, starting with Cory Schmaltz and his team with the Carrot River Wildcats, Mr. Speaker, who we hear mentioned all too often in this Assembly. With the Hafford Vikings, we have Ryan Barnstable, Waylon Burton, Ollie Marciniuk, Jamie Sommerfeld. Mr. Speaker, I would just add this is the fifth time the Vikings have won the provincial title. They did it in 2019 and 2018, in 1991, 1989, and Ollie Marciniuk was there each and every time.

Thank you first of all to the coaches. You are not just playing the game of football. You are teaching young adults that success only comes with a lot of hard work, effort, and dedication. To the parents, the volunteers of all of the schools in communities and across the province, Mr. Speaker, they are putting on a full display of what it takes for our youth to build strong communities in this province. And to the players, regardless of the score, you have already won. The memories and the friendships that you have formed are special and will stay with you for the rest of your life.

And I would ask all members to congratulate the Hafford Vikings, but to congratulate all of the minor football teams across the province and all that makes our football teams such a success.

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

Commitment to Action on Climate Change

Ms. Ritchie: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. In other news, on Saturday, November 13th COP [conference of parties] concluded in Glasgow. The outcome of this year's UN [United Nations] conference was a consensus statement focused on urgently accelerating climate action, and commits all countries next year to revisit and strengthen their current 2030 emissions targets in order to keep 1.5 alive.

It's disappointing that the Prime Minister announced a unilateral cap on emissions that targets our province's energy sector, and it's also disappointing that our Premier did not see the importance of representing Saskatchewan at this important international forum. Climate change is a collective-action problem, and yet our

government has refused to act collaboratively.

I'd like to recognize organizations in our province like EnviroCollective, Fridays for Future, Climate Reality, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, and Climate Justice Saskatoon who are calling on our government to act ambitiously and responsibly to protect the climate, jobs, and the economy by bringing forward a credible plan to ensure we can maximize the potential of a diversified, green-energy economy.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the urgency and reality of climate change in our province, and in calling on the government to finally act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create good jobs for Saskatchewan people.

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

Miller Marauders Win 6A Provincial Football Championship

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Well thanks, Mr. Speaker. It was a beautiful late fall day this Saturday at Saskatoon's Gordie Howe Bowl, where the 6A provincial football championship took place. The visiting Miller Marauders from Regina took on the Saskatoon Holy Cross Crusaders.

The Marauders started off strong, earning a 21-0 lead by the end of the first quarter, but the Crusaders came roaring back to tie the game at 21 at the half. The defences tightened in the second half with Miller scoring the only touchdown when quarterback Winston Chapman went deep to Kenton Appel. Chapman also found Cohen Sim deep on a key second-and-long play late in the game. Despite missing star running back Marshall Erichsen due to injury in the second half, the team was able to run out the clock on the ground to seal the game 28-24.

This victory marked the 11th straight year Regina has won this game. More importantly, it's the first game of course since 2019. Everyone was very excited to be back on the field for this, to play this entire season.

Mr. Speaker, none of this happens without a great group of kids led by a network of dedicated volunteers who coach, train, administer, or basically do what is ever asked of them. I'm personally proud to be part of this group and to be able to coach many of these kids, including my son Ryan, up through the ranks throughout many years.

I've said many times before, Mr. Speaker, that high school sports is one of the greatest things ever invented. Many people who were part of the games right across our great province in so many communities this past weekend found out exactly why. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Willowgrove.

A Great Weekend for Football in Saskatchewan

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think there's a little bit of a theme here. It was one of those great Saskatchewan weekends — a little snow on the ground, a little

bite in the air, and football all around.

Congratulations to our Saskatchewan Roughriders as they secured another home playoff berth this year by beating the Edmonton Elks 29-24. The Riders will host the Calgary Stampeders on Sunday, November 28th, with the winner going on to play the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in Winnipeg the following weekend.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies beat the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds 39-17 and will be hosting the University of Manitoba Bisons in the U Sports Canada West final next weekend at Nutrien Park.

Mr. Speaker, a hardy group of Saskatoon Hilltops fans travelled south to Mosaic Stadium yesterday to watch the Hilltops beat the Regina Thunder 29 to 9. Both teams had a great season. The Hilltops will be travelling to British Columbia next weekend to take on the Langley Rams.

Of course, congratulations to our own coach, Mr. Speaker, the member for Regina Gardiner Park. As mentioned moments ago, his Miller Marauders won the provincial 6A football championship.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, a big congratulations to the Hafford-Blaine Lake Vikings on their six-man provincial championship. The member from Carrot River, I know his Wildcats played hard, but I think his wallet is a little lighter because of it.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to all the football players, coaches, parents, and fans. Football helps make Saskatchewan a great place to live.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

New Award Honours Distinguished Scientist

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th-year anniversary of Dr. Gerhard Herzberg's Nobel Prize and the University of Saskatchewan's new award, the Herzberg International Equity Award.

Last week I was honoured to attend a reception at the university to commemorate this new award and learn more about this distinguished scientist. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Herzberg founded the spectroscopy lab at the University of Saskatchewan during his tenure from 1935 to 1945, and was considered in his time to be the world's foremost expert in spectroscopy whose early work, Mr. Speaker, influenced the decision to locate the Synchrotron at the University of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Herzberg found his way to the University of Saskatchewan after being dismissed from his position at the Darmstadt Institute of Technology in Germany for his wife's Jewish ancestry during the Nazi regime. Fortunately he had an ally in President Walter Murray and future president John Spinks at the University of Saskatchewan where Dr. Herzberg obtained a position when other universities would not engage him.

Dr. Herzberg went on to do many things, Mr. Speaker. He became the first to detect the hydrogen molecule in planetary atmospheres, the first to uncover the presence of water in comets, and made important contributions to the knowledge of molecular structures. For these accomplishments, Dr. Herzberg received his Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1971. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this was the same year of his wife's passing, who was an accomplished scientist at the university in her own right. However, he continued his work with a similar passion and later founded the World Cultural Council, whose goals are to promote goodwill and philanthropy among individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members to join me in recognition of Dr. Gerhard Herzberg's enduring contributions to chemistry and the University of Saskatchewan's Herzberg International Equity Award. Thank you.

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

Saskatchewan's Economy Continues to Gain Strength

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The good economic news for Saskatchewan continues to roll in. This morning StatsCan released manufacturing sales and wholesale trade numbers for September.

Compared to last year, the value of manufacturing sales in Saskatchewan increased by 53 per cent to \$1.7 billion, by far the highest percentage increase of any province in the country and way above the national average of an 8.4 per cent increase.

Between August and September, Mr. Speaker, the value of wholesale trade in Saskatchewan increased by 9.7 per cent to \$2.6 billion, the highest percentage increase of any province and well above the national average of 1 per cent. Compared to September 2020, the value of wholesale trade increased by 18.5 per cent, which again was well above the national average.

These numbers are just the latest indicator that our province's economy continues to gain strength. As my colleagues have noted many times in this House, but it definitely bears repeating, on top of all of these strong indicators is the fact that over \$10 million in major capital investments into our province have been announced this year. There is clear momentum in our province. And on this side of the House, we couldn't be more excited about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Douglas, Thatcher, Blakeney, Romanow, Calvert — heck, even Brad Wall for all of our disagreements — these were leaders who commanded respect on the national stage. But not this Premier. He's made himself a laughingstock, a national embarrassment, a cautionary tale.

But it's not about him, Mr. Speaker. It's about all of us. It's about the people of Saskatchewan. His choices have left us with the

lowest vaccination rate in the entire country, the highest COVID death rate in the entire country, and a deeply damaged reputation.

Will this Premier finally acknowledge his failures and stop putting politics ahead of people's lives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, throughout the last, oh, about 20 months now, all of the provinces and territories in this nation, including Saskatchewan, have been finding our way through the COVID-19, the global pandemic that we are dealing with here in our nation and dealing with, yes, in our province. And yes, the fourth wave has hit our province particularly hard, Mr. Speaker.

We've worked quite closely with the federal government, yes, throughout this pandemic. I think back to the early days when I was Chair of the Council of Federation, and we negotiated the over-twenty-billion-dollar transfer that went to the provinces and territories across this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to find our way through this fourth wave. Our numbers are improving. We're down 78 per cent in our seven-day average from the peak. Since we made our announcement in the middle of September, we're up almost 200,000 vaccines have been delivered here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

And all the way that we've been finding our way through this, we've been able somehow to attract over \$10 billion worth of investment into our communities, providing that hope and opportunity for people, yes, to find a career here in the province, people that move here from other areas of the world. Mr. Speaker, we're going to create that opportunity, not just for this coming year or years but for the next number of decades.

The Speaker: — I'd like to caution the Leader of the Opposition not to make personal comments that may impugn the reputation of another member. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over 20 people in Saskatchewan have died since we last sat in this Chamber, and still the Premier spins. Thousands are left without essential care. On Friday a Saskatoon physician shared a story: a family that she had to tell that the last wish of their dying son, his last wish to have his organs donated, that that last wish could not be granted. She said, and I quote, "Thanks to @PremierScottMoe and his lack of leadership, that is not an option in Saskatchewan." Mr. Speaker, if that's not failure, what is?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, as we said last week, there is a number . . . there was a number of programs and services that have been paused or scaled back throughout this fourth wave as we diverted those resources, those human resources, to support the folks in our ICU [intensive care unit] rooms here in the province. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Health had indicated, those services were up to over 50 per cent back to operation last week. It will be 75 per cent this week, and 90 per cent of those services will be operational again by the end of the month.

And we're working actively with the Ministry of Health — their policy arm providing policy to the Government of Saskatchewan — on how we can ensure that we resume our surgical capacity, to ensure that we can have that surgical capacity and not be accumulating those surgeries out into the long term, but ensure that we also have every effort in place to reduce the wait times that we have due to the last 20 months of dealing with COVID here in the province, which is not specific to Saskatchewan, is true in many cases in most provinces across the nation, Mr. Speaker.

When we formed government in 2007, we had a significant surgical wait time in this province, Mr. Speaker. We reduced that surgical wait time. Now we're committed to doing that again.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier talks about choices, but he chose to take the summer off. He chose to ignore the modelling. He chose to ignore the experts and allowed COVID-19 to run wild throughout this province. And now we learn that there are two new variants of the COVID-19 virus in Saskatchewan. University of Alberta infectious disease expert Dr. Ilan Schwartz said, and I quote, "It's unsurprising in a climate where the virus has basically been given free rein over the summer and fall months, specifically in Alberta and Saskatchewan."

To the Premier: does he realize how dangerous his choice to ignore the experts and let the virus run wild while he took the summer off, does he recognize how dangerous that truly was?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Now, Mr. Speaker, there's actually 125 sub-variants of the Delta virus. Yes, there are some of those that are present in Saskatchewan, in Western Canada, across the nation. Yes there is, but there are 125 sub-variations of the Delta variant. I think what's important is what our chief medical health officer has said, is you don't treat any of these sub-variants any different than you would the original Delta variant or any of the original COVID variants, Mr. Speaker, is you go out and get vaccinated.

Mr. Speaker, it is by far and away the most effective tool that we have against all of the COVID variants that have arrived, whether it be the UK [United Kingdom] variant, the original COVID virus, or any of the 125 sub-variants that are present in the world today. The treatment is the same: go out, get your first shot; a few weeks later get your second shot; and if you qualify for a booster, we want you to go out and get that too.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over 300 people in Saskatchewan have died from COVID-19 since the Premier made that fateful choice to decide to take the summer off. In July, that's when our vaccination rates dropped to the lowest in the country. And we still have sent dozens of patients outside of the province to get care across the country, five of those patients never to return, and their families mourning a loved one who died halfway across the country.

Mr. Speaker, these are the results of this Premier's failure on the fourth wave. Now when we learn that we have these new dangerous variants potentially causing a fifth wave, what will the Premier do to make sure that the new variants of him and Jason Kenney are kept under control and that we avoid a worse wave as we head into the winter?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I think in fairness it needs to be acknowledged that in the middle of September, we moved forward not only with public health measures around masking, but we moved forward with a proof-of-vaccination/proof-of-negative-test policy that have now enabled us to increase our vaccinations in this province by almost 200,000.

Mr. Speaker, that is starting to have a real impact on the numbers that we have. We're nearly 80 per cent down on our seven-day rolling average. That is due to what the people of this province are doing in following the public health measures that are in place, but also, Mr. Speaker, following the public health recommendations that are in place.

And for that, Mr. Speaker, I once again say through you to the people of the province, thank you. Thank you for what you are doing. Mr. Speaker, it is working. Down nearly 80 per cent in our numbers. That's because each and every person in this province is doing the correct thing. They're following the public health measures. We need a few more to go out and get vaccinated. Our vaccination rate has climbed substantially in the last number of weeks since we introduced this policy, and it will continue to climb in the days ahead.

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

Coverage for Medical Procedure

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier waited and waited. He chose not to act. Hundreds have died and thousands more are waiting for essential care.

Now, Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about Conner Finn. Conner is five, and he was diagnosed with a rare neurological disease called adrenoleukodystrophy. He required an urgent bone marrow transplant to save his life. Now Conner couldn't get that surgery in Saskatchewan. He had to travel to Minnesota.

The care saved his life but at the cost of his family's life savings because this government has refused to cover the cost of that essential medical procedure. Will the Premier explain to Conner's mother, Kirsten, who's in the gallery today, will the Premier explain why her son's urgent medical costs were denied coverage?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome Kirsten to her Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity of meeting with the Finn family earlier this year in the beginning of April — along with Mr. McFadyen, who is their advocate — to discuss Conner's specific situation.

Mr. Speaker, at the time I had . . . There was a report that was

going in to the Ombudsman that we are still waiting for some information on that. The Ombudsman has made some interim recommendations around the process, which we have fully accepted those, Mr. Speaker.

And I'd be more than happy to sit down with Kirsten and the Finn family and Mr. McFadyen if they wish, to understand if there is any updates on this case. I'd be more than happy to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Conner was lucky, thank God. In Minnesota the care team was able to find a donor, to do the transplant, to save his life. They did that within that narrow therapeutic window. It would never have happened, it wasn't possible for this to happen in Saskatchewan or anywhere else in Canada.

But because of the cost of this care nearly bankrupting the family, Conner's dad had to seek new work. So once proud residents of Saskatoon Southeast, now the Finns are living in Kansas City, Missouri. Does the Premier think it's right that a local family be driven out of Saskatchewan because his government, because this minister refuses to cover the care? Will the Premier take to his feet and commit today to covering the essential care that Conner received?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. As I said, the Ombudsman has done some interim investigation into this and provided us with four recommendations which we accept wholeheartedly to improve the process to make sure that there is a very clear process laid out.

But again, Mr. Speaker, I'd be more than happy to sit down with Kirsten and the Finn family and Mr. McFadyen, as I have in the past. I've been very open. We've had lots of correspondence back and forth from my office on this specific case. And again I'd be more than happy to sit down with the family to be able to discuss this face to face. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the minister may have met with them, but nothing has changed for this family. While they were in Minnesota, the Finn family learned that Conner's specialized treatment was urgent. A donor was found and the transplant was performed. This urgent action and medical expertise saved Conner's life.

Mr. Speaker, the government's own health service review committee recommended that Conner's care be covered. Why did the minister override this decision?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. And again, I said that the Ombudsman has provided recommendations to us where we're going to incorporate this into our process. But we might even take it one step further and look at rare disease

policy for the Government of Saskatchewan and be able to look at these specific cases because they are very unique and very technical, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not a physician, so I don't have that technical information with me, Mr. Speaker. Some of these decisions were made by physicians, and I will endure to be able to make sure that our process is in the best possible way to serve anybody else that has, in this situation, a very rare disease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — If he doesn't have that expertise, why did he override that decision, Mr. Speaker? This family had to drain their life savings and leave the country to get their son the care that he needed to live.

The Finns filed an FOI [freedom of information] request asking for all relevant medical documents that the government used to deny their request for coverage. This request was over six months ago, and still the government refuses to be transparent with this family. Why on earth would they deny this family access to all records related to Conner's care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said before, I have no problem in sitting down and reviewing this case again with Kirsten and the family and Mr. McFadyen to be able to discuss this.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar with why this information was not transferred to the family, but that's possibly something we can discuss when we sit down to be able to . . . Mr. Speaker, when we sit down face to face and have that discussion if Kirsten and the family would like to do that. And if they want to make sure that they have their advocate, Mr. McFadyen, there, we can schedule that for another time so they can prepare for that meeting. I'd be happy to meet, and I'll clear my schedule to be able to meet with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Paid Sick Leave and Supports for Employees

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, in the spring when our team pushed for paid sick leave legislation, it was dismissed by the Sask Party. Paid sick leave, in the minister's opinion, was an unnecessary imposition — his words. They thought the pandemic was over and that workers wouldn't need it. Well we know they were wrong about the pandemic, Mr. Speaker, so will they admit that they were wrong about paid sick leave as well?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour and Workplace Safety.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate very much the question. We're always watching carefully what takes place with our workers in the province.

Through the pandemic we supported workers through a variety

of different enhanced job protection so people would not need to take time off when they were ill or to care for others. Mr. Speaker, the Canada sickness recovery benefit is set to expire, or was set to expire November 20th of this year. So I understand the member's concern. We're now advised that that has been continued or extended to May 7th of next year. That benefit will provide workers up to \$500 per week for a variety of different illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, we still offer job protection when employees have short-term or serious illnesses, including sick leave of 12 days, leave for serious illnesses, leave for work-related injuries, and WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] benefits. Mr. Speaker, we know that we are in a place and a time where the economic recovery for our businesses is fragile. We want to be able to be supportive of our businesses, but we want to make sure that the workers in our province have got good coverage through the various federal programs that are there and that our provincial programs interlock with them, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The coverage, the federal coverage that the minister references, we know is inadequate. We know it's leaving people falling through the cracks. We're living with the worst of both worlds, Mr. Speaker. That's the reality. The failed pandemic response has made Saskatchewan last in the nation, the highest COVID death rate, and dead last when it comes to jobs growth.

Workers are forced to go to work sick because missing work means bills go unpaid. Lives would be saved if every worker could afford to stay at home when they're sick, Mr. Speaker. So when will the Sask Party get on board and support paid sick leave for all Saskatchewan workers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, our province was the first province to introduce special vaccination leave providing up to three hours of paid leave for workers to receive their vaccination shot. Mr. Speaker, that is the way we are going to find our way through the pandemic, is by having people get vaccinated.

I'd like to urge the member opposite and everybody that she knows to reach out to people that may not yet have had their vaccination. There are vaccinations available everywhere throughout the province, and we want people to make sure that they take not just their first dose but their second one, and there may well be booster shots that are coming along in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. Speaker, those are all things that are incredibly important to improve the safety and security of our workforce in the province. We were the first to provide that paid leave. That paid leave still exists for first shots, and we want people to continue to do that, to get out, get vaccinated, and do what is necessary. Mr. Speaker, we have a strong, robust economy that is finding its way back to life, and we want to encourage workers to participate in everything they need to, to stay healthy and to get vaccinated.

[14:30]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, this government continuing to rely on vaccination as a one-trick-pony policy response simply isn't working. During the fourth wave, Mr. Speaker, hundreds have died, thousands have been in hospital, and thousands have lost good jobs. This could have been avoided if the Sask Party had listened to the evidence and supported paid sick leave.

It's the choice between risking lives going to work sick, or risking the roof over your head by staying home, Mr. Speaker. No one should have to make that choice. Does the Sask Party really think that allowing workers to protect themselves and those they work with is an unnecessary imposition?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I want to just make sure that people are aware we take the safety and well-being and health of our workforce in our province very seriously, and want to do everything that can be done to support those people as they return to work. Mr. Speaker, our province created the new public health emergency leave which can be accessed if an employer, a physician, or the government requires an employee to stay home for public health reasons.

They may likely have access to the federal program, so the two programs dovetail together. We have extended that job protection to employees so that they can access the Canada recovery sickness benefit which provides employees up to \$500 per week. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with those programs to make sure that they stay viable and that those programs are in place for the workers in this province.

We still offer job protection to employees who have short-term or serious illnesses, including 12 days of sick leave; leave for serious illness, 12 weeks for personal illness or illness of a family member; leave for work-related injury, another 26 weeks; and WCB benefits equal to 90 per cent of our average net earnings to employees who contracted COVID in the workplace. Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to do those things.

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

Job Growth and Management of Provincial Economy

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What a tired and underwhelming list that was. And speaking of which, just last week the job minister's favourite talking point was that Saskatchewan created jobs year over year. And he's not wrong, Mr. Speaker. There was a small, small increase.

So would he care to update the House on how that change in jobs stacks up compared to other provinces?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I am thrilled to be able to stand in this House today and talk about more great economic news here in Saskatchewan. Today we got new statistics on manufacturing sales and also on retail trade.

Manufacturing sales first, Mr. Speaker. In the course of the last year, manufacturing sales in this province increased by 53 per cent. And that's a real thing. Mr. Speaker, those are equipment manufacturers in the agriculture sector, for example, who are making the best farm equipment in the world right here in Saskatchewan and sending that around the world — 53 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker. That's over 20 points higher than the next highest province in the entire country, Mr. Speaker. The national average was 8.4 per cent. We were at 53.

On wholesale trade, Mr. Speaker, which is a significant leading indicator in the economy, the value of wholesale trade over the course of the last month was up 9.7 per cent — over the course of the last year, the fourth-highest increase of any jurisdiction in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this economy is heading in the right direction because of the leadership of this government and not the leadership of that opposition.

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

Ms. A. Young: — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's taken me a year to realize that the duties and responsibilities of being job minister in the province of Saskatchewan is . . .

The Speaker: — I'd like to caution the member to refer to the minister by his proper title.

Ms. A. Young: — Pardon me, Mr. Speaker. The minister opposite is taking responsibility for the ingenuity, risk, and work of other individuals and businesses here in this province.

But, Mr. Speaker, again we saw no answer, but the numbers do not lie. Using their preferred metric, we weren't in last place — it's right — but we were tied, and we were tied for second-last place with Manitoba. And this is what happens when you try and put the economy ahead of public health: you fail at both. So, Mr. Speaker, is second-last place in job growth good enough for the minister?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm thrilled to talk about the wonderful economic news here in this province. Over \$10 billion of new investment made into this economy, going to be made into this economy in the years ahead. Mr. Speaker, that doesn't happen by accident. That happens because governments have created the environment for companies to have the confidence to make multi-billion-dollar investments into that particular jurisdiction.

We know this as well, Mr. Speaker: that never would have happened if the NDP were in government. It never would have. I think even they, I think even they understand that that never

would have happened if they were in government.

And, Mr. Speaker, the additional statistics I could talk about right now in addition to those massive new investments. We do have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. We did add thousands of jobs year over year.

And we also know what their policy is — shut it all down. Mr. Speaker, consistently for the last 20 months, their position on the economy has been to shut it down. The hypocrisy for those members to stand up and say job growth is not significant enough, when their position is to shut them all down and fire all those people, is unbelievable.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Truly remarkable hubris coming from a government that has failed to balance a single budget.

Mr. Speaker, last week the CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] announced that less than one-third of small businesses have recovered their revenues to pre-pandemic levels. But, Mr. Speaker, we saw the CFIB beg this government to introduce supports during the fourth wave, and yet what did we see? Not one thin dime.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan small businesses had the second-worst results in the nature. So how many more reports and how many more asks is it going to take before this minister realizes that when you try and sacrifice public health for the economy, you will fail at both?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Wow. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have to say I find it very interesting that that member would quote the CFIB. And I'm prepared to table some of the quotes that that member has said about the CFIB, one of which has been, and I quote, "Imagine being the CFIB and just going to work and lying every day." That's what that member had to say about the CFIB and their work. There's a number of other quotes that I am happy to table and read into the record that that member had said about the CFIB, Mr. Speaker.

The fact of the matter is that this economy has been creating jobs. The fact of the matter is that there is unprecedented investment coming into Saskatchewan from companies like BHP Billiton, Richardson International, Cargill. Mr. Speaker, we are seeing this economy heading in the absolute right direction. That would be the exact opposite of the case if those members ever had the chance.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very animated . . .

The Speaker: — Sorry, I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Mowat: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — State your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the minister was just referring back to a quote that the member from Regina University had stated. We'd ask him to table the document that he was reading from, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, yeah, I'm happy to table those quotes. I will read them again. "Can someone explain to me how CFIB . . ."

The Speaker: — Minister, just table it, please.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — We will be happy to table that, in addition to several other disparaging quotes about the CFIB made by that member.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Government Announces Launch of Helium Action Plan

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And speaking of energy jobs and the energy sector which we're here to celebrate today, speaking of the member for Regina University getting very animated on the jobs front, she was the one who Twitter-cheered when an energy company laid off 15 per cent of its workforce, Mr. Speaker.

But I'm pleased to rise today to announce the launch of our Helium Action Plan: From Exploration to Exports. The plan is to become a world leader in helium production and export over the next decade, Mr. Speaker, and to supply 10 per cent of global helium market share by 2030.

And we know helium is a lot more about a lot of very targeted, advanced-tech things and applications, Mr. Speaker, than party balloons. It is used in medical research, semiconductor manufacturing, space exploration, fibre optics, nuclear power generation. It is a key new area of diversification in Saskatchewan and we're emerging as a helium hub.

We've done extensive geological surveying of some 88,000 oil and gas wells, conducted close to 6,500 gas analysis tests which confirm that Saskatchewan has world-class helium concentrations. The goal looking ahead is 150 wells, 15 purification and liquefaction facilities, and quite a few 500's — 500 million in capital investment, 500 million estimated in future exports, 500 jobs — and thousands of associated service jobs.

North American Helium, Mr. Speaker, opened the largest helium purification facility in Canada in Battle Creek earlier this year, a \$30 million investment. Saskatoon-based Royal Helium has undertaken extensive recent exploration, drilling, and development work and in May it announced what could

potentially be the largest helium discovery ever made at its Climax project. This, Mr. Speaker, is what I call a unique value proposition. There's no substitute for helium. It's in limited supply and it's experiencing surging global demand in a market that's expected to double by 2030.

And then there's the environmental footprint, Mr. Speaker. Our unique geology here in the province means we can produce helium from dedicated wells that yield high concentrations of helium but have a low greenhouse gas emissions profile. Helium produced in Saskatchewan is up to 99 per cent less carbon-intensive than in other jurisdictions, and our helium deposits are a mixture of nitrogen, which makes up 78 per cent of the Earth's atmosphere, so it can be released emissions-free. Those 500 anticipated helium jobs, Mr. Speaker, they're what you call green jobs.

Our helium action plan will support and grow the entire helium value chain and focus on exploration, production, innovation, processing, and export infrastructure. To that end we've expanded the Saskatchewan petroleum innovation incentive, or SPII, to include helium projects. And that's in addition to our existing infrastructure-focused oil and gas processing investment incentive, which follows up from private investment of at least \$10 million and which North American Helium qualified for.

The goal of our plan today is to improve our province's competitiveness even more by enhancing geosciences data, streamlining and aligning administrative and regulatory processes, and leveraging helium's inclusion on the Canada-US [United States] minerals list for major economies.

Mr. Speaker, helium builds on our existing energy strengths, the strengths of our energy workers. It complements what they already do. And at times such as these — and we're getting used to them, with the talk of arbitrary federal caps on our provincial sector's emissions and the daily glib dismissal of that traditional sector — we need all the energy strength, all the positive energy that we can get. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister opposite for sharing a copy of her remarks in advance. Let me start by saying that we welcome and support the development of helium reserves in this province as an important and strategic resource in the emerging clean energy economy and increasingly carbon-constrained world.

[14:45]

But as they say, Mr. Speaker, the devil is in the details. We'll be watching developments closely to ensure that Saskatchewan people and local communities are the true benefactors of good-paying green jobs and economic opportunity, not out-of-province businesses. Certainly we hope it will help stop the brain drain and out-migration resulting from this government's failures and the worst response of any Canadian province to the COVID crisis.

World-class investments require world-class regulatory environments. We'll be watching closely to ensure that they

listen to the experts, not just on the potential for the sector, but also the many long-standing issues that have impeded investment and resource development in this province, while at the same time exploiting surface rights holders and landowners, and are addressed through a clear government commitment to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring that developers remit their municipal taxes, long-overdue amendments and modernization of surface rights legislation, and world-class environmental policies that protect and preserve our air quality, water resources, wetlands, and natural biodiversity and avoid future environmental liabilities from improper decommissioning and reclamation.

So in closing, we'll be watching carefully to ensure that this government's helium plan delivers on what Saskatchewan people are looking for — jobs and growth in a diversified economy that puts Saskatchewan people first.

The Speaker: — Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — State your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify a quote that I read in question period. I did it from memory, so I got it slightly wrong. So I want to clarify. Here is the quote: "Imagine being the CFIB and just getting to go to work every day and lie." That's the actual quote, Mr. Speaker. Happy to table this.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to raise the fact that clearly the Opposition House Leader is just using this as a format to . . . He's using this as a format to repeat the same thing, to repeat the same thing over and over again. We do appreciate him tabling the document. But not a well-taken point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I'll take it under advisement.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 51 — *The Privacy (Intimate Images — Additional Remedies) Amendment Act, 2021*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 51, *The Privacy (Intimate Images — Additional Remedies) Amendment Act, 2021* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Justice minister that Bill No. 51 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 52 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SGI.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 52, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of SGI that Bill No. 52 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 53 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 53 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 606 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Sick Days) Amendment Act, 2021*

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 606, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Sick Days) Amendment Act, 2021* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Saskatoon University that Bill No. 606 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

Ms. Bowes: — At the next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 48 — *The Public Health (Safe Access to Hospitals) Amendment Act, 2021*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 48, *The Public Health (Safe Access to Hospitals) Amendment Act, 2021*. Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to supporting our current response to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring that our public health legislation is appropriate and effective in the future. We are proposing amendments to *The Public Health Act, 1994* to achieve these goals.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will allow safe-access zones around Saskatchewan's 67 provincial, regional, district, and at community hospitals, including affiliated hospitals. This measure will help to protect the public, patients, and health care providers from harassment. Patients and our health care service providers deserve to have able access to hospitals safely and without encountering interference or intimidation tactics, particular during the ongoing pandemic. These new access zones will make hospital environments safer for all participants in our health care system. The 50-metre safe-access zone would prevent sidewalk protests close to hospitals that sometimes result in delays or harassment of people going into these facilities.

I would note that the provision allows residents to continue to have the right to hold and attend lawful, peaceful protests held outside the access zone. It also contains an exemption for lawful picketing and demonstration around labour disputes. The Minister of Health, the Saskatchewan Health Authority and others will be able to enforce the access zone by way of injunction. Further, Mr. Speaker, the safe-access zone provision will not be in place permanently. It will expire in two years after the date of legislation comes into force.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments also include enabling additional immunizers to support vaccination programs. This will improve our capacity to provide influenza vaccines as well as COVID-19 vaccines and boosters for children age 5 to 11 when eligible.

Mr. Speaker, the amended legislation will also expand ways in which an order can be served. I am pleased to say that, Mr. Speaker, that we have support of partners and stakeholders around the proposed vaccination delivery provisions. We agree that we need to preserve public health and safety and support our hospitals and their staff in providing health services with safety, dignity, and privacy. Other provinces introduced similar initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will support residents, patients, and the valued health care professionals across the province who serve Saskatchewan with dedication and compassion. I am pleased to move second reading of *The Public Health (Safe Access to Hospitals) Amendment Act, 2021*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 48 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate on this bill. And I appreciate the minister's comments that he just made with respect to this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we've been seeing a growing amount of protests around hospitals throughout the province. In particular we saw them on the rise this summer. It was quite upsetting for those who were going to hospitals, either as health care workers or patients or loved ones of patients, to try to enter those facilities and be essentially accosted, Mr. Speaker, by protesters protesting a myriad of things — the mask mandate, vaccinations, and the like.

Mr. Speaker, we're seeing those protests happen throughout the country, with a corresponding response from some jurisdictions providing essentially what is a bubble zone protection of health care facilities against these protests so individuals can, as they should be able to, utilize health care without being accosted. We said this when we actually called for this measure this summer.

Those protests should be happening at the legislature. They shouldn't be happening at hospitals. This is the building where these decisions are made. This is the building where we often see protests, peaceful protests happening on a variety of different issues. We've also seen the group in particular that's protested hospitals come to the legislature and protest here, Mr. Speaker.

And this summer, when actually the NDP opposition called for

this legislation, called for something like this, we actually gave the government a few different options for how they could make sure that this happened in a timely manner. There were options under *The Public Health Act*. Perhaps a public health order could have been made to make sure that these facilities were protected in a timely manner, Mr. Speaker.

We were disappointed when the government at that time did not take us up on that ask. We even indicated that if they wanted we could have an emergency sitting to have quick passage of a piece of legislation to make sure that these hospitals are safe spaces for health care workers, patients, and their loved ones in this time of a pandemic, Mr. Speaker. Frankly it's abhorrent to see this type of protest happen at this time. To see patients and to see health care workers be accosted in this way is quite upsetting.

At the time when we had made this call, I believe it was the Minister of Justice who said that there were appropriate measures already available to them. It's clear that that wasn't the case because now we have this legislation in front of us. That's not to say that it's not welcomed that this legislation is in front of us, Mr. Speaker, but I think it's important to put on record the history of the discussion that's been had in the public sphere about this issue to date, Mr. Speaker.

I know that we've just essentially started looking at this legislation. I know that the critic is going to be reaching out to stakeholders to garner feedback on this legislation, Mr. Speaker. And we encourage any stakeholders, especially those who work in the health care field, to reach out to us with their questions and their concerns about this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

In particular I want to point to the public's attention the sunset clause that's in this legislation. So 67.5 provides a sunset clause for this legislation of 24 months, Mr. Speaker. So we'll have some questions for sure about why that was deemed necessary; isn't it appropriate; shouldn't there be a longer period.

Should we ever have protests in front of hospitals, Mr. Speaker? That's a question and a discussion that will be happening, Mr. Speaker, with stakeholders. And I think it's something that should be considered and thought about.

There's also a provision, an interesting provision around vaccinations, Mr. Speaker, that's in this legislation that's surrounding . . . I think it's making some changes to who can be considered a vaccination provider. I know that our critic for Health will also be asking some questions about that.

It's interesting that it's in this legislation because it's not really dealing with the safe access to hospitals portion of this legislation. So naturally when we see a piece that isn't really relevant to the legislation as it's described in its title, we have a few more questions about that, Mr. Speaker. And I know that our critic's going to be doing some very good work and expedient work in reaching out to folks and gathering feedback on that, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

I think that about sums up my initial comments and our initial comments with respect to this legislation. I know we'll be speaking about it more in days that follow. And in order to

facilitate that, I am prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 48.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 49 — *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be moving, at the end of my remarks, second reading of Bill No. 49, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021*. This legislation amends *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* and facilitates the introduction of an online gaming platform in the province.

Earlier this year, SaskGaming and SIGA, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, entered into a collaborative partnership to establish an online gaming solution for the province. Both parties executed a letter of intent where SIGA will operate an online gaming platform and SaskGaming will provide conduct and management oversight. In that letter of intent, it was determined the net profit from online gaming would be split between the First Nations Trust and the Government of Saskatchewan on a 50/50 basis.

On September 23rd, 2021 SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] and the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] publicly announced amendments to the gaming framework agreement had been approved to help facilitate the launch of online gaming. The amendments to the GFA [gaming framework agreement], together with the amendments to the Act, will allow SIGA to operate the online gaming platform and provide for the agreed allocation of profits.

Online gaming is an important step for the economic reconciliation in our province. Saskatchewan is the only province to engage in a true partnership with First Nations on online gaming and sports betting. Chief Bobby Cameron stated, “that this is reconciliation at its finest.” We agree with Chief Cameron. The work of people like Chief Cameron, Chief Reg Bellerose, Chief Darcy Bear, and Zane Hansen at SIGA have made this kind of economic reconciliation possible. I want to thank them for their work.

Without the legislative amendments to the Act, the First Nations Trust could not retain 50 per cent of net profits from online gaming. Rather it would continue to flow through the current distribution model. The amendments to the Act will exempt net profits from online gaming from the current profit distribution model.

Additional minor amendments are being made to the Act to ensure SaskGaming has the necessary legislative powers to manage the online gaming platform, as agreed to with SIGA. Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to move second reading of Bill

49, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 49 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my honour to rise today and enter into the discussion around this bill, Bill No. 49.

Now I paid close attention about a month and a half ago when this announcement was made by the government with several partners in attendance, Mr. Speaker. One of them was already, or I think they were already mentioned by the minister but I also wanted to pay mention to them in my remarks, Mr. Speaker. They’ve spoken very highly about this legislative change, Mr. Speaker. I understand they’re very excited about this partnership. And you could tell that was the case in the press conference that happened back, I believe, in September, Mr. Speaker.

In particular, these are some quotes from the SIGA website from the press release that went out the day that this was announced back in September 23rd, Mr. Speaker. FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron stated at the time:

The FSIN chiefs and assembly gave the mandate to secure this, and we are excited to finally have achieved it. Many hours, days, weeks, months, and years have gone into making this a reality. It makes it all worthwhile.

Mr. Speaker, you can tell that there was a lot of discussions behind the scenes with respect to this change. Of course, being in the opposition I’m not privy to all of those discussions so that’s why we do the stakeholder work after the legislation is tabled.

Another quote from this press release, Mr. Speaker, is from SIGA Chair, Chief Reginald Bellerose. He said:

This is an important day for SIGA as we continue to evolve with the changing gaming industry and in our delivery of entertainment options for our customers. The additional revenue opportunities from online gaming and sports betting will only increase SIGA’s ability as a non-profit to positively impact employment, economic growth, positive community relations, and financial self-reliance of First Nations in the province.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister indicated in his remarks, this is an important piece of reconciliation, economic reconciliation, but it is but one piece, Mr. Speaker. And I encourage and push the government and the minister to continue that good work, continue working with the Indigenous leaders in this province to ensure that we are truly walking the path of reconciliation together, Mr. Speaker.

There’s been a lot of changes in the gaming industry lately, Mr. Speaker. There was the federal change that happened recently this summer, I believe, that gave provinces more power for gambling on sports, single-sport betting. Actually I think it might have been the Member of Parliament that was just here, Mr. Waugh, who originally pushed for that change, Mr. Speaker. So there’s a lot going on in this sector. There’s a lot to pay attention to and a lot of opportunity, Mr. Speaker, too.

I know we'll be reaching out to folks to gather feedback on this legislation. And in order to facilitate further discussion on this bill, I am prepared now to move adjournment on Bill No. 49.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 50 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SGI.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleagues for their support as well. I'm pleased to rise today for the second reading of *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*. *The Traffic Safety Act* is a legislation that outlines Saskatchewan drivers' licensing and motor vehicle operation rules. It ensures that the roads in our province and the people travelling on them are safe.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of the amendments to the Act will provide clarity to existing legislation, including three main proposed changes. Today I will speak specifically about tougher penalties for stunting and excessive speeding offences, and the clarifications needed around driver evaluations for suspended drivers and municipal speed zones. In addition to these improvements, there will be a number of housekeeping changes.

Mr. Speaker, stunting and excessive speed are growing concerns in Saskatchewan. As you and members of this Assembly are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic meant there was less traffic on the roads in 2020. However speeding convictions increased during that time, and unfortunately there was a significant increase in speed-related fatalities from 2019 to 2020. This is not a trend that our province wants to see.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment I am highlighting today provides the authority to immediately suspend drivers' licences and impound vehicles at the roadside for drivers charged under *The Traffic Safety Act* with stunting, racing, or excessive speed.

Here in Saskatchewan, traffic safety is taken very seriously, and it is time to get tougher on these offences. This change will be the first step in bringing the penalties for stunting and racing more in line with the penalties for distracted driving in Saskatchewan, another major road safety issue in the province. And by better defining what constitutes racing and stunting, Mr. Speaker, these dangerous behaviours can be tackled, therefore protecting everyone on our roads.

Next, Mr. Speaker, I propose an amendment to allow suspended drivers to legally participate in driver evaluations. A suspended or disqualified driver may be required to complete an evaluation such as driver training, a road test, and/or a driver assessment. This allows SGI to assess an individual's driving ability while they are accompanied by or under the direction of an authorized driver instructor or examiner before reinstating their driving privileges.

However the legal status of a suspended or disqualified driver

who takes part in a driver evaluation is unclear in the existing Act. If approved, the proposed amendment will permit suspended or disqualified customers to legally participate in these SGI-mandated evaluations and have insurance coverage while doing so. Mr. Speaker, this decision will ensure that all road users are protected.

Mr. Speaker, finally I will address an amendment to speeding offences. A recent interpretation of existing legislation implied that signs marking speed zones in municipalities, other than school zones, have not been designated as official signs in the Act by the Minister of Highways. To correct this ambiguity, Mr. Speaker, I propose revisions in the sections within the Act that pertain to speed so that they are clear and direct. In addition, SGI proposes the creation of the presumption that all signs erected on a roadway are lawfully established and erected.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, our goal is to keep roads safe. That includes managing speed and penalizing those who take unnecessary risks on our roadways. Mr. Speaker, these are the most notable changes, along with a number of other housekeeping amendments to align regulations and legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 50 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the discussion around Bill No. 50. And I thank the minister and appreciate his long opening comments about this legislation. I will endeavour to be about a quarter as long as he was.

When the bill was introduced, there was a family that was here to witness the introduction of the legislation, a very important piece of legislation for a lot of families, as the minister had mentioned, who have suffered the loss of loved ones due to drinking and driving, due to some pretty serious traffic safety Act offences, Mr. Speaker. You could tell it was a very emotional moment for them to see this legislation introduced. And I know that they hope to see this passed in a timely way, and I think this will be a very important piece of legislation for a lot of people, Mr. Speaker.

As the minister had mentioned, there are quite a few changes in this legislation, in particular ensuring that penalties are stronger for those who are speeding, for those who are stunting. I know that in my riding, Mr. Speaker, in Regina Douglas Park, there are a lot of concerns around speeding and stunting around the Douglas Avenue East street. It's a pretty long, straight strip of road. Despite it having a school zone in it, Mr. Speaker, there are . . . and I hear a lot of concerns from folks about the noise at night from street racers. There's also the strip of Douglas Park, Mr. Speaker, right by the hill. The name escapes me at the moment — which street, what the street name is — but that's also a particularly favourite place for people to do street racing, Mr. Speaker.

So I know I have a lot of constituents who are going to be very pleased to see this legislation passed, that will be very pleased to

see stronger measures in place to prevent speeding and stunting in particular, Mr. Speaker. And as mentioned at the beginning of my remarks, for the family that was here to witness the introduction of the legislation, for all of the families that that family represents in this province, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we get this legislation right.

And I think that's what these discussions, these adjourned debates will consist of: a discussion around that, as well as any individuals who reach out, any stakeholders who have thoughts on the legislation. I'm looking forward to that discussion and that outreach, and in order to facilitate that, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill 50.

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

[15:15]

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to enter into debate on Bill No. 38, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act*. My cursory review of this bill suggests that this is a bill that expands powers around the ability to seize evidence and property that has been obtained through criminal activity. Of course, you know, we see across the province this is a government that has struggled to address crime rates, and this is a portion of a response to rates of crime.

I did have an opportunity, prior to joining this legislature, to work on the front lines at Legal Aid and have some ideas about why our crime rates continue to increase in some areas, despite the efforts of this government, as they relate to poverty and addiction and mental health. We haven't really seen from this government any meaningful responses to those very social issues that of course drive crime rates.

With respect to the bill that is before the legislature here, I understand that the critic will have an opportunity to consult with stakeholders, and I know she will do that with the usual care that she brings to everything she does.

One of the things that I would note about this bill is that the seizure of criminal property is something that takes place, not on the usual reasonable doubt standard that we see in criminal law, but rather on the balance of probabilities. And the individuals that

are suspected of having property obtained through criminal activity in their possession, you know, we have to ensure that people have access to justice in some of these proceedings particularly because of that standard. And I see no corresponding commitments in terms of resources to ensure that those determinations are made in a way that ensures that people are well represented on both sides.

I would also note that, you know, we've seen in other jurisdictions where some of the resources that come out of these seizures go. And I would hope that this government is looking very closely at ensuring that these resources go back into the community, go back into the groups that are doing the absolutely necessary work in terms of, you know, working with at-risk youth, the community-based organizations on the ground.

You know, I would note that we've seen some cuts to some of these programs in, for example, northern Saskatchewan. I heard from the good folks of Children North who were concerned that some of their programming was cut, and these are people that work with youth that are at risk or have some interaction with the justice system. These are the organizations that are sorely in need of resources. You know, Str8 Up is an organization that does amazing work and yet they don't yet have core funding. So can we look at getting the resources obtained through a bill like this and ensuring they get back into the community where they can make a real difference?

The other thing I would note is, you know, we have seen some significant cuts to anti-gang efforts with no corresponding investments, policies such as the change to social assistance programs, SIS. These are policies that will really see downstream aggravation of crime rates.

The things that really struck me while working on the front line at Legal Aid is just the cost associated with not taking some of these more pre-emptive actions, you know. We focus a great deal on administrative offences, so breaches. We have a significant lack of supports for people when they're released from incarceration. You know, there's no mechanism for someone on remand to apply for social assistance. They can only do that if they're serving a sentence. They only get supports for doing that if they're serving a sentence.

We have some of the highest rates of remand in the country. We have some of the highest rates of Indigenous incarceration in the country. We have increasing problems with access to justice. You know, legal aid only covers a defence of a crime, where you're facing a jail sentence or a family law issue or child protection issue. We no longer cover many of the other access-to-justice issues that would make a real issue in people's lives, be it landlord and tenant issues.

And I want to say that this Act doesn't address criminal proceedings. This is really civil proceedings on a balance of probability, and so folks deserve to have representations in these proceedings because they could have a real material impact on people's lives. And so we need to ensure that the people that are having property seized are truly folks that are committing crimes and that they should have that property seized. Because I know we've seen an issue with that in other jurisdictions.

In terms of the details of this bill, as I said, the critic is in the

process of reaching out to stakeholders. But I think even with a bill that seems quite innocuous on its surface, the need for transparency and accountability are very important, and you know, I think it's important to take any opportunity to speak to the factors that are driving the crime rates that are really a . . . They were a leitmotif in the Speech from the Throne. So lest we allow this tough-on-crime agenda to become a distraction on the other pressing issues that are facing Saskatchewan people, I think there is a need to really get this kind of legislation right.

And again, before I adjourn debate on this bill, I will just encourage the folks that are working on this to reinvest these resources on the front lines with the CBOs [community-based organization], with the groups that are working to address the social determinants of crime. Our police are well resourced in this province and the folks that are really struggling to do this necessary work are not getting the resources they need to do it. And this may be one way that we can address that.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 38, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 39, *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021*. This is really thrilling stuff. I understand this is a bill to modernize the publication of *The Saskatchewan Gazette*. And of course we are nothing else if not the party that is in favour of looking to the future, moving forward, looking forward, anticipating every twist and turn, not only where publications such as this are concerned but also with relation to climate change, pandemics, poverty. We really think we need to be forward-focused on all fronts, Mr. Speaker.

I see that this bill includes . . . that the Act requires paper publication of the *Gazette* not less than twice a month. That is of course welcome, especially to its readership of five, I'm sure. I know that the critic will be reaching out to stakeholders on this bill and ensuring that these legislative changes are welcome. My understanding though on its face is that these will improve the accessibility of this publication. This is something that is very important. The move to online is also very important, although I would note that we still have many barriers for folks in terms of accessing information that's put online, which has really been laid bare by the pandemic where many of our, you know, public health announcements and public health orders are only available online, and that's presented some issues.

I really wouldn't want to say much more on this bill. I believe I may have said too much already. So with that, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 39, *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 40, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021*. I will have more to say on *The Trespass to Property Act* than *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act*. That is for sure.

The aim of this particular piece of legislation, the reduction of rural crime, is of course an aim we can all agree is a legitimate one for a government to take up. However I do have concerns about whether this bill will meaningfully address some of the divisions we're seeing in rural Saskatchewan that contribute to rural crime, the root causes of crime.

And of course I have some concerns about the constitutionality of aspects of this bill. I know that the FSIN has gone on record expressing their concerns over the constitutionality around treaty rights, but I should also note that there are some expansions of police powers that are contained in this bill.

Just in terms of a cursory reading, I was struck by section 6 which allows peace officers to enter premises in imminent situations. And of course one of the definitions of an imminent situation is the expected destruction of property. That goes well beyond the constitutionally articulated bounds of when a police officer can enter a premise without a warrant, which usually only involves, you know, when there's an example such as a threat of loss to life or the destruction of evidence. So my concern is that this government, in putting forward this bill, is not striking the right balance between property and people and their Charter-protected civil liberties.

I would also note that this bill contains arrests-without-warrant provisions. Of course our Criminal Code explores in great detail when an arrest without a warrant can take place, and there's been case law interpreting that. And so to see that power expanded without what would appear to be more thought and consultation is a concern. And it's an area I'm sure that our critic will address with stakeholders, address with the Minister of Justice in committee.

The other thing I would note is the arrest power for a statutory tort or a summary conviction offence without more limiting criteria is an interesting and undeveloped area of the law. But I

think this legislation is taking a real risk with that and it's not striking the right balance. This is simply on a very cursory reading of the bill. Of course I'm not the critic in the area, but as a former constitutional lawyer, these are issues that I think that a government must consider carefully when they're suggesting new legislation.

[15:30]

The main concern that I have with this bill is its reliance on deterrence. Many students of the law or the philosophical underpinnings of the law, including criminal law, will note that there is actually very little quantitative or qualitative evidence that deterrence actually addresses crime or successfully lowers crime. There's very little evidence that this "tough-on-crime" approach to crime meaningfully reduces crime.

And of course we all can agree that the reduction of crime is something we want for our communities, but this is not going to be successful without healing some of the deep divisions that we're seeing in rural Saskatchewan and really we're seeing across the society. Our office hears every day from folks who are struggling more and more in rural Saskatchewan. They may not be the propertied folks, but they are struggling more and more and they need supports. And as we see desperation increase, as we see poverty increase, as we see addiction and mental health issues go unaddressed, we will see crime rates continue to increase, Mr. Speaker. And that's really my overarching concern with this government's approach to rates of crime across the province.

I'm also concerned that there is a dog whistle contained within this legislation, and I think that some of those issues have been well articulated and taken up by the FSIN. Division can be politically very . . . You know, division is something that I think that this party has pursued, and I think that we've seen significant events across this province that really lay bare the destruction that those divisions cause. And racism runs deep within this province. We are at the heart of the colonial project and we need to be working to heal those divisions, not using them for political gain, for distraction during a pandemic.

We need to be putting our heads together, co-operating, and finding solutions to these divisions that we're seeing more and more. And my worry is that a bill such as this, in addition to failing to actually address the identified problem which is the increase in rural crime, really sends the message that it's us and them. And that's the wrong message to send.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 40, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to be rising today to speak on this bill. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to offer my initial comments on behalf of the official opposition on Bill No. 41, *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021*.

This bill is proposing to amend the current legislation Act to ensure there is consistency with other jurisdictions as well as modernizing legislation to be reflective of the current times we live in. This is a good idea to modernize and bring up to current practices. This bill also offers changes to interpreting how enactments apply to one another, such as defining certain terms. Another aspect of amending this current legislation Act is to allow for more efficiency in making comprehensive, consequential amendments when several regulations are needing to be amended at once. Mr. Speaker, it is our jobs as MLAs to ensure we are amending legislation that is timely, relevant, and efficient.

Mr. Speaker, I did a briefing note for one of my former employees around the changes and rationale around the language usage. This was after my master's degree, and I was employed with an organization. And they asked me to come up with a rationale why we change language to be more relevant, and in particular the terms that have evolved over time and the usage, like "Indian," "natives," "Aboriginal," "First Nation," and "Indigenous." Mr. Speaker, I gave a brief explanation why the term "Indian" is still used and how that term is no longer acceptable today. That term is a legal Canadian definition that is still used today. However it is quite offensive and that's not acceptable.

So another term that has been used and is also an offensive term, "natives," and you wonder why. Why is that term offensive? Well often when that term is used by ignorant mainstream folks, they use it in very derogatory terms, like "those natives." So that language is not relevant today. It just isn't.

So however I have to say the government decided, okay . . . In the '80s they thought, okay, well the First Peoples of this country don't like the word "Indian." They don't like the term "natives." Well let's come up with another term that's more inclusive. So in the '80s they came up with the term "Aboriginal." And that's an umbrella term to be inclusive that encompasses registered Indians under Canada, Métis people, as well as Inuit. So that was the federal government's attempt at modernizing the term from the most offensive terms that were traditionally used, like "Indian" and "natives."

However that term "Aboriginal," as well intent as it was, was also rejected by the First Peoples of this country. First of all, Aboriginal is a term that describes the Australian Aborigines. And many in this country who identify themselves as the First Peoples don't accept that term. And that's a term that's been defined by the governments.

So First Nation, we've heard that today. When we hear that today, that's a term that's been accepted by registered First

Nation people belonging to a First Nation. And that term describes the First Peoples of Canada. However, that's not a legal term. So I, myself, identify myself as a First Nations nakawê woman.

So the term "Indigenous people," now that's something that we hear today that's quite common. So this term "Indigenous people" is the most politically correct term that has been adopted by Indigenous people all over the world, and it's a term that they chose. It wasn't a government-imposed term. They weren't given that name "Indigenous" by governments. The Indigenous people in the world identified themselves as Indigenous. So that's acceptable today.

So when we think about modernizing our language, like this is very important. It's great to get with the times. It's important to get with the times because what worked 50, 60 years ago doesn't work today. What worked 10 years ago doesn't work today. We have to change with those times.

So we have to modernize legislation. We have to. We have to be relevant today to the people that we work for. So when I use those examples of the term of how, as Indigenous people, how we were identified when you guys came to this country, we were Indians to being natives to being a First Nation to being Indigenous. So that just shows how important it is to become relevant. And when we're making legislation as elected officials, we have to keep that in mind. We always have to keep that in mind, especially with the people that we serve. No, we have to be relevant.

So I'm in favour of modernization of legislation. Efficiency and updated language that are important updates to this legislation. So I'm sure the critic for this area would have more to say. I just wanted to be brief and kind of share my perspective as an Indigenous person and what I like to be referred to at times, although there's other, probably other terms that are used to define me. That's their problem. You want to define me in another way, that's fine. But for me, this is who I define myself as. And for myself, I've had to learn how to change that, even within my own community, to educate the people that I work with, my fellow community members, to say, well this is not acceptable when we're out in the mainstream. We can't use those terms, you know.

So it's really important for legislators, people in positions like we are so privileged to be in, to ensure that we're being inclusive and that we are relevant and that we update our processes to ensure that they are non-offensive and also inclusive. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move we adjourn debate on Bill No. 41, *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021*. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I rise again. Being so short, this podium here is really hard to stand up here and look tall. Stand tall.

Anyway, I won't say much on this. As I was reading through, one of the things I have to say was, I just want to say it's my pleasure to offer my initial comments on behalf of . . . [inaudible] . . . I'm one of those people that like to research and delve into stuff and get my teeth right into it and try to understand it. And I have to say some of this stuff, like if I didn't have my master's degree in political studies, I think I would find this very, very dry. At the best of times they're still very dry.

[15:45]

Anyway, I will do my best to give my thoughts on this. I will also wait for the critic, who would probably have more to talk on this.

So it's good to see that, again, we're modernizing legislation to include gender-neutral language. That's very important. And again, we need to change with the times. You know, what happened decades ago is not relevant today. We need to move with the times.

The other thing that's very interesting about . . . and this is quite confusing. I think one of the things that I think about often is, as Indigenous people we're always so studied to death. You know, we're studied to death. And government departments like to change their names. Maybe they're not as sexy as they were 20 years ago, and now they have to appear to be relevant and be more easier on the ears, I would say. So one of the things that's always been confusing for me as an Indigenous person is how governments love changing their names. And one of them is federally, Indigenous Services Canada. They used to be INAC [Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada]. It used to be that. So now they've changed. And we're finding it here within the province that we're having to change.

So one of the things I just wanted to go back on is, during my grad studies when I was doing my master's degree, a lot of our assignments were reading bills, going through them, analyzing them, trying to understand them, make sense and try to understand what those bills were.

Well as for myself, I was quite keen on reading these. And I have to say, last year about this time I was reading all these bills and I thought it was quite fascinating. My husband, on the other hand, thought that's boring, and he couldn't understand why I was so interested in these bills. But I guess you need to have some kind of a background, I would say, to understand this, academic education, to understand some of these bills that sometimes are quite dry and dull.

So anyway, one of the things that I really, really like to do is learn about, how do we modernize these bills? How do we make them relevant? And I'm really pleased that hopefully there will be more communication with stakeholders, and a wide range of stakeholders. Because sometimes, you know, we can try and say something, give a term, and it says the same thing. Sometimes when we try to change and modernize or do something, we do a

disservice, especially to the people that we serve.

So I just wanted to say, oh I'm not going to say much on this, other than the critic will probably have more to say on this. Okay, so I'm going to say, with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 42, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021*. miigwech.

The Deputy Speaker: — A member has adjourned debate. The member has recommended to adjourn debate. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Bill No. 43

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. L. Ross that **Bill No. 43** — *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to appear in the Assembly and join the adjourned debate on Bill No. 43, *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021*.

As critic for this area, I'm entering into this debate a little earlier than expected. But you know, I think that I've heard many arguments from my colleagues and will continue to hear those. It's always interesting to hear the way that various members of the official opposition look at the legislation brought forward by this government as we take our time to examine it thoroughly to ensure that stakeholders were consulted, to ensure that it passes the test of each of our readings. And as we hear the comments here, I think I've heard a lot of thoughtful argument already from many of my colleagues on this side.

You know, my understanding of this piece of legislation is like many that we're examining during the session, bringing things into a more modern era of our province, making some amendments in terms of language, updating some practices and procedures and terminology along the way. And I think with that, you know, I'm very pleased to see a number of the things in this piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, in particular granting the museum the ability to earn revenue. Obviously you know that gives more autonomy to the museum and its leadership to make decisions that affect its day-to-day operations, providing more certainty as they move forward to have that kind of autonomy and control over their plans for development to the museum and the programming that they want to offer. And so I think that it's definitely a good direction to see this bill going in.

You know in addition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I see that this bill will hopefully give researchers the opportunity to refresh and renew current exhibits to examine different parts of Saskatchewan's history. Again a positive movement for the future of the Royal Saskatchewan.

Also with the focus on modernization of the museum, you know, I think this is a great idea. And I think certainly it's good to see that some consultation is taking place to have this in line with other institutions across Canada, the country that we belong to.

To see, you know, other jurisdictions like the Royal Alberta, Royal Ontario Museum come to mind, which is just a fantastic institution, that we have the legislative backing to allow our institutions to grow and modernize as they have already done in other jurisdictions.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that we've heard lots of comments from the official opposition in terms of the importance of that modernization process. I want to reflect on comments made by two individuals very quickly. First of all my colleague from Regina University spoke passionately about the annex and the role of the annex, and I appreciated hearing those comments. And she encouraged all of us to visit the annex.

I did have a chance to join a meeting and hear from some stakeholders to Friends of the RSM [Royal Saskatchewan Museum] as they advocated for the needs of the annex and how that fits their research needs in terms of holding many of the collections, artifacts, documents that support the work of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. And it was very enlightening for me to hear from those stakeholders of many volunteers who speak passionately about the role that the annex plays and the work of the museum.

And so I just want to thank my colleague for those comments in support of the annex, and I hope that in this legislation, in allowing the museum to generate its own revenue, part of the indication of this legislation is that that revenue can come from the provincial government and the federal government from grants. And I hope that we see this provincial government step up and examine the asks that will be coming, that are coming, that are already in from the museum to support the needs of the annex.

You know the only other comment that I really want to reflect on here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is from the minister. So when the minister introduced this, I took time to review that member's comments, and I want to give one area where I'm in agreement and one where I'm not.

The first area, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where I'm in agreement, is that the minister spoke about the way . . . I can't find the quote directly here but the minister spoke about the ways that the Royal Saskatchewan Museum affects the tourism industry. And I want to affirm that comment. I think that we have been through a period of the tourism industry being hit really hard in our province, and I think in all provinces, but yet we've still seen visitors coming to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum from every province, from 49 states. This is exciting. I think that we always have to believe that what we have to offer the world is of interest and is important and that we live in a great place and that that can be reflected in our Royal museum.

The comment that I'm not in agreement with though just might be seen as an innocent slip, but I've learned that it's not. And I share this with the Assembly as something that I've learned. And this is certainly not a partisan jab in any way, but early in the minister's comments, the Minister for Parks, Culture and Sport indicated that the museum “. . . preserves, studies, and educates the people of Saskatchewan about our history and the traditional cultures of our Indigenous people.”

It's the possessive form of our Indigenous peoples that is

something that, as a non-Indigenous person, that I caution all members of this Assembly to be aware of. It's something that . . . And I'll admit that I have made this mistake previously. I have. I'll own that. About 12 years ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was taking an Indigenous studies course. It was taught by Dr. Winona Wheeler, just an incredible teacher, and I made this mistake in a paper. I made a comment where I referred to "First Nations" as "Canada's First Nations" using the possessive. I made the mistake of talking about our First Nations in a . . . connoting possession.

But what does that comment do? It might be seen as innocent, but I'm going to say that as we've talked at length here about modernizing language, we need to examine the way that we use language to connote possession over Indigenous peoples in Canada and Saskatchewan.

And I think this is really important. I mean, what does this say to my colleague, a proud First Nations woman, if we use a possessive tense to refer to First Nations as "ours?" I think that there are other word choices that can be used. Again this isn't by any means a personal attack. I'm saying that as a non-Indigenous person, it's a lesson that I've learned, and I hope that all members of the Assembly can learn that when we talk about Indigenous peoples, First Nations groups, Métis, Inuit groups, that we never use a term that implies possession or superiority. I think that's important. I wanted to flag that.

And with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will conclude my initial remarks and I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 43, *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 44

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 44 — *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you again, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Proud to be on my feet to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 44, *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021*. Of the three bills I'll be speaking to today, this will be my most brief comments. I will maybe try to match the comments made by the member opposite who introduced this bill, which were very brief.

This is very much, you know, one of those housekeeping bills — some amendments updating names, you know, moving from department to ministry, making sure things are up to date, as well as indicating that the purpose of this bill is to level the playing field and to protect the revenue base which, you know, I think are things that will find agreement on both sides of this Assembly.

You know, I do think it's kind of interesting though. And again I enjoyed listening to the comments of my colleague from Regina University as she threatened to speak for 59 minutes on this bill, and I'm thankful that she didn't. That would have been a long closing to that day.

[16:00]

An Hon. Member: — 49.

Mr. Love: — 49? Well it was a lot, but the threat was real. But she spared us in the spirit of friendship. I thank her for that.

But you know, she pointed out that there are a number of things that small businesses who are impacted by this government's taxes, taxes on food and PST [provincial sales tax] increases — this government presides over the largest tax increase in the history of our province — you know, those are things that are hurting our hospitality sector, food and beverage industry.

And it was good to see today the announcement that this government will be allowing off-sale to continue. After all public health restrictions were relaxed on July 11th, there was an industry that was really left wondering, like what about us, because those health measures allowed off-sales to happen at restaurants as they were doing takeout and delivery. And you know, I don't need to go on and on about this, but I think . . . They took 126 days after that was brought to this government — 126 days — to respond to the needs of small business who were relying on that income during the pandemic.

And it sent a message to them that the pandemic was over, that the pandemic was just over, and that they would be left on their own to get back to pre-pandemic levels, which we just know isn't true. And I hear some taunting from the other side. We just know. I mean we know now. We got to admit now, please, that the pandemic was not over on July 11th. And to leave small businesses, restaurants in particular, without the support that they need and that they're asking for, you know, I think was just kind of heartless, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I think that, you know, we're going to continue to stand up for small businesses with the very specific things that they need.

And so with that in mind, I will continue to listen to my colleagues in opposition as we continue with debate on this bill. And with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 44, *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 45

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 45 — *The Health Shared Services Saskatchewan (3sHealth) Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's great to have so many people joining in on the debate today, although I can't really hear what you're saying, but I appreciate that you want to get involved. This one will be more fun than the last two, I promise.

Okay, so it is an honour, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enter into the debate on Bill No. 45, the Health Shared Services Saskatchewan Act, 2021. You know, I have taken time to review a summary of the bill, the legislation, as well as comments from the minister and from my esteemed colleagues in opposition, and you know, I think that a few interesting things jump out initially. And I think a few concerns jump out, although I think that most of what I see here certainly I stand in favour of. But we'll take time to examine that and listen to my colleagues in opposition as we continue the debate.

Things that stand out: certainly updating, again updating legislation for our current situation; updating language to represent the relationships and how we deliver health and the stakeholders involved there. You know, certainly we see that this Act updates the mandate between governance structures and accountability with the ministry. And that's kind of where I'll focus most of my comments, you know, again kind of a housekeeping bill, bringing things up to date.

You know, I understand the purpose of this Act is to centralize and improve standards, which is welcome. If we're talking about improving standards for health care delivery, certainly in favour of that, as well as . . . This is an interesting one. I understand this Act aims to bring oversight and accountability being transferred to the Minister of Health. I've got kind of two concerns there, things that I'll continue to listen to in debate.

The first concern is a lot of talk about privatization from this government. You know, it seems to be a bit of reach as our health system is so overburdened due to their decisions and the lack of this government, their inability to listen to those providing health care. I mean, all that we have to do is look at the calls made by our medical health officers, our union of nurses, doctors speaking out on social media, and you know, the attempts to silence them included. That this government chose to take a step towards privatization in the middle of that I think does, you know, it does set off some alarm bells. There's certainly some big concerns there. So that is certainly something that we'll continue to look at and to watch and listen to as we continue in debate on Bill No. 45.

But you know, here's kind of my big concern as I look at this, and this is where we'll have a little bit of fun today. This bill aims to bring more responsibility under our Health minister at a time when he has not taken any responsibility for the crisis that he has caused. And let's just think about that for a minute. What sense does it make to bring more responsibility, to bring more under the umbrella of the Minister of Health at a time when he has taken zero responsibility for the situation that we find ourselves in?

I will remind the Assembly that we lead the nation in COVID death rates. We have led the nation in case rates and hospitalizations during the fourth wave. We had more ICU

admissions in Saskatchewan. Our ICU admission rate was higher than any province at any other time during the pandemic. This represents a massive failure of leadership and policy on behalf of this government, and to give that minister more responsibility is mind-boggling.

Now I heard a lot of talk about football today. I heard three different members' statements about football. I love football too, so we're going to use a little football analogy. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my — I don't know — 17 or 18 years of coaching high school football . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, you've done your research? One thing that I can tell you for sure is that when a quarterback is struggling to execute the playbook, you never, ever, ever, ever give that quarterback more responsibility.

If a quarterback isn't understanding how the plays work, how the play calling works, you simplify the playbook. You cut it down. If he doesn't understand the run game, if he's making mistakes in how he executes the run game, you take plays out of the playbook. If he doesn't understand how play-action pass works, or maybe you're running a read-option, maybe you're running, you know, different formations, and if he doesn't understand the difference between the coverages and how they match with protection or how that matches with the formation you're in, you simplify. You never, ever, ever give that quarterback a more complicated game plan if he just shows that he doesn't get it.

So inspired by a whole lot of football talk in here today, I'm going to say that one of the big questions I have is, why take a Health minister who has been very, very challenged in his job and has really shown the inability to get the job done, and give him more responsibility? This is a Health minister that has at no point, at no point taken any responsibility over the crisis that he has caused, and to give him more work to do is mind-boggling.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will say that we should simplify the playbook for this Health minister, and I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 45, the Health Shared Services Saskatchewan Act, 2021. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 46

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 46 — The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid Amendment Act* of 2021. I will keep my comments fairly brief, but there are a couple of pieces that I do want to get on the record today as well, Mr. Speaker.

In the minister's second reading remarks, they talked about the fact that this bill is meant to modernize and create some

housekeeping changes. My spidey senses go off whenever I hear about modernization, but it does appear as though the changes that are being made here are intended to get the language in step with other legislation, like changing “solicitor” to a commonly accepted definition of “lawyer,” “department” to “ministry,” and so on.

It also confirms the powers of the Legal Aid Commission, so there’s some detail provided in there about who this group of people is. And I’m not sure whether this needs to be enshrined in legislation, so that will be something that we need to take a look at. And it also changes the fact that the CEO of Legal Aid will now confirm or deny any lawyer that wishes to withdraw services to a client.

We know that the need for legal aid services continues to grow. I was quite surprised when I got elected and heard from so many people who are trying to access legal services but don’t have the financial means to do so. And as an MLA, people come to your office when they are in all kinds of trying times, and some of those times are when they are trying to find access to justice and don’t have the ability to do so.

So I think a lot of people think that if they can’t afford a lawyer, they will be able to utilize the services of a legal aid lawyer, but that is unfortunately not the case for most people across the province. There are a ton of folks who fall through the gaps when it comes to access to justice, and I think that the member from Regina Douglas Park spoke about this a little bit as well in her second reading remarks.

But it’s quite jarring. I didn’t come from the legal world, so it’s quite jarring to see how much inequity there is around access to justice in our province. I know that it’s not only our province that deals with these issues, but we know that legal aid plays a very important role in ensuring that some of the most vulnerable in our society have access to representation.

So we need to make sure that these changes are examined closely, that we talk to stakeholders and make sure that changes are carefully considered when we look at this legislation. We know that despite the reliance on legal aid, there is not a corresponding influx to their funding, and we need to make sure that this is adequately funded. And we will spend some time doing that consultation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I know that many of my colleagues will want to weigh in on this legislation as well, but with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 46.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 47

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Bradshaw that **Bill No. 47 — *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It’s my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 47, *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act of 2021*. There are quite a few different changes that are coming about in this piece of legislation. I think that across Saskatchewan, we all take particular interest when we hear about our highways, and I was sort of contemplating why that is. And I think that they serve as connectors.

[16:15]

We have a relatively dispersed population across our province and a large amount of land as well. And we know that we rely on our highways to keep us safe, to get us to our destination safely. And so I think that when we talk about our highways, people’s ears perk up and want to know what changes are being proposed here.

So there are some claims of modernization here in terms of the operation and management of highways. The bill also creates a freedom-of-passage provision, and this requires municipalities to get consent to close access to public highways. I’d be quite interested in knowing which stakeholders brought this to the table, if this is being brought forward by folks across the province, and what those municipalities . . . like what the examples are of this happening or what the province’s interest is in this.

It also gives the province the power to clear obstructions to improve safety at intersections. So I think you can think about storms that come through and fallen trees that may get in the way. It’s somewhat astonishing to me that that wasn’t already in the legislation, that they wouldn’t have that ability already. But there was a piece about defining “intersection,” so perhaps that is why that was omitted in the first place, Mr. Speaker.

The bill also enables commercial vehicle enforcement through automated technology and introduces monetary fines for some violations of the Act. So it will be interesting to hear about why these amendments are needed and to hear a little bit more from government about what they’ve been hearing from folks on this file, and also what kind of consultation occurred with municipalities and communities to lead to this bill coming forward.

And yeah, if there’s any public interest in any of these changes, I certainly hope that the government is doing its due diligence and consulting broadly on this legislation. I think the minister, when he was giving his remarks, talked about broad consultations that have taken over the past several months. I’m not following Google alerts for highways in Saskatchewan, but I certainly didn’t see this broad consultation that the minister is referring to. So I would be interested to hear about who’s been in the loop and whether there are any other stakeholders that could provide their thoughts on this.

We know it’s of tremendous importance to make sure that we get this right and that we keep people safe and that many of my colleagues will have more to say about this bill, including the critic. And with that, I would move that we adjourn debate on

this bill for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved that this House adjourn. Is the Assembly ready to adopt that motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House now stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:20.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Fred Bradshaw
Minister of Highways
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
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