



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

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The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)	Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)	Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
Bradshaw, Hon. Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	McLeod, Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)	Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
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Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)	Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
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Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)	Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
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Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)	

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Independent (Ind.) — 1

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

Mr. Skoropad: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, seated in the west gallery is a friend of mine and an amazing constituent from Arm River and actually someone who has connection to this building. Many of you know Grant McLellan. This would be his brother. So hold the boos, please.

This is Ian McLellan. Ian McLellan, I have known Ian since he's been actually a kid. And surprisingly enough, we still are friends. He farms near Holdfast. He is an incredibly, incredibly involved young man, brings so much to the community. He is truly an asset to the Holdfast area, and you know, highly a character person. His character certainly, certainly exceeds his ability to hit a golf ball.

But I would like to, with that, welcome Ian to his legislature.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome Jeff Walters, the leader of the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan, and he's accompanied by Reid Hill. Welcome them to their legislature.

While obviously we're of different political stripes, I appreciate Mr. Walters and his efforts online in particular, pointing out some of the flaws in this government, his particular attention to the issues of the corrupting influence of corporate and out-of-province donations, and just admire anyone who's willing to put their name forward and speak up for a better future of the province.

So please, folks, if you'd join me in welcoming Jeff and Reid to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming Mr. Walters, Jeff Walters, the Leader of the Liberal Party, to his Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, we often in this province . . . There's two parties that have been on the floor of this legislature for a number of years, but there are a number of parties that run in our provincial elections and by-elections, Mr. Speaker. And I think we can all equally appreciate what they all contribute to the democratic processes that we have, in particular have an appreciation for that democratic process given what we see happening in other areas of the world today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's a pleasure to join in the warm welcome to Jeff Walters.

Also a pleasure, and I want to give some recognition to Reid Hill who's here. Reid Hill is a constituent. He's very active throughout our community, very active on the Walker School community council, organizing events and fundraisers and giving back in so many ways. We've had a lot of fun of late at the Walker School jail-and-bail, and most recently with a chili and bun night at the Rosemont rink. Reid is active in many ways. He's supported the Legion as well and finds a lot of ways to give back to our community. So it's a pleasure to welcome these two to their Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to restore microbiology lab services in rural Saskatchewan. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that the Government of Saskatchewan is cutting life-saving microbiology testing from the Yorkton regional hospital, and samples are sent to Regina now for processing. Yorkton lab used to process thousands of tests every year. The government says that there won't be a delay in processing but with only one courier a day from Yorkton to Regina, if you are not there by the cut-off time, your specimen will not get to the Regina lab until the next day. If the roads are impassable due to snow, like we have seen so often lately, samples will not get to Regina in a timely manner.

We know that centralization of health services in Regina increases the workload for staff and erodes our communities' ability to recruit and retain medical professionals. Lab staff in Yorkton have the skills, expertise, and know-how to get these tests processed in a timely manner.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to immediately restore rural lab services and ensure that residents of Yorkton and area have community-based microbiology testing on a go-forward basis.

This is signed by individuals from Ituna and Melville, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to fund in vitro fertilization. One in six couples find themselves needing in vitro fertilization, Mr. Speaker, and as we know the cost of this assistance is extremely prohibitive.

I myself have been in touch with many families and women over

the years that have had to rely on in vitro fertilization. The human, the emotional, the financial toll can be considerable. It makes economic sense to invest in making this treatment universally available. It will help to grow our province, which makes economic sense, and of course access to this kind of treatment should not be determined based on socio-economic status, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I'll read the prayer:

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

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

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it is my honour today, on International Women's Day, to take to my feet and present a petition calling for pay equity on behalf of Saskatchewan residents. Those who have signed this petition and those who have worked tirelessly to achieve this basic measure of equity would like to draw our attention to the following statements. Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation, Mr. Speaker, and it's no coincidence that Saskatchewan has one of the highest gender-wage gaps in Canada. The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has recommended proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation, which has not been pursued by this government. And while *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* prohibits gender-based compensation discrimination, the complaint-driven process puts no positive obligation on employers. And finally, while pay equity advocacy primarily seeks to address gender-based wage discrimination, Mr. Speaker, it must also be mindful of ability-, age-, identity-, and race-based wage discrimination.

I'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition today reside in Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am excited to be launching this new petition today on International Women's Day. It's my pleasure to present this petition calling for the government to adopt a policy for universal cost-free birth control for all Saskatchewan people.

The signatories would like to bring to our attention the following points: that Saskatchewan has some of the highest rates of adolescent — that's ages 12 to 20 — pregnancy in the country;

that cost is one of the biggest barriers to accessing contraceptive birth control in Saskatchewan, especially among adolescents; that having consistent and affordable access to contraceptive options is essential for promoting bodily autonomy, preventing unwanted pregnancy, and saving money on sexual and reproductive health care; that sexual and reproductive health rights are human rights.

And 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 adopt a policy making no-cost prescription contraceptives available to all Saskatchewan people.

The petition today, the very first one, is signed by folks from Sedley and Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

International Women's Day

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you again, thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as well to commemorate International Women's Day in the form of a member's statement. International Women's Day is celebrated across the globe to raise awareness about persisting inequities and to promote action on equality for women.

Here in Saskatchewan we have an especially long way to go. We have the highest rates of domestic violence, while our women's shelters continue to be underfunded by this government with hundreds of women and children turned away month after month. Shamefully we are one of only two provinces that doesn't provide funding for second-stage shelters, so long-term shelter for women and children. Saskatchewan has also among the highest rates of sexual assault in Canada, almost double the national average. Nearly 90 per cent of survivors in Saskatchewan are women. This is not to mention our alarming rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan too has one of the highest gender-wage gaps, as we heard, in Canada, and very soon we will once again have the lowest minimum wage, with women making up the majority of minimum wage workers.

We remain one of only four provinces that has not implemented pay equity legislation for women, as my colleague has mentioned already. And, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan women have simply been left paying the price for this government's failure to advance women's rights for far too long.

I urge the members opposite to pressure the Premier and the minister to step up and take action to improve conditions for all Saskatchewan women.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Churchill-Wildwood.

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is International Women's Day, a global movement to celebrate women and girls across the world. The international theme this year focuses on a gender-equal world; a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination; a world that is diverse, inclusive, and where differences are valued.

There are many ways to show support and acknowledge this day. Some of us will wear purple. Some will attend events or will celebrate with women who have made an important impact in our lives.

The 2022 theme here in Canada is Women Inspiring Women, shining a spotlight on all the women who inspire us by recognizing their social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. This year the Status of Women office is highlighting, through a video series, three influential women in Saskatchewan who have demonstrated leadership and mentorship. These female leaders, like so many across our province, are breaking down barriers and making a positive change in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all women in Saskatchewan for their contributions to building stronger communities and forging women's equality. Thank you.

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

Women's March Held in Regina

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, after hearing that the Women's March YQR would be held online this year, some young leaders in our community decided to organize a march all their own. They led by example, reached out, found solutions, and built a supportive community around their idea. As the theme for the march they chose We Won't Back Down. And, Mr. Speaker, those young women put that theme into action. Even in the blowing snow and cold temperatures, as a participant and one of the supporters present on Saturday, I felt nothing but hope, even in the face of adversity.

[13:45]

Speakers acknowledged the fact that from the unanswered calls to justice for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls to the need for more equal representation at all decision-making tables, we all have a long way to go. But, Mr. Speaker, hope comes from following the example set by young women like Maya and Hannah, the organizers of the 2022 march. Young women like Hannah and Maya prove that we are stronger when we work together and we can bust through even more of those glass ceilings when we work in unison.

I want to thank everyone who came out to speak. You give us hope for our future at a time when we need it most.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Saskatchewan Women Receive Science and Technology Scholarships

Ms. C. Young: — Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate International Women's Day, we recognize Saskatchewan's leaders who are building a diverse, inclusive, and qualified workforce. Recently the International Minerals Innovation Institute, or IMII, awarded \$87,000 in scholarships to six students.

Five students received the iMPowered Scholarship. These awards support women and Indigenous students with family responsibilities seeking higher education in science and technology. I was incredibly heartened to learn how two of the students, Tia Tootoosis and Tashrwin Tarique, are single mothers enrolled in the power engineering program at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize Paige Perras, the 2021-22 recipient of the Mining Futures Award, enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan in chemical engineering. Paige is also co-president of the Chemical Engineering Student Society.

The participation of women in sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics strengthens our economy. We can build stronger communities by removing barriers and increasing women's participation in the economy. Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the International Minerals Innovation Institute, BHP Billiton, Cameco, Mosaic, Nutrien, and Innovation Saskatchewan for their investment to change the lives of these six young leaders. Happy International Women's Day.

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

Dress for Success Regina Holds EmpowHER Fundraiser

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dress for Success Regina provides women with professional attire to support them in their professional journey. However, Mr. Speaker, Dress for Success does way much more, a lot more than provide women with professional attire. They provide exceptional support to every woman that walks through their doors. The organization allows for an environment where women can be fully prepared and equipped to take on the professional world — be that an interview for a job or attire for a new career — no matter what their economic status.

This past weekend I attended the EmpowHER fundraising event hosted by Dress for Success. The volunteers in Regina that devote their time to uplift women are exceptional in their leadership. Dress for Success, along with Dress for Success Worldwide, is a powerful group of women working together with a similar goal in mind — support, uplift, and empower women while breaking down barriers that women across the world face, both economically and professionally.

Mr. Speaker, with today being International Women's Day, I believe it is important to highlight and celebrate women who are out there every day. Women are out there working, pushing boundaries, and carving out the way for our future generations. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-

Turtleford.

Wilkie Student Wins National Remembrance Day Poetry Contest

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Taylor Wakelin, a 2021 graduate from McLurg High School in Wilkie. In her final year of high school, Taylor authored a poem entitled "Forget to Remember" for the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day contest.

Taylor was chosen as the Canadian national poem winner in the senior category. Along with other winners and chaperones, the Legion flew Taylor and her mother to Ottawa to participate in the November 11th service. The group toured Beechwood cemetery and the Canadian War Museum. They also had a front row seat at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Taylor remembers hearing stories from her great-uncle, Earl Irwin, a veteran of the Second World War who joined the air force in 1942. A member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Wilkie Branch No. 139, Earl passed away in 2018. The stories her uncle shared helped Taylor appreciate and understand the importance of Remembrance Day. Her poem is now proudly on display in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in congratulating Taylor Wakelin and wishing her the very best as she pursues a Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Saskatchewan Woman Breaks Barriers as a Hockey Referee

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Cianna Lieffers was 12 years old when she thought life as a hockey referee wasn't for her. After a few bad experiences in her first season, she was almost ready to retire her fabric stripes. Her mother, however, encouraged her to give it another try, and she's never looked back.

Cianna worked community games in Cudworth before working full-time in the SJHL [Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League]. In 2019 she was part of the first all-women's crew to work a midget AAA hockey game. And, Mr. Speaker, she was one of three Canadian women picked to referee women's hockey at the 2022 Beijing Olympics. Mr. Speaker, Cianna is also a successful referee and a schoolteacher in Asquith.

A former British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, once said, success is a mixture of having a flair for the things that you are doing, knowing that is not enough, and that you've got to have hard work and a certain sense of purpose. Happy International Women's Day to all women forging their path in this world and creating more for those that are to follow. We see you, we hear you, and we support you. And we are very happy to know you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas

Park.

Provision of Security at Legislative Building

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I think most in this Chamber can agree that in times of crisis, leaders need to step up, do the work, and make tough choices. A little over a month ago was one of those times. Yet rather than condemning the border blockades that hurt Saskatchewan people and our export economy, the Premier went on national television and said, "It isn't up to me to judge, ultimately, whether they should or not."

Thankfully here at the legislature we did have a leader — our Sergeant-at-Arms. If it wasn't for his leadership, for the effective, collaborative approach taken in working with the RPS [Regina Police Service] and the PCC [Provincial Capital Commission], Saskatchewan could have experienced similar events like those in Ottawa.

Will the Premier finally recognize our Sergeant-at-Arms' steadfast leadership, ability to keep this building and the people in it safe, and scrap Bill 70?

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in the fall session of the legislature, we are indeed living in changing times — not necessarily for the better, Mr. Speaker. Bill 70 expands the jurisdiction of legislative security resources for security officials. As the recent freedom rallies demonstrated, combining and sharing resources can work to maintain security here on the legislative grounds while also balancing an inherent right of people to protest.

The people that work and visit this building and surrounding grounds deserve to feel safe, and that's exactly what our government intends to do. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, what the blockades showed us was that these guys know how to do their job. Time and time again, and again today, government members stood up in this Chamber multiple times on Bill 70, and each time no logical, rational explanation as to why this bill is needed or even what the plan is once it is passed. Mr. Speaker, they've had three months now. Surely by now they've done their homework. Can they finally tell the people of Saskatchewan why they want to replace our Sergeant-at-Arms with a partisan police force?

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I must correct the member opposite. This is not a police force, Mr. Speaker. This is a security service for the legislative district, for the legislative precinct, Mr. Speaker.

It's interesting that the member opposite continues — they all continue — to oppose Bill 70, when the member for Regina Douglas Park stated on February the 7th, "The responsible

agencies worked in collaboration, and wise choices were made to maintain safety while still allowing space for peaceful protest.” What the member failed to acknowledge or fails to understand, Mr. Speaker, is that the reason that there was a safe environment was because of the extra efforts made by government officials, efforts that will be formalized with Bill 70 and the provincial protective services branch, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Okay. So the minister is telling us we should thank them, her, for that work and not the Sergeant-at-Arms. Really? Mr. Speaker, there’s been no plan, no justification. And now after we’ve witnessed the Sergeant-at-Arms and his team in action who seamlessly kept each and every one of us safe, will they finally admit that the Sergeant-at-Arms has all of the tools at their disposal to keep us safe? Do the right thing — scrap Bill 70.

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, we’re certainly looking forward to Bill 70 going to committee, and the members will obviously have some questions. Bill 70 will provide additional supports and resources — which were used during the last freedom rally here in Regina — needed to ensure the safety within the legislative precinct, and help formalize the processes that were used during the freedom rally and co-operation we saw work successfully during these events, Mr. Speaker. We will ensure to the best of our ability that people who come to protest, people who come to visit or work in this building will have the best safety that we can provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Premier’s Statements and Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. A month ago today, the Premier told the media that needing to show proof of vaccine “effectively created two classes of citizens.” He added, “This province has never done anything like that before in our history.” We know Saskatchewan has a long, trauma-filled history where one class of citizens were taken from their families, forced to be assimilated, and faced abuse. Does the Premier stand by this statement?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the last year and a half has been extremely trying with COVID-19, Mr. Speaker. We have moved off of our restrictions and our public health measures, Mr. Speaker. We’re in the process of removing our emergency order, Mr. Speaker. What we have, Mr. Speaker, has put that responsibility back on the individuals within Saskatchewan to be able to manage their COVID-19, Mr. Speaker. We have . . . If the Leader of the Opposition has a question, why doesn’t he pop up and ask one, Mr. Speaker? He seems to be talking a lot from his seat today.

Mr. Speaker, again, times have been changing almost on a daily basis up until about 30 days ago, Mr. Speaker, on COVID-19. Everything was evolving at a very fast pace. What was happening in January wasn’t happening in February. What was happening in January certainly wasn’t happening back last year, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, again the Leader of the Opposition had something to say. Pop up and say something. If not, if you’ll give me the respect to be able to answer your question. I will do that.

Mr. Speaker, we’ll continue to work with the people of Saskatchewan in living with COVID. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. The question was for the Premier, not the Minister of Health. We hear repeatedly smoke and mirrors from this government. For many Indigenous residents of Saskatchewan, the trauma of residential schools and colonization still lives on. For the Premier to evoke language to justify his political choices was wrong. Will the Premier apologize for those comments he made a month ago?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, as the member’s said, Mr. Speaker, there have been divisions in our province, and this government has recognized that. But, Mr. Speaker, what we’re doing is we’re continuing to work with all of our Indigenous partners to be able to reconcile that, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

But comparing that to what happened with COVID-19, Mr. Speaker, is just not accurate at all, Mr. Speaker. We are continuing to work with our Indigenous partners. The Minister of Government Relations and Indigenous affairs is continuing to work with that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Corrections and myself were just at a smudge and a great signing in corrections last week, Mr. Speaker. This is our continuing effort to be able to help out the Indigenous people. But comparing that to what happened with COVID-19, Mr. Speaker, is just not accurate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Reporting of COVID-19 Data

Ms. Mowat: — Incredibly disappointed in this Premier, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Health: how many people are currently in hospital with COVID-19? How many are currently in intensive care? And how many Saskatchewan people were lost to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I informed the House, and the members opposite know, that I do not get that information on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker. That is provided to me on Thursdays, just like the general public, Mr. Speaker. That was the recommendation of Dr. Shahab and that’s what we accepted,

that recommendation.

What I can inform the House is what happened last week, Mr. Speaker, is we did have 1,100 new cases, Mr. Speaker. We had 353 people in hospital and out of those, 151 of them were COVID admissions that actually came in with COVID symptoms. That was a clinical diagnosis of them arriving at our hospital.

But what I can also inform the House, Mr. Speaker, is our health care system does have some challenges right now. But we are at 91 per cent capacity within our health care system, Mr. Speaker, overall; 80 per cent capacity within our ICU [intensive care unit] units, Mr. Speaker, across the province. We do have our challenges, Mr. Speaker, but we are in much better shape than we were a few months ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — The Minister of Health has those numbers, Mr. Speaker, and he's choosing not to provide them. This is a political decision that he has made to not ask to receive them, Mr. Speaker.

The Premier and the Health minister say one thing and experts say another. At last week's physician town hall, physician leaders shared that our hospitalizations were at "highest levels ever." They also shared that Regina's acute medicine capacity was at 104 per cent. In Saskatoon acute care was at 145 per cent capacity — 145 per cent, Mr. Speaker. This is absolutely information that Saskatchewan people should know.

Again, will the minister commit to daily reporting of numbers so Saskatchewan people can make informed choices to keep themselves safe?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And unlike the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, I have faith in the Saskatchewan people to be able to make the decisions. If they are feeling symptomatic, Mr. Speaker, they can go and get the rapid test, as we've distributed over 18 million rapid tests, Mr. Speaker, that are at over 630 locations throughout the province, Mr. Speaker.

We also have access to antibodies and monoclonals, Mr. Speaker, to be able to make sure that anybody that comes in that does have COVID . . . and we've been able to distribute that, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that people don't come in presenting with COVID symptoms, Mr. Speaker. And if they do, Mr. Speaker, they can be prescribed this and monitor it at home.

I don't know why the members opposite are stuck on this, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Shahab has recommended this. Mr. Speaker, other provinces — maybe if the members opposite listened — other provinces, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador are all either there or moving to weekly reporting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Rising Fuel Prices and Cost of Living

Ms. Beck: — I guess the front-line physicians have it wrong, Mr. Speaker.

Gas prices are up in Saskatchewan today — nearly a buck seventy in Regina — and that's \$4 more to fill a tank today than it was yesterday. And it's another day with no solutions from the Sask Party government to provide relief at the pump.

We owe it to Saskatchewan people to help when times are tough, and the government has a role to play. Will the government help Saskatchewan people weather the current storm and signal a gas price relief plan today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, we fully recognize that there is inflation pressures on the people of Saskatchewan, and now with what's happening globally that we have a fuel pressure. And so there are discussions happening with government, but no decisions have been made.

But we have a track record, Mr. Speaker, of supporting affordability within our province. We have done so by significantly reducing the personal income tax, taking 112,000 people off the provincial tax roll. A family of four in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, can make over \$53,000 before they pay one dime in provincial tax.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of tax credits. We have a tax credit that's redeemable for low-income or no-income earners. We have the family active tax credit. We have a disabilities tax credit. We have a caregivers tax credit. We have a first-time homebuyers tax credit. We have a home renovation tax credit. We reduced education property tax. We have the second-lowest utility bundle, and the list goes on when I have the next question.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that Saskatchewan people are questioning that track record when they fill up today. The only growth plan, the only growth plan that I see from the Sask Party government is the growing cost of living, Mr. Speaker.

Meanwhile the government is padding its coffers with skyrocketing resource revenue income and gas taxes. We're taking in hundreds of millions of dollars more than projected at mid-year, Mr. Speaker, and this can be good news. But in extraordinary times . . .

[Interjections]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This can be good news, but in extraordinary times like these, a real leader would ensure that some of the windfall ends up back in the hard-working wallets of Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, will the Sask Party do the decent thing or not? When will we see a gas price relief

plan that will give families a much-needed break at the pump?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to deviate a little bit from my list of other things that this government does to support people to make life more affordable, to address something that that member opposite just said. If this is so important to her and she would like and aspires to be a leader, then what is she going to say when the federal government is going to increase tax on that very same fuel on April 1st? Is she going to stand with government and say that we do not need an increase at this moment in time on the carbon tax on fuel? Not now. Time to pause that initiative.

Is she going to stand with this government and promote pipelines so that we can have energy security in our province and in our country? Does she realize now the importance of energy security, and does she support pipelines? And will she stand against the federal government's blocks to pipelines again and again and again?

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

Minimum Wage in Saskatchewan

Ms. Bowes: — All right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't hear myself over these guys, so . . . The cost of living is skyrocketing, yet Sask minimum wage is set to fall to last place next month. Once again, lowest in the country. Lowest once again on so many fronts. In October a full-time minimum wage worker got a raise of less than \$3 a day, less than the increase in a tank of gas overnight, Mr. Speaker. A gas station attendant making minimum wage would actually lose money filling their tank after working an 8-hour shift.

That's where the Sask Party has left us, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sask Party give workers a chance, scrap their poverty minimum wages, and legislate living wages?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some years ago, our government adopted a formula to adjust minimum wage every year so there was predictability for employers and for employees. It was endorsed by the government and the members opposite at the time. Mr. Speaker, we have made 13 successive increases since we've been government, a 49 per cent increase since 2007. It is reviewed annually by using an indexation formula based on an equal weighting of changes to the consumer price index and the average hourly wage for the province. The formula is objective. It offers predictability.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, to the 13 straight minimum wage increases, our government has removed over 100,000 people from the provincial tax rolls, allowing people to keep more of their income in their pockets, Mr. Speaker. In January 2022 we had gained 24,600 jobs from the same period last year. Mr. Speaker, our province has the fourth-highest average weekly earnings of any province in Canada.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Predictable poverty, Mr. Speaker — that's what this government has to offer working-class people in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the government's attitude towards regular working people is unbelievable. One in five Saskatchewan people live in poverty. Might it be the poverty wages that this government has on offer?

They point to something like the home reno tax credit or income tax brackets, which is out of touch with tens of thousands of minimum-wage workers that can barely make rent, fuel up, and just the basic of feeding their families, the basic needs. Why won't this government do their job and make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people, with living wages?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, our government has worked hard to keep things affordable for all people in our province. We have some of the lowest utility rates in Canada, Mr. Speaker, and our government has worked to take people off the tax rolls. So we've taken over 100,000 people off the tax rolls. So those people have the dignity of a job and careers that are starting to move on. Mr. Speaker, we're doing that to try and protect the economy, to help people claw their way out of the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to quote former NDP [New Democratic Party] Labour minister Deb Higgins. This is what she said about increasing the minimum wage. That's their former member. She said, and I quote, "Increases to the minimum wage must balance the needs of minimum wage earners with the need for our province to be economically competitive."

Mr. Speaker, that was in a government news release, October 2002. Mr. Speaker, she went on to say that her increases were modest and that they help economies. And, Mr. Speaker, that's what we want to do. That's what we need to do. We want to continue to have economic growth in our province.

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

Saskatchewan Income Support Program

Ms. Conway: — Good to hear the Minister of Justice drawing back in time to a time when I was 17 years old. Get real. This government has been here for 14 years, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I toured the province talking to Saskatchewan people about the housing crisis in this province, and the now-notorious SIS [Saskatchewan income support] program. I heard the same thing over and over: SIS is not working and people are struggling more than ever. On January 24th I provided this report to the minister with an invitation to meet with me to discuss it. I finally got a response yesterday. She won't take a meeting and apparently everything's well in hand, Mr. Speaker — incredible.

When will this minister show some humility? When will she respond to the overwhelming chorus of people crying out for solutions, begging this government to make meaningful changes

and overhaul SIS today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question.

Mr. Speaker, the new Saskatchewan income support program reflects the needs for income assistance and it's designed to be simpler, more client-friendly and transparent, as well as sustainable, Mr. Speaker. The SIS program takes a whole-income approach, as many clients receive income from other sources, Mr. Speaker, such as federal benefits or even the child tax benefit.

Mr. Speaker, SIS focuses on helping people overcome their challenges and helps them move to employment participation or however they can contribute within their communities. The new program includes increased earned-income exemptions so people can keep more of what they make before their benefits are reduced.

Mr. Speaker, we also consulted 200 community-based organizations when this program was developed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[14:15]

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, those community-based organizations think SIS is a failure and they have not been shy about saying so, Mr. Speaker. If the minister spent less time reading her talking points and more time listening to the organizations on the front line, she would know how deeply this program is failing the people of Saskatchewan.

The cost of living has skyrocketed, Mr. Speaker. More and more people are having to choose between paying their rent and putting food on the table. One in five Saskatchewan people living in poverty, one in four children, Mr. Speaker — children. Things are not getting better; they're getting worse.

With so much at stake, will the minister agree to scrap the failed SIS program and create something that works? At the very least, will she agree to meet with me to discuss my report?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And once again I do thank the member opposite for the question. Mr. Speaker, we directly address poverty in Saskatchewan through our income supports and housing programs. We continue to work with our community partners to find better ways to support these low-income individuals, families, and seniors, Mr. Speaker. Since 2007 we have increased our investment in income assistance by 92 per cent, increased seniors' income plan benefits eight times, Mr. Speaker, and invested \$6 billion into direct income supports.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's income assistance rates are similar, if not better, than those provided in other provinces. After we introduced the Saskatchewan income support program in July

2019, our ranking in the Maytree report increased in three of four categories, placing us among the top provinces in Canada in providing for people's basic needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, I've heard this before. It's quoted word for word from the letter I got yesterday, the boilerplate letter.

I'm glad the minister brought up Maytree. Maytree policy advisors were quoted just last week in an article on the SIS program as saying these rates do not even afford people a life of dignity. That's what Maytree policy advisors have to say about this program, Mr. Speaker. It is not assisting people. It is ripping the rug out from under them.

There is currently a poster being posted around Regina with Minister Carr dressed as Waldo. People want to know, where is she? Where is she on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we take the issue of poverty in this province very seriously. Earlier she referenced child poverty in the province of Saskatchewan. In 2007 we were at about 30 per cent poverty within that bracket, and today we're at 26 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much more work to be done, but I truly believe with the work of the officials over at the Ministry of Social Services and our programs, that we'll be able to help people lift themselves up out of poverty and give them the dignity they need to move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 46

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

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise in the House and speak to Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is an Act that has been described as modernizing *The Legal Aid Act*, changing some of the language from "solicitor" to "lawyer," from "department" to "ministry," that sort of housekeeping material, Mr. Speaker. But there is more going on, of course.

One of the things that has been raised as a concern is the question around the removal of lawyers from the panel, lawyers from Legal Aid, making sure that that is done with just cause, which

is the current language. The changes in language, as has been pointed out by my colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre, a former lawyer for Legal Aid herself, that that does open up some danger within this profession that a choice could be made to have terms that do not necessarily require just cause.

When you talk about this government, the thing that has to come to mind is a question of trust. This is a government that any chance they have to have influence over a process and allow political decisions, political choices to influence what the outcomes are, they will take full advantage of it. So it's when we see that option of terms and references being wide open, it certainly gives me cause for concern, knowing that the track record of a government that is perfectly willing to use whatever their political agenda of the day is to influence decisions, potentially remove people from roles, for example what we've seen in the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority], where political influence has forced out Scott Livingstone, Kevin Wasko, Janet Tootoosis, only in order to push in Raynelle Wilson.

This is the kind of government that we're dealing with, a government whose political decision to politically interfere with the Sergeant-at-Arms role has pushed out Terry Quinn. We're very happy, of course, with Mr. Darling, but there's a very strong record there of a government that cannot be trusted when it comes to things that should be independent, non-partisan, and off which they should keep their hands, Mr. Speaker.

Of course, there are larger questions when it comes to the discussion of legal aid. Legal aid has been underfunded in this province for a long time. We saw cuts to legal aid back in 2018; we're barely back to where we were at that time. And we continue to experience what . . . I'll quote from an article written by Sarah Buhler and Leif Jensen, lawyers. And Sarah's, of course, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan. They described a provincial court judge right here in the province, usually folks who stay pretty far away from commentary on any political matters. But this provincial court judge noted a systemic shortage of legal aid lawyers in Saskatoon and linked this shortage directly to the suffering of people who continue to sit in jail, sit in remand awaiting trial. This is a situation that has been ongoing in this province and continues to be a huge problem.

The article also described, and I'll quote, that:

It is common knowledge in the legal community that Legal Aid lawyers are overworked, with each lawyer handling hundreds of files a year, many involving complex legal and social issues. Furthermore, Legal Aid's restrictive income eligibility and scope of service requirements mean that increasing numbers of vulnerable people are left to navigate the complicated justice system on their own.

And I think this is where the crux of the larger discussion around legal aid needs to go. We see the report spearheaded by former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Thomas Cromwell that referred to our justice system resulting in the situation where, and I quote, "Individuals with lower incomes and members of vulnerable groups experience more legal problems than higher income earners and members of more secure groups."

The current accessibility of legal aid, where it really is only

available to people on social assistance or who receive social assistance-level wages, means that many of those who we can only describe, in a province with the lowest minimum wage in the country, as the working poor, people who are living in poverty despite working full-time, when they find themselves in need of legal support, that legal aid isn't there for them. It's not there for anyone who makes more than \$1,000 a month. Can you imagine living on \$1,000 a month in the first place, but then living on \$1,000 a month and being asked to pay hundreds of dollars an hour for legal fees?

This is why you get in this situation, and we see this generation after generation — people stuck in this loop of legal involvement, poverty, legal involvement, poverty. It's a vicious cycle that has trapped people. And in this province we do not have a government that is concerned with that.

We saw a government right now defending the SIS program, a program that decreases benefits and has put people on the streets, resulted in a tent city here in the capital city as we headed into winter. These are the priorities of this government — not to help people get out of that trap of poverty and involvement in the legal system. No, it's to allow that to continue, allow those inequalities and injustices to persist. There's a saying, if you want to know what a system is designed for, look at the results. The system this government is designing is getting the results of more people in poverty, more people in legal trouble.

And so when I talk about Bill No. 46, while the changes considered here certainly we need to consider and look at more deeply, I think a much larger question needs to be asked about the values of this government and how they view legal aid assistance to those in poverty, and our overall approach to addressing these serious inequalities that continue to persist here in Saskatchewan. With that, I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 46.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 47

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

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, as we talk about Bill 47, *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act*, I think my mind goes, as does the mind of many in our province as we think about this, out on the road. Take a trip around the highways of this province where we have been on the road again, as the minister mentions.

And I was thinking about Highway 155. And we've got a new member who says he's got a seat at the table. Well when I go up this summer to Highway 155, I want to see those potholes fixed,

because the potholes are the size of a pickup truck. It's a huge mess when you drive, especially north from Buffalo Narrows to La Loche. The Northwest has been ignored by this government for decades, and let's see if they are true to their word.

But why would it have to be that way? And I asked the member for Cumberland to think about this. Why would it have to be? Do you have to be in government for this government to care about the people of that region? Why do you have to be in the Sask Party? Why do you have to have a Sask Party MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for this government to care about the roads that go through your communities? This is the reality under this government. They pick and choose who they want to help. They pick and choose who they want to serve, and they do it based along . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. Order. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Meili: — A government that is perfectly willing to tell people that if they vote against them, then they won't get services. What does that say about the values of this government? Because that's the message that's coming across, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, coming back to the bill at hand, the questions of highways are extremely important. And whether you're driving your kids to the game, whether you're taking elders to their appointments, whether people have to get access to health care for rural and remote areas, the state of our highways all across this province is increasingly disastrous, Mr. Speaker.

And so I would certainly urge this government to, as we're considering this question of Bill 47, make sure that the consultation is real. We're coming up on the conventions of SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities]. Make sure that those leaders in municipal areas, leaders in communities on- and off-reserve in northern areas, leaders throughout the province, are part of that discussion about how we make sure that, whether it's to access health care, whether it's to get to school or to work, to bring goods across the province, that the people of Saskatchewan are able to drive safely on the roads we need to get us around. With that, I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 47.

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 Meewasin.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We're talking today about *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act*. This is an Act that I think is really important and I'm happy to see the support of First Nations leaders for this work. The history of gaming in this province and the involvement of First Nations in leading that work is really impressive.

You know, when we saw the First Nations take over, establish SIGA [Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.], establish that process by which they are doing a number of excellent things, providing good jobs, this is a real step up for people in many First Nations communities. They do this work of running casinos, running gaming, in an extremely safe and secure way, exemplars around the continent, and of course those dollars go back to communities.

[14:30]

And that's the really important thing that we see as SIGA shares those dollars with communities that . . . Let's face it. The inequality between First Nations communities in this province and the rest of the province is not a priority for this government. It's something that is a serious shame when you look at the reality of what we're facing today. The gaps in health outcomes, the gaps in education outcomes, the gaps in income — the gaps are enormous. And yet this government has done nothing to acknowledge that and certainly has done no serious work to address those gaps that continue in fact to get worse.

So when we look at a bill like this I say: good news, good work. Let's see that as an element in creating more opportunities for First Nations people to lead and including leading in business development in their communities. Let's take this government to task for the reality that they are not being straight with Saskatchewan people about those gaps. And the efforts to address the long-standing disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, those are not on the table for this government, and they really need to be.

With that, I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 49.

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. 50

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

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We just had some discussion about the state of our highways and how important it is that those highways be repaired, developed in order to keep people safe, again coming back to the discussions around the highways in the Northwest, which this government has neglected. And I heard so many stories as I was travelling around

the Northwest of people who are afraid to travel, afraid of what happens if they get sick and they have to be in an ambulance.

It's a challenging time in this province with a government that has neglected so much of our infrastructure, but when we talk about *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*, we're not just talking about the roads that people drive on, but also who else is driving. So as you get out on the road you want to be sure that you're not in danger from someone who is behaving badly, whether they're stunting, speeding, involved in whatever dangerous behaviour.

This bill is a worthwhile approach to making sure that we can get those dangerous activities under control. It's also worth noting that if you want drivers who have found themselves in trouble . . . You know, lots of young people wind up making some mistakes early on. I might have exceeded the speed limit once or twice myself in my distant, distant youth. It is something that we all face at times. You want to make sure that people can get back on the road and get back there safely.

So I do appreciate the idea that suspended drivers will have more opportunities to participate in driver evaluations, get themselves up to speed — no pun intended — on how to drive safely and to keep each other safe on the road. So certainly looking forward to the discussion of this in committee and further exploration of how we make sure that people who are out on the highways and byways of Saskatchewan get home safely. With that, I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 50.

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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 51, the privacy intimate image additional amendments Act.

I guess initially technology is so easy for people to unfortunately . . . And we're seeing where people will have access to cameras on their phones. Today I don't know if people understand, and it is shocking sometimes to hear people that are taken advantage of in our province, young people, people who don't realize maybe something that they're sharing with somebody else. And I think it's time that legislation be harder, that we improve things as a province to protect people, young people, anyone.

I guess some people will share images, and for whatever reason, somebody might, a friend, talk him to do it, might convince them, you know, share these images or whatever. But it's so sad to see some of the people that have been impacted by a picture going

out there when they didn't intend it for that. It was for private, you know, and just to see the damage it can do. People take their lives because of it.

Mental health, the challenges that impact so many people that did not know what they were doing. Maybe they were too young; maybe they don't understand the technology. And it's tough. But I think it's time that we make sure we hold people accountable, and should somebody share images of somebody else that they have to try to get those images off and try to get those images and retrieve those.

And I think government is trying to say they're hearing, maybe. In this legislation, I hope they've consulted with a lot of people. Maybe they've consulted with the families, young people, anyone that has dealt with this, whether it's going through the courts, whether somebody gets charged. But that people are held accountable. It's so important. They may not understand, young people, but they all have to be, all of us have to be held accountable. And sometimes people do, like I said, things at the moment and for whatever reason but have no idea of the consequences. And this is a chance I think for government to make sure we get it right, to try to protect people.

Mental health has so many challenges . . . our young people. Technology is unreal. I just cannot believe some of the technology, the way these young people use it. I just bewilder of my grandkids and I just can't get over it. I look at them, and they're going here and there, and I just finally just say no, I can't even understand it. But unfortunately sometimes that puts them in a situation where, you know, we've got to try to protect them as best we can. They're young.

And like I've said, I don't have a lot more to say. I just think we have to make sure we consult, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have to make sure that we get this right as best we can to protect people, so we don't lose anyone to suicide because of their mental health, because of something they didn't understand when they were younger. And they're older and something comes up and all of a sudden it sure can affect their life.

So I just hope we get this right, we consult, and we do what we can to change amendments and the legislation to make it harder . . . and try to give some protection if we can. So on that note, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 51.

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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief here with respect to Bill No. 52, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*. I've already spoken to this bill in this Assembly. I know our critic has been engaged with stakeholders on this front, and she'll certainly be following up through committee to represent the best interests of Saskatchewan people. And so we look forward to that engagement at committee. As always, as the official opposition, as the Saskatchewan NDP, we'll be here to fight for people and look to strengthen and improve legislation at every turn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate, I believe . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No? No. To committee? I apologize. To which committee shall this bill be . . . Pardon me, sorry. Here we go. The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 52 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 52, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021* be referred to the standing committee on Crown Investments Corporation.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is pretty straightforward. It's already been spoken to here in the Assembly. It's largely a modernization repealing old and unused legislation, Mr. Speaker. Certainly our critic will be following up at committee with respect to this piece of legislation and will be bringing forward the perspectives they're gaining from Saskatchewan people and stakeholders with respect to the changes that are brought about here, Mr. Speaker.

So that being said, we will look forward to dealing with it at next stages, look forward to engaging in committee, and our critic will be ready.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 53 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I designate the Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 Saskatoon Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, honoured to stand today. And I have had the opportunity to enter into debate on Bill 54, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act* previously and put some comments on the record, as have many of my colleagues in opposition. At this time we are willing to allow this to proceed to the next stage, and we know that our critic will have further questions at committee. And that is what we are looking for at this time, to see this proceed to committee through the usual stages. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 54 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — The Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 Saskatoon Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, another one here that I've had the chance to enter into debate, put some comments on the record with respect to Bill 55, the miscellaneous statutes remote witnessing Act. And at this time, you know, I think that we're interested in seeing this proceed through the regular stages.

We know that our critic will have further questions when it does get to committee, and at this time that's what we're looking to happen with Bill 55, see it proceed to committee. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 55, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Proud to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 56, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021*.

[14:45]

I'll have a little bit more to say about this one, you know, as we have a look at the bill. I think that I'll say off the top that I'll voice my favour for this amendment to previous legislation. We've seen a number of pieces of legislation brought forward recently that work to modernize previous Acts, and I think that that's what we're seeing here. Modernizing the Act to reflect that . . . the superior court, is welcome and is a reflection of . . . Also the number of family judges, that is important and this area of law will oversee that and hopefully serve people of Saskatchewan well to ensure that our courts are working in a way that meets our modern needs.

We know that our critic, who is well known for having great relations with stakeholders and hearing from folks in the province, will continue to do that as I know she already has, you know, and will ask those questions to ensure that this bill considers everything that is required to modernize the bill and that there's no unintended consequences of the changes being brought forth in these amendments.

You know, with that I will keep my comments brief today, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will voice favour for this piece of legislation, but I'll look forward to hearing further comments from my colleagues in opposition. And I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 56, *The Queen's Bench Amendment 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. 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 Saskatoon University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to join in adjourned debate on behalf of the official opposition with respect to Bill 57, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021*. Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments in this bill work to achieve a balance through limiting or prohibiting certain insurance claims that would place an unfair burden on public funds. As was explained by the minister in his remarks, insurance allows for compensation to be paid for certain losses due to errors in the land registry or caused by real estate fraud.

One thing I would really like to know, and I think the opposition would be interested in certainly, is knowing how many of these claims the government has been seeing in recent years. Also be interested to know what sort of cost to the public has been incurred from these claims in past years, and exactly how much of a burden these claims have represented. Mr. Speaker, these are key questions that need to be answered when assessing the need for these amendments.

The balance that the government seeks would be achieved in three ways, according to the minister's remarks. For both surface and mineral titles, the changes would clarify the loss should be valued at the time the error occurred. Secondly, a compensation cap of \$50,000 would be implemented with respect to mines and minerals, apparently to bring Saskatchewan in line with other Canadian jurisdictions. And here I would like to know specifically which other jurisdictions the minister is referring to, Mr. Speaker. Lastly, compensation would be prohibited where a registrar's caveat was filed more than 20 years ago.

There's also some changes with this bill that clarify the registrar's ability to correct errors as well as to lock titles if and when necessary. Mr. Speaker, these changes are being made with

the stated goal of protecting the public from often quite sophisticated claimants in the mines and minerals sector.

So just wrapping up, I'd like to say the mining and minerals sector is certainly very important for our province, Mr. Speaker. Last year Saskatchewan ranked number one . . . I guess it's two years ago now. I wrote this last session. So now two years ago Saskatchewan ranked number one in Canada and number three in the world for mining investment attractiveness. In 2020 the mining and quarrying sector contributed an incredible 8.92 billion in GDP [gross domestic product] to the province.

Mr. Speaker, as the previous critic for Innovation, I had the pleasure of meeting with the fine folks at the International Minerals Innovation Institute along with the member for Saskatoon Nutana. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the mining and minerals sector in our province. IMII is a non-profit organization committed to developing and implementing innovative education, training, research, and development partnerships for supporting a world-class minerals industry. It was established in 2012 with the objective of supporting and sustaining Saskatchewan's minerals industry for the long-term benefit of our province, which is what we all want to see.

Mr. Speaker, the critic for this bill will I'm sure have many more detailed questions once the bill moves to committee and once she's had the proper opportunity to consult with relevant stakeholders. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 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 No. 58 — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Thank you for this opportunity to stand again today to speak on a bill. I won't say much about this as many of my colleagues have already shared and offered their input into this.

So from reading the bill, I'm pleased that they're looking at more electronic filing and delivering documents. And it's also an opportunity for this bill to prohibit false, misleading promotional activities in capital market industries.

But what I would like to hear more about is more about their regulations that accompany this proposed legislation, and many of the details hopefully will be there. And also I guess I would be curious to know how many stakeholders or interested parties have been consulted or engaged in this process.

Having said that, I know that the critic in this area will have more questions to ask in the committee, so with that I'm going to . . . I'm okay with moving this bill along the process. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 58, *The Securities 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. 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 Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Happy to enter into adjourned debate this afternoon on Bill No. 59, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021*.

I'll just note initially that it's good to see, as I've stated with previous pieces of legislation, amendments to older pieces. And I had a look and saw that this is amending the original Act which is from 1988. And I've probably mentioned this before, but it was a great year, 1988. I was eight years old and the Olympics were in Calgary, and a pretty exciting time for an 8-year-old kid at that time. But I will say that it's good to see that we're amending this Act and making it align with the current needs that we have here in Saskatchewan.

I'll just quickly note that the minister, when this bill was introduced, noted that this does create two new positions — a relief Justice of the Peace and an administrative Justice of the Peace — and that these folks will be performing a wide variety of duties, including handling court processes and paperwork such as oaths, affirmations, and affidavits; conducting remand/release hearings; issuing search warrants. Well I'm no expert on the law, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but those sound like important duties.

And I'll voice favour for this bill, you know, seeing that this will provide some relief, in particular will allow current justices of the peace to continue working till they're 75, but only to supplement regular justices of the peace. And then it also, you know, provides a little bit of a relief opportunity when workload is overwhelming or untenable for different, you know, a variety, number of reasons.

You know, I think it appears to be a good change. And based on that and my first look at the bill, I'll voice support for the amendments being made here to this legislation. But I will look forward to hearing the comments brought by my colleagues in opposition, both now and when this does eventually proceed. But at this time I'll move that we adjourn debate on Bill 59, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*. 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. 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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll weigh in briefly to a piece of legislation that deserves significant scrutiny at this point in time from the Sask Party government. That's Bill No. 61, *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2021*. This is a significant and full overhaul with respect to the post-secondary sector in Saskatchewan. And if we think of that sector and how important it is to Saskatchewan people and communities and our futures, this isn't the kind of entry that should be taken lightly.

And it's fair to say that folks don't have a whole lot of trust with this Sask Party government with education based on their record, post-secondary education based on their record, Mr. Speaker, and based on their very poor history of consultation on very simple pieces of legislation. And this one being such an impactful piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, it deserves a whole lot of scrutiny. And there's alarm bells going off with a lot of folks in the post-secondary sector right now with respect to the changes being pushed forward by the government on this front.

Not least we see the same sort of power grab we've seen by this government time and time again, with an extension of powers from the minister reaching into academia, reaching into our universities, reaching into our regional colleges, reaching in further to our polytechnic and grabbing that control, Mr. Speaker. And you know, we see this with the Sask Party government time and time again, Mr. Speaker. It's a whole lot more about the partisan interests of that government and them having political control, Mr. Speaker, than the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

And we see that of course with their horrible treatment of the Sergeant-at-Arms and an important principle of independence in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that power grab, Mr. Speaker. We saw it of course outside these doors when they grabbed the power away from locally elected folks and the university with respect to Wascana Park, Mr. Speaker. We saw it a few years back when they took a direct run at the locally elected school boards of this province, Mr. Speaker, undermining those boards and seeking to have control and override of those elected officials at the minister's desk, Mr. Speaker.

It's kind of command and control these days for the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, a political exercise that allows them to control so many of the levers and institutions and organizations that make this province strong, Mr. Speaker. And I guess my message to them is to lay off, to back off, to lean in to the good people of

Saskatchewan, in this case to lean in and support the institutions that build the futures of young people and extend hope and opportunity and prosperity and in so doing, doing the same for our province, Mr. Speaker.

I know there's a lot of concern with how this can repurpose, for example, the university, Mr. Speaker, and really distort those institutions in being the valuable leaders in community and so instrumental in society and for students, Mr. Speaker. I'll just reference the comments of concern from a strong leader in academia, Professor Marc Spooner, who has written a piece that talks about, Canadian universities are quietly being repurposed. And he talks about this command and control. He talks about the change in their structure, Mr. Speaker. He said, "It is difficult to see performance-based funding as anything but an ideologically based attempt to redesign the fundamental mission of our universities."

So it's about these guys here, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government wanting to have control over things that aren't theirs to control. And of course we know the shabby treatment of the education sector by the Sask Party. We know it well in our pre-K to 12 [pre-kindergarten to grade 12] classrooms across Saskatchewan. And certainly students know it well and those that are paying those exorbitant tuitions that just keep going up because of the lack of funding and support and care of this Sask Party government. It's a whole lack of understanding and recognition for the value and power of education for our future, the transformational power of education.

[15:00]

And it's leaving our institutions often cap in hand to other entities and corporations and others for funding that desperately should be provided by the provincial government to ensure that they're autonomous and to ensure that they are able to meet their missions.

Professor Spooner goes on: "Like hackers secretly modifying an operating system, provincial governments are surreptitiously reprogramming and repurposing our universities, trusting that the public is looking the other way." Well, Mr. Speaker, I can say that a lot of folks in the post-secondary world and education, a lot of students — and certainly not our Education critic, or post-secondary education — they're certainly not looking the other way. They're putting the scrutiny on this piece of legislation, on that government that just can't be trusted with big pieces of legislation and changes like this for education, Mr. Speaker.

And I'll give one final quote of Professor Spooner:

Universities must continue to be valued and upheld for their core mission, which is to be much more than mere entrepreneurial training centres to be patted on the back for performing short-sighted corporate-styled research and worker development.

Mr. Speaker, in this province we want to celebrate and support entrepreneurs. We want to support and work with local businesses. And we want to make sure we support education in this province, in our universities.

And of course the government members are heckling. In fact, the

member that's heckling is the minister who, I think, signed the bill to have the power taken away from the Sergeant-at-Arms and to take over the security force in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, which is, as I've said, part and parcel of the problems with this Sask Party government. It's that reach, that power grab that we see time and time again. And certainly that's clear in Bill 61 where again we see the Sask Party government reaching out, extending those ministers' powers to control things that should be in the hands of those that are in a much better position to lead these endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, I know our Advanced Education critic is consulting broadly on this piece of legislation. We'll be scrutinizing this further, Mr. Speaker. At this point in time, with respect to Bill No. 61, I'll 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. 62

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hindley that **Bill No. 62 — *The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Thank you so much.

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order. I've recognized the member to speak. Please let her speak.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech. gichi-miigwech. I thank you. I'm pleased to rise again today to speak to Bill No. 62, *The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act, 2021*. This bill allows for dental hygienists, dental therapists, and dental assistants to practise independently. It also focuses on increasing public access to dental care and brings Saskatchewan in line with other jurisdictions. You know, dental care is important. Increasing access is great for those that wouldn't otherwise be able to access. And it also gives patients an opportunity to see dental hygienists, dental therapists, etc., and also increases access in rural areas.

When I was thinking about this I thought, when I was a kid, I remember in a rural reserve in residential school, in the day school that I was attending, we would get . . . In the spring we would be pulled out of our classrooms, and we'd be taken down to a set-up where it was a dental office set-up. And I hated going because I was so scared that they would find out I had cavities. Anyway I didn't have cavities. My teeth were white and straight. But every time I would go, I was always scared.

But we would line up throughout the day. And little did I know as a kid how beneficial that was, how much that helped families. It certainly helped the administrators and the child care administrators and the schoolteachers at this residential school

that I attended for a number of years. It certainly helped them. They didn't have to drive us from the residential school to Regina to get dental work. The dental services was available to us.

And that was in the '70s and I appreciated that. As a kid I didn't understand. I just did not like going to the dentist, but I was relieved each and every time that I didn't have a cavity. And that was great.

So when I was working in the health sector as a community developer, my role was to work with communities and the health sector to find ways to meet the needs of the people that we serve. And many First Nations that I worked in, especially ones that were building new — and it wasn't very many — building new health centres or renovating their new health centres, had dental chairs in their offices in their buildings.

And I would ask, how often do dental therapists come out? Well one of the things that I found was they didn't have the capacity and they didn't have the know-how to make that happen. And my job as a community developer was to help build those relationships, bridge the relationship between on-reserve services and off-reserve services and help create partnerships.

And one of the communities that I was working in just built a brand new health facility, and they had a room for dental services. And they only dreamed of having dental services available for their community, but again didn't know how. So I was privileged and honoured to work with them to find out, how do we get dental therapists out in their community? They had a new facility. They had a new facility, but they didn't know how to bring somebody out there to provide those services so that it would cut costs on their community members and their Nation in transporting people out to the nearest facility that had dental services.

So what we were able to do as a community developer, primary health facilitator, was negotiate and build a partnership with the nearest small, bigger town, I guess, to come out two weeks out of the month and have services right in their community. I didn't realize. I knew how beneficial it was, but I didn't realize how much impact it would have on the community, how many of those people in that community were so grateful they did not have to travel X number of kilometres out of pocket and take time away, especially pull their babies out, their children out of school to go take them to get dental services.

They were so grateful for such a small service that was brought to their community, and it didn't cost them anything other than a room that they had that was set up. So I know from my experience working in the health sector how important access is and how to make it accessible for all people. So when I see this, I'm very pleased that there is opportunity for increased access to health care in the rural areas and especially with dental hygienists.

And just another note on . . . In terms of dental care, there's this misconception that as a treaty Indian, I get access to free health care, free dental. I'm telling you that's not the case. No. As a treaty status Indian, I do not have full coverage.

I'll give you an example. I went and got dental work done, and I needed a root canal. And I was told I was not covered under my

treaty status because the rationale — get this — I didn't have enough missing teeth. I thought that was quite funny. I laughed because I thought, oh you're joking, and they're like, no. That's the justification that they were given, is that because I didn't have enough missing teeth, they would not cover me for a root canal. So there is that misconception that we get free dental services, free medical. That's not the case, folks. It isn't the case.

Anyway, while I'm talking about the treaty status, I'm really grateful that this government has been forced to remove that R off our hospitalization cards. It's unfortunate it had to impact people in this province. Treaty Indians in this province had to file a human rights complaint to get this government to remove that R. And I would even go further than that, you guys. I would say, issue new health cards without that R on it. Don't put the onus back on the individual. Don't make any more barriers. Don't create any more barriers for many folks. Do the right thing. Issue new hospital cards without that R on it, so that we stop being discriminated against and we address those misconceptions that we have about free health care that's paid for Indigenous people, First Nations people.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to make the motion . . . or move. I mean that I move to adjourn debate on Bill 62, *The Dental Disciplines 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. 63

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 63** — *The Reviewable Transactions Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Looking good in the Chair there, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll just move on here with considerations of Bill No. 63, *The Reviewable Transactions Act, 2021*.

Mr. Speaker, I won't get into too much depth here on the floor today with respect to this bill. I've read the written minister's comments. I respect that these recommendations came from the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. That's an important body, of course, making these recommendations. You know, obviously it's important too, that there's an adequate review process and factors for the court to weigh when we're talking about creditors and debtors, Mr. Speaker, and making sure that there's balance in modernization to make sure that there's the ability for fair collection, that there's not fraudulent activities that corrupt that process. And you know, certainly modernization and alignment with other jurisdictions is something that's often welcomed.

That being said, we need to make sure we understand the full substance of the changes, make sure that that balance has been found, to make sure that in fact it represents fairness in this

system, in that relationship between creditor and debtor. And certainly a lot of people, Mr. Speaker, would be dealing with situations that this Act would relate to, Mr. Speaker, and it's important that we have improvements to legislation.

I know our very able Justice critic, the MLA for Douglas Park, a lawyer herself and a leader in the profession, has been engaged with stakeholders on this front. And I know she'll be bringing that forward to the committee, the questions and the scrutiny of the changes, making sure that the consultation has been thorough and that the input that's been provided has been impactful, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

And I know that, as always, as the official opposition Saskatchewan New Democrats, we'll always look to improve legislation wherever possible, and to ensure of course that it's in the best interests of Saskatchewan people. There will be nothing different with respect to this important piece of legislation.

Anyone in the legal profession, anyone that from a commercial perspective — and certainly people as well that are engaged in this work that have interests on this front — I'd urge them to review this Act and to connect directly with our Justice critic, Mr. Speaker. Because certainly she'll be making sure that the best interests of Saskatchewan people in those consultations are brought forward to committee.

With that being said, with respect to Bill No. 63, *The Reviewable Transactions Act, 2021*, I'll now 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. 64

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 64** — *The Reviewable Transactions Consequential Amendments Act, 2021/Loi de 2021 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Reviewable Transactions Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to join in on adjourned debate on behalf of the official opposition with respect to Bill 64, *The Reviewable Transactions Consequential Amendments Act, 2021*. Mr. Speaker, I already had the opportunity last session to speak to the bill that my colleague just spoke to, Bill 63, *The Reviewable Transactions Act*, so I'll be very brief in my remarks. I'm getting heckled by my own colleague. I love it. I'll be brief in my remarks on these consequential amendments, Mr. Speaker.

So with this bill, we see consequential amendments to the bilingual legislation necessary to implement *The Reviewable Transactions Act*. This bill clarifies that a remedy cannot be

sought under *The Co-operatives Act* or *The Non-profit Corporations Act* if a remedy is made available under the Act. Don't have too much to say here, as I said, Mr. Speaker, just that it's important that legislation is clear and concise to ensure the correct remedies are being used.

And so I will also be clear and concise. And with that, I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 64, *The Reviewable Transactions Consequential Amendments 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. 65

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 65 — *The Provincial Court 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. 65, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2021*.

Initially looking at this — I know my colleague, who's the critic for Justice, will have an opportunity in committee to ask some questions about the process — but on this amendment that's in here, it actually looks at provincial judge salaries, from what I understand. And there's a process in place to find what type of salary increase they can be, but I think what I'm looking at right now, it covers three years, this amendment that's being made coming forward. It's an independent, as the minister referred to, an independent Provincial Court Commission that determines and looks at salaries of provincial judges and makes a recommendation to government on salaries, is my understanding. And I think that's an independent body that does that for government, makes a recommendation. I think that's a great idea. It really is. I think it's great.

I think there's other areas where you have independent salaries on certain people, that it's an independent body that looks at a series of salaries and makes a recommendation. And it's not yourself, as MLAs could set their own salary. I guess there's process in place to make sure it's done by an independent body, and it goes through a process. I like this, and I think there could be more legislation like this, amendments brought in.

And I think the Minister of Social Services could bring this in. Maybe they could have an independent body who will set income for those most vulnerable. Maybe that body could come up with recommendations on how people who are struggling, the most vulnerable in our province, could make sure that they can pay their rent, cover their food, clothing for their children. Maybe we should have an independent body that could do that, and I'd be willing to support that if the government would like to bring in legislation. I think we would move it swiftly through the process.

But on this bill, it's strictly, when looking at it, it just kind of . . . Because once in a while you have amendments that come forward and you think, okay that's interesting. It's independent and comes with a view. And that's good. We want people to, you know, get paid a fair salary, you know, and that's important. And judges and many people, organizations out there that have an independent body to make recommendations, that's important and the work they do, and it's not us deciding what their salaries are. I think that's good, and we could learn from that process in many areas when it comes to this government, the way it neglects so much of our Saskatchewan residents.

But having said that, I know that my colleague will have some questions when this goes to committee and be prepared to find out any questions that she has or anything, that clarification who was talked to.

It's pretty basic here. It's a process that is required, and the government has to follow that and the system goes through. Using an independent body, as it's pointed out in the legislation, the requirement is to do that. And they have to do that, so they've done that. The recommendation comes back and the government now can move on it, and the judges can get the salary based on an independent commission.

So having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't know that I have much more to say on Bill No. 65, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2021*, and I'm prepared to adjourn debate on that bill.

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. 67

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 67 — *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)*** 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 honoured to be on my feet today to speak during the debate on Bill No. 67, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act*. This of course is an amendment brought forth from an Act in the same year to bring in amendments that will provide enhanced protection from liability to individuals or organizations who comply with applicable health orders.

Now I understand that I'm speaking to this bill at a time that this is very much in retrospect as we have no public health orders in the province of any kind, despite the fact that February was the fourth-most, or third — it is very close — third- or fourth-deadliest month during the two-year pandemic. And so I'm a little bit puzzled as to the minister's stance on this bill, with much of the pandemic hopefully in hindsight. And let's all agree that we hope that the majority of the pandemic is in hindsight — I

believe that it is; that's what experts are saying — but we are not through it yet.

So I do have questions for the minister, and I know that our critic will continue to ask questions with this bill as it proceeds. I'll voice favour for this bill for the time that we've been through as a province, that this bill will increase the protections for individuals or organizations who are being threatened with litigation for following public health orders.

But I also want to mention the troubling fact that this government is taking their cues, that this government has followed a path that's been laid out by the very organization that brought a lawsuit against this government, that this government is taking health cues from United Grassroots, the same organization that tried to take our government to court for creating these health orders.

I can't imagine how uncomfortable it is for this minister to sit in a room with people who support that organization. It's a very uncomfortable place for him to be, and I'm just wondering where does this legislation fit, fit in this government's plan to pretend that the pandemic is over and to move on, to stop providing information to the people of Saskatchewan to make their own risk assessments, to stop acknowledging that the pandemic continues, that people are dying today in hospitals, in homes, in care homes today without any information that they might need to make their own risk assessments.

To the minister who brought this bill forward, I'll say before I conclude my remarks, that morality is more important than loyalty. Public health is more important than political loyalty. Public health, the health of our people in our province, is more important than political loyalty.

Mr. Speaker, I am in favour of this bill because it provides protection for organizations to follow public health orders that were so important in our province at a time to keep people safe and healthy, to make sure that organizations were protected when following the rules that we had. But I think that we'll continue to have questions about this legislation. And I want to continue listening to my colleagues in opposition, and when this moves to committee, when that happens, to hear the questions that our critic will bring. But today I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 67, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act*. 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. 68

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 68 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Honoured to be on my feet to enter into debate on Bill No. 68, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2021*. I understand that this amendment would give the maintenance enforcement office, or MEO, discretion to commence enforcement, and that there's been at times — although I did read the minister's remarks that these are rare occasions — but that there has been maybe an exploitation of loopholes that very few people have taken advantage of in paying those maintenance orders in a timely way.

It's discouraging to hear that this happens, you know. And I want to voice to the Assembly that, you know, I am someone who grew up raised by a single mom raising three boys during a challenging time. And I know what it's like to live on that edge month to month; as a child I was aware of that. You know, these are things that sometimes we think children might not be aware of, but if you're a child waiting on those . . . and you know that your single parent is waiting on those payments, you're aware, you know. You're aware when mom is having trouble making ends meet month to month. You're aware of that. I can say from personal experience. I was aware of that from an age that I shouldn't have been aware.

And so I do commend the minister for addressing these loopholes that are being exploited, even as rare as they might be. I think it is becoming of any government to protect children and families living in these situations for those orders not being met. The fact that this legislation had to be amended to combat abuse is disheartening, but I do commend the minister for making sure that our laws and legislation are set up to ensure prompt payment, to ensure that those loopholes are closed, to ensure that no one is taking advantage of a system that can allow them to delay payment, make minimum payments to essentially reset the clock on that, and force families, especially single-parent families, to make really hard decisions.

So I commend the minister for bringing this forward. I'll voice support for this bill, but I will look forward to hearing from my colleagues in opposition as we continue in adjourned debates. So I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 68, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act*. 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. 69

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 69 — *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur les ordonnances alimentaires interterritoriales*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 69, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act* of 2021.

[15:30]

This Act proposes to amend the existing legislation and eliminate the requirement that copies of support orders from other domestic jurisdictions have to be certified before they can be filed in a Saskatchewan court. It also eliminates the requirement that Saskatchewan orders have to be certified before they can be filed in another domestic jurisdiction and provides for the transmission of other documents through electronic means.

Overall it looks like these changes will increase access to justice, which is always a good thing. There are significant barriers that exist for families to access justice, and especially in a timely fashion. We know this is a serious issue in our province, and it's incredibly sad when our offices have people that come forward that say, you know, I need access to justice but I can't afford a lawyer. And you know that you have to be in some pretty extreme circumstances before you receive any public assistance on this front, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And it's quite heartbreaking to have those conversations because often when people approach MLA offices and are sort of looking for help on this front, you really feel for them but we can't get involved in these situations, obviously. And it is quite heartbreaking when you have people, you know, crying to you in your office saying, you know, I'm trying to get custody of my child and I can't go through this process, or you know, whatever the court situation is.

Access to justice is something that I think many of us have awareness of, but due to the own privilege in many of our lives, we're fortunate that most of us don't have to face those personally. So anything we can do to increase access to justice seems like good changes to be made, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I would say that we will have a lot more to look at when it comes to this legislation. I know the critic has been looking through it quite closely. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 69 for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 70

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 70 — *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur l'Assemblée législative*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not happy to rise to my feet for this piece of legislation here today, Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 70, here in this stage of the session.

This bill should have been pulled by the Premier and by that government a long time ago when they realized how offside they

were with Saskatchewan people and how out of line they are with parliamentary customs that are principled around the role of the security for a legislature being provided by a Sergeant-at-Arms and their team, Mr. Speaker, reporting through you, through the Speaker's office, Mr. Speaker, providing that independence that Saskatchewan people or that people deserve and need in a parliament or a legislature, Mr. Speaker, that all members deserve, that journalists deserve, that the people of this province and citizens and groups deserve, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm disappointed to arrive back here for the spring sitting and to see this bill still sitting on the order paper, Mr. Speaker, to see this bill being rammed forward by that Sask Party majority, Mr. Speaker. And it's clear to me, and I think to Saskatchewan people when they see legislation like this, that this government has gotten to a real entitled phase of their life, Mr. Speaker, an arrogant stage of their life that's more focused on their own political self-interests, Mr. Speaker, than the public interests of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

Like I say, the questions have been asked as to why would we see this breach with precedent, precedent that has served parliaments and legislatures well all across Canada, and a precedent and a system and a structure and a Sergeant-at-Arms and a team that has served this legislature and the people of Saskatchewan so incredibly well, Mr. Speaker, for so very long with distinction, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen this government, you know, try to do another power grab here, a political power grab, Mr. Speaker, where they're going to take this important security force, this team that's there to protect the people's building, this legislature, Mr. Speaker, to protect access to it, Mr. Speaker. And it's going to be taken away from the Speaker, Mr. Speaker, where we have trust and independence, Mr. Speaker. And they're going to take it under control of a minister, political control. It's wild overreach, Mr. Speaker, from a government again that's more interested in political power grabs these days, games like this that aren't in the best interests of Saskatchewan people, than the things they should be focused on.

So I'm disappointed that I'm speaking to this bill here in the spring sitting. It should have been yanked. It should have been yanked in the fall sitting after it was introduced and after it was abundantly clear to Saskatchewan people how offside this is. You know, I think of the justifications we've heard from the government, from the minister, from the Premier, and they're so darn feeble, Mr. Speaker, non-existent in providing answers to Saskatchewan people or this Assembly as to why they've gone about this change.

Mr. Speaker, I've watched our deputy leader, the critic for Justice, the member for Douglas Park, eviscerate the weak and feeble arguments that have been brought by the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. And the only right thing to do, Mr. Speaker, if you're a government that's worth their salt, is to recognize the error in this entry and to yank this bill. Yet we're here.

We're going to continue to appeal to members all across, through those benches, Mr. Speaker. I don't know where every one of them are at. I know a lot of them are good people, and I have friendship with a lot of those members over there. But I would

urge them to use their voice at times at that caucus table. They haven't been, you know, they haven't been sent to Regina to bring the voice of their cabinet or of the House Leader or the Corrections minister back to their ridings, Mr. Speaker. They've been sent here to stand up for the people that they represent.

And I suspect if those MLAs over there in the rural and the North and in the smaller cities and the larger cities across this province and all through Last Mountain-Touchwood, I suspect those folks, Mr. Speaker, would be able to tell these members where they're at with this piece of offside, short-sighted legislation, Mr. Speaker, that's all about a political power grab by that Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

You know, and we've seen of late how effective . . . We see time and time again how incredibly effective that team, led by the Sergeant-at-Arms reporting to this Assembly through the Speaker, how effective they've been in dealing with challenging and sensitive situations. I think of how effective they were recently with respect to potential threats of occupation and overtaking of this precinct and this legislature by some that were involved in the blockades, Mr. Speaker.

And of course there's a right to peaceful protest and assembly that needs to be protected and upheld, and that's why we entrust that role with the level of independence through the Speaker's office and to the Sergeant-at-Arms. But what we saw here in Saskatchewan and here at the Saskatchewan Assembly was an incredible coordination and a smart and thoughtful approach that de-escalated a situation and prevented us from being occupied or blockaded like we saw on some of our trade routes, Mr. Speaker, while upholding the right for people to express themselves. And you know, this is awfully important.

We know that that Sergeant-at-Arms and their team works intimately with the Regina Police Service and with RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and with the PCC, where and when needed, with sharing of information and resources to make sure that any credible threat to any one of us in this Assembly, and to all those that work here and all those guests and all those citizens and all those people and all those journalists, to make sure that they're addressed in an effective way, Mr. Speaker.

I want to, you know, I want to thank our previous Sergeant-at-Arms as well, Terry Quinn, an exceptional servant to his legislature and his province and to all of us, and fulfilling that role in an exceptional way and ensuring safety and security of all of us and all the people that interact with the people's building, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to recognize Pat Shaw, Mr. Speaker, our long-serving Sergeant-at-Arms that I got to know well while he led as Sergeant-at-Arms here, Mr. Speaker. And he was respected by both sides of this Assembly, as I hope and expect every single Sergeant-at-Arms is, Mr. Speaker. And you know, he's weighed in on this piece of legislation, and he's publicly said, and I'll state him, "I personally don't see what's to be gained by changing it." That's Patrick Shaw who served as our Sergeant-at-Arms after a long career in policing with the RCMP, served of course as Sergeant-at-Arms from 1995 to 2015.

He also went on to say, "I think it's very, very important that there's an independent body that serves all parties in the non-

partisan way." That serves all parties in the non-partisan way. This is about democracy, Mr. Speaker. These are important principles. It's about independence. It's about having trust. You know, we're an Assembly where we need to be able to have other voices be brought to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. We need to ensure that journalists have faith and confidence that those that they're interacting with, that those conversations are private and confidential, Mr. Speaker, and of course that they're safe.

We as MLAs have all sorts of citizens, who have different challenges and have had grievances with government, who come forward. They deserve to know that there's independence when they show up at this legislature — their legislature, the people's building — to sit down with an MLA or to bring forward their concerns. And we need to make sure that those that bring their voice to the people's building to protest, to rally, to express themselves, we need to let them know that there's independence in protecting that very fundamental right within a democracy, Mr. Speaker.

And I think when we look around the world, there's enough reasons for us to look to places that aren't functioning, healthy democracies for us to look to our democracy and to think that, you know, we should be doing everything we can to make things better, not to walk back some of the critical structures that allow independence and trust and faith in that democratic system, Mr. Speaker.

You know, of course we've heard from the government. They say the world is changing. Well no kidding, Mr. Speaker. And they say that there's threats, but they can't substantiate those, Mr. Speaker, and from all accounts haven't pursued the proper channels if there's been threats that needed to be addressed. And if there's been threats that needed to be addressed, Mr. Speaker, you know, I think we owe it to all of us to make sure that there's safety plans and communication on this front.

But I'll tell you this, Mr. Speaker. You know, at times we have hot debate in this province, in this country. We see some of that right now. We've seen different groups having different perspectives on different issues. That's society and that's how it should work, Mr. Speaker. And we've seen rallies and protests, Mr. Speaker, outside this Assembly, but I feel safe here. And I feel safe here because of that Sergeant-at-Arms and that team, Mr. Speaker, and because of the independence and the structure through your office.

I continue to bring my little boy — he's now seven years old — to gatherings and rallies and protests. We were out front this last weekend, Mr. Speaker, at the Women's March, Mr. Speaker. I walked through a gathering that was expressing themselves around vaccinations and in a way that I don't support, but that's their right to express themselves. And I felt safe doing so, Mr. Speaker. I feel safe. Felt safe to have my son come in here and meet with me and different folks when he's out of school, Mr. Speaker, and into the weekend and into the evenings.

I felt safe to have him come down and meet Tristen Durocher and the Walking with our Angels group that were fighting for and calling for a suicide prevention strategy to shed a light on the horrible losses all across our province but specifically through the North. I felt safe to have my seven-year-old son out in front of this legislature for vigils, including this past summer as it was

discovered that so many stolen children at residential schools had died and were buried and were left unmarked, Mr. Speaker. Felt safe to have him there with hundreds of Saskatchewan people mourning and remembering those situations.

[15:45]

So I would say that if government members have fear and concerns, they need to work with the Sergeant-at-Arms and express those concerns. Certainly any concern I've ever had, I take it to the Sergeant-at-Arms and their team. And that's why we need to have independence and trust and faith in that process.

I think of all my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and government members are saying, oh, there's all these dangers, Mr. Speaker. But I have a member that in question period yesterday, with her newborn baby in her arms, Mr. Speaker. She has trust and confidence in that Sergeant-at-Arms. Just as all my colleagues have that . . . many of them that have brought newborns into the world and almost directly into this legislature to be a part of the important work that they're taking on, Mr. Speaker.

This change needs to be abandoned by this government, Mr. Speaker. It's another political partisan grab of power by this government. We've talked about examples of where this government's been doing that on other fronts. But it's so very important that this government come to its senses on this front, that we not abandon this structure that has served us so very well, Mr. Speaker.

And I'll continue to appeal to my colleagues opposite. I know I've chatted with lots of them, and I won't point fingers or name names. There's a lot of good folks over there too that I think are asking the right and hard questions on this piece of legislation. And I would urge them to lean in to this.

You know, you don't have to go along for a ride with everything that that House Leader tells you is the plan, Mr. Speaker. In fact they'd be very well served with the kind of stunts and behaviour we see with that House Leader and this current iteration of the Sask Party, they'd be well served, and serving their constituents well, to be asking more questions of the front benches, and particularly some of the lead actors in that current Sask Party government that, as I say, have grown entitled, have grown arrogant, and that have grown more interested in advancing their own political agenda and political control than advancing meaningful change that's in the public's best interests, Mr. Speaker.

I want to, I guess, just highlight again that, you know, it's not as though we're in a unique structure here in Saskatchewan in how we deal with security and in having it entrusted through the Speaker with the Sergeant-at-Arms with that level of independence. When you look at legislatures across Canada, that is the norm. That is the custom. And that's the case in Ottawa as well.

And if I could draw our attention back to that horrible, tragic day that we can remember in Ottawa in October of 2014, Mr. Speaker, where security was breached. When we think of who saved the parliament, Mr. Speaker, it was Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers and his team, Mr. Speaker. A hero within that parliament, a hero on a dark day in this country, a hero in

protecting the lives of parliamentarians and staff and people and citizens in the face of a horrible situation, Mr. Speaker.

And even following that horrible day and those heroic actions of Sergeant-at-Arms Vickers and his team, there was a review of security, appropriately so, to review the situation. And what you'll note, Mr. Speaker, is they didn't act as the Sask Party are. They didn't take away the control from the Sergeant-at-Arms. They actually said no, that structure is serving us incredibly well. And they looked and resourced and supported that team with measures to make sure they enhanced security in an even stronger way.

And we've said this time and time in this Assembly. We have, you know, members over there shouting that there's urgent threats but then they can't make claim to what those are. They feel that there's urgency in making these changes that they can't defend or describe, Mr. Speaker.

I would reach back out with some level of humanity to my colleagues opposite. If there's security concerns that we need to address, we need to be having those conversations and we need to address them. Not political stuntery like this, Mr. Speaker. If there's threats and risks that government members sometimes intimate at but then can't describe when given the chance, Mr. Speaker, we should be having those conversations. In fact we have a committee to do that, the Board of Internal Economy, where both sides come together with the Speaker's office, Mr. Speaker, and represent the best interests of this Assembly.

I think it's shameful that government members have brought forward legislation and disgraced one of the most proud roles in this province and in this legislature, the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Speaker, without being able to engage across the floor in meaningful conversation about how we improve and support security, if those supports are needed. And we're here as the official opposition. We've never stepped in the way of funding needs for the Sergeant-at-Arms and that important work, and we never will, Mr. Speaker. We'll work together.

And again, you know, we have a government slow-walking this piece of legislation by ramming it through but not addressing the concerns that they allege, not defending their words, Mr. Speaker. And if we have security risks, let's lay them on the table. Let's work with that Sergeant-at-Arms and his team. Let's work with the Speaker. And let's make sure we bring in the experts and supports that can support that work and resource the Speaker's office in the way they need if there's gaps that need to be addressed.

But of course government is not interested in that sort of sincere engagement. They're not interested in actually addressing these so-called concerns, Mr. Speaker. What they want to do is have a piece of legislation that they slow-walk but ram through parliament, Mr. Speaker. One that they can't defend or describe to the media. One that they can't answer basic questions coming from the critic, Mr. Speaker, on our side. But that's the wrong approach with Saskatchewan people and for this place and what it represents for Saskatchewan people and democracy and the principles and the structures that have served us so well around the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Speaker.

I call on folks opposite. You know, we disagree on different

pieces of legislation from time to time. We agree on lots of things as well. I appeal to members opposite — and I've chatted with lots of you — and I urge you to do the right thing on this front and ask the questions that need to be asked and to get this piece of legislation out of this legislature, to scrap this piece of legislation, to listen to your constituents and do the job you've been asked to do. And don't monkey around with something so fundamental to democracy and safety in this legislature and the independence that's so important to that faith and trust in this institution.

So that's my message to the MLAs opposite, the Sask Party MLAs opposite, is to do the right thing, to bring forward their voice to the House Leader and cabinet. Not to be pushed over by those that are leading the parade on this front over there, Mr. Speaker, and to do the right thing and to scrap Bill 70.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have much more to say here today. I just again call on members to do the right thing and to have some independence themselves on this front. That's what we're sent here to do, Mr. Speaker, to ask some of the tough questions. Ultimately yank this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 70 here today. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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. 71

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 71 — *The Insurance 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. Bill No. 71, *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*. Initially looking at this, amendments and changes that the government's proposing to do here. I guess looking at the insurance, and many of us have insurance, different policies. Some policies are term policies. Some policies actually carry dividends with them. And sometimes when you have a policy that's bought early in life, it sometimes will carry dividends and there's different ways that those dollars are used. Maybe to offset your premiums. There's different things that that pot or I guess they call it a side account . . . I'm not no professional on it, so I won't claim to be.

But just trying to understand it, you know, just the way insurance works. They're using these dollars for . . . And I guess that it's been asked to limit the amount of side accounts that can be set up in Saskatchewan. You know, we had the, I guess, the government come in and make the changes, amendments that they figured they needed to make with limits, limiting the amount of dollars could be in these side accounts, from my understanding, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And what they did is I guess they went ahead and made the changes, went ahead forward. And unfortunately someone was not happy, so obviously maybe someone who didn't agree with the changes appealed it and unfortunately decided to take it to court. And the court made a decision based on the information it had.

And of course they weren't happy, so with that we have a process where you had government . . . It was appealed. And the decision that the court gave, from what I got from it, Queen's court, you know, it was appealed. And that appeal was overturned on the earlier decision from the appeals court. Somebody not happy with that, from what I got from the understanding, and I'm . . . Like I said, it then went to the Supreme Court to ask them for a ruling. Could it be appealed? And apparently what we're getting is that's not going to happen. They're not going to hear the case.

So the government's dealing, going back and dealing with the . . . all. And it's because there were certain ones where you were bought in 2018 and prior, and the argument went back and forth. And I'm not no expert at it, but just from the minister's notes, he refers to prior to 2018 versus 2018. That's what the court looked at on certain amounts and limits. And now they're going back and going to correct . . .

So I'm hoping they consult with whoever they need to to make sure when they change whatever they need to change in here that they get it right and they make sure it's done and once and for all. Obviously it's a process.

But at this point I know that the minister and my colleagues, the critic, will have some questions and if there is clarification making sure, you know, you get it right. A lot of times government doesn't like to consult, and we said that. They have a way of doing things and I think some of my colleagues that have spoke before me have talked very clearly on how little this government likes to consult and take advice, well actually, take advice from probably some of their own backbenchers.

And my colleague, the member from Rosemont, was saying that to those backbenchers: please come forward. Talk to the cabinet. Talk to those decision makers and try to make them look at some of the bills and legislation, that it's time. You're here to represent the people. And I think that was a good point that he brought up. He's asking members opposite to come forward and ask the government and their cabinet ministers, just to go and ask and put a little pressure on them, and I'm hoping they will.

But having said that, at this point I'm prepared to actually adjourn on Bill No. 71, *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 72

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 72 — *The Life Leases Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today, again this time on Bill No. 72, *The Life Leases Act*, 2021. This particular piece of legislation is the result of a recommendation that came from the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, and it aims to codify existing practices that have been implemented in the life lease industry for some time now.

A life lease is an agreement which provides the leaseholder with the right of occupancy of the rental unit for life or for a fixed term not less than 20 years. So the goal here is to create a framework of minimum standards, that lease operators will be required to disclose entrance fee and other financial obligations, require them to have a reserve fund, and so on, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[16:00]

It seems that this is an important piece of legislation. We're happy to see the government move forward with these recommendations that have been made. And we know that this will help leaseholders to better understand their financial obligations before they sign into a life lease agreement, which can obviously be quite a significant agreement and quite impactful for the duration of someone's life. It's also important that there be specific terms set out in each lease and opportunity for the leaseholders to dispute that. It looks like there's also an escape clause.

And it's important to make sure that the leaseholders and lease operators are protected, so it's good to see these changes coming forward. I know that the critic will have a deep dive into this legislation and identify any concerns. I do hope that extensive consultation took place. And with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 72 for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 73

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marit that **Bill No. 73 — *The Animal Production Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On Bill No. 73, the animal product Act, I just want to make some comments. And the minister has made some comments in here: "The practices and technology used by producers has vastly improved and day-to-day operations look different than they did in the '70s." And that's just some of his comments, that things have changed and the producers have to do different things, and whether our cattle farmers, they do different things different ways that they deal with it.

And I just want to be kind of looking at . . . It refers to, I think there's about four different pieces of legislation that the government is actually modernizing or making changes to. And I know that we're going to get a chance to ask in committee some of those changes and maybe why they're doing this, and I'm hoping that they do.

Their commitment is that they're going to change some of the regulations. And I hope that they consult with our producers out there and, you know, those that are out there, our farmers, cattle ranchers, to make sure that the regulations that will impact them are going to help them and not cause them any grief.

So I'm hoping the minister, as he says, will consult. I'm hoping he will do that, he will take the time to consult with our cattle producers making sure that regulations changing . . . It's one thing to talk about changing legislation and making amendments, but it's the regulations, and that's where it gives certain powers to the minister when it comes to regulations, so he can have some serious powers. So I'm hoping he consults with the cattle producers to make sure he gets it right and doesn't cause more grief.

Right now what our farmers need and our cattle producers need, many in our province need, is a government that's listening to them and giving support. And I mean, government like this . . . And I mean, let's face it. The Sask Party government loves giving themselves pats on the back, day in and day out. I've never seen a government who pats themselves on the back as much as this current government does. And you know what, that's okay. Yes, I've said this. You know, you talk about a government that's supposed to be modest. You know, remember that. But obviously you don't understand that. And that's okay, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They don't understand that. I get it. That's not the way they are. I understand that. But I remind there's some of them that truly care, and I have respect for them because they've earned that.

And I say that to you over there on the other side, the government benches. Remember that. Sometimes be a little humble. Be a little humble. There's times, yes, to play politics. But sometimes, you know what, you can show a little kindness. And I know we get pretty serious in here.

So as I say that, you know, I'm hoping that this government will consult, will talk to the producers. And I hope the minister will do what he needs to when he changes the regulations.

These times that we go through, people are struggling, and there's many struggles going on. And they look at the government to listen. Many times I've sat in this Chamber talking about the challenges back home, but it's not just in the North. It's not just in the urban centres. It's in rural. I know there's many challenges. And people get elected in here to serve the people, and they're going to have a job to do, you know. They're going to have a job to do.

And I know at some point, you know, I'll have an opportunity to talk about people that get elected into this Chamber and how they represent their communities. It's going to be interesting to watch the changes that are going to happen, because I know there's going to be a lot of people wanting to see the changes that are going to happen. Because this government says, well, when you're a part of that team we're going to make things happen.

I'm going to watch and see that very closely. A new budget's coming out I'm going to be excited to see. So there'll be times, you know, to talk about that.

But I want to get back to the bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and talk about making sure that those that will be impacted by changes with regulations, that this government is truly going to consult them. And I don't mean like they've done so many times on First Nations and Métis files when they say it's consult them, not insult them. Because so many times . . . You know, my colleague from Saskatoon Centre has pointed out time and time again how this government likes to pat themselves on the back about the way they . . . the duty to consult and accommodate and how they're treating Indigenous people. Sometimes you have to have a serious look at it, that maybe you're just not doing it right. That maybe you're missing something. That maybe it's time to be open to listening to people.

And I know at the end of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, they'll heckle, and I'm used to that. It's life. It's the way it is, you know. Some will be here longer than others. Some of us will be on a journey of getting out of Dodge. And some will stay and fight the good battle, and they'll fight the battle after this. Forever and ever they'll go on, some of them.

But I just want to make sure the last thing I say for the record on this one is, again, because they always love saying this and I . . . you know, "Oh yeah, you guys couldn't get a seat if you tried," in a rural area. And that's fine. I respect that. "We own those. They're ours. You could never touch them. We'll do what we want over there." And . . .

An Hon. Member: — Arrogant.

Mr. Vermette: — No, no, no. Don't say that word. They'll get offended. We don't want to offend anybody. We want to just reach out once in a while to the backbenchers and say, hold the minister, hold that cabinet accountable. Because you are some good partners and you are some good neighbours sometimes. And we talk about having neighbours, you know? And I'll never forget that because, you know, I used to have some neighbours on this side, and they all got taken away from us because I think we were maybe not doing the work we were supposed to do.

But having said that, I actually want to get back to this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I don't have many more comments on this bill. So at this point, I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill No. 73, the animal producers' Act, 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. 75

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 75 — *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2021/Loi de 2021 sur les organisations sans but lucratif*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We're having fun here late in the afternoon, and happy to be on my feet to enter into debate on Bill 75, *The Non-profit Corporations Act* of 2021.

You know, I'll keep my remarks brief. I really will. I probably start off saying that quite a bit, but I won't be up for long today on this one. You know, I think that it can feel a little bit like a broken record, as sometimes we stand up and speak to these amendments and changes or sometimes even new pieces of legislation because there's a common theme here of modernization.

And so when I look at this bill, there are some changes that were going to be expedited here due to the way that business has changed in the pandemic. And so I see in this bill there's . . . allows for the use of electronic filing, electronic board meetings, you know. It allows for corporate names to be in Indigenous languages. Well let's be honest. That last one probably could have been changed well before the pandemic arrived, and I think it's just indicative of the need to modernize this legislation because that one probably should have been changed a long, long time ago.

But the others, you know . . . Our lives have changed as a result of the pandemic, and many of these changes aren't going anywhere when the pandemic is eventually gone. You know, electronic meetings. You know, I'll be honest; I don't hate them. Sometimes it's nice when we can still connect with colleagues, stakeholders, board meetings, whatever it is, virtually over things like Zoom or Teams or whatever we're using. I think that some of that's here to stay, so it's nice to see that our legislation's being modernized to allow that to happen.

Along with things like electronic filing or digital signatures, these things are not going away. I think that the pandemic has brought about a number of changes in how we do business that many of us will be happy to keep, maybe not at the same level. Yeah, we're tired of Zoom meetings no doubt, but when they work, they work. And I'm glad to see that that's here to stay and this legislation's being modernized to make that possible.

You know, again I think I just want to point out I'm really happy to see that the names of corporations and non-profits will be allowed to exist in Indigenous languages, Indigenous languages that have existed, you know, long before this building has been here and our democracy was here. So the place we're allowing for the names to be in Indigenous languages, it's good to see that that's just simply being acknowledged here. But I think that their rights existed well before they were acknowledged.

Overall, you know, I think that our critic is going to continue to ask questions about this as the bill progresses. I'll voice my favour for this legislation and the modernizing changes that it brings, but I'll look forward to hearing my colleagues' comments as we proceed through adjourned debates. At this time I do move that we adjourn debate on Bill 75, *The Non-profit Corporations 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. 76

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 76 — *The Non-profit Corporations Consequential Amendments 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'll be even more brief on this one, Bill No. 76, *The Non-profit Corporations Consequential Amendments Act*. Having a quick look at this, you know, definitely what we're seeing here is minor changes in wording — things like changing definitions of municipalities, taking out older, outdated definitions and language as well as bringing consequential changes to legislation like *The Condominium Property Act*, *The Credit Union Act*, *The Métis Act*, *The Municipalities Act*. And so there's a lot of moving parts here, a lot of implications for these changes, perhaps even some unintended consequences that we'll be watching for. And I know that our critic will be reaching out to stakeholders and will have many questions when this does get to committee. But for today, I'll voice my favour for this bill, but looking forward to hearing further comments. And I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 76, the non-profit corporations consequential Act. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Coming to the end of government business, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:15.]

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