



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

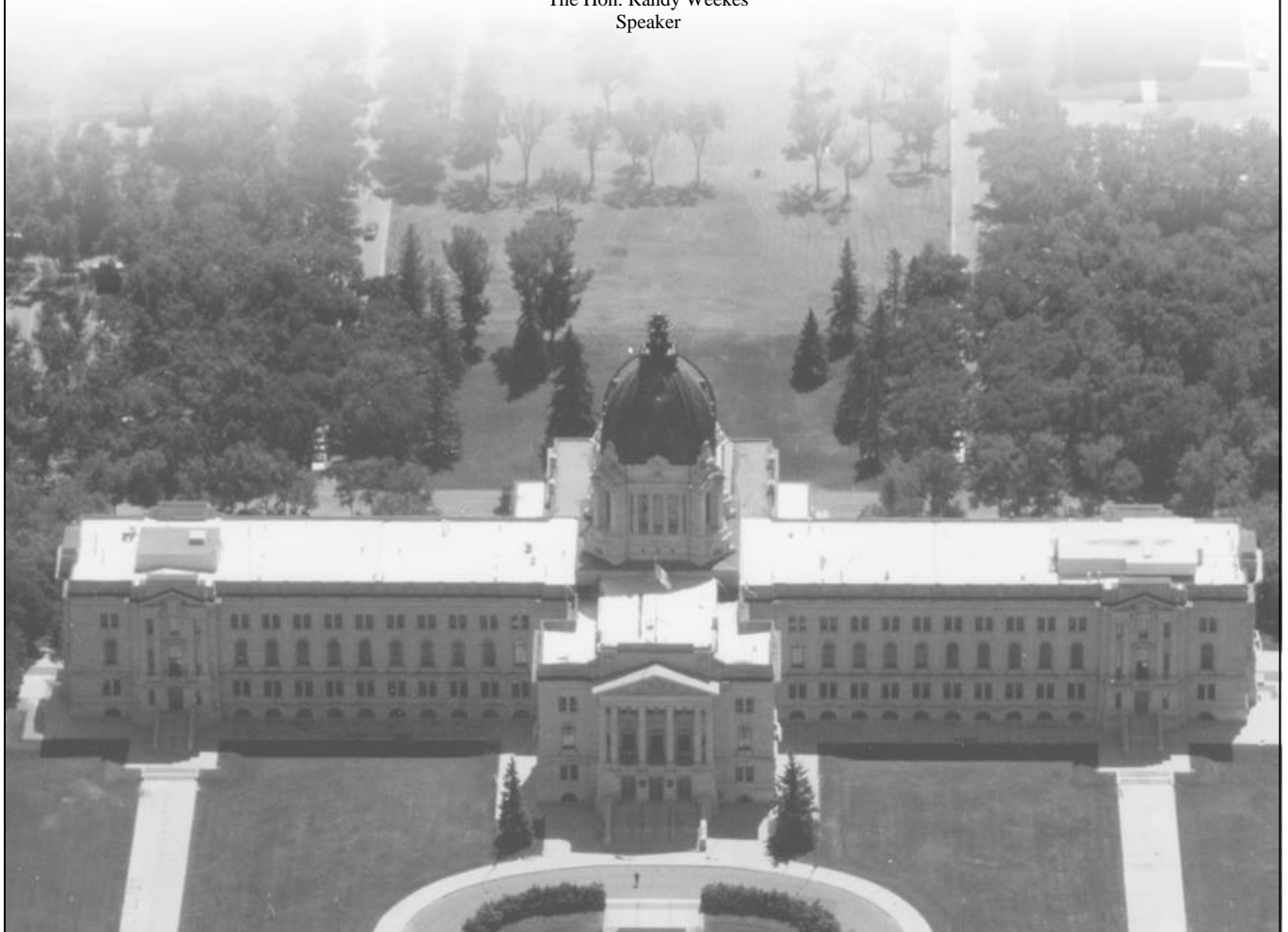
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

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

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

Hansard on the internet

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Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.

<https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/Calendar>

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to welcome back to the Assembly, seated in your gallery, Kirsten Finn and advocates from the Isaac Foundation, Alix Hall and Andrew McFadyen. As we know, they were in attendance yesterday for the proceedings and have come back today, and we'd like to welcome them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Kirsten and Mr. McFadyen here to their Assembly. I had an opportunity to be able to chat with them yesterday, Mr. Speaker, and I just want to say welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's a real honour to welcome a couple of friends to their Assembly here today that are seated in your gallery, real community leaders, Mr. Speaker.

I want to welcome Terry Van Mackelberg, also known to many within the community as the legendary Flo Mingo, a drag queen within the community that's a real force for so much good within our community and our province, Mr. Speaker, a tireless supporter of Lulu's Lodge.

Lulu's Lodge of course is a homeless shelter for LGBTQ2S [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, or two-spirit] youth in our community. I'll have more to say about Terry in a little bit. He works for Federated Co-op as well, as a business analyst, gives back in so many ways. And I checked the record. In fact this is the first introduction of, first recognition of any drag queen by specific name in Saskatchewan's history. And I'm proud that we're able to do that.

Seated with Terry is another friend, Tanna Young. Tanna Young is the director of Lulu's Lodge. She has an amazing team that she works with, and the work that they do day in, day out certainly saves lives, but impacts so many people in such a positive way. I've known Tanna for many, many years. We used to work together back in the day with the community mentorship program, working with young people coming out of custody. She's an amazing person. The young people she works with and her team are real lucky to have her leadership. Of course she works for John Howard Society.

At this time I ask all members of this Assembly to welcome Terry Van Mackelberg, known as the legendary Flo Mingo, and Tanna Young to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Granted.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly, I'd like to introduce in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, John Sprague, the director of operations, and Mikhail Moore, the president of Vitacore Industries. They're accompanied today by Joel Peterson from Hill+Knowlton. Give us a wave please, gentlemen.

Vitacore is a company based out of Vancouver, BC [British Columbia], Mr. Speaker, and is one of Canada's top manufacturers of personal protective equipment or PPE, masks and respirators for front-line workers. Mr. Speaker, in fact Vitacore's CAN95 respirator is the first medical-grade respirator to receive authorization from Health Canada and is now being manufactured in Burnaby, BC.

Now, Mr. Speaker, John and Mikhail may live in Vancouver, but don't let that fool you. They're actually a couple of Swift Current kids, Mr. Speaker, and they're not back in Saskatchewan just because of the nice weather. So, Mr. Speaker, John and Mikhail inform me that later this afternoon their company will be issuing a news release to announce that Vitacore will be opening a full-scale medical equipment and PPE production facility in 2022 in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this new facility will manufacture PPE masks and respirators and is expected to scale up to 100 jobs in the next 24 months.

That's not all, Mr. Speaker. Vitacore will also be expanding its recycling program for single-use masks and respirators in a pilot program with the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Vitacore's recycling program is the first of its kind in Canada and aims to reduce the waste created by single-use PPE.

Mr. Speaker, throughout this pandemic the world has dealt with various supply chain issues and PPE shortages, and manufacturing medical PPE here at home helps to ensure that top-of-the-line masks and respirators are made in Canada for Canadian health care workers while creating Canadian jobs, and at the same time developing sustainable practices and recycling techniques to reduce waste and protect the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members of the Assembly to please give John and Mikhail a warm welcome to the legislature and back to Saskatchewan.

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 join the minister in welcoming John and Mikhail to this, their legislature. It's fantastic news. The work that you're doing in keeping Canadians safe — and also in investing in good,

high-paying manufacturing jobs here in the province — is truly deeply appreciated by all members. And I want to say a deep thank you on behalf of the official opposition, and I join you and ask all members to join me in welcoming you to your legislature. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that many rural health care disruptions are due to staffing shortages; recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's rural health care facilities; the ongoing pandemic has created burnout and led to early retirements and resignations, which has rippling effects for small cities and towns; and 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 is signed by individuals from Indian Head, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to the government to protect contract workers from harassment, abuse, and exploitation. Those who've 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 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 and occupational health and safety standards to address mental illness would help workers targeted by harassment and abuse in the workplace. And other provinces' occupational health and safety protect against sexual harassment and domestic violence in the workplace. Mr. Speaker, 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 who signed the petition today come from Moose Jaw and Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to rise here today and present for the first time a petition to this legislature calling for the funding of in vitro fertilization treatments in Saskatchewan. This is a subject I've spoken on previously in the Chamber.

And I do sincerely hope, on behalf of all signatories of this petition, that it is something that the members opposite in government can consider, as I truly do not see this as a partisan issue but really one aimed at growing Saskatchewan and helping all people who want to have families to be able to do that without the crippling financial and emotional burden that can accompany this.

I'll be sharing some stories as I read this petition in days future, but for today, the first day on which I'm presenting it, I will just read the petition.

The signatories wish to draw to our attention the following: that one in six couples in Canada experience infertility; that IVF [in vitro fertilization] treatments are prohibitively expensive for many, with one cycle typically costing at least \$10,000; that despite public health care being a right in Canada, there is no government financial support for Saskatchewan couples requiring IVF treatments; that Saskatchewan people's ability to conceive should not depend on their socioeconomic status; that investing in people determined to grow their families here in Saskatchewan makes economic sense; and that other provinces have created programs that financially assist in providing IVF treatments to those struggling to conceive.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately move to cover the financial burden of two rounds of IVF treatment for Saskatchewan people experiencing infertility.

I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to once again present our petition calling for pay equity legislation. Mr. Speaker, Canada's federal Pay Equity Commissioner, Karen Jensen, has characterized pay equity legislation as an important tool in promoting gender equality, closing the gender wage gap, and contributing to greater equity and inclusion. Canada's *Pay Equity Act* officially became law on August 31st of this year. It's time for Saskatchewan to follow suit and implement pay equity legislation for the women of our province.

Those who have signed the petition would specifically like to bring to our attention the following points: Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation; the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has recommended

proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation, which has not been pursued by the Government of Saskatchewan; while *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* prohibits gender-based compensation discrimination, the complaint-driven process puts no positive obligation on employers, and it becomes quite a barrier for women.

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.

The signatories today, Mr. Speaker, reside in Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to once again be on my feet to present a petition calling for reforms to the new social assistance program, SIS [Saskatchewan income support]. SIS is pushing people further into crisis. During the economic impacts of a pandemic, it's increased arrears, eviction rates, homelessness.

I've heard from progressives and conservatives across the province who are concerned about this program. Not just social conservatives — fiscal conservatives who recognize the deep costs of poverty. Mr. Speaker, we did hear some backtracking from the minister last week, changes that frankly are woefully inadequate.

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

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

The signatories of this petition reside in Regina. You can sign it too, Don. I do so present.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to halt the sale of Crown land and revise the duty-to-consult policy. The Crown land we still have must be protected for First Nation and Métis people so that we may continue to exercise our inherent right to hunt, fish, and gather. Indigenous people in this province must have the first right of refusal when Crown lands are being considered for sale.

[13:45]

This government has been selling off Crown land with no meaningful duty-to-consult process, and they have been ignoring their own 1992 Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement. 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, and one-off meetings with one or two people is not duty-to-consult, Mr. Speaker. It does not work. Indigenous people do not see this as meaningful engagement, let alone duty-to-consult.

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 immediately stop the sell-off of Crown land, and work with the First Nation and Métis communities to develop a new duty-to-consult framework.

The signatories of this petition reside in Saskatoon and Fleming, Saskatchewan. I do so present.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to protect Saskatchewan's water supply. Over the course of the past year, I've had the opportunity to speak with many concerned citizens of the province regarding the state of our water supply here in Saskatchewan from the ongoing pressures from development, external threats, and a changing climate that are putting additional stress unnecessarily on our water supply system.

The undersigned residents of the province wish to bring to your attention the following: that water is essential for human health, recreation, health of our ecosystems, and our economy; that research from the University of Regina shows the water quality of Saskatchewan's lakes is getting worse; that the Provincial Auditor has pointed out that Saskatchewan's lack of a wetland policy negatively impacts water quality and that significant work remains to better regulate drainage; that Saskatchewan sat idle as our water supply was threatened by the Government of Alberta's decision to rescind their coal development policy; and the provincial government needs to take an active role in opposing policies that have downstream impacts on Saskatchewan rivers and deltas.

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

The petition has been signed by members from the communities of Fort Qu'Appelle, McLean, and Balcarres. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team

Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government recently announced the introduction of the warrant enforcement and suppression team and of a new GPS [global

positioning system] electronic monitoring system. These initiatives will work together to take high-risk offenders into custody and prevent them from reoffending.

Mr. Speaker, entire communities can feel the repercussions of violent and criminal behaviour of just a few individuals. And it is the belief of our government that law-abiding citizens in Saskatchewan must be protected from those who act outside the law. And the WEST [warrant enforcement and suppression team] team will do just that, Mr. Speaker, by targeting violent, high-profile offenders with outstanding warrants.

The team will be based in Saskatoon and Meadow Lake but will focus on warrant enforcement across the whole province. WEST will be comprised of 10 permanent positions, including eight RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officers, one criminal analyst, and one administrative support position.

Furthermore the GPS electronic monitoring system will enable law enforcement to monitor high-risk offenders and identify when they have violated the geographical constraints of their release. This will make it easier to take them back into custody before they reoffend.

Mr. Speaker, these initiatives are among the many that this government has introduced to ensure that we can live in a safer Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Diabetes Awareness Month

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, November is Diabetes Awareness Month. To raise awareness, Diabetes Canada hosted a virtual education event yesterday on November 15th. Diabetes Canada calls on us to act this November by learning the warning signs, making healthy lifestyle choices, and assessing risk for developing diabetes.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the life-saving drug insulin, one of Canada's greatest contributions to medicine. The patent for insulin was sold to the University of Toronto for \$1 by Sir Frederick Banting upon its discovery in 1921. Since this medical breakthrough, insulin has saved and improved the lives of millions the world over. While insulin is not a cure for diabetes, with support of the good work being done by advocacy groups, researchers, and experts, we are hopeful to one day have a cure for this disease.

It's currently estimated that 327,000 people are affected by diabetes in Saskatchewan alone. The direct cost of diabetes to our health care system is over \$100 million and that is expected to rise 30 per cent in the next decade. On this side of the House, we will continue to amplify the call for expanded access to medications and supplies. I ask all members of the legislature to applaud the efforts of Diabetes Canada and work to immediately enhance coverage to those who are affected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Weyburn Eagles Win 5A Provincial Football Championship

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard about the rest, and now it's time to hear about the best. And that of course is the Weyburn Comprehensive Eagles football team who went undefeated this year, all the way to a 5A championship season.

Mr. Speaker, it was a dominating 44-0 score over the previously undefeated Balgonie Greenall Griffins who, up until playing the Eagles on Friday night, had not given up 44 points over the course of the entire season.

Led by running back Ben Michel, the Eagles ran for 268 yards with Ben totalling 147 yards and two touchdowns, and Austin Knupp had 81 yards on the ground and two scores as well. Mr. Speaker, you can never go wrong with a Manning under centre, and quarterback Ben Manning, who had an outstanding season, added a 1-yard touchdown run. Evan Barsness, a lineman on both sides of the football, registered seven tackles.

In the words of former coach Darren Abel, "This is what you train for, sweat for, sacrifice for, practise for, overcome aches and pains for, strive for, and dedicate your season and football journey to achieve."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in congratulating the Weyburn Comprehensive Eagles on winning the 2021 5A championship. Thank you.

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

Drag Show Fundraises for Lulu's Lodge

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, along with local leaders, Stephanie and I hit the stage at Walk the Walk, a drag show which raised over \$69,000 to pay off the mortgage of Lulu's Lodge. Lulu's is a homeless shelter for LGBTQ2S youth in Regina. The show also paid tribute to Derek Seitz, a tireless supporter of Lulu's and an iconic Regina drag performer that passed away last year.

This event would not have happened without the tireless leadership of Terry Van Mackelberg, better known in the drag community as the legendary Flo Mingo. Thanks go to all the talented local leaders that stepped up: Mayor Sandra Masters, Nelson Bird, Morgan Campbell, Pam Klein, Nathan Morrison, Sabeen Ahmad, Tina Beaudry-Mellor, Connor O'Donovan, and Shanon Zachidniak who was also a lead organizer.

We celebrate and thank the incredible mentors, those that proudly performed as queens and kings: Gerrard Dillman, Joshua Halvorsen, Lacey Frigon, Aaron Brousseau, Nicole Lariviere, Desiree Dieno, and Dana Hurrell. A special shout-out goes to our incredible drag mentor, Norman MacDonald, performing as D.Frost, for all the care and teaching. Thanks to the judges, Joycelynn Starr, Michele Tyndall, and Dean Renwick.

I'd ask all to offer their thanks to Terry and to all those that made Walk the Walk such a resounding success, and of course to director Tanna Young and the incredible team at Lulu's Lodge for the difference they make in the lives of many each and every

day.

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

Saskatoon Entrepreneur Partners with Cosmo Industries on Recycling Initiative

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently I had the pleasure of bringing greetings to a recycling event in my constituency. As part of Waste Reduction Week, we celebrated a donation and a partnership between Cosmo Industries and Harold Sokyrka, founder and CEO [chief executive officer] of Kwik Bag It Products International.

Mr. Speaker, the Cans4Cosmo at-home deposit container collection program started before COVID-19, and it quickly became very valuable during the pandemic. Not only does the program generate donations to help Cosmo participants, it offers a safe, convenient way of returning recycling to Sarcan. Recycling containers can generate unwanted waste such as the plastic bags that we use to transport the cans and bottles. Mr. Speaker, Cans4Cosmo has collected over 9,400 plastic bags filled with deposit containers that were then disposed of at the landfill. Cosmo will replace plastic bags, for their subscribers, destined for the landfill with Harold Sokyrka's new Kwik mesh bags.

Mr. Speaker, his generous donation of 500 reusable and washable bags to Cosmo will reduce unnecessary cost and waste. This is a true win-win-win situation for the Cosmo program, the community, and the environment. I now ask all members to join me in congratulating Cosmo Industries and Harold Sokyrka for this impressive collaboration, and thank Cosmo for 50 years of creating opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Saskatchewan Company a Leader in Lithium Extraction

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government continues to promote the diversification of Saskatchewan's world-class energy industry. Mr. Speaker, of the 31 critical minerals identified in Canada, 22 can be found in Saskatchewan, including lithium. We are very excited about entering the lithium market, especially as we continue to attract industry like Prairie Lithium Corporation.

Prairie Lithium is a leading developer of lithium extraction technology from oil field brines. Mr. Speaker, at the processing facility in Emerald Park, in Regina Wascana Plains, Prairie Lithium uses their specialized methods to extract 99.7 per cent lithium from brine water. The company has now drilled the first-ever dedicated lithium brine well in Saskatchewan's history, near Torquay, Mr. Speaker. While drilling, over 100 jobs from 40 different companies were created.

Prairie Lithium received support from two of our government business development programs, Saskatchewan petroleum innovation incentive and the Saskatchewan Advantage Innovation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, lithium demand is forecasted to increase significantly over the next decade. This is due to the growing need for lithium-ion batteries used in electronic devices, electric vehicles, and renewable energy storage.

I'd like to congratulate Prairie Lithium on their cutting-edge lithium extraction technology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Social Media Statements by Opposition Member

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the member from Regina University seemed surprised by one of her own past tweets about CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] and small business in general. The opposition even challenged the House Leader to table those statements, which gladly he did. Since the members opposite were so interested, I thought that I'd read them into the record.

On March 25th, 2020, early in the day of the pandemic, she felt it was a good time to take to Twitter and attack organizations of the CFIB: "It's almost like you pay into these business lobbies for nothing but outdated advocacy, no accountability, and unresponsive member services."

A few months later, on July 17th, 2020, she tweeted, "Imagine being the CFIB and getting to work every day and lie."

Not content with discrediting the hard work of an organization that represents 4,300 small businesses in our province, on July 27th, 2020, she decided to criticize some of those businesses more directly: "I have to assume anyone who claims they can't afford to pay more than a minimum wage is either bad at business, wildly undercharging, and/or dishonest."

Now that the NDP [New Democratic Party] has decided to pretend that they support small businesses, maybe the Leader of the Opposition could start today by apologizing for his member calling them dishonest, unresponsive, overpaid liars. Will he do that? We're about to find out.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

[14:00]

Coverage for Medical Procedure

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're joined today in the House by Kirsten Finn. The minister chose to override the medical services review commission's decision to fund her son Conner's care. We haven't heard from the Premier.

To the Premier: will he overturn that decision of this minister? Will he commit today to funding Conner's life-saving, essential care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. I welcome Kirsten

and all of those that are here today, advocating on behalf of Conner. I understand and have been informed that the minister had a good meeting yesterday with Kirsten with respect to her son and the situation that they are in, Mr. Speaker.

The minister has committed to looking into this file, looking into this file again. He has engaged the Ministry of Health. He's engaged the Saskatchewan Health Authority since that meeting as of yesterday, Mr. Speaker, and he'll be reporting back to the family in the next number of days once he has had an opportunity, alongside his officials, to look into this case yet again.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, this government has had the Finns' information for a very long time. This is the minister who chose to override the expert panel that said that care should be covered. To the Premier, it's a simple question: will his care be covered? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, the Minister of Health has met with Kirsten yesterday. Mr. Speaker, he is engaging the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Health Authority to relook into this case, and he is committed to do so. They are going to have another look at this case. We're going to report back to the family, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to report back to the floor of the Legislative Assembly.

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

Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Growth

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The family's here today. It's a deeply disappointing response, but not the first and I'm sure not the last from this Premier.

You know, during the last session, the members opposite spoke . . . In question period alone they bragged over 61 times about how Saskatchewan had the highest vaccination rate in the entire country. And yet, since then, they've been remarkably silent on the fact that we're now last in the entire country when it comes to vaccines.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier was keen to take credit when things started well. He was excited to take credit. Does the Premier accept the blame now that things are going badly?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, again, just to correct the record, Mr. Speaker, much of what's in the preamble to the question is just simply incorrect.

Mr. Speaker, as we know and have said on the floor of this Assembly — I've said in the rotunda many times, Mr. Speaker — in the middle of September when we moved forward with a number of public health measures, among those was a proof-of-vaccination/proof-of-negative-test policy, Mr. Speaker. We've seen the vaccinations go up in this province; delivered

almost 200,000 actually as of today, Mr. Speaker.

Alongside that, due to the public health measures that have been put in place as orders, also the public health measures that have been put in place as recommendations by our chief medical health officer, we're seeing a substantial drop in cases. We're actually seeing now our daily case rates on a number of days are down under 100, Mr. Speaker, and the trajectory continues to decrease. In fact, we're down 78 per cent from our peak on our seven-day case average.

Mr. Speaker, vaccines are working. The measures that we have in place in this province are working, and they're dropping our numbers in the province. They're now dropping our hospitalizations, Mr. Speaker. And I say again, through you to all of the people in Saskatchewan, thank you for the effort that you are making and let's keep it up.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Shahab has said that we need to reach 90 per cent of the entire population being vaccinated to be fully protected. We're now under 70 per cent, dead last in the entire country.

To the Premier: why did the Premier declare victory in July? Why did he declare victory in July resulting in fewer people feeling they needed to get vaccinated? Why did he make that choice and result in us getting to last in the entire country? Dead last.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, again in the preamble of the question, it's just simply . . . the facts are not correct, Mr. Speaker. In particular, today when you look at the vaccination rates in Saskatchewan, they have increased and they have increased markedly over the course of the last, now, just over a month, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan people are doing the right thing. They are going out and getting vaccinated. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are following the public health orders that are in place. And that's why our active case count is down almost 80 per cent since our peak, Mr. Speaker.

The fact of the matter is is nobody declared this over in July. In fact, I succinctly and specifically had said that the COVID is not over, Mr. Speaker, and that we need to continue . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, the member references that I was at the Stampedo to meet with a number of premiers. Well the fact of matter is is I can tell you where I wasn't. I wasn't in the Pil zone, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we see the members opposite that want to shut down wide swaths of our communities, Mr. Speaker. They want to force vaccines on our children, Mr. Speaker. And then they don't practice what they preach, Mr. Speaker. That is the challenge with the opposition that we have in this province. Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue with the public health measures that are in place . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order. Order. Both sides, order please. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue with the measures that are in place. They are working. They're dropping our case count, almost 80 per cent, increasing our vaccination rates in the province. Again I say, unlike the members opposite, thank you to Saskatchewan people for the effort they're making.

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

Mr. Meili: — Hundreds of people have died since the Premier declared the pandemic over in July, since he took his tour to hang out with Jason Kenney and have the best summer ever, since he took the summer off. Over 300 people have lost their lives, Mr. Speaker, and he wants to make jokes. He wants to make jokes, Mr. Speaker, when people have died as a result of his choices. It's as simple as that.

So to the Premier: why, when you were so clear, so clear to brag about being first in the nation when your choices have made us last . . . Do you accept the blame since you were so keen to take the credit?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wow. Wow. What we did, what the Premier did during the summer, I can tell you it was no summer vacation, Mr. Speaker. We know talking about the economy makes them mad over there, and certainly economic success. You can almost hear them stewing: aargh, another announcement.

But let's talk, let's talk about jobs, Mr. Speaker. Jobs the member for Saskatoon Nutana called crumbs. If it isn't a windmill, it's somehow subpar.

New operations, expansions, mills, and mines announced over the summer will create more than 9,500 jobs, Mr. Speaker, this year and going forward — BHP, One Sky, Viterra, North American Helium, on and on. Mining and timber allocations announced this summer, Mr. Speaker, have made northern Saskatchewan a leading job creator in the country. That's according to Stats Canada.

Let's talk about new emerging areas, Mr. Speaker — helium, lithium — and building on our existing strengths, the amazing economics and environmental footprint of CCS [carbon capture and storage] enhanced oil recovery which we stand behind. What we do every day in this . . .

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, we're talking about the human cost of this Premier's choices, and they try to switch the channel to economic stories. Mr. Speaker, here's the question. Here's the question. Are you trying to tell us . . . Is the Premier trying to tell us that we can't grow the economy and protect public health? Or is he trying to say that all of these deaths were worth the cost?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, we are doing both. Mr. Speaker, we are when we do have a number of public health measures in place, Mr. Speaker, including that proof-of-vaccination/proof-of-negative-test policy that are increasing our vaccines and pushing our COVID numbers down, pushing our hospitalization numbers down, and keeping people safe in this province. And it's only due to the fact that people in this province are adhering to the public health measures that are in place, Mr. Speaker, and that ultimately are being recommended by our chief medical health officer.

Alongside that, in what has been one of the most challenging years, in fairness, that this province has ever seen, Mr. Speaker, what we have seen over the course of this past summer is over \$10 billion of investment, Mr. Speaker. What that means to this province is we are going to be able to achieve our growth agenda. We are going to achieve our plan for growth targets that we put out to 2030. Some of them we're going to achieve a little bit quicker, Mr. Speaker, in the way of the canola crush investments that have been made in and around the city of Regina and across the province, and a new potash mine being invested in this province, Mr. Speaker.

We are seeing investments in community after community, in industry after industry across this province. We're going to put people to work, not only for today and the next month, but for the next number of decades, Mr. Speaker. We are doing both, and we're going to continue to focus on the safety of Saskatchewan residents and the growth of our economy, the growth of our communities, and building a stronger province for the people that we ultimately represent.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, members on this side of the House believe that you can protect public health and grow the economy. We have the worst job creation record in the entire country and the worst COVID death rate in the entire country. This Premier's choices have given us the worst of both worlds.

He had the option, Mr. Speaker, he had the option to listen to Dr. Shahab. He had the option to listen to the public health experts. He had the option to protect people's jobs and their health. Instead he allowed hundreds of Saskatchewan people to die, Mr. Speaker. How can we possibly have any respect for this Premier after this embarrassing display?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, the last thing that we would call an embarrassing display is standing up for the workers in this province, Mr. Speaker. They like to talk about the human connection, and yet they demean the very jobs that create so much possibility economically in this province, Mr. Speaker. Just ask the people who live around the BHP Jansen mine. Just ask the people in the North, who's experiencing what the member for Athabasca once said: the North will rise again. It's happening, Mr. Speaker, through the economy.

Of course both are important, but we have always emphasized the importance of both. It is not about a right job or a wrong job, a too-menial job or a green job. It's about jobs. And it's an insult

to workers and the people of this province to demean them as some sort of either-or and to demean the economy in the course of what we are all trying to accomplish here together on the other side of this great challenge, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order. I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Management of Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The Sask Party's failure to contain COVID has come at a horrible human cost, and it was preventable. Beyond this inexcusable human cost, there's a cost to our public finances. To the Finance minister: how much has the Sask Party's failure to contain COVID cost our public finances?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite well knows, we had committed to make the dollars available for whatever it would take for health care and for any of the other ministries in order to address the challenges of COVID. As such, Mr. Speaker, that has indeed created a deficit position for our province, no different than any other province right across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to be there for the cost of COVID and to be there in health care and in all the other ministries that have pressures. And he's going to see an update on those numbers very, very shortly when we release the second quarter.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — No answer, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: in addition to the horrible and preventable human cost, we'll break it down a little bit. How much does each COVID hospitalization cost? How much does each COVID ICU [intensive care unit] hospitalization cost? How much does it cost to send a patient and their families out of province for care in ICUs? How much do these preventable costs add up as a hit to our public finances?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

[14:15]

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite knows full well that that type of detail couldn't possibly be brought in to the floor without binders and binders. However, there was 397.7 million spent in health care, 96 million spent in education, 26 million spent on vulnerable population, and then 15 million for VIDO-InterVac [Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-international vaccine centre] to help them create a vaccine, Mr. Speaker. That's just in this budget alone, Mr. Speaker.

But that is the reason why the announcement made by the member just previously, all of that economic growth, is so

important. It's so that we will have the money to do this. And that is why we're focused on both what we need to do to address the pressures of COVID, but what we also need to do to grow this economy so we can pay for those pressures.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Not a surprise, Mr. Speaker, but the Minister of Finance ought to know those numbers. They ought to know the cost of their mismanagement. On top of the horrible human cost, how much did the preventable kneecapping of our health system cost to suspend surgeries, procedures, and organ donation? And how much more will it cost to ramp those back up and to get us back on track?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's kind of humorous coming from a member who couldn't even cost their platform in the election that they want such detailed numbers here on the floor of the Assembly. There is committee where he will have the ample opportunity to ask those detailed questions. I don't know per-bed costs in our health care system, Mr. Speaker, and he knows that.

Mr. Speaker, what he also cannot answer is how they would pay for all of the things that they have suggested that we spend more money on. They have no clue where that money's going to come from. They don't want to see debt. They don't want to see a deficit budget, but they also don't want to grow the economy because they don't know how.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — No answers, Mr. Speaker, from the Finance minister with respect to the costs of their mismanagement, the horrible human cost and the financial cost as a result of the mismanagement. We have the Health minister of course yipping from his seat while he failed Saskatchewan people so miserably in this province.

The pandemic isn't just taking a toll on our public finances and on people's lives. It's taking a hit. It's impacting our economy. TD [Toronto Dominion Bank] and RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] have recently slashed their projections for economic growth this year, showing that nearly \$2 billion less in the economy is expected with that downgrade. That reduces revenues to government, and it makes it harder to pay for the things we need. How much will the hit on our economy resulting from the failure to contain the COVID fourth wave cost us in lost revenues to our public finances?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite well knows that our province has one of the lowest debt-to-GDP [gross domestic product] ratios in the country. Mr. Speaker, that is not mismanaging. He knows what the credit rating agencies have to say about our province's management, and they recognize there's been pressures from COVID, Mr. Speaker. So he will see all of those details in the second quarter, which will

be released fairly shortly. He will see that fairly soon, Mr. Speaker, but what he still will not answer is how he would pay, how would they generate revenue to pay for everything that their members keep asking for.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The minister doesn't have to take my word for it. She can listen to the TD Economics recent report. I quote:

Saskatchewan's outlook has recently taken a turn for the worse. Daily per capita caseloads are at their highest level since the start of the pandemic, and first dose vaccination rates are the lowest in the country. As a result, the recoveries in Saskatchewan's employment and consumer spending are more susceptible to downside risks stemming from the fourth wave. To rub salt to the wound, Saskatchewan's labour market performance was already at the lower end of the provincial leaderboard this year . . .

Those aren't my words; those are TD Economics's in their most recent report. Can the Finance minister tell us what the cost to our public finances has been for their disastrous management of the COVID fourth wave?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and economic development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I would begin by noting that the member for Rosemont said he was surprised. I'll tell you, the entire Chamber was surprised by something. He got to his feet, Mr. Speaker, and he got a wonderful ovation. It wasn't quite a standing ovation, Mr. Speaker, but we were very pleased to see him actually get up. And I think we know why he is not allowed up by the Leader of the Opposition. He's a bit better at this than the Leader of the Opposition is, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to say, I want to say thanks to my friend from Rosemont for getting up and giving the opportunity to talk about some great economic news here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Just yesterday, updated information. He was quoting stuff from months ago, Mr. Speaker. Here's real-world data, Mr. Speaker, from yesterday. Manufacturing sales in this province over the course of the last year, how much did they go up, Mr. Speaker? Not 10, not 20, not 30, not 40 per cent — 53 per cent, Mr. Speaker, in the last year.

And that is real, Mr. Speaker. That is farm equipment being manufactured in this province, putting to work hundreds and thousands of people, Mr. Speaker. I will take that real-world investment over his numbers any day of the week.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Support for Saskatchewan Students

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan parents and teachers have been reaching out to me, asking how bullying and fear tactics are allowed in elementary schools. Government is using the same narrative to sell the idea that your medical status

equates with fear and scapegoating. It is now socially acceptable for schoolyards and playgrounds to be asking if you are vaccinated. It was socially taboo to ask someone about their medical procedures, and it was considered private. When did this change come about? And how did children get pulled into this narrative? It's very alarming.

Teachers and parents are worried about the quality of education provided and learning environment in today's restrictions, censorship, and persecution among society. How does these bullying tactics improve the Saskatchewan education system? Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the mental health and well-being of our students is certainly one of the high priorities of this school year. It has been in the past, but when we worked with our partners in school divisions and as well other stakeholders in the education sector, we decided on three priorities for an interim educational plan this year, and one of those priorities would be mental health and good mental well-being for our students and our staff.

That's why we're putting additional resources in things like Kids Help Phone. That's why we're ensuring that there's at least one adult in every school in this entire province that has mental health first aid training. That's why we are launching a campaign to encourage students to take a healthy break from social media from time to time, Mr. Speaker.

All of these initiatives and more, including mental wellness capacity building is a good program that we have in a number of schools, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're working very hard to ensure that our mental health of our students is a high priority. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During International Education Week that celebrates Saskatchewan as a preferred destination to study, the Saskatchewan education system was once a proud and enlightened institution. How does the government equate coercion, bullying, and restrictions with a safer, healthier, and more responsive learning environment? Does this enhance the province's reputation as a destination of choice for international students?

Are you in favour that the only science accepted by our public health has only been supported by institutionalized bullying? Why are we shutting out students from universities, denying young people educations due to their stance on personal body autonomy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Finance minister.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, we don't condone bullying or coercion in either our K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] schools, our post-secondary schools, or any of our institutions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 54 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative diverse (attestation instrumentaire à distance) de 2021*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 54, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021*, which is a bilingual bill, be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 54 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — 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. 55 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 55, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 55 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.

Deputy Clerk: — 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 legislature, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 56 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021 Loi modificative de 2021 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 56, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021*, which is bilingual, be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 56 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.

Deputy Clerk: — 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 legislature, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Dennis: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to present its second report. The second report focused primarily on the committee's scrutiny role in its review of annual reports and provincial audit reports for the period of June 30th, 2020 until November 16th, 2021.

During this time our committee reviewed 52 reports and financial statements released by the Crown corporations or related entities and reviewed chapters in five Provincial Auditor's reports. It has also concurred with the list of the candidates recommended by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to serve on the independent audit committee for the province of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to thank the Office of the Provincial Auditor and the Legislative Assembly for their support they provide. I'd also like to thank the minister and officials from CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] and the Crown corporations for their work and their attendance to the meetings. I move:

The second report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

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

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question no. 6.

The Speaker: — Question no. 6 is ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

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, at the conclusion of my comments I'll move second reading of *The Privacy (Intimate Images — Additional Remedies) Amendment Act, 2021*.

Mr. Speaker, members of this House will recall that in 2019, *The Privacy Act* was amended to create a tort for the non-consensual distribution of intimate images. This new tort is available even if a person consented to the image being taken or had taken the images of him- or herself. The Act also creates a reverse onus requiring the distributor to prove that he or she had the consent to actually distribute that image. Mr. Speaker, this bill will provide some additional practical civil remedies for individuals who are the subject of what is broadly known as revenge porn.

This bill will further expand the remedies for the non-consensual distribution of intimate images to include requiring the defendant to return to the victim any copies of visual recordings of the victim, including threatening to distribute an intimate image in the definition of the statutory tort, including depictions of an individual in the definition of protected images to address fake or altered images, declaring the distribution of all visual recordings of the victim unlawful, requiring the defendant to make every reasonable effort to make all visual recordings of the victim unavailable to others, and requiring an internet intermediary to make every reasonable effort to remove or de-index all visual recordings of the victim.

The Uniform Law Conference Of Canada has recently recommended that jurisdictions include remedies in revenge porn legislation to declare images unlawful and require defendants and internet intermediaries to remove online images. The research indicates that this may facilitate victims' efforts to have images removed. Accordingly we are making these changes to assist victims of this awful behaviour in removing these images as quickly and completely as possible.

Expanding the scope of the tort to include threats and to include depictions rather than original visual recordings will broaden the protection of the Act. A threat to post an intimate image can be equally damaging and coercive for a victim as the actual posting and should be treated in the same way. Modern software makes fakes and melded depictions all too easy, and this amendment will address these modern concerns as well.

Mr. Speaker, this government remains committed to the goals of the legislation, and I'm pleased to ask all members of the Assembly to support these additional remedies. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Privacy (Intimate Images—Additional Remedies) Amendment Act, 2021*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 51 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. 51. When this legislation originally came forward, I believe in 2019, we joined with the minister in being supportive of this important cause, Mr. Speaker.

Revenge porn, as it's colloquially known, can be quite a traumatic and damaging experience for those who are the victims of it, often leading to suicide, Mr. Speaker, in the individuals who suffer from it. This tort is designed to provide a victim of this horrendous, horrendous crime another tool in their tool box to gain retribution, to hopefully bring them back to a place of completion after being, you know, torn apart in this sort of situation, and hopefully to deter individuals from thinking about even considering doing something as horrendous as this.

I'm pleased to see the expansion of this, the original legislation to now include threats, Mr. Speaker. As the minister just mentioned, a threat of distribution is almost as traumatic as actual distribution in and of itself, Mr. Speaker.

We'll be curious to know what has happened since the legislation has passed in 2019 in terms of its usage, whether or not it has been readily used by plaintiffs, Mr. Speaker, and what the outcomes, if there are any reported outcomes, have been. And if there hasn't been a lot of uptake in this legislation, whether or not there can be something done in terms of an awareness campaign by the government or whether or not there is an issue around access to justice, Mr. Speaker.

Because this is a tort, you would have to sue someone in court, which typically requires the hiring of counsel, Mr. Speaker. So there could be a financial barrier there between those who have suffered this sort of instance and want to proceed in this manner but perhaps can't afford to hire a lawyer. So a lot of questions about making sure that this legislation can help as many people as possible. I think that's what members on all sides want to see with this legislation, and in order to . . . I think there are a lot of questions about making sure that the appropriate individuals have been consulted who should be consulted with respect to these changes.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I have many colleagues who want to talk about this legislation in particular. And in order to facilitate that, I am prepared now to move adjournment on Bill No. 51.

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. 52 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today and move second reading of *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*. Mr. Speaker, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* is the Act that governs property damage insurance coverage and liability insurance.

In addition to some housekeeping changes to update statutory references, there is one main change that I will highlight today, Mr. Speaker. The change, if approved, will ensure suspended drivers maintain insurance coverage when required to take part in SGI-mandated driver evaluations. In order to keep our roads safe, driving privileges are suspended under *The Traffic Safety Act* for several reasons. For example, drivers may be suspended for medical reasons or for failing to complete a required driver program.

Depending on the reason behind the suspension, Mr. Speaker, SGI may require a suspended driver to complete a driver evaluation. These evaluations may include driver training, a road test, and/or a driver assessment. This allows SGI to measure an individual's driving ability before allowing them back on our roads. Rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that the suspended driver is always accompanied by, or under the direction of, an authorized driver instructor or examiner during the evaluation.

Mr. Speaker, the existing Act is unclear on whether a suspended driver is eligible for insurance if they are involved in a collision during an evaluation. The proposed amendment will clarify the Act, ensuring suspended drivers have insurance coverage while participating in SGI-mandated driver evaluations. This is a diligent and responsible improvement to ensure that all Saskatchewan road users are protected.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to move second reading of *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 52 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 speak to Bill No. 52, and I appreciate the minister's comments about this legislation.

Like he had stated, it's largely housekeeping from what I can gather. The largest change . . . And I'm sure the critic will look at this legislation with a more fine-tooth comb than I have had the opportunity to but, as the minister had mentioned, the largest change is ensuring that suspended and disqualified drivers

maintain insurance coverage while participating in driver evaluations. The minister has indicated that the importance of doing that is to ensure that our roads are as safe as possible. When you look at the weather we have today, I think that's quite apparent why that's so necessary.

I was once rear-ended, Mr. Speaker, by an individual who had a suspended licence, so I guess I'll be paying very close attention to whether or not this would have indicated my . . . or whether or not my specific situation would have fallen into this particular example. It was a blustery day on the corner of Albert Street and 13th Avenue, trying to turn right and minding my own business, where I got rear-ended, Mr. Speaker. It was quite a tragic situation. Lucky for me, my car wasn't too damaged and I was able to continue on with my day.

Mr. Speaker, I know I have a lot of other colleagues who are very interested in entering into the discussion around this piece of legislation. I know they'll be reaching out extensively to stakeholders to gather feedback on this bill, and in order to facilitate that discussion, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 52.

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. 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 rise today and at the conclusion of my remarks, I'll be moving second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021*. Mr. Speaker, as you know, statute repeal legislation is used from time to time to address legislation that has become outdated or obsolete including older Acts that are no longer in use, Acts that have been replaced by new legislation, and private Acts where non-profit organizations have ceased operations or been continued under incorporation.

The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021 as proposed, Mr. Speaker, this year will repeal *The Agricultural Safety Net Act*, *The Pastures Act*, *An Act to incorporate Additional Municipal Hail, Limited*, and *An Act to incorporate Sisters of St. Martha*. Mr. Speaker, in preparing this bill, Justice officials have worked with officials from other ministries to confirm that the proposed repeal of the legislation is suitable and will not have any undue impacts on stakeholders.

It's part of this government's ongoing commitment to ensure that our province's laws remain modernized and up to date. Justice officials will continue to work with other ministries to identify other pieces of legislation that may become suitable for repeal in the future. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 53 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 debate around Bill No. 53, and I appreciate the minister's comments about the legislation. As he mentioned, he mentioned specifically that this is a largely housekeeping bill meant to repeal some outdated and obsolete legislation. I feel like he set me up for a real great joke about this government. I'm going to leave it for now. I'm sure other members who are more clever than me will give that one a hit maybe when they're up talking about this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

In order to facilitate that discussion — and I know I have lots of colleagues who want to enter in discussion around this legislation — I am prepared to now move adjournment on Bill No. 53.

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.

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 Saskatoon University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to offer my comments on behalf of the official opposition with respect to Bill 38, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2021*. This bill gives the director of civil forfeiture additional powers to make preliminary orders regarding preservation of property as well as disclosure in investigations.

The bill also requires that financial institutions disclose certain information about a person's property or assets if it is suspected that it was obtained through the proceeds of crime. The bill also contains new offence provisions for people that fail to disclose information, or disclose information that is false or intended to mislead the director.

Mr. Speaker, the minister noted that forfeited property, or any proceeds derived from the sale of that property, will become part of the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund, which is used to support victims of crime, police operations, and community programming. I'd be very interested to know more about the breakdown here in terms of how it is determined to which stream these dollars are to be allocated.

[14:45]

I know a couple years back, there had been some concern expressed by one lawyer in particular who had argued — and I'm just going to find it here — that "The police receive a portion of

the profits from their own policing activity. [And the lawyer] From said that creates an incentive for them to go after someone's property," and looked at it as policing for profit. So we've got a bit of concern there about that stream.

My colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre had mentioned that she would like to see the proceeds from this fund directed to community-based organizations. I would echo that sentiment.

Mr. Speaker, the minister also noted that the purpose of this bill is to address money laundering, yet it's not immediately clear how significant of a concern money laundering actually is here in Saskatchewan — don't have a lot of information presented on that — so that's also an area where a more fulsome explanation is warranted.

We are also going to need some more information in order to properly understand why further powers for investigation have been deemed necessary by this government, which has not been specified. And we furthermore believe it is of utmost importance to have a full understanding of the extent to which these amendments will impact those who have limited means.

As always, Mr. Speaker, we want to be sure that proper consultation with stakeholders has occurred, and our critic will be intent on determining this. Like, I note as well when this legislation was expanded a couple years back, it was noted at that time that members of the criminal defence bar were not consulted on the changes where they should have been. So we've got a concern with past expansions of this legislation and insufficient consultation. So our critic is going to be undertaking much more detailed scrutiny in committee for this bill, Mr. Speaker.

But I want to just note again, last time this legislation was expanded, some of the concerns that were outlined by members of the legal community in particular. The critic at that time had mentioned that the burden of proof on these is much lower than criminal proceedings. There's also not legal aid representation for this. She said, some of the changes at that time reversed the onus, making the owner responsible for proving they should not lose their asset.

Lawyer Derek From had noted these laws, including Saskatchewan's laws, basically overturned some of the great historic rights that we as Canadians hold. The province doesn't have to prove the property was part of criminal activity and does not require a conviction before seizing money or property.

So this is just an example of some of the concerns that were brought forward last time that we saw an expansion, as I said, of this legislation. And so definitely here again our critic will be going through this with a fine-tooth comb and be looking at it very closely once it proceeds to committee.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 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 Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to stand here and offer my initial comments on bills that are being presented and discussed. Today I'm here to discuss or offer my initial comments on Bill No. 39, *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021*.

My understanding of this bill is to modernize the official publication of the Queen's Printer, *The Saskatchewan Gazette*, by allowing for the electronic publication. Mr. Speaker, I don't have much to say about this bill as it's pretty self-explanatory. I will say I'm pleased to see the *Gazette* be available for online access. I do believe it is important to make legislative changes accessible to everyone.

However when we make changes to better serve the people of this province, it's imperative to get input and feedback from stakeholders that may be impacted, so we get it right the first time.

Mr. Speaker, as I was preparing my notes for this discussion, I was reflecting on my experience as a mature grad student with a visual disability. As you may already know, online registration, courses, etc. are pretty much available nowadays, especially more so now with the ongoing pandemic. While I was happy that I didn't have to lug around books upon books in my small backpack, I did find accessing everything online wasn't as easy as people described it to be. Accessing my course material online with my visual disability did take me about three weeks to upload all my course material. And I didn't even have a chance to begin reading, so I was already behind.

So it would be safe to say when I was a university student, I was a frequent flyer at the student disability services and the computer tech services because I needed special help to read my documents. And I'm grateful I was able to access these kinds of supports while I was completing my master's degree. These support services personnel were keen on ensuring that I was able to navigate the virtual world as comfortably and easily as I could.

However there were times seeing and navigating the virtual world was not so easy with my visual disability. Navigating and looking at computer screens, etc. was and still is very hard on my eyes. The university had to ensure they were meeting the various disability needs of their students. In my case they needed to make sure that I as a student with a visual disability was able to navigate the online access services as easily and as comfortably as possible.

You may be wondering how my experience as a grad student with a disability, a visual disability, has anything to do with this Bill No. 39. I share my experience with you to point out that it is very important to seek input from those with visual disabilities

and those who may not have access to technology for online technology.

Any time we make changes that may impact those we serve, it is important we have meaningful consultations. I would hope consultation happens with those who also serve individuals with visual disabilities to ensure *The Saskatchewan Gazette* is accessible to all people. And one of the things I'm very grateful for because of my visual disability that this *Saskatchewan Gazette* would still be available for print.

I would like to say and share that I am in favour of making changes to the Act to allow for electronic publication of *The Saskatchewan Gazette*. And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I take it? You guys always switch when I'm up. Deputy, deputy . . . mister deputy deputy speaker, I move we adjourn debate on Bill No. 39, *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 40

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

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana. Sorry. I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, mister deputy deputy speaker. It's a pleasure to enter in briefly this afternoon with respect to Bill No. 40, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021*.

It's a bit interesting to see this bill being brought at this time because of course the Sask Party brought the trespass Act a few years back and then they sat on it, Mr. Speaker, you know, and I think probably for good reason. You know, as we entered in at that point, Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of problems with that piece of legislation, and you know, quite simply the way they went at it, you know, wasn't practical. It's not enforceable. It wasn't an answer to the problem of rural property crime, mister deputy deputy speaker.

And it was derived without any consultation. You know, it was sort of a political exercise by this government. They brought it forward. They shared with different stakeholders that they had done so but hadn't passed it, right, because it's a flawed piece of legislation that's simply not a practical piece.

They brought forward that piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, without any consultation. And this was with Indigenous peoples in this province, with hunters and fishers, those that are exercising their treaty rights, Mr. Speaker. No consultation. Not a stitch of consultation. I know, of course, the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] spoke out at that point, Mr. Speaker.

And a government doing these things in isolation and as a political exercise without the respect afforded to Indigenous peoples on this front is disrespectful enough, but it also creates a situation where government can bring forward flawed legislation that doesn't address the challenges that they're intending to address. Not only did they not consult Indigenous peoples, there was no consultation prior to introduction of that bill with the hunters and fishers and trappers and conservationists across this province by way of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation as an example, an incredible and important organization in this province with over 30,000 members — I'm proud to be one of them, Mr. Speaker — who weren't consulted with respect to these changes.

Again there's a practical piece to consultations to make sure that we build legislation that hits the mark, Mr. Speaker. And again this was a political exercise from this government. We saw that from the get-go. We saw it as well with that piece of legislation: no consultation but also no willingness to look at, you know, ways to improve that legislation or to amend that legislation by way of, for example, you know, ensuring the requirement to have permission to put a vehicle on someone's property, which would have addressed concerns over property crime but would not have impeded in a broad way the access concerns that hunters and fishers have identified with respect to this piece of legislation.

Now there's no question that a landowner has every right to post access to their land, to prohibit access to their land, to post "no hunting or trespassing." There is no question on that front. That's the right of every property owner throughout rural Saskatchewan. We support that. But what we don't support is the way this government's gone about building legislation that's not enforceable, not practical, that isn't a solution to the problem that they're addressing. And really it's been more of a political exercise.

Yesterday we had the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation here in this Assembly. And we recognized hunting, trapping, and fishing day in Saskatchewan, and the enormous economic impact and benefits of those activities all across Saskatchewan, but in a very concentrated way in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And this is important. It's important from a tourism perspective. It's important placing dollars into the community.

Certainly you know, this week as we speak right now, Mr. Speaker, is opening week for white-tailed deer in southern Saskatchewan. And I'll be out with my son at some point on the weekend and, you know, I've been in conversation with the landowners that I'll go and access the land on, Mr. Speaker. But we'll go out there and enjoy those unrivalled natural assets that we have in Saskatchewan when it comes to the great outdoors, when it comes to hunting and fishing. And we'll also spend a few dollars out there in rural communities and connect with our rural friends this weekend, Mr. Speaker.

But the piece of legislation that was brought by the government a few years back was a political exercise. It's why they sat on it. They now bring forward amendments here today. We will certainly ... With a lot of due diligence we'll engage with stakeholders with respect to the measures that are brought forward here today. Certainly we're committed to working to address rural property crime. We want to make sure common-sense measures are advanced. We don't see some of the

key pieces that are identified by stakeholders on this front being brought about in this legislation. So I think it misses the mark, Mr. Speaker, in stepping up to the challenge and making sure people have the safety and peace of mind that they deserve in addressing rural property crime.

[15:00]

You know, we don't see any action from this government to address the root causes of crime, Mr. Speaker. We don't see them acting to address poverty. We don't see them acting to ensure decent jobs for folks that allow them to keep their heads above water. We don't see actions to meaningfully address the mental health and addictions crises that so many people face, Mr. Speaker.

And there's real costs to not addressing the root causes on this front. And there are costs that are paid in human lives — horrible, tragic human costs — and then there are fiscal costs. Because of course the short-sighted approach of this government on all of these fronts, as well as the deep cuts to things like social assistance of late through SIS, end up costing us all far more in the long run, cost to our public finances and of course cost people in a very human way, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll continue to push for the needed action on these fronts to ensure the quality of people's lives, to protect life. And of course we're going to continue to push for the needed actions to address rural property crime, ensure the peace of mind and safety and security that rural people and landowners and farmers and Indigenous peoples across this province, from the far South to the far North in this beautiful province, deserve.

Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, though, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 40, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 41

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

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, mister deputy deputy speaker. It's my pleasure to rise here today and enter into debate on Bill No. 41, *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021*.

Of course this bill amends *The Legislation Act* and endeavours to maintain consistency with other jurisdictions and to continue the important work, as the minister spoke of, of the ongoing modernization of the legislation in this province. It will of course,

as I believe was noted by the critic, allow for additional efficiency in making comprehensive consequential amendments when several regulations require amendment. And I think we can all agree in this House that we are in favour of the modernization of legislation. It leads to increased efficiency, and this as well as updated language are critical updates to this specific piece of legislation, mister deputy deputy speaker.

I don't have significant concerns or comments to offer beyond that on this bill, so I'm happy to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 41, *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 42

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

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, mister deputy deputy speaker. It is a pleasure to be on my feet to enter into debate on Bill No. 42, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021*.

This bill contains some more mundane and more significant housekeeping changes, focuses on updating language, modernization. And I was, though, struck that this bill updates language with respect to references to members in this House from, you know, such as section 15 where the term "his" is being replaced with "the member's," in recognition of the fact that not all individuals sitting in this House are men, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Exactly. What's next?

So just sitting here, preparing to provide some brief comments on this bill, I did do a cursory count of that breakdown, mister deputy deputy speaker, because I think it bears acknowledging. And I was quite heartened to see that in this opposition caucus we have 67 per cent of our members are women. That's a fairly spectacular number, I have to say.

And I have to say that the numbers on the opposite side, the government side, the folks that are making legislation and calling shots and deciding policy across this great province, that number is under 20 per cent. Now I did a cursory count so I might be wrong about that. I believe that the loss of the member from Saskatchewan Rivers took that government below the 20 per cent mark. So that's actually a pretty shameful amount, mister deputy deputy speaker, and I would hope that that's something that this Sask Party is taking on within its ranks.

But I will also note that coming in here today, I glanced the proceedings on the television. The Premier was on his feet speaking, and all of the members that were within the camera shot behind him were women. And you know, I found that to be

curious and not at all representative of the makeup of that government. But I guess that's a positive angle that they want to broadcast to the province.

I'd suggest that instead of working with the camera angles they just, you know, do better and champion some women to join their ranks because we know that the decisions, the perspectives that women bring to office, are different, often different. They have distinct political interests from those of men. And I reflect on these things often, mister deputy deputy speaker.

I'm very happy to be expecting my second child in January. And you know, I'm so lucky that the member from Douglas Park, the deputy leader, came before me. A trail-blazing women member of the Legislative Assembly made history as the first female leader of the provincial NDP, one of the youngest MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] . . . And those men over there are heckling, which I'm glad to see. I must be doing something right, mister deputy deputy speaker. One of the first, one of the youngest MLAs ever elected, and the first member of the Legislative Assembly to carry a baby while sitting in this House. Incredible, Mr. Speaker. And since then, on this side she's had another. The member for Regina University, I think she missed meeting that criteria by about 24 hours. She had her baby before election day in 2020. Pretty wonderful.

And I'm so glad, you know, to be welcoming my second child into the world after a time when the member for Douglas Park fought for allowances in this House so that women could . . . That was a change. The Minister of Education seems confused on this point, but there were actually no allowances for maternity leave within this House before the member for Douglas Park fought for that change. So they're very defensive on that side of the House, I'll note, mister deputy deputy speaker.

The other thing . . . I mean, I'd also like to note that there are many folks that have sat in this House that are parents — not just mothers, of course — and that that work takes a toll. And you know, I'll make reference to my colleague, Danielle Chartier, who was quite public about, you know, the challenges of being a parent and holding public office. And I want to take this moment to recognize my partner, my co-parent, my co-pilot, who is taking a parental leave from his work to support the work I do here.

So this may seem like mundane housekeeping, but you know, I was really struck by that. Wow, we still had language in our legislation that referred to the members of this House as "him." And it's just so important that we encourage women and other diverse voices to run for office so that this House can reflect the people out there, the people we serve.

And you know, the data does suggest that when women are in office they focus on different things. They're more likely to work to protect the environment. They're less likely to adopt a tough-on-crime agenda. They're more likely to support investments in our social safety net, in our economically disadvantaged, because they are more likely to live in poverty, to be single parents, to be working low-wage jobs, to be in retail, to be relying on child care, to be relying on long-term care, because of course the care of elderly parents so often falls to them. They're much more likely to want to invest in education, child care. And they're more likely to feel the economic impacts of the bad times. You know, we heard about the she-recession during

COVID-19. That pandemic disproportionately impacted women often.

So it's not just about words and language and representation. It's about the substance of what women can bring to the table. And I'm just going to wrap up my comments on this bill, mister deputy deputy speaker, but it struck me in reviewing this data — which I was aware of, but it was nice to be reminded of it — how much the priorities that are often brought to the table by men in elected office were reflected in our Speech from the Throne. That is a list of priorities that is predominantly determined by a government that is made up by a caucus that is dominated by men. And so we see that reflected in the policy that's being championed by this government. Protection of the environment, investments in education and child care, in the social safety net — these are the things that we'd like to see.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 42, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 43, *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021*.

Initially looking at it, there's some amendments being made, I think, to modernize the ability of the museum to do that today. And I guess there's different ways they will do that, probably maybe some wording, different ways that they'll look at that. And we'll wait to see, and I know we'll have an opportunity in committee to have some questions. And I know the critic, and I know we'll have some questions to ask and exactly what does this mean.

But I noticed another part to this amendment that this bill, they're going to allow the museum — from my understanding, and I'm sure we're going to have a few questions about this — to generate some revenue, it looks like, to have the ability to make sure that they generate some revenue. And I don't know if it's the fees, if there's certain things that they can do that they didn't have the ability to do before, I'm not sure. And I know we'll get a chance in committee to ask that, just what are they meaning by the change when it comes to fees and if it's charging more.

Yet on the other side, we want to make sure that, at the end of the day, that everyone has access to this museum. And when we

know that the Saskatchewan museum, it's amazing what it has to offer. There's so many, and I think in some of the comments I've heard some of my colleagues and members, you know, talking about the visits that many of us have had there and the stories and stuff like that, that's interesting to see. And the education you can get when it comes to our Indigenous people in our community, our province is, “from many peoples, strength.”

[15:15]

But I know our Indigenous community has done a lot for our province and has a lot of the culture and pride. And definitely there's much in the museum to share with Saskatchewan residents, but those that come from all over other provinces and other countries come here and have an opportunity to truly see some of our pride. And that's important because sometimes in troubled times, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have our challenges. We know that, but sometimes we also have our pride.

And I'm not going to say that there isn't challenges when it comes to our Indigenous communities and government. We hope we can work together, and I know our Indigenous leaders do that, but it's share something. And their stories will tell about the way government has treated Indigenous people in this province, and how government has not treated Indigenous people in this province.

So there's different ways that that's used. And someday, you know, some of the stuff that has gone on in the past two years that I'm aware of, maybe that'll be in the museum. I'm thinking about somebody like Tristen Durocher, what he has done to bring awareness, and Walking With Our Angels, Men of the North — groups, organizations, people who came forward. That's something that needs to be talked about in history, that it took us so long to get a bill passed when it came to suicide — three times — and maybe that's some of the history. Not proud history, but it's history. It's what actually happened, you know, and I could talk more about that.

But just the amendments that this bill is making and that we're referring to, I think about a museum and I think about the pride. And I talked about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But there are also things that we're not proud about that our province has done. Our governments can change that, you know. The Sask Party government can change that, can do things better, and I've encouraged that. And I will encourage our backbenchers, you know, to remind them they have a strong voice. And I hope they use that so that when the changes come, it's the right changes and we can do the things that we need to do for our province.

And I don't want to get away too much from the bill that I'm talking about, but it gave me a good opportunity to use examples of what's gone on in this province. That is, some things that we're not proud about, but unfortunately . . . We can talk about them and they have to be talked about. And don't forget about them. Don't hide. It's too many times, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we want to hide it, but the museum has an opportunity, I hope someday, to share some of the stories of what we have to deal with as Indigenous people.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I could go on more talking about

different things, but when I initially look at the bill, it's going to give an opportunity for the museum to make sure it can keep its doors open. There's ways that it can generate. And we'll ask questions, and I know in committee, like I said, we'll get to be able to ask more and more. And we hope that this museum will continue to be there for hundreds of years for many of our residents and will tell the true stories of how our province, you know, has come to be a beautiful province it can be. We're "from many peoples, strength."

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't have much more I can add to it, and I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 43.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to stand here today and enter into debate on second reading for *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021*, Bill No. 44.

I guess, on the face of it, as has already been mentioned by my colleagues on this side of the House, the amendments included in this bill are largely of a housekeeping nature meant to update some of the language and the terminology for such things as changing from referring to the "Department" now to the "Ministry" of Energy and Resources.

I think more significant though is closing some of the loopholes and ensuring that there is a complete definition of a resource corporation amended to include "associated corporations" and "affiliated persons." I suppose with respect to that amendment, it seems to suggest that there might have been some opportunity for shell companies perhaps or other organizations to avoid paying their fair taxes. It's not clear to me the extent to which this bill has been consulted upon or the origins of, or the debate around that amendment. But certainly at any point when we can ensure that we add more clarity to legislation to ensure that we capture those entities that are generating revenue as part of a conglomeration or a resource corporation, there isn't these opportunities to avoid paying a fair share of taxes.

I note that this includes both corporations and affiliated persons being subject to a resource charge. And I did note in the explanatory notes with respect to that, that "The Resource Surcharge is an additional tax to the Corporation Capital Tax. It is only payable if it exceeds a corporation's Corporation Capital Tax calculation." So there's quite a bit of technicality, I think, in this in terms of understanding at which point this applies, but

certainly, as I say, ensuring that there's added clarity. And if indeed that is giving the clarity that is needed to remove any ambiguity, I'm sure that our critic for this area will be looking to seek that clarification and understand how that language is intended to achieve the intended results.

I would note that, you know, in identifying the housekeeping amendments in terms of the terminology and the reference to "ministry" versus "department," that I think there's other opportunities for updating terminology elsewhere in legislated statutes. I know in looking at . . . related to, you know, the resource sector in particular that we have an oil and gas conservation Act that, you know, obviously applies more broadly than to just oil and gas.

As members opposite were referring to earlier today, we now have solution mining for lithium, for potash, for helium, and other critical minerals. And I hope that we'll see similar kinds of housekeeping updates to, you know, reflect the direction we need to be moving in this province to diversify resource extraction and remove any kind of confusion that this kind of outdated terminology is creating in terms of its application to all types of mineral and resource extraction.

You know, of course Saskatchewan has a bounty of resources that contribute to our success and our strength as a province. It's important that we're able to attract investment, not least of which was the recent decision by BHP to move forward with their conventional mine near Jansen because it contributes jobs and revenue to our economy, which we need, you know, in such an important way. And yet at the same time we want to make sure that there is that fair bargain.

And as I had mentioned in my response to the Throne Speech, you know, that is something that I've been very disappointed we haven't seen a better fair shake for Saskatchewan people when it comes to ensuring that there is that sharing of revenue. And certainly as it relates to this amendment Act, any small thing that it can do to ensure that corporations are paying their fair taxes is welcome.

But I do also note that there have been debates occurring in policy circles, asking the question more broadly about the taxation framework here in Saskatchewan for our resources and the need for a review, more broadly. There is an interesting article written by Jim Marshall of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. He wrote this article in January 2019. I'm sure the side opposite is well familiar with this policy brief that, you know, looked at the question of Saskatchewan's potash taxes and royalties. And certainly as it relates to this amendment Act, any small thing that it can do to ensure that corporations are paying their fair taxes is welcome.

But I do also note that there have been debates occurring in policy circles, asking the question more broadly about the taxation framework here in Saskatchewan for our resources and the need for a review more broadly. There is an interesting article written by Jim Marshall of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. He wrote this article in January 2019. I'm sure the side opposite is well familiar with this policy brief that, you know, looked at the question of Saskatchewan's potash taxes and royalties. And certainly we've benefited greatly from having the royalty structure that, in the past, that attracted new investment.

But it's interesting to note in this policy brief that it's the opinion of the author that Saskatchewan's current tax regime is far less lucrative for the people of Saskatchewan than has been the case in the past.

He goes on to also refer to rates that were seen, for example, in the early 2000s where rates averaged nine and a half per cent down, and then they reduced sharply in 2009-10 to 6.9 per cent. So he estimates that a one- to two-and-a-half-percentage-point variance amounts to around 40 to \$100 million per year in potential revenue lost to the Government of Saskatchewan, revenue that we know we need to pay for things, as higher costs of health care because of the failures of our government to contain the fourth wave of the pandemic.

And that's that, you know, that symbiotic kind of relationship we have in the province where we need to ensure that we can develop our resources sustainably, ensure that we're getting a fair bargain in the deal, while at the same time promoting.

And I mean all these things are difficult. They're, you know, they're difficult to balance for sure. But I think as the member who spoke previous on the last bill was mentioning that, you know, that's why it's so important that we have broad representation in the House, a diversity of perspectives and viewpoints represented, because we know ... And this is scientific fact which, of course, I know how partial the members opposite are to scientific basis. But it's known to be the fact that when we have diversity of opinions ... [inaudible] ... on the floor, we can ensure better outcomes, better decision making, and not any outcomes that are going to unfairly benefit or treat one party to an agreement over the other. So we see that, and that has been a large basis of our concerns with the approach this government has taken.

I mean certainly as I say, I do welcome these opportunities to, you know, tweak and strengthen some of the language where it's needed.

But my disappointment though relates to what's not included here. And that's a more fulsome debate on what would be fair for the people of Saskatchewan when it comes to sustainably developing our resources here in the province and ensuring that we can have the revenues to ensure a good quality of life for all Saskatchewan people — jobs. The Speaker, of course, will know that I've benefited greatly, myself and my family, from that sector, and I want to see it flourish. I want to see it continue to be part of what makes Saskatchewan great. But part of that is also ensuring that we do it in a way that is both sustainable and allows for benefits to accrue and wealth to be distributed to all people here in the province.

[15:30]

I'm sure that our critic for this bill will have far more to say about this, including asking about the extent to which this bill was consulted, who in fact has been consulted on the bill, and whether or not it reflects the interests and the values of everyday Saskatchewan people. So with that, I will move to adjourn debate till tomorrow and conclude my remarks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's as always my pleasure and honour to rise and enter into the discussion around this legislation, this legislation of course being Bill No. 45, *The Health Shared Services Saskatchewan (3sHealth) Act*, 2021. I read the minister's introductory comments on this legislation, and I do understand many of the updates in this legislation are what we so commonly refer to as housekeeping updates, with the purpose being really to centralize and improve some of the standards for health care in here, which are of course welcomed.

You know, the Act also speaks about some of the changes as well to 3sHealth [Health Shared Services Saskatchewan] services. And you know, I understand there's been some significant good work done, especially during the pandemic, as the organization has been forced to adapt to the ever-changing situation. I understand there was that redeployment really to add additional focus on procuring PPE for our stressed health care sector. And of course, you know, in some cases, Mr. Speaker, centralization can be beneficial, you know, and it can lead to some shared costs in bulk-purchasing opportunities.

And this legislation of course does speak to the nature of 3sHealth and opportunities and the procurement programs that are mentioned here. And you know, as we've talked about previously and some of my colleagues have mentioned, this is good, Mr. Speaker, especially some of the work around procurement. But of course it's important to maintain that clarity and transparency around the procurement processes, whether it's for PPE or, you know, something as mundane as photocopying and printer services, Mr. Speaker.

I expect the critic will have many, many more comments to enter into this discussion, and we will be of course, you know, watching closely as the government moves forward with this. And I know both the critic will have more to say, as well as likely some stakeholders and interest from members of the public. And you know, Mr. Speaker, in order to assist in facilitating that work and allow some of my colleagues to ensure that they have the opportunity to have further discussions on this bill, I am prepared to move to adjourn debate on this Bill No. 45.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet here today, get a bit of a workout and up to be able to speak in this Assembly is a real honour, Mr. Speaker. I know that my colleagues across have identified this as well. They're all happy for me, they tell me.

I'll be brief with respect to my remarks for Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021*. I know our critic, our very able Justice critic, is engaged in consultations on this front as we speak, and that she'll continue to be engaged on those fronts and make sure that any concerns with this legislation are brought forward, as well as any ways to improve this legislation, and make sure that we're supporting the important work of legal aid and supporting access to justice, Mr. Speaker. And so I know she'll engage in that work.

I think of some of my colleagues though. You know, this is work that motivates them, ensuring access for people in our province. And far too often there's not access to the legal system or access to the justice system. And the support and resourcing of Legal Aid itself has been a serious problem under this government, as well as other systemic challenges and issues that deny access to the justice system for far too many in this province.

I can recall meeting the member for Douglas Park years ago, when she was a lawyer and at the time working for the pro bono law society. And I remember being just so impressed by the work that she was taking on as well as some of the reforms and some of the pushes that she was calling for to ensure access to the justice system for all and to address the many barriers that exist.

I know the member as well for Regina Elphinstone-Centre fought hard for her clients and for the people as a legal aid lawyer and did important and good work on these fronts. So I've got colleagues that understand how many the barriers are with respect to justice for far too many in this province. And they're strong, strong leaders in calling for reform and change to ensure access to justice. And certainly we need to make sure that we're addressing those things through changes in legislation.

I'll leave the consultations to our able and strong Justice critic on this front, the member for Douglas Park. And I know she'll be bringing forward any of the concerns out of those consultations as well as ways to improve this legislation. With that being said, at this time I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid 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. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise today and enter into second reading on Bill No. 47, *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021*.

So as I understand it, that this bill is intended to modernize operations and management of our highways. There is a set of amendments ranging from provisions to create a freedom of passage, and also giving the province powers to clear obstructions, to improve safety at intersections. It's, yeah, it seems to be a bit of a sundry list of items. Again looking at incremental improvements on an existing Act for matters related to highways and transportation.

And it doesn't escape me that, you know, I'm entering into debate on a day when, you know, the issue of highway and traffic safety is such a key, critical item. We have a major snowstorm that is making its way across the province. I was just looking at my alerts on the Saskatchewan emergency services app showing the central part of Saskatchewan blocked out in yellow because of severe snow and wind that's going to be affecting our transportation system, our highway system. And it just really highlights that importance of ensuring that we have public safety assured on our highways, that our infrastructure is sound, that we have the right kinds of protections in place, and signage and safety limits posted, etc., etc., so that, particularly at times such as these when winter travel is particularly hazardous, that people are experiencing a reduced risk.

I mean of course I'd be remiss if I didn't say that at times such as this, the first go-to would be to not travel at all, of course, and certainly we've seen a number of alerts recommending just that. But certainly, you know, in the winter season in particular and in these shoulder seasons when we have such variable weather with freezing and thawing and icy road conditions, it's so important that we have good policy, good legislation, good infrastructure on our highways so people can travel safely. And whether that's as personal travel with private vehicles or we're talking about commercial vehicles and their movement across the province, we want to make sure that people are safe.

There's a number of things that I want to bring up in relation to that, because it's such a critical issue right now. I want to make mention of the fact that right now in British Columbia they've had major highway systems eroded, collapsed, be washed out by severe weather events in that province, cutting off not just the transportation for people, but for goods and services as well. I think it is really driving home the point around the vulnerability of highway infrastructure with the more wild weather that we're experiencing now because of climate change.

And Saskatchewan isn't immune to those similar kinds of threats

to its infrastructure. Obviously BC is a . . . They have their own regional threats with high rainfall events and, you know, mountainous terrain. Obviously their geography is very different. You know, the threats that have been increasing here in Saskatchewan because of climate change are different. We have a different climate. We have different geography and regional considerations, but nonetheless infrastructure vulnerability is certainly a major concern. It's a major issue.

It does get some passing acknowledgement, of course, in the government resilience plan, where we see there being an increase in the culvert size from 600 to 900 millilitres to be able to handle greater rainfall events. So that is a new provincial flood standard to prevent roads from washing out here in Saskatchewan. So maybe a different scale or scope than what BC has been experiencing particularly this fall season, but here in Saskatchewan, of course, these are matters that need attending to as well. And I'm sure that there will be the need for further kinds of amendments going forward.

[15:45]

And it does kind of raise a question in my mind in terms of the extent of public consultation, consultation with experts to ensure that, as we modernize and ensure that our legislation is keeping up with the times and with current threats, that we're hearing from a broad base of stakeholders and experts to ensure that our roadways remain safe and that their integrity remains intact as well.

It seems to me also that some of these amendments are in response to the Humboldt Broncos bus crash of 2017. And it's good to see that there is some changes around the definition for "intersections" and impeding lines of sight at intersections, you know, that there's the ability to also have automated technology for commercial vehicles, and enforcement there. I think a number of these things do relate to what we saw happen, and they're lessons learned from that horrible, horrible tragedy that occurred in 2017.

And I do feel it's important to acknowledge that in the debates around second reading to this. That incident was a such a tragic, tragic reminder about, you know, the consequences of inadequate legislation and safety measures, enforcement measures, signage, and training for commercial drivers — all of those things that would have been lines of defence in preventing a very significant and serious tragedy here in our province, one that continues to affect many people and was very devastating overall for the community of Humboldt. And so I want to make sure that we acknowledge that as we move forward in debating this amended Act.

So as I say, the highway infrastructure is the lifeline for our province. It's what ensures that we can travel freely within the province, that we can work and see our families, we can enjoy the many natural areas and recreational opportunities around our province. And for a province as vast and as beautiful as Saskatchewan but with such a sparse population, it does mean that people are travelling great distances on our highways. And it's so, so important that they're able to do that safely.

Unfortunately though, there are many people who don't have the access to that ability to travel freely within our province since the

demise of the Saskatchewan Transportation Company due to this government's short-sighted thinking back about the same time as that horrible, unfortunate event that I mentioned previous. It happened a couple years prior to that. But so many people are unable to see loved ones, attend medical appointments, enjoy all that this beautiful province has to offer, due to a system here in the province now that is, you know, disadvantaging those who are of limited economic means and unable to have a personal vehicle, either by want or lack of personal means. And I think when we're talking about transportation safety, that we not forget about that either, that there's many people who are unable to travel freely about this province on these important arterial roads around our province. And certainly it's something that we've committed to restoring when we form government.

I mean certainly geography defines us as a province, no doubt, no doubt. It's a vast province and we're very far from markets, and highways are so important to have access to markets beyond our borders. And I think it's important to recognize that. And it's important to see that we continue to modernize highways and transportation legislation to ensure that we continue to have access for our commercial sector, but recognize too that those provisions are increasingly under threat from extreme weather.

I also want to mention that the transportation sector contributes 15 per cent to our total greenhouse gas emissions. We know that it's the largest contributor nationally, but here in Saskatchewan it doesn't quite meet the top categories.

And I thought it was interesting in the Act that it talked about removing some administrative burden related to vehicle wreckage and some tax consolidation in that regard. And I think this is an important time to also remind members of the punitive measure introduced in the spring session, that it came into force October 1st with a surcharge on electric vehicles.

As we look to, you know, move forward and modernize our transportation system here in the province, ensuring that we're incenting and encouraging Saskatchewan people to move towards electric vehicles, that we're building out that infrastructure that . . . It's both on the one hand very disappointing that that surcharge was introduced at a time when we needed to be sending different signals to the marketplace, while at the same time, you know, I don't see anything in this bill to address the need for greater electric vehicle infrastructure. So that's doubly disappointing.

But on the topic of the removal of fees for auto wreckers, you know, I think that that's a good development. I hope that it will encourage some of, you know, the boneyards and graveyards of auto wreckage that we know, sort of, are littering the landscape across Saskatchewan, that we'll see some of that . . . that it'll remove some barriers and see some of those vehicles be recycled, cleaned up.

Of course there's other attendant issues with that, related to leaking car batteries, that sort of thing. I'm not sure if that issue was addressed with the consultation that occurred around these amendments, but it is certainly a very important issue, particularly as it relates to protecting source water, obviously another issue that I am very greatly concerned about and focused on. I mean all these things, it's kind of funny how they all connect at the end. We can talk about highways and transportation, and

then vehicles and contamination from old batteries. But there it is. It is all connected.

And you know, at the end of the day we do want to see reliable transportation infrastructure to both grow our economy and ensure a good quality of life here in Saskatchewan. The amendments that have been proposed here, I think, are going to go partway to achieving that goal. I think that there are some other issues I have raised here today that perhaps need to have a closer look to ensure that, particularly when it comes to infrastructure vulnerability, that we truly are addressing the concerns there in terms of roadways being safe from freeze-thaw cycles and major events.

And again I'll maybe end where I started, particularly in reference to the road conditions that are quite hazardous. This week I'll be, of course, returning home to Saskatoon on Thursday and hoping for good road conditions that day. I'll be relying on the Saskatchewan Highway Hotline to provide me with good, up-to-date information about the status of the highways here in Saskatchewan before I make my travel.

I did have a look at the Highway Hotline a little bit earlier this afternoon just to see what the state of our road conditions around the province are like, and there was a lot of yellow on the screen again. The Highway 11 between Regina and Saskatoon was looking pretty good, but then as you kind of went out from that radially it starts to get a little more yellow on the map showing that, you know, it's starting to be quite hazardous out there.

And on that front, when we talk about modernizing, I'm hoping to see an app to download onto my phone. Right now it's just a website. I found that sort of surprising. Maybe there's something we could do about that if anyone's listening on the other side.

But I'll just maybe conclude by reminding folks that the weather is quite poor right now. Road conditions are bad. Travel is not recommended, so please avoid travel if at all possible and stay safe. Make sure you're prepared if you're heading out on the roads.

And with that, I will conclude my remarks and adjourn debate on this bill for today. Thank you.

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. 48

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 48 — *The Public Health (Safe Access to Hospitals) Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to offer my comments on behalf of the official opposition with respect to Bill

48, *The Public Health (Safe Access to Hospitals) Amendment Act, 2021*.

This bill allows for up to 150-metre safe access zones around provincial, regional, district, and community hospitals. The stated goal the government wishes to achieve through this bill is to protect the public, patients, and health care professionals from harassment by sidewalk protests.

It should be noted that this bill will still allow for lawful protests outside of the designated access zone and also for picketing during labour disputes. And I think definitely these are important allowances and I'm glad to see their inclusion in this bill.

The bill outlines that enforcement will be handled via the ministry and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. We're going to be interested to learn more about enforcement measures or penalties for infractions because unless I've missed it, I really couldn't see anything clearly outlined to that effect.

Also noteworthy is that the provision is not going to be permanent and is set to expire in two years. So it's at this point unclear why there's a need for an expiration date, and I'd like to understand why this has been included, which has yet to be explained.

Mr. Speaker, this bill additionally enables additional immunizers for vaccination programs, which is not super similar to the rest of the content of the bill, so our critic's going to have more questions on that front for sure.

[16:00]

Mr. Speaker, we certainly do welcome, on the whole, provisions in this legislation, and as you may recall, had called for action on this front back in September. So it's good to see that the government has moved ahead with our recommendations, even if later than we had hoped for.

We do agree entirely that protests which include harassment or intimidation tactics should not be allowed to occur outside hospitals. And we do strongly believe however that the bill should cover a wider range of facilities, including all those that provide abortion services, Mr. Speaker. As you'll recall, I had specifically called for this in the private member's bill I introduced last spring, Bill 605.

I'll note that the government has to date failed to address the changes that we had proposed in that private member's bill which would further protect patients and health care providers. For example, and these are just a couple examples of, you know, some of the additional language in Bill 605 which I would like to see incorporated in this bill. One is around prohibiting harassment additionally, not just in person but via phone or online methods. That's something too that certainly patients and absolutely health care providers should not be subjected to.

Also Bill 605 included a broader range of facilities, so things like clinics, not just hospitals, and also pharmacies would be included as well. So I think we could all agree that we'd want to see a reasonable limit on harassment and intimidation in the form of protests around those facilities too.

Another example is Bill 605 laid out clear penalties for infractions for people that knowingly breached the access zones. So as I said before, I haven't seen that outlined in this bill. Perhaps I've missed something, but those will be some questions that we'll want to ask.

So you know, I do see some of the language here appears to be almost cribbed word for word out of my bill, which I'm flattered by. So I'm not sure why the government has, you know, taken such a great liking for the language from my bill yet still refuses so far to pass that bill.

Mr. Speaker, we'll definitely be reaching out to health care workers and other stakeholders to hear their impressions on this bill, particularly as I'd flagged earlier, around the expiration provision. With that, Mr. Speaker, I think for now I'm comfortable to move that we adjourn debate on Bill 48, *The Public Health (Safe Access to Hospitals) Amendment Act, 2021*. Thank you.

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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 49 — *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation 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 is a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 49, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021*. I had the opportunity to review the comments of the critic in the area. And I know she will do a fine job, joined by other overlapping critics within this caucus, of bringing any concerns to the fore on this bill.

I will note that this bill creates a 50/50 revenue-sharing agreement between the Government of Saskatchewan and the First Nations Trust. It amends the gaming framework agreement and will allow SIGA [Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.] to operate the online gaming platform. And I was pleased to see the member for Douglas Park enter into debate on this bill and recognize the significant work that something like this does for economic reconciliation across the province. She did give credit there. My understanding is that Indigenous leaders are quite happy about this agreement.

And indeed economic reconciliation is very key to moving forward in a good way in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. But we need to emphasize the needs of Indigenous communities on many, many fronts in this House and in particular in recognizing their treaty rights and treaty implementation, which is truly at the core of reconciliation, Mr. Speaker.

Something like this is welcome, but what this opposition would

like to see more of are major policy initiatives on, you know, resource sharing, land reform, addressing systemic racism within the criminal justice system, housing, the health care system. Certainly in my critic area, the Ministry of Social Services, the feedback and data around the discrepancies and the disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations are frankly shocking.

So this is important work that this House needs to take on, led of course by the communities who are impacted by these discrepancies and these disparities, Mr. Speaker. Urgent action across the board on reconciliation is needed, not just on economic reconciliation. And so I would be remiss if I didn't focus on that in my response to this bill, Mr. Speaker. We have to do more. We have to do better to address the historic injustices and ongoing injustices that have been the direct result of the colonial project here in Saskatchewan, which we know is ongoing.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I really don't have much to say on this bill in particular that my colleagues who, the member from Saskatoon Centre, the critic that's already addressed the bill, I know will canvass in more detail and I look forward to hearing from them on this bill. And with that it is a pleasure to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 49, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation 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. 50

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 50 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again it's a pleasure to rise again and offer my initial comments on this Bill No. 50, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*. I've read this and it's really good to see that we're looking at being more stringent in how we deal with folks that are putting other people's lives in danger and themselves. So this bill that's providing the authority to suspend immediately drivers' licences and impound vehicles for those that are charged with stunting, racing, and excessive speed, I think that's really good, you know, and also allowing the suspended drivers to take part in the evaluations.

And the other thing that was most surprising was — and I think this is great — that all the road signs, including the municipal speed and road signs, are being brought into legislation and that all these road signs will be considered lawful. I was quite surprised to read that it wasn't. I thought, wow, like when you see a sign on the road and you think, okay, that is the law. But I was surprised to find out that, yeah, it wasn't. So like, okay, so this is great to see that. It's wonderful to see that we're amending the legislation to be more relevant and to be effective. And it's also, the purpose of this traffic safety amendment Act is to keep

our roads and residents safe.

You know, when I was thinking about growing up in a small rural community, young people where I grew up, we would drive up and down Main Street on a Friday, Saturday night because there wasn't much to do in the communities, and how many of my friends who had vehicles would stunt and race and drag race on the streets. And at that time growing up, being a young person, I didn't think nothing of it.

And today as a kohkom, as a grandmother, as a mother it scares me. It scares me. And when, I guess, I think it was last fall when we before . . . When I found out I won and I came to Regina, one of the things I was struck by on this street, on our street here, here at the legislature was these black tire marks. And of course I thought, oh is this what's happening in Regina? You know, this is a great road for people to speed, burn rubber, and I just thought, I really, honestly thought okay, people aren't doing that. But I'm very naive. I thought, okay. So I was told, no, there is stunting and racing on this . . . just in front of our building here.

So that's very concerning because there's a lot of young people, families that walk here and use the streets here in Regina. And it's important in other areas, important to ensure that we are keeping our citizens safe.

One thing that I was thinking about and I just . . . As I was trying to think of in my own constituency, in my neighbouring constituencies, and thinking of how many lives were lost. You know this takes me back many, many years ago. My two nieces, ages 9 and 10, were crossing a city street and a fellow, who was racing, driving fast, killed them. Killed them. That was over 30-some years ago. And I thought, wow, what happened to that fellow? You know what? Don't know what happened. All I know is he wasn't charged. And I thought, he took the lives of two little girls and nothing was done. The justice system failed my nieces.

That was over 30, 34 years ago. And then I was thinking this past summer, just this past summer, just when the school started in my community in Saskatoon on 33rd Street . . . [inaudible] . . . nine-year-old girl was riding her scooter to school. Somebody that (a) wasn't paying attention, was speeding, hit her. Killed her right in front of her house. Right in front of her house. The mom, it broke my heart. As a mom, as a grandmother, it broke my heart to see this woman sitting outside her door where her girl died, her baby died. And there was no justice for her. There was no justice. That person was not charged. How many more people, how many more people we know go through that because people are driving drunk, distracted, speeding, racing?

[16:15]

That's scary. Because I have little granddaughters, little grandchildren that ride in the summertime. They either ride their bikes to school or they walk to school. And yet we have signs posted about traffic, the limits . . . And it's sad. It's sad and I'm like, oh my goodness, these are not part of legislation? Then why on earth are we posting this stuff if we're not going to follow it and if we're not going to enforce it?

I think about my grandchildren and those that come behind, come after, and I think, what are we doing to protect them? What are we doing to protect our people in this province? How many

people drive drunk, especially . . . And we're coming to a very important time where many, many folks in this province all over celebrate Christmas. How many people drink alcohol and then get in their vehicles? How many people's lives are being put at risk?

You know, a few years ago when I . . . And I talk about, these are my lived experiences that I talk a lot about. I think I was an undergrad or maybe a master's, a grad student at the time, and we had a Christmas event. It was at a nice bougie place. And all the political poli sci students were invited to go. Women, it was for women. And I went. And I don't drink alcohol, haven't since I was 18 years old. So I was like, I'm going to go and have fun and schmooze and so on. And what I found was people were drinking alcohol, fair enough, but what I was astounded by was how many people got into their vehicles and drove home. Oh I was astounded by that.

And I actually had thought at that time — I didn't follow through with it, but the thought crossed my mind — why don't I phone the police to just park their car in front of these buildings where we celebrate Christmas festivities that we all have? I'd be curious to know how many would be caught and charged.

You know when I think back to my little granddaughters . . . not my granddaughters, my nieces that died, that was very traumatic. It was a very traumatic event and changed our lives forever. That person who sped through that street without a care in the world, that killed my nieces, their vehicle wasn't impounded. I certainly bet that their licence wasn't suspended. This is what happens. This is the reality that we live in this province. We don't take stronger measures. We don't actually walk our talk. How many people are going to die because of people that are being irresponsible?

Stunting and racing. When my youngest brother graduated, I went to his graduation. And his fellow students that he went to school with, grade 12 grads, the one girl that they went to school with died two weeks before graduation because somebody on the highway was speeding. Somebody on the highway was speeding. They killed her.

So that family had to come to that graduation, and we cried. I couldn't understand the devastation those young grade 12 students were faced with because somebody did not give — I'm not going to use this word; I won't — did not care about another life. That young girl could not be there to graduate and celebrate a milestone in her life, a milestone. Those parents, I cried so much that night because I thought how hard it must be for them to walk into that gymnasium knowing that their little girl was not there to celebrate with her classmates.

And the courage that that family had, the bravery that they had in presenting each of that girl's schoolmates, classmates with a rose and to take part in that, I just, I couldn't, I could not imagine. I just couldn't imagine the pain that they were going through because somebody did not pay attention and was driving fast on the highway. And just like that, that young girl is dead. Gone. That family's life was changed forever.

So when I think about this, we need to walk our talk. It still blows my mind how we have signs that are not law. Like whoa, like I'm thinking, like I . . . You know, I'm a learned person, and to know

that oh, the municipal speed and road signs are not in legislation? So the autonomy is up to the individual, the police officer that's pulling over somebody, to decide whether or not they charge that person. You know I'm all for keeping the roads and our communities safe. And to have this is just absolute . . . Like I'm glad we're doing things that are looking at keeping our citizens safe.

Back to that young girl that was killed riding to school on her scooter. Where is the justice for that family to have your nine-year-old baby ripped out from you, just like that? I went to that memorial. I have grandchildren. My one granddaughter is eight years old and I thought, I cannot imagine my little granddaughter being killed because somebody's driving fast and careless and not paying attention. Sad thing, there was no justice for that family. That person that run over that girl and killed her did not get charged.

This is what we deal with here as legislators. Think about the people whose lives are changed forever. My heart breaks for that young lady because there's no justice for her. All she got was, "bury your daughter," but there was no justice for her. How many people must die before we as legislators pay attention and wake up and do something so that we keep our citizens safe, keep our little kids safe?

Those school zones we have, we need to enforce the laws that we create here. We cannot have a system that we're lenient on some and hard on others. We have to be effective in what we're doing so that we can continue to serve the people that elected us to get in here.

The one thing that I would like to see in this is who are the stakeholders that they're reaching out to. I'd like to see the stakeholders that have a voice in this because how many of us . . . And I'm sure many of us here in this House here know of somebody that has died because of excess speeding. The Broncos crash, how many of us that night know what happened, what we were doing that night? I remember that night and how many times accidents happen in places like that section it happened on.

I think about that night. I was with my friends that Friday night when that happened. And we started talking about how many times in our lives and the people that we know that excess speeding, undue care and attention has cost the lives of their loved ones, our friends.

We do need to keep our people safe. I'm not going to apologize for my emotions. They are who . . . I take all of me wherever I go. And I am very . . . I am pleased that we are looking at changing the legislation to be more relevant for the people that we serve. And I encourage us all to take those seriously and to look at what's in the best interests of the people that we serve. How do we keep our people of this province safe? How do we keep ourselves safe?

Right now we have this storm happening out there. My husband came up yesterday, and I'm so glad he came up to visit me. I'm glad he chose to come up yesterday. And it was raining when he came up, and I thought right away that road, that number 11 or that highway from Saskatoon to Regina, can become like a skating rink. And when I spoke to him yesterday I said, you be careful driving on that road, especially with wind picking up. The

roads are going to get icy.

I'm glad he's not going home today. I'm pleased with that. But we must be careful. I know everyone's itching to get out of here, but what I will do is . . . I am in favour of this amendment. And I do hope that the Creator is watching as we drive home tonight and ensuring that we arrive to our loved ones safely, and that we don't encounter any drunk bozo out there that's going to put our lives at risk.

[16:30]

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure my other colleagues would have more to say on this, and I don't want to keep you any longer. You know, I know you want to get home before it gets too slick out there.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 50, *The Traffic Safety 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. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:31.]

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