



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
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Lieutenant Governor — His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M.

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Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
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Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	
Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)	Vacant — Athabasca

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

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

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Martensville-Warman.

Mr. Jensen: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a great honour and a privilege today to introduce a very special guest seated in your gallery. And it's a guest that I'm quite sure the opposition is glad to see up there and not down here with us. Like I said, it's my honour and privilege to introduce the Hon. Nancy Heppner, the former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Martensville-Warman.

As most of us know, Nancy started her career in politics on Parliament Hill working within the Harper government. Her late father, Ben, was the MLA for Rosthern originally and then Martensville, and Ben tragically passed away in 2006. And Nancy came home to Saskatchewan. I should also mention Ben was one of the founding members of the Saskatchewan Party.

So Nancy came home in 2006, won the by-election in March of 2007, and held the Martensville seat for the next thirteen and a half years. She held several positions in cabinet including Environment, Highways, and Central Services. And her career in politics was long and distinguished with the people of this province benefiting from all the hard work she did in so many different ways. The constituents of Martensville-Warman meant the world to Nancy and she worked tirelessly to get things done, and she's often spoke about still in the constituency for that.

It's not easy being an MLA in two of the fastest growing cities in Saskatchewan, but Nancy was there to answer the bell every time for us. Thanks to her we have overpasses, new schools. We have new infrastructure like lagoons, recreation facilities, and there's just a long list of things that have been built, renovated, and upgraded thanks to her.

Nancy would always assure people that while she took her job seriously — and everyone here, especially the opposition, can attest to that — she didn't take herself seriously. But some of those opposition members got to know her outside the House and found her to be warm and engaging with a really, really cool sense of humour. I was told once she ordered a T-shirt for one of their former members who admitted that Grant Devine actually got a few things right, and that member was good enough to put it on and pose for a photo with her.

If caucus were a hockey team, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Nancy would be the power forward that nobody would want to go up against. She was adept at studying her opposition. She stuck to the game plan, and she crashed the net every time. And like any all-star, she loved to go into the corners, and she never backed down. And I'm sure there were times the opponents she went up against

wished they had stayed in the dressing room.

Whether it was correcting the record or congratulating the NDP's [New Democratic Party] crack research team on failure after failure, Nancy was the consummate politician — always prepared, always upfront, and most of all always very classy, most of the time.

I'm told Nancy used to come into the House armed with a stack of yellow sheets . . . and I'm pretty sure they were yellow. Yeah? Okay. I didn't want to be corrected. But she would bring these yellow sheets into the House full of the opposition's misdeeds. The members opposite would be wondering, when she pulled out those yellow sheets, which one of them would be on the receiving end.

But like most conservatives over the years with a German background in my area, Nancy is a very frugal person. It makes it challenging for me as a new MLA when I sit down with my CA [constituency assistant] and we see things that well, we didn't spend money on this; we didn't spend money on that. It's frustrating. But I know Nancy understands that struggle since her predecessor, her father, once reviewed the public accounts and proudly proclaimed himself the cheapest MLA in the province. It's a tough act to follow, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But I will say this, on behalf of the people of Martensville-Warman and the people of Saskatchewan, Nancy, you carried on your dad's legacy in this building, and I think we can all agree he would be your biggest fan. It was your hard work and passion and energy that made everyone around you pay attention and do better.

At my nomination meeting before the last election, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Nancy addressed the crowd while we were waiting for the ballots to be counted. She told the story of a federal member from her days in Ottawa who said that when members leave, their name plates are taken off the door and new names are put up. And old members walk away and over time they become forgotten. Wise words, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Our time here is fleeting, and none of us should have an inflated sense of our place in this establishment. But time marches on, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this is the way it should be.

But this former member, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Nancy, is not forgotten nor will she be soon. I'd like to invite all members of this Legislative Assembly to join me in thanking Nancy Heppner for her service to the people of Saskatchewan and welcome her back into her legislature. Thank you.

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

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The member is asking for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure

to join with the member opposite and welcome a former colleague. We welcome Nancy Heppner to her Assembly, the former member for Martensville-Warman as has been described and a minister in different portfolios as well.

The description that was provided was apt, as a power forward that could crash the nets, that was fierce as an opponent and effective in her work. She certainly kept an opposition on their toes. I've certainly been shredded by that member, Mr. Speaker, on the floor of this Assembly. And certainly we're pleased to see her up there, Mr. Speaker, and not down there.

But Nancy, thank you so very much for your years of service to this province. It's nice to have you back in the Assembly. When I talk about this fierce political competitor, which she was, she also had a real big heart and a great sense of humour. And certainly it's something that, I think, the public doesn't get to see often through the cut and thrust of question period, but there is a relation and a respect and a humanity that exists among members, and certainly that was the case with Nancy.

I know that another fierce competitor, one from our side, the former member from Elphinstone, would want me to send his love your way. I know that you two had a special bond as two fierce competitors going at it, and a good respect for one another as well. So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Nancy Heppner back to her Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to welcome some folks that are important in my life, some folks that I've introduced here before. My mom and dad, Craik and Faye Wotherspoon, are here today in your gallery. It's a pleasure to have them here. I've given them more protracted introductions in the past, so I'll keep it straightforward here today.

But the two folks that are with them are real important to me, and I want to just show them some love here today. There's a little guy up there; he's 10 years old. He goes to Wilfred Hunt School. He's my nephew. He's in grade 5 and he's a remarkable young guy. His name is Dominic LaHaye. He's an entrepreneur; he's organized a little business called Little Holders. He was actually featured on the news here recently. And he repurposes old grain elevator timbers into planters or into little holders, plant holders. Has done quite well.

And he's a good student. He's a hard worker. And he's also into biathlon and into water polo and into hockey, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And he's become a real sidekick of mine out in the outdoors in this province as well. And he's been so good to my little guy, his cousin William. And so this last year he's joined me on the Churchill River with a group of friends and family for a paddle. He's caught lots of fish with me out at Last Mountain. He's shot pheasant with me — or I did the shooting; he did the bush pushing — down by Torquay. And most recently he was up in the hills of Last Mountain this last weekend looking for white tail. So it's my pleasure to welcome my little buddy Dominic LaHaye to his Assembly, my nephew.

Mr. Speaker, it's also a pleasure to welcome my sister Chantel LaHaye. Chantel is a nurse. She has a master's degree. She's a director of public health with the Saskatchewan Health Authority. She's been leading the way, along with her incredible team and those other directors, around testing and vaccine here

in Regina for the last 20 months. She's so proud of that work and so dedicated to it. She's so selfless in that dedication.

And it's been a pretty challenging time for, I think, all those folks that are out there for 21 months long, you know, out there on the front lines organizing that effort. And I know that my sister's real proud of her team and loves the work that she's doing, recognizing the challenge that they're facing head-on and how important it is. But I know it's come at a great cost to time with her family and the balance that one might aim for in life.

I know I've shared with her often my love and respect for what she's doing and likened it to the experience of our grandfather who went over with the Regina Rifles and fought in the Second World War, rising to the occasion of that historic battle of their times. It's similar — a different battle, a different challenge — but similar in scale, similar in scope to the kind of challenge that her, along with all those health care workers and many others are rising to here today. So it's my pleasure to welcome my sister Chantel LaHaye to her Assembly and to offer thanks for all her work.

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

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure as well to introduce Nancy Heppner, and I promise that I will be characteristically brief but heartfelt, Mr. Speaker, unlike my friend from Martensville-Warman.

I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve with Nancy and to get to know Nancy. Nancy was hard-nosed on issues. And I remember sitting on treasury board with her for several years — I think; I'm sure it seemed that long to her at least — and she was a very thorough fiscal conservative if there ever was one, and I like that, Mr. Speaker.

Sometimes in her dealings with the members opposite in QP [question period] she was also a bit hard-nosed, and to that extent my nickname for her was mean girl. But underneath that sometimes crusty exterior was a kind, caring individual, a great friend to our caucus and our province, and to myself, a great friend and a great friend greatly missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce Loretta Young, situated in your gallery. She's a constituent of mine, Mr. Deputy Speaker, had a very long and storied career with the RM [rural municipality] of Cupar and the RM of Longlaketon, serving as an administrator in both those.

And now she's enjoying retirement and working much, much harder on the farm with her husband Terry. They raise purebred Simmental and her husband is selling bred heifers today in Provost, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So please join me in welcoming Loretta to her Legislative Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you and all members of the Legislative Assembly, seated in the west gallery I'd like to introduce no stranger to this legislature, George Haas.

George is a good friend of mine. He's one of the earliest Sask Party members, I believe. He's also part of that crazy club, the Aerial Applicators Association. I know that a member from Carrot River Valley is also one of the crazy club members there. So George is currently the councillor at the RM of Churchbridge, and I believe is still on the Hudson Bay Route Association. So I would like all members to welcome George Haas to his Legislative Assembly.

[13:45]

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's rural health care facilities, leading to many emergency room, acute, lab, and X-ray service disruptions.

The ongoing pandemic has created burnout and led to early retirements and resignations, which has rippling effects for small cities and towns. Health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan communities and local economies, and at the 2021 SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention over 94 per cent of rural leaders voted to support a resolution acknowledging the nursing and health care worker shortage across Saskatchewan.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis.

This particular petition is signed by individuals from Biggar, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and present a petition in this Assembly calling for funding of in vitro fertilization treatments here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring 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 up to \$10,000; and that despite public health care being a right here in Canada, there is no government financial support for Saskatchewan people

requiring fertility treatments; that Saskatchewan people's ability to conceive and grow their families should not, should not depend on their socio-economic status.

And I would encourage all members to talk to folks in their constituency about this because I truly believe this is a cross-party issue and should not be a partisan concern. That other provinces, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have created programs that financially assist in providing IVF treatments to those struggling to conceive, and that investing in people determined to grow their families here in Saskatchewan makes economic sense.

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 treatments for Saskatchewan people experiencing infertility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the signatories of this petition today are from Odessa and Weyburn. I do so present.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm on my feet again to present a petition calling on this government to reverse cuts and changes brought about under the Saskatchewan income support program, or SIS. Not a day goes by that I don't hear from folks echoing the concerns of those folks that have signed this petition, that SIS represents further cuts to a social assistance program that was inadequate to begin with.

The signatories of this petition wish to bring to this House's attention that SIS has increased evictions, arrears. It has further aggravated the acute homelessness crisis that is happening across our province, the loss of direct payment to landlords, coverage of utilities, cuts to school supplies, furniture grants, disability benefit — all at a time when folks are struggling more than ever during a pandemic, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So with that, I will read the prayer:

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

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

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present the following petition. The signatures of this petition wish to bring the following to your attention. Not only has this government been selling off Crown land with no meaningful duty-to-consult process, they have also ignored their own 1992 TLE Agreement [Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement]. The little bit of Crown land we still have must be protected for First Nation and Métis people so that they may continue to exercise their inherent treaty right to hunt, fish, and gather.

The current process of mailing, emailing notices, and one-off meetings with one or two peoples does not work. Indigenous people do not see this current process as a collaborative process, 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 First Nation and Métis communities to develop a new duty-to-consult framework.

The signatures of this petition reside in Melville and Battleford, Saskatchewan. I do so present. miigwech.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to protect Saskatchewan's water supply.

We, the undersigned residents, 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.

This petition is signed by the residents of Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Regina Resident Awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to recognize a remarkable constituent of mine, Sabrina Cataldo. Sabrina is well known throughout this city as a tireless volunteer, an advocate, an artist, and an inspiration to many. Her community work is far reaching, supporting many important causes and organizations throughout the years. She has spent more than a decade organizing and aiding non-profit and charitable organizations like Carmichael Outreach and Regina Cat Rescue. She sees a need, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and she jumps to the opportunity to assist in any way that she can.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sabrina's also involved in the local arts community here in Regina, and her commitment has been shown through extensive work with the Regina Lyric Musical Theatre. It is fair to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that her contributions have been instrumental.

It goes without saying that our communities thrive because of the dedication of people like Sabrina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate her on recently being awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers by the Office of the Governor General of Canada. This is an exceptional achievement, and one that is definitely well deserved. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask all members to join me in applauding Sabrina and thanking her for her continued altruistic contributions to our city and our province.

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

World AIDS Day

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in recognition of World AIDS Day. On December 1st each year, we pause in support of those living with HIV [human immunodeficiency virus], and in remembrance of those who have died from AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome]-related illness.

There is no cure for AIDS, but HIV now has very effective treatments available. Those who are diagnosed with HIV today can still live a strong and healthy life. Early diagnosis leads to better care, better treatment, and better outcomes, so getting tested for HIV is crucial. Mr. Speaker, it is recommended to get tested for HIV every five years.

Community-based AIDS organizations funded by Government of Saskatchewan offer a wide range of services, including access to testing and support, connection to treatments, and educational programming. In collaboration with these partners, our government continues to work towards reducing the number of new HIV infections, improving the quality of life for HIV-infected individuals, and empowering those living with HIV to live a long, productive life.

On this World AIDS Day, our government is encouraged to support that HIV is treatable, so please go get tested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to recognize World AIDS Day. It's important to take this time to address the state of the HIV crisis in Saskatchewan, one that should be cause for concern to every member in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the highest rate of HIV of any province in Canada. This rate is twice the national average. We must address this issue by working with communities and prioritizing strategies to deal with this crisis. While the promise of a vaccine on the horizon is encouraging, we must continue to support those affected by HIV and work to end the stigma.

The consequences of not doing enough are disastrous. Saskatchewan's response to COVID-19 has exacerbated this

crisis. Diverted health resources have kneecapped HIV testing, tracing, and treatment in Saskatchewan. Combined with increasing socio-economic risks like homelessness and substance use disorders, the uncertain trajectory for HIV and AIDS in Saskatchewan is cause for alarm. Let us recognize those who, in the past four decades, have fought on the front lines of the HIV and AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] pandemic, and remember the lives lost due to the inaction of our leaders and our governments.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all members to commit to ending the HIV crisis in Saskatchewan and support harm reduction advocates, medical professionals, and every person living with HIV and AIDS. Thank you.

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

Reaching Out during Violence Prevention Week

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is Violence Prevention Week, and the theme is Reach Out. The proclamation was requested by the group Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions to Violence. We applaud their work and that of all other agencies striving to build a safer Saskatchewan. Mr. Deputy Speaker, violence pulls families and communities apart, but by reaching out we can work together to build a safe and resilient Saskatchewan.

Over the past year this government developed several tools for victims of violence and for those supporting them, including enhancements to 211 Saskatchewan, a free 24-7 service that connects individuals to support services. We are developing FIRST [family intervention rapid support team] teams, which partner with service providers to help families at risk of violence. We expanded the victim-advocate case reviews project, which gives civilian experts access to sexual assault police files to look for challenges and opportunities that might improve investigation outcomes.

We also passed *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2021* and we introduced *The Privacy (Intimate Images — Additional Remedies) Amendment Act, 2021*. Every citizen in Saskatchewan has the right to live free from fear, and we are proud of the ongoing work towards that goal. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Volunteer Gives Back to His Community

Mr. Friesen: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to recognize someone who has done and does so much work in and around my community, Jim Mcallister. Jim has coached minor hockey for several years, has volunteered as commissioner of Barons hockey for five years. He has been the vice-president of Montgomery Place Community Association for the last six years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the many things that Jim does is look after the local hockey rink. Jim has told me how much it means when kids thank him for his work there. Jim has long, white hair, a long, white bushy beard, and a great personality, so it only

makes sense that he is Santa, again making the children smile.

Jim has always been one to jump in and help, whether he's picking up and dropping off bikes for kids, serving Christmas dinners, or managing my campaign in 2016. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Jim's motivation can be summed up in this quote. He says, "I volunteer because I very strongly believe that being part of a community is much more than just living there. We need to give back and do what we can to make our community a place where people want to live and raise their families." Please help me thank Jim Mcallister for being such a great asset to the community. Thank you.

[14:00]

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

All Nations Hope Network Makes a Difference

Mr. Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise in the House today to share important news that demonstrates our commitment to working with Indigenous organizations in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. Today the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation transferred the ownership of its commercial building at 2735 5th Avenue in Regina to All Nations Hope Network.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, All Nations Hope Network has been providing supports and services to individuals who are at risk or experiencing homelessness for 20 years. They offer unique programming and essential supports to people in need, including testing services, access to elders and traditional medicine, healthy meals, and a safe space for people of all ages and ability.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are pleased today to transfer ownership of the building back to All Nations Hope Network, aligning with Article 23 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. This building transfer will allow for the continued operation and expansion of the Awasiw program, a 24 hour harm-reduction drop-in centre and warming station that is operated by All Nations Hope Network.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating All Nations Hope Network, and thanking them for making a difference in the lives of those they serve. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Celebration of Hanukkah

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today in honour of the Festival of Lights, the celebration of Hanukkah. Let us remind ourselves about Judah Maccabee and his courageous army that persevered and won an astounding victory over Antiochus, only to return to the destruction of their temple. Judah Maccabee didn't give up until he led his army to victory, and his community didn't give up when there was only enough oil to burn for one night. They needed to start the rededication of the temple, but they didn't know if there would be enough oil to

complete it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, miraculously the oil lasted for eight days.

Rabbi Laura Geller wrote that it is the miracle of human courage that empowers us to take risks for the future, even in our imperfect, uncertain world. It is the courage even in the darkest of times to create our own light.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let the light show us the path forward so that we can continue working to build a better future for generations to come. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we were honoured when Rabbi Jeremy Parnes from Beth Jacob Synagogue delivered a blessing on Throne Speech day to further light this Chamber. I ask all members to join me in wishing the Jewish community a very happy Hanukkah. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provision of Security at Legislative Building

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, on Monday the Minister for Corrections, Policing and Public Safety said this about Bill 70:

It is about breaking down the silos that the security service in this building and beyond its walls requires. Surveillance, intelligence gathering, all of which can be provided and assisted in by the ministry.

Can the minister inform the Assembly what kind of surveillance and intelligence gathering her security force will be providing to the government?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Policing and Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have begun the process of looking at ways we can enhance the overall security of the Legislative Building and improve our existing services. The first step in doing so is to amend the legislation to separate out parliamentary function and the security roles of the current position.

Separating these roles allows this position to access the broad policing network available through the ministry. For example, Mr. Speaker, security in today's world has a significant intelligence-gathering component. In order to be proactive — in other words, not wait until something happens — we're going to look at ways in which to prevent certain things, some incidents from happening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, when I brought up the book *1984* last week, I wasn't suggesting the minister use that for inspiration. Yesterday, and today again, the minister said Bill 70 will give the government new powers for gathering intelligence at the Legislative Building. Where exactly in the Legislative Building will the new security force be gathering intelligence?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Policing and Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, the premise of the member's question is absolutely ridiculous. We're looking at enhancing the current security within the building and beyond. We're looking at a number of different models. I think if the members had some research people over there, they could actually look and see what's happening in Alberta, what's happening in British Columbia, Mr. Speaker. We're looking at all these options in order to make this building and the grounds as safe as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, what's happening is they have security forces reported to the Sergeant-at-Arms' office, an independent body. Again no answer to that question, which is very alarming. What intelligence gathering will this security force be doing in caucuses' offices, in MLAs' offices, in media offices? Because they have the jurisdiction over everywhere except for this Chamber floor.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Policing and Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again the premise of the member's question is ridiculous. There is a process for intelligence gathering. Security and policing services use it right across the spectrum, whether it's in rural Saskatchewan, city of Regina, city of Saskatoon. This function, the security function within this building needs to be able to access that intelligence that helps us be proactive to prevent incidents from happening in the first place, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — But can the minister explain why the Sergeant-at-Arms can't do this intelligence gathering himself?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Policing and Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have separated out the parliamentary role and the security role in the legislation that has been tabled, Mr. Speaker. We will continue looking at various options as to what all of this looks like, whether it's one person doing both functions, whatever the case may be, Mr. Speaker.

We're using our provincial counterparts throughout the country to look and see what they're doing. We will choose the best and work with the members opposite if they so choose, Mr. Speaker, and continue to find the best security mechanism we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, why does this minister think that the best security mechanism available for this province, for this

legislature, is not already in existence?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Policing and Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are . . . And as I have said before — I didn't start my answers here today with this premise — the world has changed, Mr. Speaker. The level and intensity of threatening behaviours has increased, and quite frankly, I think all of us here would agree that the world has changed, and anybody would see that the world has changed, Mr. Speaker, even right here in Regina.

We will look for the appropriate level of security and the security mechanism for right here in our legislature and beyond its walls, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, has she consulted with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]? Has she consulted with the Regina Police Service on this bill?

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. All of the MLAs' offices, all of the media's offices, and all of the public galleries will be under the control of a security force accountable to that minister.

Why does the minister think it's a good idea to hand control over media and MLAs' offices to a security force tasked with, as she has clearly said, intelligence gathering for the government?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I think those members are seeing ghosts over there. This is not what this is about. This is a part of . . . An element of actual security/policing in this country is to gather intelligence.

Unfortunately, whatever the member thinks has not been in our bailiwick and nor would it ever be, Mr. Speaker. To say that some person would be reporting to me individually is ridiculous — this is a partisan . . . non-partisan appointment — disrespecting the non-partisan, hard-working civil servants who work to keep our communities safe each and every day, Mr. Speaker. This would be no different.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if the minister's read her own bill. It's very clear who the director is being hired by and will be reporting to.

On Monday the minister finally showed her hand and said the quiet part loud. It's now very clear Bill 70 has nothing to do with security. It's all about this government seizing power and control over the people's Legislative Assembly. Will the minister finally do the right thing, kill Bill 70, and bring whatever security concerns exist to the Board of Internal Economy where they belong?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — This has been separated out in the legislation we tabled, Mr. Speaker — one for parliamentary function, the other one for the security function. And we are going to look at all options with . . . We'll ask the members opposite what . . . You know, we'd have discussions with them. We have the discussions with the RCMP on a regular basis. We have discussions with all policing services across the province, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to pursue a proactive security apparatus here in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain or try to explain one more time why she feels the Sergeant-at-Arms' office is not proactive?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — What we are talking about here with respect to security, whether it's in this Chamber or outside, is about enhancing what we have, Mr. Speaker. The world has changed. The level, the intensity of threats, etc., the behaviours of people have changed. You know, we haven't been living under a rock here, Mr. Speaker. We've witnessed all of these changes that our society is undertaking. There's reasons why Alberta, BC [British Columbia] all have very structured security services within their Legislative Building. Their members expect it. The public expects it.

[Interjections]

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

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, we now know the Education minister not only played constituency politics when he intervened in a local medical health officer's decision to protect kids in Swift Current, we've learned he's also tried to trump municipal proof-of-vaccination requirements as well. Why does this government not only fail to lead at every juncture but bend over backward to ensure no one else can either?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure I understood completely what the member was getting at with her question, but certainly what we have done and what I've done is provide direction that for schools, school-based activities, that a vaccination mandate is not the place for a school division to be making that decision, Mr. Speaker.

There is a public health order that relates to schools and school-based activities. It's signed by Dr. Shahab. And it is my expectation and my direction that school divisions would abide by that.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, let me provide some more background for the minister. In a recent Ministry of Education memo, the minister wrote:

If schools are using third-party facilities for school activities, they should make COVID-19 protocol arrangements with the third-party facilities, or not use the facilities if they may exclude unvaccinated students who would like to participate.

[14:15]

Municipal leaders have shown leadership throughout the pandemic. Does the minister think it's his job to force them to water down safety measures they put in place to keep residents safe?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That is simply not the case. What I've said is that if it is a school or a school-based in a facility operated by the school, Mr. Speaker, that it would be my expectation and my direction that there would be no proof of vaccination or proof of negative test required for a participant, a student participant to partake.

If that event was taking part in a municipally owned and operated facility, then certainly the school or the school division could reach out to that municipality and see if an exemption could be granted, which is allowed under the public health order. But if that municipality decided not to extend that exemption to the schoolchildren, then that would be the end of the story, and that facility wouldn't be able to be used by those children, Mr. Speaker. That's clearly what I was saying.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Education spent half the time he has penning letters and meddling with local medical decisions on a safe back-to-school, we wouldn't see dozens of outbreaks and hundreds of kids contracting COVID-19 in school. Yesterday the minister told CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] radio he didn't think divisions should listen to medical health officer recommendations, but that public health orders needed to be adhered to. Can he confirm this is still the case?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a public health order that has been issued under the signature of Dr. Shahab. It provides for an exemption for school-based activity, whether that be extracurricular activity or other activity, that would allow for unvaccinated children to be able to attend.

What we're talking about is a mandate, a vaccine mandate. I don't believe it is the position of a school division to implement, based on a recommendation of a public health officer at a local

level, a mandate that would not allow unvaccinated children to attend school, either in-class learning or extracurricular.

And that is not a hypothetical. We had over 20 local medical health officers signing a letter just a month and a half ago that called the provincial Minister of Health to implement a mandate that would see unvaccinated children not be allowed to attend in-class learning. And it was supported by the NDP. It was supported by the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation]. It is not the position of this government that a local school division should mandate children's vaccines, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, hours after that interview, the minister penned another letter to school divisions. This letter points to his power to issue directives which he's now using to ensure "A student must remain eligible to participate in school sanctioned events when the event is held in outbreak status or when the student originates from a school that is in outbreak." The minister just doubled down on that again today.

Mr. Speaker, how is this not a directive to ignore a public health order and override a medical health officer's ability to make public health orders when there is an outbreak? What a dangerous message to send to Saskatchewan residents. Folks are furious about this flip-flop.

To the Premier: will he ensure his Education minister is not using ministerial directives to undermine public health?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, again, there is a public health order. It's been signed by Dr. Shahab. It exempts school-based activities. Mr. Speaker, my letter was direction to the school divisions in this province to follow the public health order signed by Dr. Shahab. If a local medical health officer issues an order — not a recommendation — issues a public health order under the Act, then there is a process that that involves. And that involves Dr. Shahab, Mr. Speaker.

I don't believe it is the place for school divisions to be in that position, to frankly bear that burden of having to implement what essentially is a vaccination mandate, Mr. Speaker. That should be done not at school division, at a board table.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, that minister has clearly lost the plot. Before the school year, that minister bypassed his responsibility to keep kids safe in schools and has instead spent all fall upending public health decisions.

Last week it sounded like the Sask Party government was going to take the need for parental vaccination leave seriously. On Friday the minister said they would strongly consider it because "this is a way to get more vaccinations into arms." But yesterday the Minister of Labour flip-flopped, telling the media it's not something that we need to do.

Mr. Speaker, what changed? Surely that minister, unlike so many of his benchmates, recognizes the need to get vaccination rates up.

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If you listen to that member, you would think that there is a problem with child vaccination rollout in the province, and nothing could be further from the truth.

Vaccinations for 5- to 11-year-olds in this province began one week ago, and we've already vaccinated with first-dose vaccination more than 20 per cent of kids in that age group. That's 23,000 kids that have been vaccinated in less than one week. Every day they come into the House and say that Saskatchewan people, how badly they have done on COVID, and it's just not the case, Mr. Speaker. Cases are down. Hospitalizations are way down. Vaccinations are way up. Our child vaccination program is leading the country, and that's thanks to everybody in this province.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question was for the Minister of Labour. Now clearly someone over there has given yet another minister his marching orders and forced him to walk away from a common-sense policy.

According to the minister's own comments Friday, his officials were working on proposals that he was going to take to today's cabinet meeting. It sounds like the cabinet got to him first. They took away the options for parents to consent to their children being vaccinated in school, and now they're taking away paid leave, an option that we all know would help drive up vaccination rates.

Why, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at every juncture does this government insist on finding ways to sabotage their own vaccine rollout?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, 21 per cent of kids between the ages of 5 and 11 have already received a first dose. I think the second-closest province in Canada to that is about 10 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That is because we have over 500 locations that are administering vaccinations — 221 SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] locations in 141 communities, more than 100 schools, at least 236 pharmacies, and through Indigenous Services Canada and the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority.

As I said before, 21 per cent, that's about 26,000 . . . Sorry, yeah. Over 25,000 students have already received a first dose and 5,000 appointments have already been booked, Mr. Speaker. We have 26,000 clinic appointments that are available. And it's not just school-based. It's not just school hours. It's weekends. It's all-age clinics that have been made available, and that's why we're leading Canada when it comes to vaccinating 5- to 11-year-olds. Simply not the case what the member's saying.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina

Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, again I'd like to hear from the Minister of Labour. The proposal was to go to cabinet today. What's changed since Friday?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this opposition is all about trying to find things that are not successful and that are not working. The Minister of Education talked about some pretty powerful statistics. The vaccination rate amongst young people in our province is the best in the nation right now. So we're pleased with where it's going. Vaccinations for 5- to 11-year-olds started a week ago. We've now vaccinated well in excess of 20 per cent of them. We've got a waiting list for vaccinations of over 5,000. Mr. Speaker, we're doing exactly what is supposed to take place.

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the seven-day average now is down to 72. It's the lowest level since August 9th, down 85 per cent from its peak in September. Active cases are now down to 715. All of this is due to the fact that more people in this province are getting vaccinated. They're doing what they're supposed to. We're proud of the people in this province for taking the necessary steps.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, we were first in the nation before and now we're last, and we don't want this to happen with kids' vaccinations as well.

Mr. Speaker, this government continues time and time again to feed into anti-vax rhetoric, leading the charge talking about forced vaccinations, saying they don't want to create two classes of children. Mr. Speaker, if this isn't right out of the anti-vax playbook, I don't know what is. Now we see them scrub the consent form policy that would make this vaccine more accessible to children. It doesn't make sense. When exactly did this government's policy change, and how was it communicated to public health and school divisions who were blindsided by this latest flip-flop?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, it was that very member who, on the very first opportunity, tried to introduce an emergency motion that I think all members recall, and that would call for all unvaccinated children to be kept out of school and be kept out of extracurricular activity based on recommendations from about 20 medical health officers around the province, Mr. Speaker.

In fact the member from Regina Elphinstone that day tweeted:

Today the @Sask_NDP Health critic . . . tried to move a motion for an emergency debate on the need to implement

all public health measures identified by SK Medical Health Officers . . . The @SaskParty voted against it.

Mr. Speaker, you bet we did.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, that minister knows that's not our position. And it's irresponsible to keep repeating it.

Mr. Speaker, the childhood vaccination program has historically seen uptake rates at 80 to 90 per cent. This is a program that is working, Mr. Speaker. And despite the Minister of Education's comments, yes, kids have been vaccinated at school for years. The Health minister told the media COVID vaccinations were different than all other vaccinations because they are "controversial."

Does the minister recognize that scrapping a policy — that works to protect children — because people in their base don't like it, is the definition of putting politics ahead of people's health?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much. Let's just be clear. Page 899 of *Hansard*, October 28th, from that member: "That the Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of Saskatchewan to implement all public health measures . . ."

Here's the letter that the member is referencing in that motion:

In order to keep schools open, we need to make them safer. Proof of vaccination should be required for accessing in-person learning for children 12 years and over, and for households of those under 12.

Further it says:

Facilities hosting youth sports for school-aged children should also require proof of vaccination for eligible participants.

That is their position, Mr. Speaker. Who am I to believe? Her or my own eyes?

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order! Thank you. I have to get progressively louder, I guess.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 73 — *The Animal Production Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that Bill No. 73, *The Animal Production Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. The motion has been made to introduce the bill a first time. Is that the pleasure of the

Assembly?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[14:30]

The Deputy Speaker: — When will the bill be read a second time? Member of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: — Next sitting.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Ms. C. Young: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report that it has considered certain supplementary estimates and to present its second report. I move:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

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

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain supplementary estimates and to present its second report. I move:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on

Human Services be concurred in.

Is that the pleasure of the Assembly?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 44

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

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 44. When I initially see this bill, I thought, tax amendment, and I was kind of excited. And I thought, holy smokes. I was excited because I thought maybe finally this government's going to hear from our entrepreneurs who have been taxed on food, on construction. I thought maybe they were going to amend it and they were going to remove the PST [provincial sales tax] on used vehicles as well.

It's amazing. I was excited thinking, hey, they got it right this time. And then all of a sudden my colleague said to me, Doyle, no, that's not what this tax amendment's going to do. It's not going to do that. It's mainly, she said, it's mainly government just going to do some housekeeping, you know, housekeeping amendments.

So I thought to myself, I will maybe get an opportunity to ask the government on behalf of so many — our corporations that are working out there; construction trades are struggling; the restaurant industry. You know, why don't they, why don't they, when they're having challenges, why don't you guys support the industry? You talk that you always work so hard. Here's an opportunity for the government to help our businesses in the construction.

You could take away the 6 per cent. Is it 6 per cent or is it more? Maybe it's 6 per cent PST on it. Restaurants, you could get an idea. You could actually remove PST on restaurants. I mean let's give them support when they need it. There's an opportunity, but unfortunately, unfortunately again, like I said, my colleague on this side of the House reminded me that no, that PST is not going to be taken away from construction. They're not amending that. For restaurants, they're not. Not used cars. But you know, unfortunately they're going to do some housekeeping, as I said.

Now I know I could go on a little bit talking about this bill and maybe encouraging some of the backbenchers there, you know, hearing from their constituents about the PST and the damage it does. In a time when COVID has hit the industry so hard, here's

an opportunity for the government to say, we're true partners; we're going to help you. When we see exemptions and tax amendments, you have an opportunity. I thought maybe, maybe we can get in committee and we can do a little work on this and work together to make sure that those companies that are struggling, looking for a partner from the government, here's an opportunity for us to partner with them and work with them.

So the government has an opportunity to take PST that they put on used vehicles . . . Oh you know, that's the other thing. As I've said, restaurants and so many . . . I wonder and, you know, I thought about it, that PST on used vehicles. And I said to myself well, is it just going on the first time? So if I buy it, I pay the PST and that's it? But what if I only drive it for six months and I sell it? Do I have to pay PST again? No, not again? Well I was trying to understand it.

So if there's a group out there, you know, truly caring and want to share with the government some of their views on this, I would encourage them again to reach out to their MLAs on government side and ask them to address this. And maybe that's an opportunity.

But I want to get back to this Bill 44, the corporate tax amendment, 2021 that I was talking about. And just a little bit about this. I know in the minister's comments, I know in the seconding reading comments, it's saying mainly they were dealing with some language, updating from "departments" to "ministry." And some of that was shared and I know that good work will happen and take care.

Like everything else, there's always cost and there must be reasons why. We hope that, you know, whoever they talked to has shared that information, why we need to do this. And sometimes it's just language and housekeeping. It's important to do and I realize, you know, you want our ministries and those departments to change and make sure they've got it as best they can, and hopefully the government's listening to them.

And at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't have a lot more comments on this. I know my colleague will have in committee some questions, and finding out . . . And again, I hope the government, you know, as I always encourage them to make sure they consult and talk with those that are impacted because so many times I see . . . And I know today I'm going to get a chance to talk a little more about who doesn't and who does feel like they truly are getting an opportunity to share their concerns when legislation amendments and new legislation impacts many of our communities. That I'm going to get a chance to talk about how this government has failed miserably to truly consult with individuals and municipalities and so many. But on that note I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 44.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 45

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to weigh in briefly with respect to Bill No. 45, *The Health Shared Services Saskatchewan Act*. I was certainly into the speech and message of the member from Cumberland on the previous bill, though, and that message of a government that has, you know, hiked taxes time and time and time again, on front after front after front. And you know, we see it on many fronts but, you know, with respect to those used cars that that member was talking about, of course it hits hard and it makes the cost of living incredibly hard for folks, and folks that are subjected to this already incredibly challenging inflation and cost-of-living increases that they're facing. And yet you have a government that is sticking that tax on that used car every single time that it sells. It just defies common sense, Mr. Speaker.

But I'll speak to the Bill No. 45 here, Mr. Speaker. I understand that this updates legislation on 3sHealth and that the Act authorizes the relationship between the Ministry of Health, the SHA, and 3sHealth. I understand that there is some transfer of responsibility and accountability to the ministry on this front and that the Act updates 3sHealth's mandate, governance structure, and accountability to the ministry. 3s, I understand, will continue to be a not-for-profit corporation and that it will become a public agency subject to *The Financial Administration Act*.

You know, at first blush it seems that there's a lot of housekeeping updates in this bill, some sort of updates that likely, you know, respond to an organization that's still rather in its infancy and that has been developing. So you improve legislation to reflect its operations and needs. Certainly we hope these changes are in the best interests of public health and that they have the integrity that they deserve.

Well we'll certainly engage with stakeholders across Saskatchewan, throughout the health sector, and with all people to seek feedback on this front. We would certainly, as the official opposition, invite any input on this front, any insight, any concerns around consequences, whether direct aims or unintended consequences. Because it's always our aim as the official opposition to make sure that we're putting the public's interests first and advancing and being constructive in the development of legislation. If there's any opportunities to strengthen or improve this legislation, that would be our aim.

Certainly, you know, it seems to make sense to have some oversight and accountability being transferred to the ministry from a public's interest. But we'll keep our eye on what this means. We'll keep our eye on this government. We'll be engaging with stakeholders to make sure of course that these changes are in the best interests of public health.

So thank you so very much, Mr. Speaker. With that being said, I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 45, the Health Shared Services Saskatchewan Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 46

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

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet today to enter some comments into the record on Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021*. Now, Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues have spoken quite extensively and quite eloquently on Bill No. 46 already, but I do have some comments. I think out of respect for the importance of the legislation and the legal aid community overall, that I would like to get on the record.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as has been canvassed, there is of course the typical modernization and housekeeping elements of this bill and the noteworthy change of the CEO [chief executive officer] of Legal Aid now being able to confirm or deny any lawyer that wishes to withdraw services to a client, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I believe my colleague the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has spoken on this. And I believe the neutral citation is in the 2020 SKCA 110.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you know, the member from Elphinstone-Centre has canvassed that quite extensively, but recognizing the important role that *Hansard* does play in interpretations of bills and intent when they're being considered in future days, I do always try and respect the expertise of my colleagues and also the process that we're all engaged in here. You know, while I understand adjourned debates is not necessarily the most thrilling part of our orders of the day here today, it is critically important to certainly the work that we do here in the province.

And it was really interesting. It became evident to me when I was serving with, actually alongside government members, on the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee and that round of bargaining had gone to binding arbitration. And it was my first experience certainly sitting around that kind of table which was, I believe, negotiating a \$1 billion contract, which is heavy stuff, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Of course barring the contentious situation at the time which, if I recall accurately, was when the past government prior to the election was, I believe, asking teachers to take a retrospective 3.67 salary cut which, as you can imagine, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was not going over particularly well as the binding arbitration process.

[14:45]

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at that point what I found really interesting, you know, and not as a legislator at that point, was the role that *Hansard* played in the introductions and amendments to things like *The Education Act* over the years being brought forward to that table and considered by the

arbitration table and the professionals therein. It was certainly fascinating to read the words of some of our predecessors and to see those legal experts interpret them in the context of a contract being negotiated in the 21st century.

So, Mr. Speaker, to sum up that point . . . Well I know adjourned debates is not the most fascinating part of our orders of the day, it is incredibly important. And on this bill in particular I do want to speak for history and for the record about the need that I believe all members are aware of if they're talking to their constituents — the need for services, for legal aid services to continue to grow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, of course in a province like Saskatchewan, with the great opportunities we have certainly, but also the significant challenges that unfortunately many of our neighbours experience, we do have an access-to-justice issue in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Anyone who has accessed legal services, whether for simple and joyful opportunities such as the purchase of a house or creating a will, you know, perhaps following the birth of a child or transitions within a business — even those basic transactions can be incredibly expensive, even for those of us who are lucky enough to earn a good income here in this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, for any members who may not be aware, essentially to access the services of legal aid here in Saskatchewan your level of income must be low enough that essentially you're on social assistance. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that means there are huge numbers of people in this province who are in desperate need of legal assistance who are poor and working poor and struggling deeply economically, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but still not quite poor enough to access legal aid services.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a challenge for all of us. The access to justice is important and should be important to all members in this Assembly, regardless of which side of the House that they are sitting on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would also like to touch briefly on the services that are offered by legal aid. As some members, I assume most members would know, of course, legal aid only offers services in the areas, I believe, of criminal, family, and child protection. This leaves a huge number of people under-represented. And I'd like to speak specifically to what I believe is a need for immigration services to be included in the scope that legal aid offers here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are other provinces in Canada, such as Ontario, I believe, which do offer immigration services as part of the offerings of legal aid.

And while I'm new to this Assembly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe I've spoken of it before though. I am the provincial critic for Immigration. We do get a number of — an unfortunate number of — pieces of casework coming through my office on immigration files, and these are amongst the hardest and sometimes the most challenging files that come through my office, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

It is, as I'm sure all members in this House know, it is an incredibly hard thing to have people coming to you asking you for assistance and to help them, in many cases help their family,

and be unable to do that. Certainly one of the experiences I like the least in this role is, it's hard when people hope and expect that you're able to help them and you cannot. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, those pieces, those files certainly around immigration are the ones that I often find myself thinking of at 2 or 3 in the morning, when I wake up with my mind already going.

And you know, as a province that is looking to grow, a province that needs to grow, certainly naturally, Mr. Speaker — and I would note that we're certainly doing our part on this side of the House — we are going to need many new people to come to Canada, many new Canadians, and many people to choose to make their home here in this beautiful province of Saskatchewan.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, comes a need, and with it comes a need for services and supports. And assistance with immigration services is something that is currently lacking and, I believe, a true gap, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the services that legal aid is able to offer here in Saskatchewan.

Within the government's own plan for growth, it speaks to the need and the commitment to immigration — which I laud, I applaud. I'm very much onside with that. I truly believe that being welcoming and open to people from all walks of life is what makes this province great. And I know this is a shared sentiment on both sides of the aisle, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But when we ask people to come here and move here and make their lives here, and they've travelled around the world, there need to be accompanying supports to ease that transition, to not add those unnecessary burdens that can make what is already a tremendous change more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, in past roles I've spoken of this with former ministers of Education as we've seen certainly over the course of the last decade as immigration has increased, and the decade before that. We saw obviously a need for enhanced EAL [English as an additional language] supports in the education sector. We've seen a need for supports in post-secondary and in skills and training opportunities in institutions in this province.

And all of the data, Mr. Deputy Speaker, shows that while many newcomers to this province initially do need that little bit of extra help to make that significant transition and to kind of cushion and help — whether it's with language skills or business traditions or etiquette or just basic support in living in a vastly different country — all of the quantitative evidence, Mr. Deputy Speaker, shows that once that initial transition is through, boy, boy do those families excel. We see it in education, we see it in the entrepreneurial community, and we see it across industries here in this province.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I've been relatively efficient in my comments on adjourned debates thus far. But I really did want to take a moment to speak specifically on what I see as a really critical but simple improvement and simple expansion that could be given to the services that legal aid is able to offer here in the province.

We should be making it easier and more welcoming for people to move here and make a home and contribute and start a business and grow their families. And oftentimes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as anyone who has familiarity with the immigration system knows,

it can be incredibly complex. It can be incredibly complicated. And it can be incredibly, incredibly expensive, certainly if legal services are needed, which I really see as an unnecessary burden and expense to put on people who have already made such a bold and significant, significant choice, and a happy one in moving here and choosing Saskatchewan as the place to hopefully prosper and thrive and succeed.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will, I believe, conclude my remarks on Bill 46. And I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 47

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

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 47, *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021*. Initially looking at it, it's a fairly thick document obviously to go through, and I know our critic is going to have some opportunity and will probably have some questions for the minister and officials in committee.

And safety is very important, and I know that it's important that there is safety, and a government makes sure our highways are safe as they can be. We know that we have many, many kilometres of highway. And I know Saskatchewan residents will constantly have their concerns and raise their concerns when the highways are not in the best shape, whether I've heard from rural, urban. And it doesn't matter who's in government. When people are upset, they let their voice be heard when they're concerned about safety and the vehicles, the roads that they're travelling on.

I remember the member from Athabasca who used to sit in the Assembly. He used to talk about the North and the goat trails that had to be travelled on. And he made many comments about how rough, as critic, and pointed out his concerns back then.

But having said that, we know there's opportunities as governments come and governments go and the people decide. And you know, it is an honour to serve. And I get that. And when I talk about highways, and I say this, sometimes we get new ministers that are responsible for some of the files. And I mean this sincerely. Sometimes some of those ministers are open to having those discussions. It's about safety. It's making sure. And where there's changes, amendments that are done to this legislation to improve safety, of course we'll support that. It's saving lives and Saskatchewan people and that's important. And I know it's serious work and I thank the ministry and the minister and the officials for doing the work to keep Saskatchewan

citizens safe.

But they have to also be willing, while they're patting themselves on the back when they do good things, they have to also know that when things aren't going good and there is safety issues and concerns and criticism, they have to be willing to look at them. And I think that's important of any government, and it doesn't matter what type of government. It's important.

So highways to me is really important. It's a safety . . . especially northern Saskatchewan. I know many of the rural areas are concerned about their highways, and I know we have many kilometres of highways. And I know everybody wants to have the best highways. I understand that and I can understand it's challenging. But sometimes it is about safety, and I hope sometimes when the government, the minister, the officials . . . when citizens come forward, leaders, MLAs, opposition members, that the government's willing to hear the concerns about safety. And I think that's important.

Yes, there's times where we criticize, but there is truly times where leaders, mayors, community members — and you know, they can come from our First Nations communities, our Métis communities, our municipal communities, urban, rural — when there's issues about safety on roads, it's about the citizens that they're asked to represent. And they'll bring the issues to the minister and to the ministry. And they'll hope, you know, that the government will hear the concerns and they will work.

And we've had situations in our time as a province I've talked about. We've had many, many kilometres, and there's been challenges and there's been loss of life on many roads that are dangerous and need to be fixed. And you know, I was one to criticize but I've always said this: when you see improvements on a highway that save lives, I'll give government credit. And I will. I'll do that. And I've seen some changes north of P.A. [Prince Albert] with passing lanes. That's important and I thank the minister, and you know, the Ministry of Highways for doing some good work.

[15:00]

It is important, you know . . . Well let's not just pat ourselves too much on the back. Like be careful here. I know you want to heckle on that one, but you know, give you a little credit and then they want to really take off and pat themselves on the back. And that's what I mean. We're in here and we're supposed to try to work together. I want to be sincere and work. And I know we get into it back and forth, and I'll forgive that member for his heckling and maybe he'll buy me coffee some day.

But on a serious note, it is about safety and that's truly what I care about. I mean, some of our roads need the attention of the Ministry of Highways. I know that we're going to have lots of questions. You know, you see changes being proposed and sometimes as many as . . . are being asked to amend the legislation and certain parts of it, and I wonder, who all was consulted? Who did they talk to?

Like I know they're making some changes to municipalities where they will have certain controls of access to public roads and stuff, and I'm not sure. And I'm not going to say that I understand all this stuff in here. And that's why I know we're

going to get a chance in committee to ask some tough questions.

But I'll give you an example. I know with COVID, it has been very challenging for many of our communities. I want to thank our First Nations, our municipal leaders, our northern municipal leaders, many municipal leaders throughout the province of Saskatchewan. When they seen COVID, it was in a crisis and they did their part. I've criticized, and I know we'll criticize the government that they didn't do what they needed to do to protect Saskatchewan citizens. We're going to disagree and that's fine. We can. But on some of these areas where leaders took it upon themselves to protect their communities, their citizens, they put up . . . making sure roadblocks or making checkpoints, checkstops to make sure that certain people were coming in and out of the community.

I want to make sure . . . And sometimes I know some of the northern municipal leaders, some leaders out there, whether they're First Nation, Métis, they were doing these checkstops to make sure before you come into their communities. They were trying to educate and trying to stop their communities from being impacted by COVID as best they could. They did everything they could, and I give those leaders credit. Many of them, many of them did some great work.

You know, the government didn't do what it needed to do, but the local leaders, they stood up and they said . . . Those are our true heroes, our front-line workers, those individuals, and I want to thank them. They set up roadblocks before you could go in, checkstops before you could go into the community to make sure, what was your reason coming in? Back and forth, and they were asking questions and making sure, you know. They wanted to protect the citizens.

So having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, all that great work, I want to thank those true heroes because it wasn't easy for them to do that, but they did it to try to protect their residents that they were elected to protect.

So when I say that, I want to make sure that the government . . . And I'm going to reach out to some of those leaders, and I'm going to encourage our critic to reach out to some of those leaders to understand. Do you understand what the change is here? Were you consulted? Did the government reach out to you?

And I mean the government obviously knows what communities were having issues, and you know, challenges. And hopefully the government is making sure this legislation will give them more power, not take it away from them, will give them more power when we come into a time and a crisis in our province like we did with COVID. And there's been many challenges, you know, with fire. It's emergency. It's about safety. And you make sure municipalities have the power to protect their citizens.

It's challenging, but that's why the government has so many, so many resources to look into legislation, to look at, is this the right change? They have legal counsel. They have so many. It's unreal, the consultants and everyone else, the supports that the government has to get legislation like this right, to make sure that their staff make sure that they've consulted, making sure that the changes they're making, the changes that they will be making are what's good for the communities, are what the leadership wants and needs.

And it is about safety. And again I'll go back to that because I think it's crucial for the record to say. When a government is doing what's . . . Safety, we know we want citizens to be safe. We agree with that and we'll support that, and we have many times and we've co-operated. But some of their stuff, when they're making changes you don't know until, you know, you get the fine print later on exactly what it is and it rolls out, how it may impact.

I'm hoping that our municipal leaders, our First Nations, our Métis leaders have been consulted when they were proposing these changes. It's crucial. Any time you're going to . . . You might have a provincial highway that goes through a reserve. Who has jurisdiction on that? Is it the First Nation? And I'm curious to see, have they consulted with them? Because I know many communities have a provincial highway that goes through the First Nation communities. And if that's the case, have they consulted to make sure? Have they consulted with the Métis?

You know when we talk about that, it's so important. And I know my colleague, you know, who's the critic for First Nations and Métis Relations, articulates it very well and loud about the challenges we have when it comes to our First Nations and our Métis citizens. Citizens. They are citizens just like anyone else in this good province. They do their part. They try.

But you have to make sure. You can't water down truth and reconciliation. We can't just always say it's all, oh we're really working with them and all that. Actions speak louder than words, and I've said that many times. You have to make sure that you're reaching out and you're truly consulting and getting how this impacts them. And it's not just the leaders. It's the community members. It's the citizens. You have to, in my view, you have to make sure you're giving opportunity to our citizens. Yes, our leaders are important. They're elected to speak for the people. But you have to make sure you're given a chance.

And I think about that, highways, roads that lead into many of our areas. When it comes to, you're thinking about North and the forest and some of the trappers and some of the damage that has been done to them, some of the roads. When I think about making sure that our trappers, our traditional land users . . . That's what I mean. You make sure you consult with them when you're doing roads, damages.

And you know, there is so much that needs to be done in our province, and we know that. People are . . . different ones will come forward with wants for their community, and it's about safety. It's about recommendations. There's many, many things that will come forward. I know myself, I will continue on behalf of northern people that I represent.

The northern people, when they ask me to raise concerns, it's about safety. And I know through our communities, we've had issues with safety. Our big trucks that go through, it's a main highway through our tri-community area. We want to make sure that traffic is slowed down. We want to make sure the Ministry of Highways takes care of safety concerns when we raise them, that they will deal with that and sit down and hear the concerns. And it's about safety.

So when I think about the changes and making sure that we're talking with the leaders, the citizens, to make sure we're getting

it right, to make sure that the government is doing its obligation to the people, that's so important. When you're making changes, you have to make sure, especially when it comes to highways. And I think about it. And there's many things that they're talking about they're going to do in here.

And just sitting here, for the record, I wanted to get an opportunity to say there's a lot of questions that we're going to have. And I'm going to encourage our critic, I'm going to encourage myself and our members to reach out and talk to individuals that are going to be impacted by some of this change, amendments that are changing, and do they understand it.

And we're going to get an opportunity to ask again the minister and the officials in committee to really take . . . what exactly is this going to mean and some of the changes, and maybe, you know, flesh out some of the challenges. Maybe there's things that can be dealt with before it comes into law, but making sure we've done our due diligence.

And I know this is just one area. When it comes to highways and safety, like I've said, it is about economics for communities. It's vital to make sure that they have access into their communities, but that they're working with the ministry and the ministry's working with the leaders, the communities, to make sure. It's safety, I understand that. Economics, it is about tourism. There's many, many changes. And this legislation might impact some of that, but we don't know for sure.

And I think we really need to take this slow. We need to make sure we're doing our due diligence on this side of the House, that we make sure we're reaching out to individuals that will be impacted, our municipalities, our First Nations, our Métis. It's crucial, because there's going to be some changes that will impact them. And we better make sure we are understanding what the government's doing with this bill and the changes that they're amending, and make sure you understand. Sometimes it was meant to say this and it gets rolled out and it's something else than people think.

And I want to make sure it's clear that that happens, that process is done, so that I can say to the residents that I represent that we made sure we did our due diligence. We reached out to some of them, asking them. And I'm going to make sure our critic does that. And we'll do what we can to get a hold of the ministry to raise their concerns.

Like everything else, you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's so important when . . . You know, some legislation comes in here and it's minor housekeeping, and it's just simple stuff needs to be done. It's about modernizing, using technology. And we've seen some of the legislation here. But when I see something like this that really . . . You know, you wonder okay, what does this mean? How will it roll out?

That's so crucial, to make sure that we understand what the government is proposing and what they're planning to do and making sure, again as I've said, that those individuals are truly consulted and know how this will impact them in the municipalities, our First Nations, our Métis. I've seen different things that go on and then later on people said, well I didn't know that's what that legislation was going to do and that it was going to impact us the way it has impacted us. And I think that's crucial.

You know, I know I could go on more about some of the challenges that are in here and some of the things that I'm seeing happen. But I know we're going to have an opportunity for us to have more questions, a little time to consult, to talk to individuals, to find out exactly what these changes are coming forward. And we'll be prepared in committee to do the work that we need to do with the critic and members on this side and government side, opposition side to do our job to make sure. So with that I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 47, *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege to be on my feet here today and enter into debate on Bill No. 49, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021*. I want to start by saying that I think that this is truly an important step forward that is going to positively affect First Nations, their communities here in the province, and I welcome that.

I note in the minister's remarks he talks about entering into a collaborative partnership to establish this online gaming solution for the province. And it's of course good to see cases where this government decides that it will partner collaboratively with institutions, organizations in the province on important matters.

I just find it so disappointing that on other important matters, on things that we've been debating here in the Assembly today and prior, that this same type of collaborative partnership approach hasn't been taken, whether it's been bringing the security and the Sergeant-at-Arms issue to the Board of Internal Economy, instead attempting to ram through a bill that would demolish years of tradition and protection here for all members of the Legislative Assembly. It certainly seems hypocritical at worst, inconsistent at best that we don't see this same spirit of collaboration and partnership in other equally important areas of government business.

[15:15]

I say that not to take away from, as I say, the important step that this amended Act is bringing forward. Certainly a 50/50 partnership on the net profits from online gaming between the First Nations Trust and the Government of Saskatchewan is a welcome development. It's not one that came as a surprise. Certainly it's something that First Nations have been advocating strongly for for quite some time. It's been a very fair and reasonable request. So I'm very pleased to see that it has been

acted on through this amended Act. And I think it also is something that is a testament to the First Nations Trust and SIGA [Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.] in terms of how they have been operating gaming here in the province for many decades now.

I think going back to the '90s, and certainly I recall at the time — my memory does go back that far, you may or may not be surprised to know that — you know, there was many debates and a lot of controversy over the topic and subject of gambling, perhaps that persists to this day. Obviously maybe not with the same kind of intensity that it once did, because we've seen how First Nations through SIGA have been able to run gambling in the province effectively, efficiently. It's been, from my observation, and I mean that's just one perspective of course, but from my observations it has created excellent opportunities for skill development, and many people that I've known personally who have come through the ranks and worked within that sector as First Nations people have benefited tremendously from it. Their careers have been established and furthered through all of the many work experience opportunities that the industry has provided to them. And that is no small thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It has resulted in real and tangible benefits for First Nations people, First Nations community, and I think it bears mentioning here today.

I think also though that it does bear mentioning that, you know, at that time there was considerable debate about the jurisdiction and the tradition around gambling. There were concerns about gambling addictions. Of course that's something that persists to this day, and I continue to be concerned about that issue. And I know that when this bill goes to committee, there will be the opportunity to perhaps get better information and understand, you know, how the proceeds and the profits generated from this industry are also being used to ensure that those who have issues with gambling addiction are being addressed.

And I know that back in the day, there had been quite a bit of time and effort put into understanding those issues and ensuring that there were the proper supports, mitigating factors put in place to ensure that, while we also benefit from the profits of the industry, that people are not succumbing to addiction and that there's treatment provided for them there. So I'll maybe just kind of leave that point aside. I did want to mention it, but I didn't want to dwell on it either.

I do want to go back to this issue around how this amended Act is contributing to what has been termed economic reconciliation. It's an interesting term and certainly, you know, profit sharing is a fairly straightforward — I mean, mathematically speaking — exercise. I mean, you decide to share the profits. That's all fine and good. But there's so much more that reconciliation entails.

And again, don't get me wrong. I don't want my remarks to be misconstrued. Obviously these profits and their contribution to First Nations having the opportunity to direct those funds towards things that are within their governance purview — whether it has to do with programming on reserves and addressing issues around poverty, education attainment, rates of incarceration — those are all things that I expect are going to be positively impacted by these revenue streams. And certainly that is my hope.

But it almost feels like with this government, it's one step forward and two steps back, because we've seen in other areas where this government has failed First Nations here in the province. And my esteemed colleague from Saskatoon Centre has been speaking on these topics consistently, persistently throughout the session, drawing attention to issues that continue to be unresolved.

And so while, you know, this agreement, it stands on its own and it is welcome, but my goodness, there is just so much more that needs to be done. So before you start patting yourselves on the back, let's not forget that we have many, many other issues that still need to be addressed.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its Calls to Action are numerous and deserve more fulsome attention. We've seen this also in the duty-to-consult process, a process right now that has been around for more than 10 years, almost 20, I think now. And that was something that was very contentious at the time, and with the passage of time, I think that things have only gotten worse. As we've had the federal government and other jurisdictions in Canada commit to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, that is something that has not been addressed by this government here in Saskatchewan. Over and above the Calls to Actions from the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] and how it needs to be reflected in the duty-to-consult framework, we've been talking a lot about that issue.

It impacts on things most egregiously and front and centre right now, I would say, in terms of the sale of Crown land that, as has been spoken on previously, when we talk about how Crown land is increasingly being chipped away out through these processes, particularly within the southern half of the province, those with agricultural and productive capacity, but also of significant ecological value. And the inability of First Nations to acquire those lands through the TLE process, in the recognition of the duty-to-consult framework, is abhorrent. And that's you know, sort of the most striking example when I talk about one step forward, two steps back.

We've also continued to have so many issues around systemic racism in the province. And I've been very sadly disappointed by some of the actions of the members opposite in contributing, through the debate here in the legislature, towards furthering that kind of disrespect, and you know, the lack of sensitivity that's been displayed, the lack of understanding and recognition.

It's also again, I find these issues funny. Not funny ha ha, but funny disturbing, in terms of, on the one hand, efforts to ensure that our educational curriculum incorporates awareness around Indigenous issues and history here in the province, and yet there seems to be an abhorrent lack of understanding by the members opposite to these issues, based on their comments here, their banter, their heckling here in the legislature towards my respected and esteemed colleague, the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Clearly much, much more work needs to be done if we are to truly embrace truth and reconciliation, a history of colonialism and settlement here in the province. This bill, which is going to provide 50/50 revenue-sharing with the First Nations Trust, is a positive first step forward. But there are some very complicated,

controversial, very intractable issues that at some point are going to need to be addressed. And so I think taking some of the easy work, I would submit, and left the more difficult stuff for down the road.

I did have a couple of other things I wanted to mention, so I'm just going to make sure that I've not missed them in my notes here. Yes, I guess the other thing I was going to talk about was around the . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . It's okay, I just tune them out. I don't really listen to the heckling. I'm fine, but thank you anyways.

I just, the final thing that I wanted to touch on here before my time is up on this Act is the request to reserve the lawns, northeast I believe, of the Legislative Building for Indigenous ceremonies and rites — you know, I guess partially in tribute to Tristen Durocher and his fasting and demonstration on the lawn — is something that I think about in relation to this. And so if we are truly committed to reconciliation broadly speaking, not just economic reconciliation, then we wouldn't be putting in place measures that would be discouraging peaceful protest and demonstration, particularly people of First Nation descent who are trying to bring exposure and attention to issues that are of great concern and importance to First Nation communities. And that's why I also wanted to make mention of that here today.

So as I say, we're happy to see this step toward reconciliation, and we just really want to encourage the minister and government overall to continue with that work in all aspects of government and the lives of First Nations people here in our province. They deserve it. They deserve our respect and true reconciliation. So with that I will conclude my remarks on Bill No. 49, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation 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. 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.]

[15:30]

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to join in debate on Bill No. 50, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*. This is a bill, the purpose of which is to improve road safety and resident safety in the wake of increased stunt driving, racing, excessive speeding.

In general these changes are welcomed by the opposition. I'll reiterate the comments of my colleagues that any stakeholder in this area should review this legislation and propose any changes or improvements or feedback around ensuring that this

legislation is as effective as it can be.

I have heard that the incidence of road stunting and racing has increased, and that has been consistent with my own observations. I think it's over the last couple of months it's been some of the first times that I've actually seen this going on around me, much to my dismay.

So again, I would reiterate that these changes are welcome and that certainly we'd invite, as the opposition, all stakeholders that are involved in, you know, traffic safety to reach out to us and engage, you know, to share their perspectives and insights. And we'll look for every opportunity to strengthen this legislation in a constructive way.

I would also just reiterate the comments put on the record by many of my colleagues around the concernedly selective approach of this government to public safety. We can all agree that it's important to protect the safety of the residents of Saskatchewan on our roads. But this government has been anything but proactive in terms of their protection of the public around the COVID-19 pandemic.

I believe it was my colleague from Saskatoon Eastview who pointed out that we went 48 days this summer without a single communication coming from this government. Forty-eight days which ushered in the worst fourth wave in the country, the highest death rates in the country. We're still struggling with the lowest vaccine rates in the country.

And today in question period I saw the Minister of Education wanting to pat himself on the back because, you know, we're just rolling out vaccines for kids. And the uptake is strong and the uptake is quick. That's exactly what we saw when vaccinations were first introduced to eligible adults, you know. The people that were willing were quick on the uptake, and then those numbers dropped off and we have the lowest vaccine rates in the country. And I'm concerned that we're going to see the same thing when it comes to our kids.

And this government keeps driving this wedge, keeps borrowing from the rhetoric of anti-vaxxers — two classes of citizens, forced vaccinations. And the hypocrisy is really, really difficult. I really had difficulty listening to this today because, you know, this is the party that wants to paint themselves as the freedom fighters. And at the same time they want to introduce a bill to shut down legal protest outside of this building. The legal protest of, you know, mainly anti-vaxxers. And I don't agree with them, but I agree with their right to protest.

And we introduce bills to create safety zones around schools and hospitals, as we should, so those people can continue to do their job. You know where those anti-vaxxers should be coming? They should be coming here. So why are we now introducing legislation that would shield us from their criticism? That's our job. It sucks. It sucks to be yelled at by anti-vaxxers. It really does. But it's our job. It's your job. And these are the same folks that are getting whipped up by the rhetoric that you have no shame in adopting when it serves your political purposes.

So there's a few hypocrisies going on here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I wanted to point to, and they were on full display today in question period . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Coming from a

backbencher, that really stings . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I didn't hear the member from Walsh Acres, but if he'll repeat it, I'm sure I'll have a witty retort that I can put on the record.

Anyway, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know this upsets the members opposite who remained silent throughout this entire thing. And shame on them because they all had a voice at the table, and they didn't find their voice. They didn't find their feet. They didn't find their backbone. And now they want to support legislation that would crack down on legal protests all because, oh, the RPS [Regina Police Service] wouldn't come in and pluck Indigenous protestors off the west lawn, and now they won't take the anti-vaxxers and sweep them off the front steps — political conditions happening in this province, I would add, that this government has contributed to, has reinforced divisions that they try to benefit from on a daily basis, driving their wedge politics, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I didn't entirely expect my comments on *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021* to go in this direction but . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order, please.

Ms. Conway: — I just had to put some of those comments on the record. We need to stop being selective and hypocritical about the policies that we set. If we value public safety, we have to value it in every area. We need to be proactive on every front. And it's easy, it's easy to legislate our roads. It's easy to bring in more punitive, you know, sentences around excessive racing and stunting and speeding. But some of these other questions, they're harder to grapple with, and so often I've seen this government turn its back on some of these more difficult decisions and discussions. And there have been real repercussions for this province, not only in terms of the health and well-being of people, but in terms of our finances as we saw this week.

So with those comments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm happy to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 50, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 51

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 51 — *The Privacy (Intimate Images — Additional Remedies) Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to rise in the Assembly to enter into adjourned debates. It will be my intention to bring the temperature down just slightly as I share some comments on Bill No. 51, the privacy intimate images

amendment Act of 2021.

So you know, I understand that the government first amended legislation to *The Privacy Act* in 2019, so the amendments brought here in this new legislation are fairly recent. I think that the last amendment that I spoke to was a bill from 1998, which I indicated was the year I graduated high school — excellent year overall. And this one is fairly recent. 2019 feels like a lifetime ago. You know, anything before the pandemic does.

But you know, I guess I'm just going to start with noticing that timeline, that I think it's actually a good thing. Why wait on making these changes? Clearly, you know, the world is changing. No one denies that, that the way privacy works in the digital age, things move quickly, and that there's maybe a couple considerations here that weren't there in 2019. And so I will start with voicing support for these changes, doing it swiftly. There's no need to wait 5 or 10 or 20 years for changes that we clearly see will have a positive impact. And I'll just mention a few of those that I think myself and my colleagues in opposition do appreciate seeing here.

So I understand that this bill expands the remedies to the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, including requiring the defendant to return any copies of visual recordings. And it becomes the responsibility of the defendant to work with an internet intermediary to make every reasonable effort to remove those images from the internet. So giving that responsibility to the defendant, I think, is important.

And it also includes . . . I think that this is an interesting one. And you know, I would be I guess somewhat interested to know why this wasn't considered in 2019. Perhaps it was. Perhaps it did, you know, show up in the record. I'm not sure. I have not reviewed all of the *Hansard* from 2019 and sessions previous to the passing of this legislation to see all the adjourned debate.

But again the amendment included here, it also includes making threats. So a threat to share an intimate image, that also is included in this legislation. I think that's a great move. You know, I think because we know those kinds of threats and intimidation can be used to meet the same ends of somebody with bad motives using intimate images of an individual, maybe a partner or whatever it is, to extort them or to undertake something that we wouldn't consider a moral undertaking.

So in the same way that those images can be used, the use of a threat is also something that I think we can agree should have been included in 2019. And again, that's not a dig. It's just recognizing that you might as well change things as soon you recognize it as a problem. And only two years later, I think, is a good time. You know, no need to wait longer than we have to to bring about these important changes to the legislation.

I guess that there's a couple other questions that I have here. But I want to recognize that predominately the victims of these crimes, the victims of the sharing are predominately women. And we have seen cases of this in the media, right. We've seen the case of a recent draft pick in the NHL [National Hockey League] who shared intimate images. And there was backlash, you know, against the Montreal Canadiens for drafting this player because he had made some poor decisions. And it wasn't just poor decisions, it was a poor decision that had very harmful effects on

the life a young women.

We've seen other examples from across Canada. And I want to just take a minute to talk about young people because, from my career as an educator, I've worked with young people. And I'm not going to speak about any particular cases. I'm not aware of any as a teacher, and quite frankly I think nor should I be. There's some privacy involved there that I think, you know, it's important that that privacy exists within a school. So I've no specific cases to speak of.

But I can say that we've seen, in the media we've seen cases across Canada and, you know, our neighbours to the south of times when intimate images were shared by teens, by high school students to extort or to shame or to bully. And we would be remiss to think that doesn't happen here in Saskatchewan all the time. It's one of those things that you know, as somebody who has worked with young people currently on leave from my career as a teacher, you know it happens.

And so I guess one of the questions that I have is, what is the vision for this bill to be communicated to young people? That's where a lot of this behaviour begins, and I think that we've seen that. We can cite examples, you know, across North America where this kind of behaviour begins as teenagers maybe get their first cell phone, or they begin engaging in social media or in texting.

And I think it would be incumbent on the Justice minister to work with his colleagues. And I would certainly be willing to sit down with that minister and to share some of my own ideas of how these changes could be communicated to young people in an educational setting, to make sure that they're aware of their rights but also their responsibilities, to make sure that our young people know how they are now protected through the changes in this law and those introduced in 2019. And I think that schools are a great place to do that. That would be a proactive step to take for this government.

[15:45]

And we've heard my colleague directly before me talk about, you know, the hypocrisy in wanting to be proactive. Well here's an opportunity. I'd be absolutely willing to sit down with that minister to share some ideas, to work with members opposite to make sure that this kind of behaviour can be addressed early on as teenagers begin to establish themselves in the digital world, to make sure that they are safe.

But also, you know, we know that most of the victims are women. That means by and large, for the most part, most of the perpetrators are men. And I would venture to guess that that would be young men. Why not address this in a round-table sort of way, where young men in particular, through our education system can learn to not just understand what their rights are but what their responsibilities are, to make sure that they grow up to be responsible, contributing citizens to our great province.

With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will voice my support for this amendment to this legislation, and I will continue to listen to my colleagues through adjourned debates as they share their thoughts and their critique of this bill as well. But at this point, I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 51, the privacy

intimate images amendment Act of 2021. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 52

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 52 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to enter into debate on Bill No. 52, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*. This, my understanding, is the current Act is unclear as to whether suspended drivers are insured while participating in driver training, road tests, and/or driver assessments.

And this, when I think about this, it's very important that we ensure that we're always keeping our roads safe and our citizens in this province safe. You know, this bill that's being . . . this amendment is to ensure that suspended drivers maintain their insurance coverage when they are attending SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance]-mandated driver evaluation. You know, drivers that are taking driver training or evaluation should be insured.

You know, I think about this and I think about how many people out there . . . And I think about Christmas. Christmas is a festive time, festive season where we're invited to these . . . I guess there's MLA receptions out there that we can go to, that we're invited to, and we're also invited to different events.

We gather, and often alcohol is served there. Alcohol is served there. And one of my concerns as an individual that does not consume alcohol, it worries me about . . . Like I always think about this even within my own family. And I always tell my family, please do not drink and drive. If you're going to drink, call me. I will come and pick you up. That is responsible. That is being responsible.

But the scary thing is how many people will go to these festivities, have more than a few drinks, and take it upon themselves to drive themselves home. And how many people's lives are going to be put at risk for that, because of the choice to drink and drive?

And then — and here's the sad thing — I've had lots of, known a lot of people that have died from drinking and driving. And I made the assumption that they're all covered, you know, the ones that had been involved in these motor vehicle accidents and have killed somebody. I made the assumption that they were insured. Reading this Bill No. 52 saying that they weren't insured, and I'm like, what about those families? What about those families? And how much is it costing our taxpayers in terms of insurance,

in terms of hospital bills, ambulance coverage, all of that? How much is it costing?

So when I think about impaired drivers, you know, there's many of us. And I know including in this House, we have had members that have been disqualified because they've chosen to get behind the wheel and drive drunk. And when I think about today, like we here, we sit here as officials here, elected officials. We have a responsibility to protect the people of this province, the people that have elected us. And when we're presenting bills and when we're making amendments to bills, we have to rise above and behave in a way that is thinking about the people that we serve.

So you know, I'm pleased that this bill is being amended. And I just want to say how I'm sure those that will be driving, drinking and driving during this holiday season, well hopefully, hopefully that this bill won't be in effect when they drink and drive. However that going forward, that this will be in place so that we can protect our people, the people of this province, the citizens of this province. And I'm going to take this opportunity because there's many people. Just saw in the news today about that young lady who killed that family, and she was denied. Her parole was denied.

And I think, you know what? That family, their lives have changed forever because of drinking and driving. And how many people continue? Elected officials, people that should know better are still getting behind those cars, those vehicles and driving. And how many people are going to have their lives changed because of the choices people make when it comes to drinking and driving?

So I am pleased and I am in favour of this bill, this amendment to this bill. And I am happy to let this go through the normal process to pass so that we can protect the citizens of this province from impaired drivers, whether through alcohol, drugs, where they're impaired. I want to continue to protect the people of this province from drunk drivers. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 52, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 53

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 53 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to rise into second reading on Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021*. You know, I look at the bill summary for this Act. It's pretty dry stuff. I'm not saying it's not important, but I am going to have to work pretty hard to make a silk purse out of

a sow's ear today. Bear with me. I'll do my best.

This Act is used to repeal outdated and obsolete legislation that is no longer in use. Hopefully you're all still awake. And so it is repealing *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*. I have many questions about that one. I didn't have time to do the research on that, so it will remain an open question for me. I hope and pray that some of my colleagues on this side will be able to get to the bottom of that one.

It did occur to me perhaps that it might relate to the nuns who had been hoodwinked when they sold the land for the Regina bypass. We all know that story of course. I'm not sure if it's one and the same, but hopefully we'll be able to get to the bottom of that because as we know, that was quite a travesty, quite a boondoggle in terms of the manner in which those land transactions occurred. We spoke a lot in the previous legislative session on that. I'll maybe just leave that aside for now but I have to be honest, it crossed my mind. So there it is. It is what it is.

As has been mentioned in the introductory remarks by the minister, and I thank him for that, the focus of this bill is around modernization and clearing out old unused legislation — old, unused. Again my mind kind of goes to other things within this Assembly that might be old and unused. Pause for comedic effect.

So I guess when we talk about this, and you know, I think about other areas, you know, real substantial areas of policy that could use some modernization to be brought into the 21st century. It is 2021 after all.

And I recall hearing yesterday, or maybe it was the day before, the Minister of Finance was asked a question about whether climate change had anything to do with the drought effects that we've seen in our province. And she didn't have an answer. She did not have an answer. And so you know, I would have thought that a minister who has been around as long as she has that perhaps around that cabinet table, the topic might just possibly have come up that might have just informed a person that is sitting in such a critical, vital position and have an answer, but no.

And when I think about modernization and I think about how times have changed, that was also another thing we heard earlier today and earlier in the week over and over almost in a tired, old kind of a way, that maybe that might be something that would be recognized and acknowledged as something that has changed, global forces affecting our climate.

[16:00]

But there's other areas when we talk about modernization — modernizing the Assembly to be more representative of all the people in Saskatchewan, not just a select minority of people reflecting a certain perspective or viewpoint. And that privileges that segment . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, you betcha I am on something. I am definitely on something. I'm onto something too, because this is my opportunity to talk about some of the things that I've had to endure sitting through all of the proceedings of this Assembly. And my goodness, Bill No. 53 just

gives me that perfect opportunity, this sexy legislation that is about outdated and obsolete legislation.

And I sometimes . . . I mean I think I've heard it be described as a housekeeping bill. Well my goodness, I wonder, Mr. Deputy Speaker, who's responsible for housekeeping in your household?

An Hon. Member: — Me.

Ms. Ritchie: — Good to hear. I see the member from Moose Jaw, I don't know if it's Wakamow or not but he put up his hand, but I didn't see anybody else put up their hand. Did anyone else want to put up their hand? Oh, so I got two hands over on this side. I guess he's doubling down on the housekeeping. Okay, that's good.

Because I can tell you from my own personal experience, I've done a lot. I've done a lot of housekeeping over the years, going back to, you know, being a young child, being a teenager, being responsible for the housekeeping. And there wasn't a lot of time for sports in my family. I was either working a job after school, I was making supper while my mother worked, I was studying to go to school and earn an education, and so the opportunities for sports was a little bit limited.

And I've got to say, I've just got to say it, the sports representation in this House is offensive to me. It is. It's truly offensive. And it was really super interesting to listen to the radio this morning, and they were talking about sport-washing. Did anyone else hear that? Yes, sport-washing. . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Must have been, must have been on that socialist radio station we all love. And they talked about the case in Saudi Arabia because Justin Bieber is being asked to not perform. And I want to bring this to your attention and read it into the record. Sport-washing is defined as the practice of an individual group, corporation, or nation state using a major or prestigious international sport to improve its reputation through hosting a sporting event, the purchase or sponsorship . . .

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we are on Bill 50, which is *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*. I know . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . 52. 53. I know Justin Bieber is very interesting, Mr. Speaker, and my children find him to be a wonderful artist. But I'm not sure it's relevant to the content of the bill before the House, Mr. Speaker.

I know the member is a new member to the Assembly but the rules are that the remarks that you make have to be relevant to the bill to which you are speaking. And obviously, Mr. Speaker, there's been some leeway shown to members opposite to speak to a whole range of subjects, but I would just remind those members that they're to speak to the subject of the bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — I would remind the member to generally keep your comments in relation to the bill at hand, but I will continue to allow you to speak. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that. And I will just remind all members of the Assembly I am

speaking to Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act*, an Act that is being used to repeal outdated and obsolete legislation. And that is the topic on which I speak here today. Okay?

So anyhow, where was I? Oh, yeah. I was talking about, in relation to this bill and things that are outdated, the use of sport-washing. It's quite a concerning tactic that can be used to . . . It's a form of deflection. And I mean yes, I do appreciate that oftentimes we like to share personal stories that are relevant to the bill at hand and things that are going on. And of course everyone's very excited about the Riders going to the next level. Is it semifinal? Okay. I don't know. I was home doing housework. I didn't catch the game.

So anyways, I guess, I mean the point I'm trying to make . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, I am not about sports. That is correct. I'm about housework. And I like to keep it fun. Don't get me wrong. I am about fun.

Well anyways, what I was trying to say is that I think when we're talking about modernization and moving forward, that I would like to see that we're being more comprehensive in our approach. And I'm drawing a parallel so try to keep up with me, folks. I know it's hard but, Mr. Speaker, I am speaking directly to you when I say that.

You know, I think that when we talk about sports, that that is outdated and what we need to do in order to be more inclusive, i.e. modern, that we would look to find ways to do that. And I've got to say that when we were welcoming guests, a former cabinet minister, and a sports analogy was used to acknowledge her accomplishments, which I do not . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I'd ask the member to wrap it up. You haven't spoken to the bill here in some period of time. So if you want to move to adjourn debates, that would be fine. Otherwise, take your seat.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Thank you for your indulgence and opportunity to speak on this bill. I think I've made my point. And I will at this point move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 54

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 54 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative diverse (attestation instrumentaire à distance) de 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my honour indeed to rise this afternoon and speak to this, another miscellaneous statutes bill, this time the remote witnessing amendment Act of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to just take a minute to talk about, you know, the second reading speeches, and the reason that we do this and, I think, take up one of the points that my esteemed colleague from Saskatoon Nutana made, and I think quite in a humorous way, Mr. Speaker.

But an important point is it's very important that when we're looking at any proposed legislation, when we're thinking about the legislation that we've been asked, that we are required, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to provide oversight to, that we look at it from a number of angles. Sometimes we could have the best idea, think that this is, you know, something that we've decided there should be changes made to legislation or new legislation introduced, but we might have blind spots. And the more that we surround ourselves by people who think just like us, the more likely we are to have those blind spots.

And I think that in part . . . And I think, in my peripheral vision, I did catch some of that from my colleague, Mr. Speaker, and I do think that is an important point to make. And if you can make that point in a humorous way about miscellaneous statutes, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to all members here that's harder to do than it looks. So I commend her for that.

This particular statute amendment, miscellaneous statutes Act, refers to a couple of main points, but the first one is it codifies — I believe my colleague from Regina Douglas Park calls it codify; I always thought it was codify — what had become a practice over the pandemic.

As many of us will know, as is often the case of upheaval, the pace of change quickens when we're presented with something like the pandemic. So that was the case with remote witnessing. All of a sudden we had to find a way to be able to witness documents. You know, people unfortunately continue to need wills and power of attorney, health directives, and it doesn't stop because they're isolated or because we're in the middle of a global pandemic.

So these changes, which I would expect were likely in the works for some time and perhaps are used in other jurisdictions, came into force during the pandemic. So these are temporary and permanent regulations that were passed due to the pandemic and something now that we're seeing being proposed to be in place after the pandemic — and let's hope that's very soon, and we do everything we can to make sure that that is soon — because it was found to work.

And it was found to reduce barriers. And here I'm going to go back to, I think in part, the comments that my colleague from Nutana was making. Because we don't see it as a problem, doesn't mean that it's not a problem. So the pandemic . . . If you're in a city and you've got lawyers close to you and you're able to get to your lawyer to have documents witnessed, it might not seem like that big of a problem. But if you're in a remote community or if you have different abilities or a number of different things, this might have been a problem for a long time for you.

So that was the point I wanted to make about the importance of having different eyes on this. And I think, you know, it reminds us that just because we don't face barriers, that it doesn't mean that others don't. So I do see this as being a good step, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to reducing some of those barriers, in this case around power of attorney and health care directives. It's important, as you can imagine, not only during a pandemic but after as well, that people have access to legal services regardless of their location or their ability.

One of the things that I had experience with at the shelter, some of us can walk around safely and not worry about our safety. That's not always the case when people have been victims of domestic violence, for example, and going out to the lawyer's office might be a place you'd be expected to be. Work as well. This is one of the ways, perhaps, and one of those unintended consequences and maybe a perspective that wasn't thought of before, where they can have benefit in those instances. Again, the importance of diversity and different eyes on legislation.

[16:15]

This bill proposes to make permanent the changes to *The Powers of Attorney Act*, *The Wills Act*, and *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act*.

If you don't have an advanced care directive, go get one, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's very important that we all have those. And it also stipulates that, in addition to this legislation, the Law Society of Saskatchewan rules must be followed in addition. So, Mr. Speaker, those are important rules to be followed. I think we're all well-served when they are.

I'm sure that there will be other comments to be made on this bill. I know that my colleague will do her due diligence and will be looking to meet with stakeholders. And if those out there want to reach in and provide any insights that they have, that would be most appreciated. Again, more eyes, the better. The more input, the better.

And yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just one more shout-out to those who have to — or get the honour; really it is an honour — to get up and speak to miscellaneous statutes. It is harder than it looks. With that I'm prepared to complete my remarks and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 54.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 55

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 55 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And now for something completely the same or nearly the same, Mr. Speaker. I am up on Bill No. 55, the miscellaneous statutes — this time, remote witnessing — amendment Act. I promise they are different bills, Mr. Speaker, but largely along the same lines.

This bill proposes to allow remote witnessing in *The Electronic Information and Documents Act* of 2000. Of course these two bills go hand in hand, have the same objective, and this one is to allow lawyers to commission documents remotely by electronic means, broadly speaking, provided that two conditions are met, that the requirements of the Act are met.

And I can read those into the record, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the lawyer “takes all reasonable steps by electronic means to verify the identity of the person providing the document . . .” which is very reasonable it would seem. And that they comply with all requirements established by, again, the Law Society of Saskatchewan, which I think we’ve already established seems to be a very reasonable measure.

So I think that I’ve got on the record the things that I wanted to say about that and the importance of electronic documents, and am prepared to conclude my remarks on Bill No. 55 and move to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 56

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 56 — *The Queen’s Bench Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I’m pleased to rise again to enter into debate on Bill No. 56, *The Queen’s Bench Amendment Act, 2021*.

So this bill is looking at establishing criteria for the operation of the superior court. And you know, amendments are required to reflect the current make up of the court and to modernize the court’s ability to assign residency.

So this amendment also contains new provisions that will allow the court to make an order to allow changes to beneficiary designation for people without capacity, as decision makers for those without capacity can make an application to the court to make changes regarding beneficiary designation.

So of course, I’m all for modernizing and being relevant because if we don’t modernize, we become irrelevant and useless. So for me when I think about this, yes we do need to modernize this Act to reflect the superior court. And it’s welcomed.

So this reflection on the number of family law judges is important. And this area of law oversees many, many, many cases, and we’ll probably have more questions about the changes regarding beneficiary designations. And hopefully, it is my hope that the stakeholders, people that are interested in how this is going to impact them, have been consulted. Especially in the area of . . . and I was just reading this, and you know, I was reading the section on the Public Trustee. That’s what I want to talk about.

You know, when I think about Indigenous people, in particular First Nations Indigenous peoples, this I know has come across where I’ve had to actually look into this, where Indigenous people, First Nations in particular, when they don’t have a will and they die. And there’s a family dispute, and nobody can agree on who’s going to act as the executor, it creates challenges. And I would hope that the stakeholders, and particularly First Nations communities, because many today . . . Like years ago, we didn’t have money. Today we do make money. We work. And some of us, and I’ve seen this time and time again, where individuals don’t always think about creating a will, and they don’t think about what happens in the event that I cannot speak for myself and who is going to speak for me.

And because we’re Indigenous people, we’re very close knit. We’re very, very close. And we know who would be the right person to act and execute whatever decisions that we, as that person, requires,

One of the things I would ask for those that are the government, I would ask is reach out to those stakeholders. Reach out to First Nations. Remember many, many individuals live in urban centres. They don’t all reside in First Nation communities. So in here it talks about Indigenous Services Canada. And for Indigenous people, whoa that’s a place where they’re, like, no. And those are important discussions that need to happen.

And I’ve been saying that in my work, when I worked out in the community, with community, saying that, yes we didn’t have wills before. Those weren’t important to us. But as more and more Indigenous people are making money and gaining more wealth through work, that it’s important that they have directives in place, and when we’re thinking about this, that beneficiaries are designated and that there’s a coordination between whatever First Nation that is, the family, and of course if it needs to be with the legal folks, that happens.

So I’m all for that. I would just ask that I hope that stakeholders are being sought out to provide feedback on this so that we don’t put undue hardship on families that are grieving, that are mourning.

So with that I’m in favour of moving this along and allowing this to continue on its normal process and to pass. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 56, *The Queen’s Bench Amendment Act, 2021*. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 57

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 57 — *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to enter into debate on Bill No. 57, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021*. The proposed amendments of this bill would, according to the minister, work to achieving "a balance by limiting or prohibiting certain assurance claims that would place an unfair burden on public funds," and would achieve this in three ways that the minister canvassed in his remarks. My understanding is that the changes proposed under this bill have the goal of protecting the public from claimants in the mine and minerals sector, and that these changes clarify the registrar's ability to correct errors and to lock titles if and when that is necessary.

I know that the critic for this area is reaching out to stakeholders and is interested to garner feedback on this legislation. I have every confidence in the critic's ability to do that. This is not in my wheelhouse to say the least, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but there's no question that this is an important area of economic activity and regulation in our province, and I look forward to our opposition critic doing good work in that regard. So with that, it is my pleasure to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 57, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 58

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill 58. — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate this afternoon with respect to Bill No. 58. I tell you, our Health minister is quite the character. Okay, good.

With respect to Bill No. 58, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021*, certainly it's incredibly important that we have measures and regulations in place that ensure integrity of the securities industry and that have protections for people and investors.

And it's incredibly important that when we amend legislation that we get it right, Mr. Speaker. I see some pieces to this legislation as they've been spoken to by the minister as important interventions. But certainly, you know, markets are sophisticated. Forces are complex on these fronts, and we will be directly engaged with stakeholders to make sure that this

legislation is as effective as it can be, that it hits the mark in protecting investors and ensuring integrity in capital markets and the securities industry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it protects people and their hard-earned dollars from fraudsters and those that are out there to rip them off, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly we see many examples where folks have been subject to predatory behaviour and beyond predatory behaviour, criminal and fraudulent behaviour within the securities industry. We need to have measures and laws and regulations that protect folks against those sorts of unscrupulous bad actors. And ultimately what we're talking about is protecting people and their hard-earned dollars and their savings for retirement, their pensions, Mr. Speaker, those dollars that they work so hard to put away for the future.

[16:30]

I recognize that a measure that's been brought about here is to prohibit false and misleading promotional activities in the capital markets industry online, and it identifies, you know, social media, Mr. Speaker. And certainly we see how social media plays a direct, you know, role in communicating information. And certainly we will investigate the actions that the minister is proposing on this front and make sure that they're as effective as they can be.

But you know, we can look at examples in the last couple of years of where capital markets have very much been influenced by entries on social media. And if those entries are in fact fraudulent and misleading, that's a serious problem, Mr. Speaker. And we see how quickly a post can go viral, Mr. Speaker, and how if that post is, you know, fraudulent information, Mr. Speaker, it really could put many investors, many people and their retirement savings, many hard-working people and their retirement savings at risk. And certainly there's folks out there that look to profiteer off of unscrupulous behaviour in capital markets, Mr. Speaker. So we need to make sure that we have the kinds of regulations and protections that people deserve.

I identified from the minister's remarks that some of the protections that have been brought about have been mirrored off of other provinces such as British Columbia, that in fact some of them have been recommended out of the national body on this front, Mr. Speaker. And those things are important because certainly capital markets, you know, extend across provincial boundaries and across international borders. But you know, where we can within Saskatchewan, we owe it to Saskatchewan people and investors to ensure integrity in the system.

And this is about, you know, it's about, of course, protecting people and their hard-earned dollars, that person that's placing that investment or buying that stock or purchasing into a fund that, you know, sees it in their interests to do so as part of, you know, securing their retirement, for an example, Mr. Speaker. This is the most common way that a lot of Saskatchewan people would connect with securities while putting some dollars away for the future.

We also need to make sure, of course, that there's integrity in these markets for businesses, Mr. Speaker, because it's critical that markets have trust. And that for businesses to be able to be successful for funds that, you know, are following the rules and

all that are well-intentioned, you know, that are serving their shareholders, it's needed that they can have faith and integrity in the markets, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that this bill would prohibit aiding and abetting those who contravene security laws. It seems that's an important piece. It would amend the Act to clarify that the limitation period is suspended while a plaintiff is seeking leave of Queen's Bench, and this was as recommended by the Canadian Securities Administrators, I understand. Mr. Speaker, that seems like an important measure. Certainly we'll consult with stakeholders broadly on this front.

That, as I mentioned before, it would prohibit false, misleading, promotional activities in capital markets industry. That's very important, Mr. Speaker. And to allow for electronic filing delivery of documents required under the Act.

You know, I think that what we'll have to hear more of, and we'll be seeking from government is, you know, what changes are being made by way of legislation on this front and what are the corresponding regulatory changes, the changes in regulations. Because, you know, legislation like this is only going to be, you know, as effective as the regulations that support it, Mr. Speaker.

And on that front though, I mean certainly we'll aim as the official opposition to consult and listen and make sure we are as constructive as possible with respect to this piece of legislation and any others. This is a very important piece of legislation by way of the aims. We want to make sure that there's not a set of unintended consequences that haven't been, you know, considered or heard or understood by government. That's why we'll consult broadly, and we'll look for every opportunity to strengthen this piece of legislation and ensure the kinds of protections that Saskatchewan people and businesses deserve with respect to their capital markets.

Mr. Speaker, with that being said, I will adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 58, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 59

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 59 — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021/ Loi modificative de 2021 sur les juges de paix*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is again my pleasure to rise on my feet to speak to Bill No. 59, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021*. This is a bill that creates a relief Justice of the Peace role that will allow for JPs [Justice of the Peace] to now continue in a relief capacity until the age of 75 and to supplement absences of regular JPs. It also creates an

administrative Justice of the Peace role that similarly provides extra compensation to those JPs taking on extra administrative work.

And I thank the minister for his remarks introducing this bill, but I have to confess that it did leave a number of questions in my mind about the impetus for these amendments. I've read through the comments a couple of times that were read into the record, and I honestly didn't see anything there that really spoke to why these provisions are necessary. It's clear to me how they're intended to function, but what's not indicated is why it's become necessary. And so it leaves one only to speculate, I suppose.

And of course the first thing that comes to mind is that there's a shortage of JPs to perform the work as it has been described. I think that that obviously is very important work that is undertaken by justices of the peace in terms of processing, handling, you know, court proceedings and paperwork and things such as oaths and affirmations, affidavits; conducting remand and release hearings; and issuing search warrants.

So I guess I don't know if this is a supply or demand issue, whether it's that there are fewer JPs of a certain age available to do the work or if we're seeing an increase in the number of individuals who are working their way through the system. Certainly, you know, our critic for this area will look to have the opportunity during committee to ask those questions and understand.

Of course anecdotally, I can make some suppositions on the subject, but I think that it's very important that these issues be brought forward in a clear substantive way, that they're clearly articulated and put on the record, so we really understand why we are moving in this direction of increasing the age.

And I think about, from a comparative standpoint, where we see in other areas, like the Public Service Commission, for example, where a number of years ago retirement ages were eliminated entirely. And that of course had its own repercussions that I won't get into here, of course, because I always, always, always want to stay on topic.

But in this case here — extending and then adding a new sort of termination date of 75, and why it was necessary to do that — I will make note of the observation that, you know, we do seem to be having a bit of an issue with supply on the human resources side, particularly as it relates to the pandemic. I'm sure we all can recount examples here of friends and family and colleagues who have made that choice to retire. You know, I think it's really kind of brought perspective and highlighted for people what they value and what is important.

And so I don't know if that's kind of the dynamic that's been at play here in sort of reducing the number of JPs. And honestly I don't know why anyone would want to shortchange their retirement and continue working actively until age 75. I won't comment on that. It's a personal choice, of course. But it's also sort of a little bit of a disturbing development here in terms of, you know, that this provision has been necessary in the first place. And I guess not only is it that many people are now deciding to retire sooner than they may have otherwise is that, you know, we're also seeing a very strange phenomenon of many people deciding to leave the province. And I don't know . . . And

that would be my question for the minister on this particular bill, is like, what is happening here in terms of the current complement of justices of the peace, and is it the case that they are choosing to retire sooner than later and then perhaps leaving the province?

And I think, you know, when we talk about attracting and retaining workers in this province within their chosen professions, we always want to make sure we're providing the right conditions, work conditions. And of course, quality of life is always very important when people are considering taking on employment. And government has a big role to play in that regard in terms of ensuring that, you know, we continue to be a welcoming jurisdiction, that people feel their public safety is being protected. And my questions kind of relate to, you know, if those kinds of factors are limiting the pool of JPs in this case.

So I did want to also make note of the fact that on the face of it, these seem like reasonable, sensible kinds of amendments if indeed we are looking at a situation of a shortfall. And I would just note that I would hope to see the same kind of sensible amendments when there is a need for a change, and that we don't throw out the baby with the bathwater and try to sort of create new frameworks and structures to address an issue or problem that is presenting. And I can think of a couple of examples right now where I think that heavy-handed, knee-jerk response has been undertaken and has led to certain bills coming before the Assembly for debate, notably Bill 70 in that regard.

So it's a bit of a compare/contrast I'm making right now in terms of amendments to existing legislation to address an emergent issue and making those adjustments versus just scrapping what has been traditional and well-serving framework with many important considerations. So I think that always, in our role as legislators, that we need to think through the consequences and implications of changes that we are proposing in legislative frameworks. And certainly as it relates to Bill No. 59, I am pleased to see that we're taking a measured approach, but certainly would like to understand better why this is needed.

[16:45]

I would like to know also a little bit more about the change in the term of the condition from six to four years. I did note it was mentioned in the minister's remarks, but it would be good to have further elaboration on that and also why it was decided to go to 75. I think that's a really critical question with respect to this bill. And I'll relate it back, as I mentioned before, we see in other cases where those age limitations have been removed entirely. And so what is the logic of going to 75? I think it was at 70 before, but I can't recall exactly. The number 70 is kind of sending off a few different alarm bells in my head right now for reasons that are probably obvious.

A final point that I do want to make . . . And thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I appreciate you bearing with me through my very substantive comments up to this point. And also I alluded earlier to supply and demand. It is my concern, and I would like to understand better on the demand side. If it is the case that we are seeing a higher need for Justice of the Peace services, you know, what is the origin of that?

I mean certainly we understand that we are holding more

individuals in remand and that that creates a lot of issues with respect to them sort of timing out in the system and justice not being served when cases get thrown out because, you know, that the clock has essentially run out on them. It's certainly not my area of expertise. I'll leave it to others to speak to and get to the heart of the matter on that. And certainly we do want to see justice served in a timely manner. Justices of the peace are crucial to that occurring.

But at the same time we do, of course, want to see that we are setting the right conditions to prevent, you know, people having to come before the courts in the first place, and they're not enduring, sort of, more kinds of procedural or administrative kinds of charges that relate to these on, kind of, remand issues. And I think that that is an important consideration in respect of this bill and the way in which we are ensuring overall public safety here in the province, and that people are not resorting to a life of crime, and you know, that all part of addressing the root causes of poverty and crime here in the province.

I'm sure that the critic for this area, as I mentioned before, will have much more to say on this particular bill when it goes to committee. So with that I am prepared to conclude my remarks and adjourn debate on Bill No. 59, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 61

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Makowsky that **Bill No. 61 — *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm proud to rise in the Assembly today to speak to Bill No. 61, *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act* of 2021. This is a full repeal and replacement of a previous Act from the year 2000.

And my understanding of this Act, replacing the old Act, is that it provides legislative oversight for post-secondary education and skills training. And I want to talk about . . . I'll use kind of the latter half of my time here today to talk about, I think, some skills training that is very important that I hope will be facilitated through this new legislation.

Just a few other points here, highlights from the new legislation is that it does provide the minister clarity and tools to oversee and account for public funds in the sector; centralizes the minister's authority to provide grants; articulates what they can receive money for, and outlines that process more clearly. I think that my colleagues in opposition, in particular the critic for this area, will have questions when this bill does proceed to committee about what specific responsibilities and powers the minister does have,

and how that will relate to meeting the present and future needs for skills training in the province. That's something that I think needs some clarity that we don't see in this legislation, again just specifically detailing what exactly the minister will be responsible for, what powers the minister will have under this new legislation.

But I also understand that this legislation creates a new type of reporting requirements and data reporting abilities within the Ministry of Advanced Education, and again something that our critic will continue to pursue through committee and also through talking to stakeholders in post-secondary ed, which I know she does on a regular basis. And I hope that that work has already been done by the minister and servants in the ministry to consider all ramifications, unintended consequences, and things that may happen as a result of completely repealing the old legislation and replacing it with the new one here.

You know, one thing that I noticed right at the end of the minister's comments when the Minister for Advanced Education was speaking to this bill, and I'd like to just quote him directly. The minister said, and I quote, "I wish to thank each individual and organization in the province who took time to provide input on this piece of legislation." I'll pause there. Yeah, I think that that's definitely something that we hear a lot from this government about widespread consultation, input from stakeholders. And I suppose, you know, the responsibility does fall on us. I know our critic will follow up to ensure that all of that consultation was fulsome and did take place.

But the minister continues, and this is what I really want to speak to. And he said:

So in closing, Mr. Speaker, let me summarize by saying that this bill is about modernizing *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills* . . . [continuing] *Act* to ensure it clearly supports Saskatchewan's post-secondary education sector so they will respond effectively to future needs.

Nothing wrong with that quote. I support those words. I have no reason to doubt them. But I just want to talk a little bit from my critic areas and from what I have learned about the future needs of this province that I hope this new legislation will facilitate, and most of it has to do with the care for our seniors. And I'll tell you that this is already a struggle in Saskatchewan. And not just here, to be fair; this is a struggle in a lot of places and there's reasons for that.

It is a struggle in Saskatchewan to recruit and retain staff, health care staff in long-term care facilities. The reasons for that you can see when you drive the highway that I drive from my constituency to Regina. There's billboards along the way and those billboards are from one of our health care unions. And those billboards say, "Respect us. Protect us. Pay us."

They recognize that there is a lack of respect for health care workers in long-term care in this province. Those billboards, they recognize that there's a lack of protection for folks who work in long-term care and that there is an abysmal track record of paying those folks in a way that values their work and helps to retain and recruit in that particular workforce. Any of us who drive that highway — I know that we don't all do that, but any of us who do — we see those billboards. And I think that I want to highlight

that because we're already struggling to recruit at any given time. And I'm seeking to get clarity on these numbers currently. We have hundreds of unfilled, vacant positions in the sector, hundreds.

Now this government has promised to hire 300 new continuing care aids. That's a big number considering that, you know, it's hard to get the exact information from this government through committee and other forms that we have, but that's a big commitment that the minister said is over and above the hundreds of already vacant, unfilled positions. And the reason — I need to be clear — those positions are unfilled and vacant is because we do not have a great track record of working with the . . . this government does not have a good track record of working with partners in health care to recruit those positions. Well this legislation, I hope, can help to correct this problem.

I'll tell you what, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A couple weeks ago I was on the road. I was meeting with health care workers in rural Saskatchewan in places like Indian Head and Kipling, and we heard from folks who . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I'll tell you what. We were hearing from folks of hospitals that are shut down right now, that are shut down right now because of this government. So thank you for interjecting, member from the other side. We did hear.

Because we went by Broadview, and I'll tell you what. We heard about the emergency services that are shut down right now because of health care shortages, because of the strains on the workforce. So thank you for highlighting the failures of your own government to keep emergency services open during a pandemic. I thank the member opposite for highlighting those failures.

Now one other particular strain, one other particular strain, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will be created by all the additional beds that this government has committed to. Do we need more long-term care beds? Yeah, we do. We need to update facilities, absolutely. But where will those staff come from? We need — and there's a word that's become popular over there — we need a proactive plan.

And I hope, I hope that this legislation does give the minister the ability to generate such a plan to work with partners in health care to make sure that our seniors who are living in care . . . And let's be honest: most of them, that is not their preferred place to be. Very few seniors desire to live inside a long-term care facility. They're there because they need the care. And when they get there, it is this government's job to ensure that they get the care that they need, and that starts with making sure that those facilities are staffed.

And for those facilities to be staffed, the Minister of Advanced Education needs to work with partners in the sector to ensure that a plan is in place, supported by this legislation, to recruit interested people to training programs.

Now one of the things that I want to make sure that I propose here today in response to this legislation is that the solutions are available. We have already advocated for a round-table approach for members of this government, for members of this opposition, partners in health care to work together to solve the human resource staffing challenges that are being faced in health care; in particular, long-term care. The very first starting place is to get

out there and listen to the workers on the ground. I did that a couple of weeks ago. I'll continue to do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That is step one. And then this minister who presented the bill can work to meet those needs.

Now with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will conclude my remarks, and I will move that we adjourn debate. I will continue listening to my colleagues in opposition as they share their thoughts here. But I'll move that we adjourn debate on Bill 61, *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2021*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. It now being 5 p.m., this Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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