



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

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Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)
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Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)
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Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)
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Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)
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Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)

Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
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Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
McLeod, Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)
Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker: — On Thursday, March 10th, 2022, the Minister of Health raised a point of order alleging that the Leader of the Opposition called him a liar from across the floor. I did not hear the comment myself so I committed to reviewing the record.

The level of noise in the Chamber on Thursday was excessive and at times disruptive to proceedings. When a Speaker is unable to hear over private conversations and members shouting from their seats, it hinders a prompt response to unparliamentary language or other matters of decorum. In fact I had to review the *Hansard*, the video, and the audio recording of Thursday's proceedings in order to prepare my ruling.

The comment by the Leader of the Opposition was not recorded in *Hansard*. However as Speaker Kowalsky ruled in a similar circumstance on April 11th, 2007, "Many of these unofficial comments or heckles are intentionally provocative and inflammatory. The fact that Hansard may not be able to attribute them to a particular member does not make them acceptable language."

After a careful review of the video and audio recordings of Thursday's proceedings at approximately 10:04 a.m., the Leader of the Opposition can be heard calling across the floor, "You're lying." The Leader of the Opposition well knows that accusing another member of lying is unparliamentary. In fact less than 30 seconds prior to his comment, the Leader of the Opposition had taken his seat after apologizing for and withdrawing a similar statement. I'm now tasked with asking the Leader of the Opposition once again to withdraw and apologize for his comment.

Before he does so, I'd like to voice my concern regarding the decorum in this Chamber last week. I recognize that debate in this Assembly may at times become heated, especially when differences of opinion challenge members' deeply seated beliefs and values. To keep the tenor of exchange respectfully going forward, I would call members' attention to Beauchesne's, 6th Edition, section 494 on page 151:

It is not unparliamentary temperately to criticize statements made by Members as being contrary to the facts, but no imputation of intentional falsehood is permissible. On rare occasions this may result in the House having to accept two contradictory accounts of the same incident.

Last week comments by members, both on and off the record, skirted the line between appropriate debate and impugning the character, honesty, and integrity of other members. I would ask members to be mindful of the words they use in this Assembly, especially when in reference to each other. I would also ask that all members curtail their unnecessary interjections and heckling to keep the volume in this Chamber at a reasonable level.

I call on the Leader of the Opposition once again to withdraw and apologize for his comment.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw the comment and I apologize.

The Speaker: — Thank you.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

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

The Speaker: — The parliamentary secretary has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Proceed.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, it's my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to this honourable Assembly some very special guests. With us today is Tatsukuni Uchida, consul general of Japan in Calgary. Accompanying the consul general today is his wife, Gunilla Eberhard; Riki Kishimoto, the consul of public relations and culture at the consulate; a man who is no stranger in this Assembly, Mr. Victor Sawa, the honorary consul for Japan in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the consul general was appointed to his current position in March of 2021. This is his first official visit to our province. Mr. Speaker, the consul general has a very busy schedule during his visit, meeting with representatives from government, industry, and the academic community. This is a tremendous opportunity to further strengthen already-strong relations between Japan and Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan enjoys a strong trading and business relationship with Japan that goes back almost 60 years. It began in 1962, and that's when Japan became the first offshore market for Saskatchewan's potash from a newly opened mine in Esterhazy. Since then our commercial partnership has grown steadily, and that growth is now fostered by Saskatchewan's new trade office in Tokyo, which was opened last year.

Today Japan is Saskatchewan's third-largest export market, after the United States and China, and accounts for more than 14 per cent of the province's total exports to Asia. Last year Saskatchewan exports to Japan totalled \$1.4 billion. Our province is Japan's largest supplier of canola seed, canola oil, and durum wheat. Japan in turn has made significant investments in Saskatchewan in mining, agriculture, clean energy, and innovation, and we are very grateful for those.

Mr. Speaker, our relationship with Japan extends beyond trade and investment. Since 2019 the city of Regina has had a friendship agreement with the city of Fujioka. This agreement has enabled students from both cities to travel and learn about

another culture. Meanwhile there are more than 70 partnerships between Saskatchewan and Japanese post-secondary institutes.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't mention another important partnership. Canada and Japan are participating in a growing partnership of nations who are actively opposing Russia's brutal attack on Ukraine.

Today, on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, I want to thank the consul general for the tough sanctions imposed by Japan on Russia, and for the military equipment sent to Ukrainian army: bullet-proof vests and other supplies. The consul general may be interested to know that nearly 15 per cent of Saskatchewan residents trace some or all of their ancestry back to Ukraine, so in this province we are extremely grateful for any support that is offered Ukraine at this crucial moment in their history. All freedom-loving nations must stand against Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I'm certain this visit will allow us to strengthen our trading partnership and our friendship. We are honoured to have the consul general with us today. I would ask that all members of this honourable Assembly join me in welcoming our distinguished guests to the legislature and to our province.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the minister in saying kon'nichiwa . . . [inaudible] . . . and yōkoso. Welcome to the Saskatchewan legislature to Mr. Uchida, Ms. Eberhard, Mr. Kishimoto, and of course Victor — good to see you as always.

It is really an important visit at this time when there is conflict in the world, when the bonds between nations and friends are being tested, that we have these opportunities to strengthen bonds as trading partners, as allies, and as friends. So I want to thank you for your visit, wish you a fruitful and enjoyable visit. Arigatōgozaimasu. Thank you very much for being here today.

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

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce a couple of fine fellows sitting up in your gallery: Mr. Ken Lee and Mr. Mike Lee.

I had the pleasure of working for Ken for over a decade back at Midale Petroleums back in the day. And I'll have more to say about his history there and his son Mike. I worked with Mike for a long time, and now he's one of my best golfing partners and a really good friend. And the sage advice that I have been able to learn and gather from these two gentlemen has helped me immensely, go from a young boy working on a crew truck in Midale to taking my seat here in their Legislative Assembly.

So I'd like to ask all members to welcome Ken Lee and Mike Lee to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres . . . oh, sorry. Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Almost. I would seek

leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, I want to start by welcoming Maestro Sawa to his legislature. Many years ago I had the distinct pleasure of playing at the back of Maestro Sawa's cello section in the Regina Symphony Orchestra. And if you know anything about musicians, you'll know that that also meant that I shared a couple stiff drinks with him over the years. And I think back in those days our preferred haunt was the Bushwakker, Mr. Speaker. So I wanted to welcome a friend to his legislature.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome the good people of Avana Builds. We have with us, in your gallery, Jenn Denouden, Jennifer Denouden, the president and CEO [chief executive officer] of Avana. We have Tara Osipoff, the executive VP [vice-president]. And we have Chris Harris who is manager of communications and media. I want to extend to them a warm welcome to their legislature.

Avana needs no introduction, especially in this city, Mr. Speaker. They employ over 600 people, I believe it is, across Saskatchewan and Alberta. They are a real estate development company and a property developer, and they've found a way to lead with their values. You know, they speak often about housing as a human right. They've done incredible work in the community with women who are impacted by gender-based violence, women and children. And in recent years they've created a foundation, a non-profit wing, to continue their good work.

They're one of the fastest growing companies in Canada. Not only that, they're female-led. They're women-led and they're very proud of that, Mr. Speaker. They're also one of the companies that invest the most in affordable housing in Canada. And again they're very vocal proponents for affordable housing.

It's just such a . . . It's so refreshing, Mr. Speaker, to meet with and speak with business entrepreneurs who understand that investments in our communities, investments in poverty and housing lifts all of us up, that equality is the rising tide that lifts all of us up, Mr. Speaker. So I want to acknowledge the tremendous work they're doing in this province, in this city, and welcome them to their legislature.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask for leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery I would like to introduce a delegation from CAPP, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers: Brad Herald; Siân Pascoe; Jarret Coels, welcome back; David Spyker, president of Rife Resources and new Saskatchewan policy group Chair; Travis Davies of Cenovus; and president and CEO, Tim McMillan, who since he was last here, Mr. Speaker, announced he'll be stepping down from CAPP and moving on to what I'm sure are exciting possibilities ahead. Tim is one of ours of course, a former minister of Energy and from Saskatchewan, who has been an urbane, passionate advocate for the Canadian energy sector during a time, the past seven years, of intense headwinds for the sector.

[13:45]

Suddenly of course there's a broad acknowledgement that energy security and independence are key to energy affordability, and we've been saying that for years, as has Tim. Just last week, Mr. Speaker, the federal Energy minister said Canadian natural gas could help Europe move away from energy dependence on Russia, but just last month the federal government quashed the \$10.6 billion export-boosting natural gas liquefaction facility in Saguenay, Quebec.

And that's of course on top of kiboshed pipelines, increased imports from rogue nations, the federal carbon tax, the looming federal fuel standard or second carbon tax at Bill C-69, and the list goes on. All have posed and continue to pose clear and present threats to our energy security, and now the so-called "just transition," the new buzzword that energy companies want hard production caps. As if.

Mr. Speaker, Canadian oil, Western Canadian oil, is more important than ever. And we thank Tim, we thank CAPP for their continued advocacy for the most sustainably produced energy in the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Minister for Energy and Resources in welcoming this delegation in the west Chamber to their legislature today. And also so happy to see that they're here present today, and I hope that that means that the conversations they're having with the minister opposite . . . And I welcome similar conversations with the members on this side of the House so that we can ensure that we have a managed transition as we move towards net zero over the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, request leave for extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you very much. I'm pleased to introduce numerous guests that are seated in the gallery behind me today. This morning our government announced the launch of the international education practitioner program, a key deliverable under the international education strategy and the first program of its kind in Canada.

This program takes a provincial approach in supporting our post-secondary institutions and our international students through training that is specific to international education in our province. We are joined by Saskatchewan's international practitioners this afternoon. They've been selected by their respective post-secondary institutions to be part of the very first cohort of the practitioner program.

From the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy, Pirta Mattola, Andrea Eccleston, Tara Lucyshyn, Denise Hauta, and Basse Bassey have joined us. And from the University of Regina, Haroon Chaudhry, Keisha Bell, Michael Liu, Connie Liu, and Edwin Ta, and Yaya Siggins.

From Great Plains College is Keleah Ostrander and from Saskatchewan Colleges is Kristy Sletten, Angela Lim from Briercrest, Rylan Grubb from the Regina Flying Club, and Larissa Bezo, president and CEO of the Canadian Bureau for International Education.

And finally my colleagues from the Ministry of Advanced Education: Livia Castellanos, Jill Zimmer, Jennifer Augustin, and Trevor McNeely.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming this group to the Legislative Assembly and thank them for their ongoing dedication to this important provincial initiative.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the official opposition critic for Advanced Education, I would like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming these guests to their legislature. And thank you so much for your important work. Look forward to having you here with us today.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents in our province, in the beautiful northeast of our province, Mr. Speaker, in the Hudson Bay and Preeceville area. They're bringing to our attention the inadequate condition that that highway is in, particularly Highway 9 between Preeceville and Hudson Bay.

They talk about how fundamental that artery is to connecting businesses and services and people and farms within the area. And they state that Highway 9 is in inadequate condition with reports of long-standing ruts and overall deterioration. They state that Highway 9 poses a significant safety concern for travellers of the highway, Mr. Speaker.

The prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately address the inadequate condition of Highway 9 by working with and listening to the concerns of municipalities, residents, and industry.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Hudson Bay. I so submit.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet again to present a petition calling on this government to restore direct payment of rent for income support clients, Mr. Speaker. The now notorious SIS [Saskatchewan income support] program continues to have incredible impacts on our communities. People are struggling now more than ever. The housing crisis and the poverty crisis were bad before. But now with this affordability crunch, we're really seeing people struggle more than ever, Mr. Speaker. The government made a couple of announcements hoping that, you know, that its critics would go away. We're hearing reports that even the promise to return the direct payment of rent hasn't materialized on the ground, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I will read the prayer:

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

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

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to once again present my petition calling on the government to implement pay equity legislation in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation in Canada.

Saskatchewan has one of the highest gender wage gaps in Canada — nearly a \$5-an-hour difference, Mr. Speaker, in the average wages between men and women in our province; that while *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* prohibits gender-based compensation discrimination, the complaint-driven process puts no positive obligation on employers; that while pay equity advocacy primarily seeks to address gender-wage-based discrimination, it must also be mindful of age-, ability-, identity-, and race-based wage discrimination. Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that the Status of Women office has conducted, completed a jurisdictional scan on pay equity, and I look forward to seeing the results of that scan.

I'll move to the prayer:

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.

And today our petition has been signed from folks in Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet again to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for funding of in vitro fertilization treatments here in Saskatchewan. Now, Mr. Speaker, I've been presenting this petition for a bit, and today I'd like to take a few seconds here to focus on the Family Fertility Fund, an organization here in Saskatchewan that is doing the good work of helping raise funds for those struggling with fertility. I'll quote from them:

We understand people. We understand finances. We understand infertility and the pain and grief that comes with it. What we don't understand is the obscene cost of treatment and the lack of support available for families.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Family Fertility Fund offers three windows of \$5,000 per family hoping to start or grow their own. And that is tremendous work, Mr. Speaker, and it is all of our shame that they have to do this work when we think of those three opportunities for three families and the thousands in this province that struggle with infertility, Mr. Speaker — one in six.

I will read the prayer:

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

The signatories of this petition today reside in Imperial and Watrous, Saskatchewan. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Agricultural Safety Week

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March 13th to 19th is Agricultural Safety Week in Saskatchewan. This is to raise awareness of on-farm safety in Saskatchewan and across Canada. Agriculture is one of Saskatchewan's largest and most vital industries, contributing to our economic well-being and way of life.

Unfortunately it can also be hazardous if proper safety precautions are not in place. This week creates awareness of on-farm safety hazards, as well as the importance of maintaining good mental health for producers to help reduce incidents.

To help promote safe farms, our government supports organizations such as the Agricultural Health and Safety Network and the Saskatchewan Farm Stress Line. We support the

Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions as they teach children about farm safety. We also offer the farm safety program through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Together, as a community and a government, we are committed to eliminating all injuries and illnesses on and off the farm. We are also committed to supporting positive mental health for those working in the industry.

On behalf of all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], I extend well wishes to all producers for a safe and healthy season ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Highway Hotline

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, all members of the Assembly do a lot of travelling around this province, and there is no way that we could do that safely without the amazing work done by the good folks at Highway Hotline.

When we wrapped up proceedings last Thursday, I'm certain that members on both sides were eager to get back to our families, our loved ones, and our communities. I was ready to hop in my hatchback and camp out in the hammer lane, passing wiggle wagons rolling double nickel down the blacktop, when my trusted House Leader asked me if I had checked on the road conditions.

I told her that the roads were fine 10 days ago, and that they were still fine on Monday when I made the drive. But my colleague informed me the conditions and risks can change, and it's best to use the most recent data available.

The Highway Hotline provides us a free service to ensure that we stay safe and alive. Thank you, Highway Hotline, for giving us the updated and easy-to-find information we need to make our own personal risk assessments. We realize that sometimes you need to tell us that a road is unsafe to drive on, sometimes even closed. And we know that there must be good reasons for this, even when it impacts our own personal freedom.

Now I know my family appreciated it when I got home safe, even though I had to be patient and wait for the right time to drive. So thank you, Highway Hotline. We couldn't do this job without you.

I'd invite all members to join me in showing our appreciation to Highway Hotline.

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

First-of-Its-Kind International Education Program Launched

Mr. Skoropad: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that investment in knowledge always pays the best interest. That said, Mr. Speaker, this morning we announced a provincial program that is first of its kind in Canada.

The international education practitioner program is a key deliverable of the international education strategy launched this

past November. This program will deliver international education training to the post-secondary education sector to support a consistent level of understanding and knowledge of international engagement in Saskatchewan.

By taking a provincial approach, this program will better support the capacity of post-secondary institutions to host international students. Mr. Speaker, prior to the pandemic, international students contributed more than \$252 million annually to our economy. More than that, Mr. Speaker, it is the same international students that help us to promote and share our Saskatchewan story across the globe.

The international education practitioner program ensures students receive the same experience and level of support, regardless of where they study in our province. It supports our growth plan by providing institutions with tools to further demonstrate what we here in this room already know: Saskatchewan is a top destination for student success.

So please join with me in celebrating the launch of the international education practitioner program and recognizing the benefit this program brings to our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Ukrainian Co-op Organizes Support Efforts

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the amazing work of an important local institution, the Ukrainian Co-op. Ukrainian Co-op has been a staple in Douglas Park for years, and it goes without saying that they deserve our acknowledgement now more than ever.

The Ukrainian Co-op has been in business in Douglas Park since 1937, and is the oldest shop in our area. They were even voted the best butcher shop four years in a row. The owners and staff pride themselves in treating everyone like family. I'm sure each of us in this Chamber have frequented the Ukrainian Co-op, picked up some locally made delicacies, and felt that warm welcome.

With the recent conflict in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Co-op is collecting donations for important agencies like the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. They've teamed up with other Ukrainian-owned businesses like Beauty Code Studio and Euro Deli Kiev to collect items to be shipped to Poland. They're accepting cash donations, first aid kits, and non-perishable food and clothes. Members can stop by their shop this Friday and Saturday to grab a slice of Primal Pie pizza, with 100 per cent of the profit being donated to the UCC [Ukrainian Canadian Congress].

I ask all members to join me in thanking the Ukrainian Co-op for their over 80 years of service to the community and for their leadership during these times.

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

Midale Business Owner Recognized for Community Leadership

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This province has been built on the strength of its people, and I certainly saw that everywhere around me when I grew up north of Midale. Fifty years ago, five men started an oil exploration company in the southeast, and today I have the distinct honour of speaking about one of those great men from my hometown.

Ken Lee is one of the founding members of Midale Petroleums, and he served as the operations manager for decades. But Ken was much more than an owner and much more than a boss. He was a community leader.

Families all over the southeast have benefited from the small-town company Ken is such an integral part of. There were countless 4-H beef sales where Midale Petroleums would purchase a steer and Ken would be walking around talking to the farmers. There were numerous high school graduation scholarships that were handed out across the schools, many fundraising events from communities from Gainsborough to Weyburn where Ken or somebody from Midale Petroleums would be at.

For all this, Ken has been recognized by the Saskatchewan Oil & Gas Show and is set to receive a Southeast Saskatchewan Legends Award this June.

Mr. Speaker, Ken has passed on his thoughtfulness, his benevolence, his passion, all to his family and his friends and his community and to this province. I am better for knowing Ken Lee and having him in my life, and I want to thank him for everything he's done.

I'd ask all members to please join me in recognizing and thanking a true legend in both the energy sector here in Saskatchewan and in life, Mr. Ken Lee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Citizens Asked to Report Great Horned Owl Sightings

Mr. Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Royal Saskatchewan Museum and University of Regina have begun work on a research project involving great horned owls. As a unique citizen science component, they are asking residents to report their sightings to them online.

Great horned owls have shown remarkable ability to adapt in southern Saskatchewan and can now be seen nesting in trees planted around human-made structures. They also rely on elevated perches such as power poles, fence lines, and planted trees to hunt from.

The research team is interested in sightings outside of cities, and south of the treeline in the agriculture zone. As great horned owls start to nest in late February and into March, this month will be a key time to get data from people.

Great horned owlets, which hatch after a month of incubation, must remain near their parents a long time compared to many other birds, right through summer and into early fall. Mr.

Speaker, during this time young owls learn the skills they need to hunt on their own before the rigours of the next winter set in.

When looking for them, try to keep as much distance as possible between you and the owls as they are very sensitive to disturbance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Latest Jobs Numbers Show Strong Performance in Saskatchewan

Mr. Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The latest jobs report was released by Statistics Canada on Friday and, once again, Saskatchewan had one of the strongest job creation records in the country. In the past year, there were more than 30,000 new jobs created in Saskatchewan — 30,000 new jobs, Mr. Speaker. And that's more than three jobs per hour, every hour, every day for the past 365 days.

Our unemployment rate fell to 4.7 per cent, the second lowest in Canada. And over the first two months of 2022, we had the second-best rate of job growth. In February in Saskatchewan, there were more women working. There were more young people working; more First Nations and Métis people working; more people working in Regina; more people working in Saskatoon; more people working in agriculture, construction, trades, and more in education and in health care and IT [information technology]; more people working in the public sector and more people working in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt we are about to hear another question period where the NDP [New Democratic Party] tell us how terrible everything is in Saskatchewan. The good news is Saskatchewan people aren't listening to the NDP's gloom and doom. They're too busy working, creating jobs, growing our economy, and building a better Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Sanctions on Russia and Operations of Evraz Inc.

Mr. Meili: — I think the former member from Martensville-Warman was much better at the political members' statements.

Mr. Speaker, last week all members of this House rose together. We rose together in clear and common condemnation of Vladimir Putin's illegal war in the Ukraine. It was a good moment. This war, however, is still going on. It's in its 19th day, and it's being funded by the very oligarchs who have been made wealthy by Vladimir Putin's kleptocracy, oligarchs who own, sadly, the majority of Evraz international and therefore of the company here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable. It is unacceptable that the hard labour and resources of Saskatchewan are going to send funds to the oligarchs that fund Putin's war, Mr. Speaker. It is unacceptable. Has this government not yet recognized that it is time to have a serious conversation about changing the

ownership of Evraz so that we do not have, we do not have a situation where workers here in Saskatchewan are sending profits from that company to fund Putin's war? It is time to have that conversation, and it's time for Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan workers to lead that call.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I think I can agree with the Leader of the Opposition, and I do thank the opposition in standing with the government in denouncing the Putin regime for their unconscionable invasion of Ukraine. And I also would say, Mr. Speaker, I think this House is united in our support for the people of Ukraine.

That's why this government opened the doors. We've made clear that in this province we will accept as many Ukrainian refugees as the federal government wish to send us. We've been continuing to work very closely with the federal government in that regard, Mr. Speaker, and we do look forward to welcoming Ukrainian refugees to this province who we hope will make it a long . . .

Heckling, Mr. Speaker, from the opposition on this. Heckling on this, Mr. Speaker, of all things. Mr. Speaker, we stand with the people of Ukraine. I'm happy to get to the other parts of that member's . . . Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to get to the other parts of that member's . . . They're continuing to heckle. We stand with the people of Ukraine, and I wish they would stop heckling on that.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hypocrisy of the pearl clutching of a member who heckled through my entire question and then doesn't want to get to answering that question. So back to that question. Does the government recognize, does this government recognize it's time for ownership of Evraz to change hands out of the hands of Russian oligarchs, and will Saskatchewan be at the forefront of leading that conversation?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I would say these are issues that we take very seriously. And I would encourage the Leader of the Opposition to cease his fearmongering. I would encourage the Leader of the Opposition actually to get new notes, Mr. Speaker, because those ones are full of complete and utter untruths.

Mr. Speaker, we have worked with the federal government and been in communication with the Government of Canada with regard to the particulars of the circumstance at Evraz. What I think the members opposite do not understand is that sanctions fall on individuals. Sanctions are not falling on the company. Mr. Speaker, we are not going to put hundreds of people out of work here in Saskatchewan who have nothing to do with the war in Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, the work that Evraz does is constructing steel for

pipelines. We know that the members opposite don't support pipelines. But pipelines in North America being constructed, we feel are a net benefit to our citizens here in this province and to our industries in this province despite the fact that we know that they don't support that, Mr. Speaker.

We don't anticipate that there are going to be any implications for the employees at Evraz, Mr. Speaker. And I can tell you this: we're not going to be nationalizing a steel company.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister doesn't seem to realize those jobs are at risk right now. This company is in free fall. Their stocks are frozen, Mr. Speaker. The entire board of the UK [United Kingdom] operation that manages the entire international operations of Evraz has walked away because of the sanctions on 30 per cent owner Roman Abramovich, Mr. Speaker.

We need to make sure that the plant here in Saskatchewan is able to continue to operate. This is a key strategic industry for Canada. It has a huge impact on the economy here in Saskatchewan and an enormous employer right here in the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker.

Does the minister realize he can't simply wish this away? He needs to take it seriously. When will we see a serious conversation about the future of Evraz and the role of Saskatchewan in making sure that that's a healthy future?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Let's be very clear, Mr. Speaker, what the comrade opposite is advocating for, which is nationalization, nationalization of the steel industry. Mr. Speaker, we're not going to be doing that.

What we are going to be doing is working responsibly with the Government of Canada. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, I can report to this House that the Premier spoke with the leadership of Evraz North America just last week, who are very supportive of the approach that we are taking with regard to sanctions on a particular owner of that company, that owns a minority position in that company.

Mr. Speaker, we are not going to be shutting down Evraz. The employees at Evraz are going to continue to do the very good work that they do in producing steel for pipelines that we wish to see built right across this country and right across North America, Mr. Speaker.

I would encourage the members opposite to quit fearmongering, and I would also report we are not going to be nationalizing this company.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, what a deeply unserious government at a time . . . in serious times. A government that fails to recognize the problem of a company here in Saskatchewan being owned by the oligarchs that are funding Putin's war. Mr.

Speaker, a problem of a government that doesn't recognize the last thing we want to do . . . That member just said we want to shut it down. That's the last thing we want to do. That's what we're afraid of, Mr. Speaker. That's the risk — a company in free fall and a government that just wants to whistle past the graveyard.

Mr. Speaker, when will this government show that they have any seriousness, sit down with the workers, sit down with the federal government, come up with a plan to make sure that the future of Evraz here in Saskatchewan, the future of steel production right here in Regina, is strong?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — What we're seeing here, Mr. Speaker, is the Leader of the Opposition betraying his complete lack of understanding as to how the economy works. And he wants to speak about unserious. This is the Leader of the Opposition who just resigned because of his failings as the leader of that party, Mr. Speaker.

This government is deeply serious about the economy. Mr. Speaker, this government is deeply serious about creating jobs, which is why we just had one of the best job reports that we've ever had — 30,000 jobs created over the course of the last year.

We're going to continue to work in a responsible and serious way with Evraz leadership in North America, with the Government of Canada to make sure that those jobs are secure going forward. We're not going to be creating fear and panic like the member opposite continues to do. That business, Mr. Speaker, is going to continue to operate despite whatever those members think that should happen.

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

Number of Physicians in Saskatchewan

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well let the record show this is a government that was not willing to take the serious issue, the serious issue of resources, the labour of Saskatchewan workers going to send profits to Russian oligarchs funding Putin's war. That was an issue they didn't want to even consider, Mr. Speaker. What a complete lack of seriousness.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do point out that the minister is yelling from his seat, "completely untrue" — something perhaps to note, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

Last week we learned that Dr. Tomi Mitchell, a family doctor here in Regina, is closing her family medicine clinic. It's just so disappointing after what we heard this afternoon that these members don't take it seriously, Mr. Speaker.

Nor do these members take seriously what's happening with physician supply here in this province. After two years of ignoring and insulting health care providers, of repeating falsehoods about the efficacy of vaccines, what did the Premier say when he heard about Dr. Mitchell shutting down her clinic,

leaving so many folks unable to access care? He spun. He tried to say everything was fine, Mr. Speaker. But in Dr. Mitchell's words, and I quote, "Wake up, Saskatchewan, we are in trouble."

Will the Minister of Health stand up . . .

The Speaker: — Go to your question.

Mr. Meili: — Oh pardon me. Will the Minister of Health wake up, commit to finding out what is causing the hemorrhaging of doctors from our health care system and come up with a plan to stop the bleeding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And a lot of fearmongering coming from the Leader of the Opposition today. What I can say is last week the Leader of the Opposition provided incorrect information. And as usual, on this side of the House, we have to fact-check that, Mr. Speaker.

The Leader of the Opposition claimed that there was 82 fewer doctors in Saskatchewan since 2018. Mr. Speaker, that's just completely false. There are 118 more doctors practising in the province of Saskatchewan since 2018. The NDP cherry-picked numbers of active physicians instead of licensed physicians. This is a designation is . . . compensation not only of the doctor's practice. What he's doing, Mr. Speaker, is he's trying to fearmonger.

Do we have some challenges in our health care system, Mr. Speaker? Absolutely. But this government is ready to be able to address those challenges, not just in our cities, not just in rural Saskatchewan, but in the North as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, we're comparing apples to apples, active numbers to active numbers. And the minister is instead listening to his spin doctors when he should be acknowledging the real challenges that we are facing in health care across this province.

There were 82 fewer family doctors actively working in Saskatchewan last year than there were in 2018. But it isn't just the number of active family doctors that have dropped off. The compensation levels for family docs have cratered as well. The average family doctor in Saskatchewan is earning 17 per cent less than they did in 2018. For family doctors like Dr. Mitchell, that's less to pay the bills and compensate staff.

What's the plan to better support family doctors who are feeling unsupported and leaving their practice because they can't get the help they need from this government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — As usual, Mr. Speaker, we're going to have to fact-check the information that the opposition is bringing forward in this House. But what I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, is since forming government, we have almost 1,000 more physicians within our province. That's a 56 per cent increase —

72 per cent increase from when they were in government in specialists; 43 per cent increase in general practitioners; 105 per cent increase in pediatricians; and a 38 per cent increase in psychiatrists.

Mr. Speaker, our track record with the physicians, we have one of the best compensation packages in this country for our physicians, Mr. Speaker. We also provide . . . during the pandemic, we also supplied them with PPE [personal protective equipment]. We provide them with compensation during . . . during this.

I meet with the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] almost every two weeks to be able to discuss some of the issues that they're bringing forward. I also meet with the College of Physicians and Surgeons to see if they have . . . Just met with the dean last week, Mr. Speaker, to be able to express some concerns that he is bringing forward. And we will work hard to address those concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — No one believes your selective math, Mr. Speaker. Billings for doctors have plummeted as well. Between 2018 and 2021, there was a 20 per cent drop in billings, a \$126 million drop. That's 20 per cent less care during a pandemic, Mr. Speaker. Our health system is losing doctors and losing hours of care to Saskatchewan patients. This means fewer tests, fewer diagnostics, and fewer procedures that help catch, prevent, and treat illness.

It's not just a tsunami of doctors that might be leaving. We are set to see further impacts from delays in accessing our care in the health system. So, Mr. Speaker, what is the plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I think everybody will recognize that the last two years within the health care system were an anomaly. We had our health care system shut down in 2020 for few months. Of course the physicians' billing is going to be lower because we had less procedures happening within our hospital system, Mr. Speaker. But what we did as soon as we had the ability is we ramped that up over and over again. We started this back in July of last year. We started ramping up our surgical services, Mr. Speaker.

But again, the misinformation that's coming from this opposition without any facts, Mr. Speaker, they do this time and time again. They did it with the Minister of Immigration just before me. They did it in the question coming from the Leader of the Opposition. Now the critic is standing up with misinformation, Mr. Speaker. They need to . . . If they're going to be a serious opposition, Mr. Speaker, they need to be able to bring facts to this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Government Support of Affordable Housing and Second-Stage Housing

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity

to attend a very important announcement last week. Avana Builds, the federal government, and the city of Regina worked together to bring the city of Regina 116 affordable housing units. This was one of the biggest investments in affordable housing in the province's recent history, Mr. Speaker, and this government was nowhere to be found. Satisfied with the status quo, this government has shown no interest in helping to house people who are being squeezed in this affordability crisis, Mr. Speaker. Why on earth would this government choose not to support this project?

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. First and foremost I would like to congratulate Avana Foundation and the federal government on the partnership to open these new housing units which actually includes some second-stage shelter units, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since 2007 when we took over government, our government has actually developed 12,000 housing units and repaired 5,800 affordable units, Mr. Speaker. That was at a cost of \$806.2 million. Many of these available units are for people who are actually fleeing domestic violence, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, within our housing portfolio we do have programs. We have budgets that we work within. Applications are made. There's a demand for this type of housing, and not everybody was approved, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, we are joined by leaders from Avana today. They are doing incredible work in our community to expand affordable housing at a time when it is scarce. But they say it has been difficult to do this work without the support of the provincial government, with this provincial government missing in action, Mr. Speaker. Across the board this government is leaving everybody else to do the heavy lifting, whether it's the federal government, cities and towns, community-based organizations, or companies like Avana who see the housing crisis around them and are working to fix it.

Why do we even have a housing minister, Mr. Speaker, if this government has no interest in doing the work?

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. I'm not sure if she listened to my last answer, but I think it is worth repeating that since 2007, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has invested in affordable housing, Mr. Speaker, 12,000 housing units. And we also repaired an existing 5,800 units which we already owned. And that came at a cost of a hundred and six million point two.

Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't call that missing in action. I would call that working hard on a portfolio for the province of Saskatchewan, the entire province of Saskatchewan — the North, the South, the centre, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan housing authority works very hard to bring these units forward, and right now we do have some vacancies within

our Saskatchewan Housing Corporation that are available for people from all walks of life, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, the minister thinks she's doing great work on this file. Why does everyone say different, Mr. Speaker? The minister knows what happens when people can't find safe and affordable housing. She went to Camp Hope. She saw the people struggling, with her own two eyes. And she promised to address it. But since that time, Mr. Speaker — crickets.

The reality is this government isn't just sitting on their hands. They are actively making the housing crisis worse, with cuts to housing supports, cuts to the rental supplement with the promise that it would be replaced with the Canada housing benefit when we know that that program is undersubscribed and very difficult to qualify for, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit today to ending her laissez-faire approach, fix the housing crisis, and deliver for Saskatchewan people?

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation does everything that that member across is talking about. She just chooses not to look at the facts, Mr. Speaker.

I've already spoke to the number of units. I've already spoke to the record investment that has been made by this government, Mr. Speaker. For those people that may be fleeing domestic violence, looking for a place to go, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Social Services have programs in place specifically for that demographic, Mr. Speaker.

The ministry will give non-recoverable security deposits. The ministry has relocation benefits to help these people move. We have household health and safety benefits, Mr. Speaker, for the purchase of furniture for their new place that they may be moving into. There's also short-term emergency benefits, Mr. Speaker. Through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, people fleeing domestic violence actually have the opportunity . . . They get moved to the top of the list, and they are given the first available unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, lots of condescension from members opposite today. It makes you wonder if they've ever even spoken to anybody who works in a shelter in this province, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan's rates of interpersonal violence are double the national average. In a single year 6,600 incidents of interpersonal violence were reported to police in this province. It's tragic and it's unacceptable.

The federal government's recent announcement included 39 units for women and children fleeing interpersonal violence. Avana is providing a \$1.2 million operating grant for the shelter's operations. It's unacceptable that Saskatchewan is still one of only two provinces in this country that won't provide

operational funding for second-stage housing for families fleeing domestic violence.

It's amazing to see an organization like Avana step up and attempt to fill the gap, but they shouldn't be alone in doing so. Why, given the impact of interpersonal violence on the people in Saskatchewan, did this government choose to not be involved in this project?

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and once again I thank the other member for the question today. Mr. Speaker, we take the issue of domestic violence very, very seriously, and for those members opposite to insinuate that we have no part in this, that's completely wrong.

Mr. Speaker, we are partners with several community-based organizations throughout the province. Within the city of Regina, we have a relationship with the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association], who we work very closely with, Mr. Speaker, and I would say that we do fund that organization with significant dollars, Mr. Speaker. And they are not the only organizations within the province of Saskatchewan that we fund for these types of services, Mr. Speaker.

As we work closely with them, they determine which paths they're going to be going to. If they end up in a shelter, then we work with them to get into housing after that. As I already mentioned, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has several units available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, this government's provided zero dollars for the project we're speaking of, and they've provided zero dollars for operational funding for second-stage shelters. Regina will now soon be home to 39 new second- and third-stage units for families fleeing violence. Mr. Speaker, they will be operating with no help, no help from this government. It is this government's job to keep the people in this province safe. Will the minister finally commit for once and for all to operating funding for second-stage housing?

[14:30]

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've talked about the really good work that the community-based organizations do within the communities and even within the community of Regina where the units that are going to be getting built will be built, Mr. Speaker.

The Ministry of Social Services has several different demands within its portfolios and as we're looking for services, as people are requiring services, we have processes that take place, requests for proposals, different kinds of systems that are in place to ensure that people can apply for that. And we do have many different organizations that provide this. And it's impossible for us to fund every single organization that comes to us for money, Mr. Speaker. But what we do as we are looking at all of these

organizations is we see what the immediate need is at that point in time and then we take those funds and we allocate them accordingly, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is very important work. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, let's talk about the realities of this province. The YWCA is forced to turn away nearly 3,000 women and children every single year. Those are 3,000 lives worthy of support, lives that we could be helping today. And this doesn't include the thousands that seek shelter through other organizations.

Second-stage shelters are an important part of addressing our high rates of interpersonal violence. Again, why did the province opt out of being involved in this very important life-saving project?

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, within the city of Regina we have several housing units. And I would say that today in the city of Regina, we have 317 units that are available for women and people who may be fleeing domestic violence, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've already said, that is just within the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker. That's not across the whole province. Those are the numbers I looked at today.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to helping people who are fleeing domestic violence and helping them with housing. We have a huge portfolio within the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, and we will continue to prioritize those people for housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — So during question period, there was at least two, well, misspoken words. Let's be kind about it. Given my ruling last week, I have to call two members to withdraw and apologize. One is from the Government House Leader yelling out, it's untrue. And I call on the Government House Leader to withdraw and apologize.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw and apologize.

The Speaker: — And I call on the Minister of Health to withdraw and apologize for using the word "misinformation" in his response. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw and apologize.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order. Order, order.

TABLING OF THE RETURN TO THE WRIT

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I would like to table a return of writ. I hereby inform the Assembly that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has received correspondence from the Chief Electoral Officer indicating that Jim Lemaigre was duly

elected to represent the constituency of Athabasca in the Legislative Assembly.

MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Speaker: — Would everyone please rise for a Commonwealth Day message, please. Order. Rise and be quiet, please.

From Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and head of the Commonwealth:

In this year on my Platinum Jubilee, it has given me pleasure to renew the promise I made in 1947, that my life will always be devoted in service.

Today, it is rewarding to observe a modern, vibrant and connected Commonwealth that combines a wealth of history and tradition with the great social, cultural and technological advances of our time. That the Commonwealth stands ever taller is a credit to all those who have been involved.

We are nourished and sustained by our relationships and, throughout my life, I have enjoyed the privilege of hearing what the relationships built across the great reach and diversity of the Commonwealth have meant to people and communities.

Our family of nations continues to be a point of connection, cooperation and friendship. It is a place to come together to pursue common goals and the common good, providing everyone with the opportunity to serve and benefit. In these testing times, it is my hope that you can draw strength and inspiration from what we share, as we work together towards a healthy, sustainable and prosperous future for all.

And on this special day for our family — in a year that will include the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the Commonwealth Games — I hope we can deepen our resolve to support and serve one another, and endeavour to ensure the Commonwealth remains an influential force for good in our world for many generations to come.

Elizabeth R

Windsor Castle

Please remain standing for a message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

MESSAGE FROM HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The Speaker: — It is my pleasure to share a message from His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan:

I am pleased to provide a commemorative lapel pin marking Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee for each Member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. The emblem was created by the Canadian Heraldic Authority and features the

Royal Crown and the Royal Cypher as personal symbols representing The Queen. With its seven-sided shape, seven maple leaves and seven pearls, it marks Her Majesty's seven decades of service to Canada. I encourage Members of the Legislative Assembly to wear the Platinum Jubilee lapel pin throughout this celebratory year, and to support the many events planned to honour Canada's Queen.

Please be seated. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I seek leave to move a humble address.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Premier has asked leave for a humble redress. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

MOTIONS

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last month Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Mr. Speaker, this is a singular milestone for Her Majesty, and I'm certain every member in this Assembly wishes Queen Elizabeth the very best as she celebrates the jubilee.

Mr. Speaker, seven decades in public life is uncommon to say the least, and I think to most of us quite unimaginable. But what's even more remarkable is that Queen Elizabeth has actually been active in public life for more than 80 years. Mr. Speaker, Her Majesty gave her first public broadcast in 1940 when she was just 14 years old. It was an address to the nation from Windsor Castle while the Battle of Britain raged overhead. The broadcast was Prime Minister Churchill's idea. He wanted to boost the morale of children, many of whom had been sent to the countryside or even abroad to ensure their safety.

Mr. Speaker, King George was reluctant to put his daughter on air, but he finally agreed to the broadcast. Queen Elizabeth was nervous, but she threw herself into her preparations. She rehearsed time and again and practised her breathing and honed her elocution. And then when the time came, with her sister Margaret by her side, Queen Elizabeth delivered a flawless performance. That was in 1940.

Four years later when she was 18, Queen Elizabeth insisted on joining the army where she trained as a truck driver and a mechanic. Mr. Speaker, the qualities Her Majesty exhibited when she was just beginning her life are the very same attributes that define her today in her 95th year — diligence and dignity, poise and purpose, a steeliness moderated by warmth and charm, above all a sense of duty.

So much has changed in our world over the past 70 years, but Queen Elizabeth is a constant, reassuring presence. Mr. Speaker, we are grateful to Her Majesty's leadership and service, and grateful as well for the example that she has provided to the

world. The Queen reminds us that we live not just for ourselves but for others, that the notion of duty is not outdated concept, some relic of a bygone era, but an enduring value that calls us to action every day.

Mr. Speaker, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent put it best when he said, and I quote, "In a world often focused on self-indulgence, on 'my' desires and 'my' priorities and 'my' agenda, The Queen . . . [is focused] on the 'we' and the 'us.'"

Mr. Speaker, Queen Elizabeth has visited our province on five occasions along with the late Prince Philip. Those visits are remembered fondly across Saskatchewan and in many communities. Today there is an open invitation for Her Majesty to visit once again, although we understand her travels may be limited. But if the opportunity arose, I have no doubt that we would express our deep and everlasting gratitude to our Queen and let her know how much she has meant to our province and our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would move:

That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, the Queen in the following words:

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY:

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN, QUEEN OF CANADA:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan in session assembled, wish to extend our sincere congratulations to Your Majesty, on this year of celebration marking the seventieth anniversary of Your Accession.

The People of Saskatchewan have been honoured to welcome Your Majesty and other members of the Royal Family to our province during Your reign, and have witnessed directly Your inspiring example of devotion to duty and unselfish labour on behalf of the welfare of the people of Canada and in other nations of the Commonwealth.

We trust that Your gracious and peaceful reign may continue for many years, and that Divine Providence will preserve Your Majesty in health, in happiness and in the affectionate loyalty of Your People.

I so move.

The Speaker: — Will the Assembly take the motion as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise and join the Deputy Premier and all members here in supporting this humble address and giving words of congratulation and honour to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on today, Commonwealth Day, and as we begin to celebrate this jubilee year, Platinum Jubilee. Seventy years in public life is an incredible sacrifice.

And in Her Majesty's reign we've witnessed a devotion to duty and to the common good that can be described as nothing short of inspiring. On her 21st birthday, 21st of April, 1947 she addressed the Commonwealth and dedicated her life "... whether it be long or short, to the service of others."

And we are all grateful that the answer was long, and we have had a chance to have Queen Elizabeth II in the living memory of everyone in this place. There was no other majesty, and that's something that I think we have all grown up with, seen throughout our lives.

I was thinking about a couple of books that I read recently. One is a book called *The Uncommon Reader*. The premise of that book is Queen Elizabeth II becoming fascinated with literature and reading voraciously. The second book was a book called *The Big Friendly Giant*, which the parents in the room might recognize. Read it to my boys, and in that Queen Elizabeth features as a hero who stops man-eating giants.

[14:45]

Now these might seem like a bit frivolous as examples, but they just reminded me of how ubiquitous Queen Elizabeth has been in our culture — whether it's in popular culture representations, on our money, on our stamps, in framed photos in our schools and public buildings — for 70 years. Now it is one thing to be universally known, but to be universally known and universally respected, it's hard to think of another example of anyone who's lived that long in the public eye and has our respect and admiration.

And we reflect that respect and admiration in our work here in the House. Each of us in this House pledges our allegiance to the Queen. We, in our small way, add to her larger service and the service of the Commonwealth to humanity. In the way that we respect the role of the Lieutenant Governor, the Queen's representative here in Saskatchewan, we reflect that commitment of hers as well.

And one of the roles that I've enjoyed as Leader of the Opposition is, in every major public event we stand and give a toast. And so I wonder if I could ask the members today, as we issue this humble address, to join me in a toast. You don't need to stand; just raise your glass. To the Queen; la reine.

Some Hon. Members: — La reine.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

TRANSMITTAL MOTION

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That the address to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II be engrossed, signed by Mr. Speaker, and forwarded through the proper channels.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has made a motion of transmittal of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy as always to rise and enter into debate here on Bill No. 65, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*. If you'll allow me to vent for a moment, I had Bill No. 56, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act* before me, having mixed those numbers. But today, entering into debate on Bill No. 65, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act* of course focuses on implementing recommendations from the 2020 Provincial Court Commission, establishing salaries of provincial court judges as well as salaries that have been determined and set out for these next three years — my understanding is with an aim at reducing cost, complexity, and uncertainty of the commission process.

There are significant opportunities here as this bill does eventually move forward through to its next stages in committee. Of course we on this side of the House believe fully in the importance of judicial independence from executive government and the critical nature of that impartiality. But, Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss if I did not note of course the overburdened nature of our justice system as well as the significant challenges to capacity and underfunding. So, Mr. Speaker, you know, anything that is specifically targeted, creating less administrative work to allow this branch to run more smoothly, is certainly to the benefit of this important branch.

Mr. Speaker, our critic is a much more articulate and qualified member than myself, and I have nothing but the utmost confidence that she will bring real and true thoughtful engagement to this process in committee. So at this point, I am delighted to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 65.

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. Why is the member on her feet?

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Please state your point of order.

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during question period the Leader of the Official Opposition posed in his question “pearl clutching.” I have to say that I found that so offensive. And every woman in this House who puts her name forward, puts her name on the ballot, does not need to be demeaned, especially by the Leader of the Opposition. I would like you to look upon this and rule in my favour. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I will take it under ... I recognize the opposition Deputy House Leader.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for her comments. I would disagree that that was the intention of the comments. That particular phrase is used as ... it’s a turn of phrase. I don’t believe it’s gendered, personally, but I ... And I can’t quite hear myself because the member is speaking over me, but ...

[Interjections]

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you. So certainly I can say I know for a fact that that would not be the intention ever of the leader of our opposition to make a gendered comment. And I think if you look at the definition of that turn of phrase, that you’ll find similarly that it’s not a gendered comment. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I will take it under advisement.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 67, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2021*. Of course this bill provides amendments to existing legislation that will provide enhanced protection from liability to individuals and organizations who comply with applicable public health orders. It also provides clarified liability protection for the Crown and its agents against COVID-related litigation.

In general, Mr. Speaker, I can say that these changes and amendments are welcomed by the opposition. With the increase of unfounded threats of litigation against health care workers and organizations, this legislation is certainly welcome. And certainly those that are obeying public health orders in good faith should not have to deal with the threat of litigation. It is not lost on me that here we are on the two-year anniversary of the first confirmed case of COVID in Saskatchewan, and certainly our hard-working health care workers don’t deserve the added stress of potential litigation.

There has been so much that has been stressing these workers out as it is, Mr. Speaker. For one, it quickly became clear in this government’s response to COVID that science and evidence would not be driving their response. The opposition was accused of fearmongering when we asked this government to be prepared for this emergency. I believe the Leader of the Opposition was called doctor doom when he stood up in this House, calling on the government to put their mind to a plan for dealing with COVID across this province.

Now in Saskatchewan we have to pay out of pocket for a reliable confirmation of a diagnosis of COVID in the province where our per capita death rates are higher than elsewhere, where our vaccine rates are still quite a bit lower, Mr. Speaker.

And on top of that, we just haven’t seen the kind of transparency that we want to be seeing from a government during an emergency, Mr. Speaker, the elimination of crucial data needed for individuals to make decisions about defending themselves against a potential lethal disease, to make personal risk assessments when that is the last thing standing between individuals and COVID now with the removal of many of the public health orders, Mr. Speaker. Fourteen years of a Sask Party government has certainly taught us what 14 years of cuts, privatization, and neglect has meant for this province in a time of crisis, in a time of emergency. It has meant very little to fall back on, Mr. Speaker.

So again, the opposition welcomes legislation that turns an eye to preparedness in the face of an emergency, and my colleagues have put significant comments on the record regarding this legislation.

So with that, it is my pleasure to move to adjourn debate on Bill 67, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2021*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 68, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2021*. I know that, you know, families have separation and end in divorce, and families decide to go through the process, the courts. And they utilize the court services to end a marriage or a family unit and live separate.

And then many of them have children and, you know, there’s a process in place, whether it’s legal counsel, agreements upon individuals that make an agreement for certain dollars for child

support payments. And that's important that you make sure whichever spouse, whether it be the husband or the wife, whoever has the kids and is getting the child support payments through the maintenance order is receiving those benefits to help raise the children.

Sometimes they have joint custody. There's many; I've seen different ones. And I've seen some families, friends go through some tough times. And we've all seen some of the challenges that sometimes that causes in the family unit. And I have to be honest with you, sometimes it's the children that suffer. And I know some of my colleagues have talked about the challenges, and some of them have been children that maybe faced parents splitting up and there would be child support payments. And they talked about that when they were referring to this bill, the challenges that they witnessed as a child going through that. Many . . . our families struggle.

And I think where we're going with COVID, we're hearing that a lot of challenges under mental health and addictions and different challenges that people are facing. And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we're seeing more people being challenged with the mental health, and it's causing a lot of issues within families. So with that happening, usually you'll have orders . . . So as I said, they go through the court process, they go through mediation, trying to resolve if they can, counselling. And if it doesn't, and they end up going and getting an order, and currently we have legislation right now that's supposed to provide supports. And it's supposed to provide support to the spouse that's raising the children, and the child support payments are supposed to come.

But unfortunately there is some problems, and obviously this is why we're dealing with this legislation and amending it, because obviously they're using the current legislation to do certain things, as the minister said in his comments. And it's interesting. I'd like to just quickly go, just looking at the minister's comments, and I think he gave some good reasons why we need the amendments to this legislation. And I think it's mainly, what I found was there's a process. And if I get it right, just looking at his comments, there was a three-month window when you have to comply. You're supposed to make payments if you're in arrears of payments. There's certain provisions that the maintenance office, enforcement office can do.

And there are certain things they can do, but unfortunately some, and it sounds like maybe from the minister — I hope he's consulted lots — that maybe there are some that are using the system to take time and maybe make the minimum payments and get through the system. And I think they're saying that it's causing some situations where someone could be three months behind and will quickly get it caught up, and then there's no further, you know, issues or they try to correct it.

And they're talking about now there's provision there for the bad faith that you don't follow your order that you've agreed to and make the order payment, child support payments, or the payments that you've agreed to on a timely manner. They're now going where the enforcement maintenance office can now, after a month, have some looks at, and it's giving them different powers to go in. And I know currently, from my understanding, there's certain things they can do with some people. I've heard your driver's licence can be suspended if you're not up. There's different provisions that can be provided.

[15:00]

I think this is toughening it up so that no one can play around with the system. Because at the end of the day, it's obviously the children that could be the ones suffering if they're not getting the supports that they need for maintenance, whether it's clothes, food allowance, shelter. And that could put some, you know, children in a situation where it's not good for them.

So I think the minister has asked, and he's introduced this bill, he's asking for some tightening up the legislation, amending it so that . . . They're talking about one month, and making it very clear, you can no longer have three months where you're playing back and forth. So if somebody is not in good faith doing it . . . [inaudible] . . . And obviously you can talk with the maintenance if an individual is having issues. I guess you can go through that process and try to work with the office and do what you can.

But I don't know if I have a whole lot more that I want to discuss on this order. But I just see this, for us, is something that's tightening it up. It's making sure, lessening time from three months to one month where it gives the maintenance office the ability to hold somebody accountable and say, you know, this is serious and we want this dealt with. So it's tightening up those provisions. And I see that they're actually doing that, so that is a good thing, as I said, and I know we would support it.

But there's more questions we will have in committee. And I know our Justice critic will ask more questions when it's in committee to make sure. Is this, like, we're amending it — the legislation came in — we're amending it. Did we get it right this time? Have we talked to those that were impacted to make sure we've consulted right? And if there is issues, our critic is always open to talking. And I know the minister and his officials will do what they can in committee and maybe provide information saying, yes, we've consulted. This is why we're making these amendments. And it makes sense.

So we'll allow that process to happen. I don't think I have a lot more to say, so at this point I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill 68, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2021*. I'm prepared to adjourn.

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. Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Meili: — To make a statement, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested to make a statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Make your statement, please.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Apology

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I used the

term “pearl clutching.” This was in response to what I saw as an overwrought gesture from the minister in response to heckling on both sides. However, I saw that the point of order was raised by the Minister for the Status of Women that that could be seen as a gendered term. Like the critic for Status of Women, I hadn’t considered that before, hadn’t thought of it in those terms before, but now that I think about it more and chat with colleagues, I realize that’s probably not a great term to use. I’ll retire it from my vocabulary, and I apologize and withdraw the comment.

The Speaker: — Thank you.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my pleasure to participate in adjourned debate on Bill 69, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2021*, bilingual.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments to this Act will eliminate the requirement for copies of support orders from other domestic jurisdictions to be certified before they can be filed in a Saskatchewan court. The amendments also eliminate the requirement that Saskatchewan orders must be certified before they can be filed in another domestic jurisdiction. Mr. Speaker, we see this as a good thing in that it encourages expediency in these situations. We’re also glad to see the provision allowing for court discretion if an order’s authenticity is called into question.

The Act further provides for the transmission of other documents via electronic means, and this type of pragmatic modernization is always welcomed by this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these changes will substantively increase access to justice for families filing support orders in other jurisdictions, and it will also ensure that the process is timely. We know very well that access to justice is a serious issue in our province, and so as the official opposition, we do stand in support of this bill. We’ve had a number of speakers to this already, outlining further details.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I’m going to move that we adjourn debate on Bill 69, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2021*, bilingual.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s always an honour to stand in this House and discuss important legislation, legislation that will affect lives of people across this province. But I have to admit that this bill, Bill No. 70, has me concerned for a number of reasons.

Any province at any time has many priorities that compete for the government of the day’s attention. And I think we can all appreciate that it’s a big job to look at those often competing interests and come up with legislation and policy to address what needs to be addressed and to offer solutions and improvements that will benefit people. Not easy, but it is the role of responsible government, and it is what the people of Saskatchewan expect us to do.

It’s also true, Mr. Speaker, that there are limitations: economic considerations for sure, but also time. We sit in this Assembly for 16 weeks out of the year, in the people’s Assembly, to discuss legislation, provide oversight and scrutiny of the expenditures and actions of government. And this time, in this opportunity to scrutinize, it’s important to remain accountable to the people of our province. That necessarily means that what comes to the floor of this Assembly, the bills that members opposite present, represent a priority for the government.

And that is why, Mr. Speaker, in the middle of a terrible fourth wave that cost hundreds of Saskatchewan people their lives, that saw our health care system and those who work in it brought to their knees, it was puzzling to see this bill tabled in this Assembly and given such priority.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many of us knock on a lot of doors and speak with a lot of people, citizens, constituents. And I’m not sure that any of us — and I’m willing to be wrong on this, Mr. Speaker — but I doubt there were many discussions about security of the legislative precinct and the need for it before this bill was introduced. I’m willing to bet that it wasn’t even on the priority list for most people when asked about the most pressing issues that they were struggling with or wanted attended to, certainly not ahead of economic considerations; public health considerations; fallout from a major drought; supports for seniors, for students; or really any other issue that people had been raising with members. Yet this bill appeared.

To raise the issues that we’re hearing about, those that need our attention, is exactly what each of us were elected to do, and that goes for members on both sides. We are a group of 61 local representatives here to stand up for the people in our communities, to work together to improve our province, to listen to each other, and to listen to people from across our constituencies, and to be open to ideas. The goal, Mr. Speaker, is that together, often with a good deal of debate and scrutiny, we can discuss ideas and pass legislation that will result in a stronger

future for everyone.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we might not always agree — and I know that we often don't — on what is a priority. And we certainly have differences about how best to solve the issues that do face us, but that's okay. In fact that is how our democracy is set up. There's the cabinet and the MLAs in the government caucus, and there's opposition. You often don't see a lot of backbench MLAs on the government side holding the cabinet to account, but they can.

And over here, Mr. Speaker, on the opposition side, we do take that job very seriously. We propose solutions and occasionally we do see the government listen. But we also push back and oppose legislation that will take our province in the wrong direction, Mr. Speaker, especially ill-thought-out schemes that ministers cannot even explain let alone defend. And that's what we see today.

Sometimes the debates in this House get heated. Sometimes you as the Speaker have to interject, and that role is not just ceremonial. It's essential to the system of government we are all part of. You serve this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, and all the people of Saskatchewan in that important role of making sure that we move our debates along, whether we agree with any particular piece of legislation or not. It is important that rules are followed and the people's business is done.

The Speaker may have been elected to a political party, but when you sit in that Chair and exercise your duties, it is a non-partisan role and we respect that. Respect for the neutrality of the Speaker is fundamental to how this place works, fundamental to our democracy, and ultimately it's fundamental to the faith that people have in this institution and the work that we are all expected to be doing here.

Mr. Speaker, that same division of views of course exists outside of this Assembly. We see it in protests. We see it in actions of all kinds, and those people, all people, need to have their rights respected in a non-partisan way as well. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, three decades ago the elected members of this legislature decided that the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms should be moved from the executive to the Speaker, and decisions about the funding for the Sergeant-at-Arms should be moved from the executive to the all-party Board of Internal Economy.

Mr. Speaker, three decades ago it was agreed by all parties — and including a Conservative government at the time, I might add — that it just made sense to do everything possible to remove questions of partisanship from questions of security. When this decision was made, it was deemed to be a positive change and best practice. And it is practice that is maintained to this day in almost every legislature and in the House of Commons.

These changes were brought in because of founded concerns about who was making decisions and who had access to this building, and because of serious concerns about cabinet having the ability to direct security without accountability. And, Mr. Speaker, there were concerns that the very partisan cabinet had the authority to make decisions about and direct the security of offices, including the offices of the members of the opposition and the offices of the media.

The need for the Sergeant-at-Arms to be fully independent, Mr. Speaker, was so obvious to those leaders at the time that they didn't even feel the need to legislate it. They all agreed. How, they thought, could anyone oppose such an obvious position? Mr. Speaker, it made sense for the government of the day too. They had their own legal problems coming their way and they didn't want the responsibility. They didn't want to be accused of trying to go around the court system, to go around the law, or even be accused of giving special treatment with protesters they happened to agree with.

But, Mr. Speaker, I bet that they could not have predicted that there would one day be a government from their side that would want to do all of those things. The Conservative government at the time agreed that non-partisan direction was best, and so that's how things stayed and have stayed even after the government changed. It was in 2005 that that agreement was legislated, and now in law the Sergeant-at-Arms has the authority, under the direction of the Speaker, to manage security of the Legislative Building and the surrounding grounds.

Mr. Speaker, even after the horrific shooting in Ottawa in 2014, security here was reviewed. And even under that intense scrutiny and review, the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms was not changed. A small change was made in 2019 — and members here will remember that — when it was clarified by an all-party decision of the BOIE [Board of Internal Economy] what the legislative precinct entailed. It was a simple change, Mr. Speaker, that some will remember took all of a day to pass through this House, and we all agreed. It wasn't complicated. The arguments were made. There was opportunity to discuss, and the changes simply made sense.

[15:15]

But here we get to the important part, Mr. Speaker. Why, just a couple of years later, does the government want to redefine what the Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for? It's a good question, and they should come clean about that — something they've yet to do — because it isn't a small change and it matters, Mr. Speaker.

In 2019 the precinct was defined as, and I'm quoting:

[The] “**Legislative Precinct**” means:

- (a) the Legislative Building; and;
- (b) the parcel of land in the City of Regina located within the boundaries commencing at the inside north-west corner of Legislative Drive and Memorial Way; thence easterly on the southern curb of Legislative Drive to the inside corner of Legislative Drive and Avenue A, thence southerly and westerly following Avenue A along the curve on the inside curb of Avenue A until Avenue A intersects with Memorial Way, thence northerly on the inside curb of Memorial Way until the point of commencement, being the inside north-west corner of Legislative Drive and Memorial Way.

Mr. Speaker, that's how the existing legislation reads.

With Bill 70, this government would now like to change the grounds for what the Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for from

all of that, that long description that I just read, to this floor, just the floor of this Assembly — not the balconies that surround us, not the hallways behind us, not the caucus offices or the media offices, not the front door, not the steps, not any of the grounds — just the floor. Mr. Speaker, the Sergeant-at-Arms, if this bill passes, will be responsible for security here and that is it. This change is turning the Sergeant-at-Arms' office into a ceremonial role only.

And, Mr. Speaker, what is the Sask Party's grand vision for every other aspect of the precinct that I've just defined? Well they want the minister to appoint a "director of legislative security." Mr. Speaker, in short, they want to undo the work that was agreed to 30 years ago, and they want to politicize the security of this, the people's legislature, something that even the Devine government knew was indefensible.

So the question is this, and this is something any minister standing to deliver a bill in this House should be able to answer: why? After all of this time, after decades of an all-party agreement and the good work of the Sergeant-at-Arms and his team, why does this government now want to get into their DeLorean and go back to 1995?

Mr. Speaker, the reasons that they're willing to put on the record simply don't add up. The Sergeant-at-Arms team has just kept us safe here for decades, but especially through a very difficult last few months. They've upheld the law. They've made space for peaceful protest. They've worked collaboratively with the city police and the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] when needed. And they did so, by all accounts, Mr. Speaker, seamlessly. And we're grateful.

A former long-serving Sergeant-at-Arms says he sees no reason for this change, and this government has yet to point to a good reason. So we're left to wonder about the motive. We know that the Premier was unhappy when groups of Indigenous people and their supporters set up camp on these grounds to get their message heard. The Premier was angry that peaceful protesters were allowed to continue, and this government tried to direct anyone it could to clamp down on the camps, most recently the one set up by Tristen Durocher.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, Tristen made a 600-kilometre trek in 2020 to draw attention to the government's inaction on suicides that have claimed so many lives in our province, and especially to the high rates of suicide in our province's North and amongst young people. He started his journey — and Tristen himself will tell you this — after the member's office had voted down a suicide prevention bill brought forward by our colleague from Cumberland for the second time. Tristen wanted to know how any elected member could vote against such a bill. He wanted to talk, but the Premier refused to walk across the street to even meet with Tristen to hear his concerns. It appeared, Mr. Speaker, for reasons I cannot pretend to understand, the Premier just wanted him and his supporters, including Saskatchewan residents who had lost loved ones to suicide, off the lawn.

Mr. Speaker, what is even more troublesome is the fact that this is not the treatment that the Premier gives out of principle, not how he treats all of those who seek to have their voices heard. We know that the Premier was happy to side with protesters more recently, including those led by people who openly talked about

violence and harming elected officials.

Mr. Speaker, people have the right to protest and express concern, even anger, regardless if we agree with their cause or not. But people also have the responsibility to conduct themselves peacefully and not to threaten others' right to live without fear. It is a balance to be sure, but an important one, and it is one that we have to get right.

And we, as elected officials, have an important role to play. That role, our role certainly, is not to stoke the fires already burning and actively sow division as we have seen this Premier do time and again. And that role is also not to take advantage of the situation, one that the government has actively made worse, and force through sweeping changes that are simply not needed. And it should never be the case that any minister is willing to not only disregard the successful efforts and expertise of those who have so ably, so ably, Mr. Speaker, and effectively worked to keep all of us safe. That, Mr. Speaker, is what is truly shameful.

After this bill was tabled, the minister has tried to claim that it's just the start of a conversation. Mr. Speaker, we all know that's not how legislation works. The suggestion is absurd and it's insulting. If the government has a problem with security in this place, they have a voice. In fact, they have the loudest voice at the Board of Internal Economy. And that is where the conversation should begin.

This is not the start of a conversation. Let's call it what it is, Mr. Speaker. This bill is a partisan takeover of security on these grounds. And the Premier should frankly be ashamed of how brazenly he is showing he doesn't care about even pretending this is anything other than self-serving.

Mr. Speaker, some day the government will change. I'm not sure if the members opposite have considered that. Or maybe they're so out of touch and convinced by their own hubris that they believe they can get away with this. They cannot, Mr. Speaker. More and more people are tired, and tired of this divisive government.

So, Mr. Speaker, while I'm not always in the habit of giving members opposite advice, let me say this to those members: if they're sitting over there and reading this bill and they've been listening to any of my colleagues, but in particular the member from Douglas Park, they know — they should know — that this legislation goes too far. They know it's a slap in the face to our democratic traditions, and this bill is simply an insult to the Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff.

Mr. Speaker, when we win the next election, we will of course reverse this law if it passes this session. But instead of waiting until then, I'm asking every member on that side of the House who can admit the truth about this legislation to call on their colleagues to withdraw it or at least find the courage to vote against it and defeat it. The people of Saskatchewan are tired of these games and want us to get to work, the real work, addressing the problems that people of Saskatchewan are facing today and working for the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, this bill should not have been tabled. The government has not been able to defend it, and I hope they reconsider and withdraw. It's the right thing to do. Thank you.

With that I move to adjourn debate on Bill 70.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill 71, *The Insurance Amendment Act*.

You know, I'm one of the last speakers on this to enter some comments on adjourned debate, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention for the record the importance of this piece of legislation, as well as the significant and important role that insurance has played in the life of this province, both institutionally and of course for individuals.

This was an interesting piece of legislation to learn about, Mr. Speaker, Bill 71 of course, following a recent Court of Appeal decision specifically referencing the limit to amounts of funds that can be held inside accounts for life insurance policies. And it's always great to see a codification following court decisions, especially when it is targeted at protecting both consumers and providers.

Mr. Speaker, a deep, shameful secret of mine is a strange passing interest in insurance in particular. I'm not sure why. It's probably the mark of a troubled childhood. But this was a really interesting court case to follow, at least for me, obviously as not a lawyer, decidedly not a lawyer, but somebody who is entrusted in court decisions that have an impact on the province of Saskatchewan — especially in the field of insurance which has played such a significant role in the history of our province, of course referencing SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] and SGI Canada, really unique to what they provide for Saskatchewan.

But of course today on Bill 71, this piece of legislation follows similar actions undertaken by governments in Alberta, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. And my understanding, through following the case before the Court of Appeal, was that previously insurers weren't regulated for deposit taking, unlimited deposit taking and were being forced to accept deposits beyond the nature of life insurance. And my understanding, Mr. Speaker, from this was that the initial dispute revolved around the use of life insurance policies that I believe were issued in the '90s and allowed owners to deposit unlimited amounts of capital into what were essentially side accounts that offered a guaranteed interest rate of 4 per cent. And you know, Mr. Speaker, a guaranteed interest rate of 4 per cent on unlimited investments sounds pretty good, and I certainly understand the appeal and the creativity shown in those hedge funds in pursuing those

unlimited amounts of capital being deposited into those side accounts.

But of course this was not particularly good for consumers, nor for the insurers, and my understanding again, Mr. Speaker, is that if these contracts had been honoured as investors had ideally wanted, it could lead to billings in losses for insurers and particular risks and challenges for those people who rely on those providers for actual life insurance.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, many people have spoken on this piece of legislation before, but as was noted I believe by the Attorney General and Justice minister in his comments, life insurance providers are not banks and they should not have to provide services like banks. And the legislation is aimed at protecting, as I noted, both customers and life insurance providers. Limiting these deposits made into these side accounts will provide that protection to both insurers and consumers.

[15:30]

And you know, Mr. Speaker, perhaps in closing I'll summarize by saying that such pieces of legislation following court decisions, and of course ensuring that our legislation and our courts are up to date and protecting all those in the province, whether corporate or individual, is a true success.

So, Mr. Speaker, with Bill No. 71 following and now amending *The Insurance Act* which I believe came into force in 2020, I'm happy to see these amendments. The critic herself will of course have more comments to enter into the record, and I do understand has been doing extensive consultation work on this. And with that, I am happy to conclude my comments and move to adjourn debate on this very interesting Bill 71, *The Insurance Amendment Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to participate in adjourned debate on Bill 72, *The Life Leases Act, 2021*. Mr. Speaker, this new Act was born out of a recommendation from the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan. And just for our listeners at home, a life lease is an agreement providing a leaseholder or renter with the right to occupy a rental unit for life or for a fixed term of not less than 20 years.

This new legislation requires a life lease operator to be required to disclose entrance fees and other financial obligations to

potential leaseholders before a life lease is executed. Also requires that terms be set out in each life lease respecting whether the life lease can be assigned to a subsequent leaseholder. And the leaseholder will have 10 days after the life lease is signed to cancel for any reason, which is an important protection. Will also require lease operators to establish a reserve fund which will be used for repairs to the complex, and an AGM [annual general meeting] will be established to ensure engagement and transparency. It further creates offences and penalties for contraventions of the Act.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think, and all my colleagues have agreed so far, this is very important legislation. We're happy to see the government move forward with the recommendation from the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, and happy that this will allow leaseholders the opportunity to understand their financial obligations before they sign the life lease agreement.

So again, a very important protection for folks in our province. It is important that there be specific terms set out in each lease and opportunities for leaseholders to dispute. Ensuring that leaseholders and lease operators are protected is equally important. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 72, *The Life Leases Act*, 2021.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a joy to rise today and enter some brief comments into the record on Bill No. 73, *The Animal Production Act*, which has been canvassed at length by several of my colleagues. And I know the critic, with his particular interest in delicious, delicious beef, will have gone over this with a fine-tooth comb. In fact, I did ask for thoughts and I believe he just said the word "beef" over and over again. And now I'm hearing my own member heckle me, saying "pork," and "lamb," "poultry." Once I ate emu. Another time I did eat an iguana. I don't believe those are contemplated in this piece of legislation.

But of course the definition of "animal" is quite broad and inclusive in this bill, which I think speaks to the innovation and creativity of producers in this sector. But, Mr. Speaker, my read of this bill is that it is repealing or bringing together four pieces of legislation which had not been considered for several decades, which of course does happen, you know.

I'm not as familiar, Mr. Speaker, with some of the original pieces of legislation in this, but I do know some, even some really big pieces of legislation that govern our province — thinking in

particular of both *The Election Act* and *The Education Act* — are about 25-odd years old. And so I appreciate the immense amount of work that has gone into consultations and ensuring that some of these changes are both informed and by this point seemingly administrative, thanks to those widespread consultations.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I do while I'm on my feet want to take the opportunity to recognize and thank producers in the province for all of their hard work and their contributions, especially during what has been an incredibly challenging time, certainly for many but in particular for those in their sectors. I think of all the hard work and the risk and the uncertainty and some of the ongoing challenges that so many are facing, and I do want to take the opportunity of being on my feet on this piece of legislation to recognize and thank them.

I understand that the government will be continuing this consultation going forward throughout 2022 and look forward to learning more about that. Of course innovation and growth in the agricultural sector is a priority for all of us in the province. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to move to adjourn debate on Bill 73, *The Animal Production Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet here this afternoon speaking on Bill No. 75, *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2021*.

It's my understanding that this bill is modelled off the new business corporations Act that passed in the spring of 2021, and I was very pleased to enter into debate on that Act at the time. And similar to that piece of legislation, it's my understanding that the new bill before us is focused, at least partially or mostly, on modernization to ensure that we are keeping up with the times and the way that people are conducting business, both in the for-profit and non-profit sector; and also of course in response to the pandemic and the need to move to conducting business electronically, whether that's through the use of electronic filings, electronic board meetings; ensuring that we have more inclusive language as well and including, for example, corporations to use Indigenous languages in their titles.

So we of course welcome modernization and the introduction of electronic technologies like electronic filing and meetings. And that's really just become a necessity as we move forward. I know certainly it's also meant that it has improved the functioning of non-profit organizations here in the province, especially at a time

when we needed to be socially distancing.

And I think there's many benefits that we are seeing from these measures whether, you know, it's the ability for parents who participate in a meeting while still also performing their duties as parents at home in the evenings, saving on travel time to and from various meetings. And you know, I think there's been a lot of savings, time savings, and other kinds of conveniences that this has allowed.

Obviously of course it's also meant that oftentimes our relationships with our counterparts on boards, you know, suffers when you don't have that informal opportunity to engage with other board members. And that's certainly an unfortunate consequence. But I think, by and large, what we're seeing here are important steps and measures taken to facilitate and acknowledge the manner in which society is evolving. And also of course here in Saskatchewan oftentimes there can be other difficulties with weather or long distances to travel that acknowledging the need for, and the existence of, these more modern measures needs to be reflected in our legislation.

I do also want to pay respect to the people who donate their time, volunteer their time to sit on the various non-profit boards and organizations across the province. We just wouldn't function as a society with strong communities without the work of our volunteers performing these roles and building up these skills and conducting themselves in a manner that is facilitating a strong and healthy democracy here in Canada.

And particularly at a time when we see how divisive language and hyperbolic kinds of statements and mistruths and other kinds of false information and rhetoric being utilized in the media and elsewhere that's leading to a lot of misunderstandings and people becoming overly activated around issues that, when we have these forums within the non-profit sector of people coming together to solve problems at the local level, to engage one another, talk about issues using their first-hand experience, using good information within a governance framework that's facilitated by the measures that are taken in this amendment or this new bill, you know, we're healthier. We're stronger as a society.

And it's from these grassroots organizations that we then have people who go on and take higher levels of leadership, whether than can be at a municipal level, on private corporation boards, indeed as members of the Legislative Assembly here before us today. And so there's a lot of goodwill and benefit that also is accruing to all of us as members of society when we have good governance and practices for our non-profit sector that provide so many important services and build that leadership capacity within our communities.

You know, the manner in which that happens in terms of ensuring fiscal literacy, fiscal due diligence, planning processes for these organizations, the identification of risks and future opportunities or threats, the development of leaders — all of these things are how a non-profit organization is ensuring that we have leaders at all levels within our society.

[15:45]

I just want to turn to a couple other matters related to this bill,

and certainly I know our critic in this area will have many questions and more to say on this particular bill. I'm always concerned about ensuring that we've heard from a range of stakeholders that are impacted by this new legislation, that we're not inadvertently creating more problems or issues for the non-profit organizations and their members that are going to be governed by this legislation.

And I know in particular that there's a couple of items within this legislation that we are wanting to receive feedback. In particular, I'll note the removal of the requirement that a board consists of at least 25 per cent Saskatchewan residents, and that this aligns with other jurisdictions. This may or may not be causing some issues. I think it's going to be important that we hear from stakeholders on their views on that particular item, as well as the removal of the ability for a non-accountant to conduct audits or reviews.

It's my understanding that the financial threshold for audits has been increased. That seems to make a lot of sense. But as always, especially for non-profits, that requirement for an audit oftentimes can be onerous, financially burdensome for non-profits. And certainly want to hear from them to ensure that the realities are being accounted for with this piece of legislation.

Also want to say that it's good to see that we're being more inclusive in terms of allowing for Indigenous languages to be used in the naming of non-profits. And certainly if there are ways such as these to continue to walk forward with Truth and Reconciliation, the recommendations coming out of their Calls to Action, that this is an important step, I think, in that regard and something I hope that we'll see more of.

And just wanted finally to say that our non-profit sector is really about caring for the people within our communities, and I think that our legislation needs to ensure that it is supportive of the role that they do. So I look forward to continuing to hear from stakeholders on this bill as it goes into committee. And with that I will adjourn my remarks on Bill No. 75. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet again here with this Bill No. 76, *The Non-profit Corporations Consequential Amendments Act*, following on Bill No. 75 which I just spoke to.

So obviously this is in response to the new provisions arising

from *The Non-profit Corporations Act*, and there's various pieces of legislation that are impacted, whether that's *The Condominium Property Act*, *The Credit Union Act*, *The Métis Act*, and *The Municipalities Act*. So I don't think that there's really anything here that is too controversial. Obviously a bill with the scope that No. 75 has, obviously it touches on various areas. And we need to see things move forward in a coordinated manner, which I understand this bill is intended to do.

And as I said earlier, of course I'm sure that our critic for this area will be keen to reach out and hear from stakeholders. And I encourage those stakeholders to certainly reach out to us as well, and certainly we'll be happy to take their feedback as we move into committee and ask those questions on their behalf. So with that, I will conclude my remarks and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 76.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter some brief comments onto the record in regards to Bill No. 56, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act*, which of course establishes criteria for the operation of the superior court. And as I understand it, Mr. Speaker, the amendments being proposed are relatively administrative but are required to ensure that the current makeup of the court is reflected. And this will modernize that as well as the court's ability to assign residency, I believe.

Mr. Speaker, I know the critic will certainly have questions for the minister on this piece, especially in regards to the new provisions that will allow for changes to the beneficiary designation for those individuals without capacity. Of course important changes like that always merit good and thoughtful scrutiny, of which I'm confident that the critic will provide and the minister will receive.

This piece of legislation also, as I understand it, will update the number of judges who do comprise the Court of Queen's Bench. And of course, as has been noted by others, particularly those with significantly more first-hand experience than myself, the piece in particular reflecting the need for the number of family law judges in Saskatchewan is important. Unfortunately, we do experience a great deal of action in the field of family law, and anything to increase access to justice. And certainly to provide additional access to the many individuals who will fall under that area will be important.

As always, I know the critic is doing thoughtful and considerate

engagement with stakeholders, as always, reflecting on why these changes are being brought forward now as well as what impact, foreseen or otherwise, may be experienced based on the changes that the government is bringing forward. And I know she will have, as I said, thoughtful and constructive discussions with the minister on committee once this bill has moved forward to its next stages.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I will, as always, leave those more articulate discussions to my more articulate colleagues, and am happy to adjourn debate on Bill No. 56, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, mister deputy deputy speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak to Bill No. 57, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021*. So the bill is . . . The proposed amendments to this bill work to achieve a balance by limiting or prohibiting certain assurance claims that would place unfair burden on public funds.

And it would also achieve this in three ways. Both surfaces and mineral titles, the changes would clarify that a loss would be valued at the time the error occurred. And the second one is there will be a \$50,000 compensation cap would be implemented with respect to mines and minerals. And of course the third thing is that it would prohibit compensation where a registrar's caveat was filed more than 20 years ago.

It's interesting the changes with this bill, the interesting changes with the goal of protecting the public from often sophisticated claimants in the mines and minerals sectors. One of the things as I was reading this . . . You know, when we're looking at different bills and having to respond to various bills that are being presented, I view each of these bills from an Indigenous world view, and that perspective as a First Nations person, as a descendant of my great-grandfather who signed the adhesion to Treaty 4 back in 1876.

And as a First Nations person, and learning about treaties, I think about, that's the first thing, that's probably one of the first things that came up, popped in my head, was I'd be curious what the First Nation community would say regarding this bill. And why I say that is that when the treaties were signed, the First Peoples of this country talked about sharing the land with the settlers at the depth of the plow. So that excludes the mineral rights, although many in this House would disagree.

So a lot of these bills that have been presented and have been passed within this legislature, in this provincial legislature since we've become a legislature, since we've become a province, really hasn't honoured the treaties that were signed by my ancestors, by your ancestors. So when I think about this land titles amendment Act and in particular to the mineral rights, that is something that I know that within the First Nations community, when my ancestors signed, they agreed to share the land with the settlers only to the depth of the plow. This is what I often hear. I often hear this. And those treaties excluded the mineral rights.

I would be interested, with this government when they talk about reconciliation and about correcting the errors that they have made, that perhaps they would take the time to meet with First Nation leaders, Métis leaders, and revisit this because that has been a contentious issue with First Nations people in this province around mineral rights, that the treaties that were signed, my ancestors agreed to share this land only to the depth of the plow.

So I would be interested in hearing more discussions being made between the government and First Nation leaders out there how reconciliation . . . how to move on reconciliation, how to correct the wrongs we as a province have done with Indigenous people, and in particular when it comes to lands, when it comes to treaties. Because this province, we have known, has been breaching the treaty rights.

[16:00]

So I would be interested in hearing more on what this government is doing to meet and speak with First Nation-Métis leaders around the treaties and in particularly around mineral rights. I also have faith in my caucus colleagues with this critic area would ask those questions, so I'll limit . . . I'll conclude my remarks on that. And, mister deputy deputy speaker, with that I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 57, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. It is a pleasure to be on my feet to enter into debate on Bill No. 58, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021*. Of course this is a bill that prohibits aiding and abetting those who contravene security laws. The amendments contained herein would prohibit false and misleading promotional activities in capital markets industries,

allow for electronic filing of documents required under the Act, which makes common sense, as well as amend the Act to clarify that limitation period is suspended while a plaintiff is seeking leave of Queen's Bench, as I believe was a recommendation of the Canadian Securities Administrators, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees.

This is a piece of legislation that has very little overlap with my interests or my critic areas, I would say, and I have had the great pleasure of reviewing the comments put on the record by my colleagues. I have great trust that the critic will engage stakeholders to ensure that the consultations necessary for this kind of legislation have been diligently done.

And with that it is my pleasure to take my seat and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 58, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm happy to enter into debate today on Bill No. 59, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021*. There are a few different amendments that are coming forward in this legislation, some of them substantive and some of them housekeeping, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We see that this bill creates a new position, a title of relief justices of the peace. The intent here is that while a Justice of the Peace may retire at age 70, they may still be willing and able to assist. So this legislation aims to change that cut-off to reflect that so that folks who are between 70 and 75 and want to continue to help to deal with the workload will have the opportunity to do that. And there are of course a number of conditions that need to be met to ensure that this takes place.

It also creates a position of administrative justices of the peace, which really when we talk about folks who are taking on additional responsibility and administrative duties, this is allowing them to receive compensation for that work, so those taking on additional administrative work. And then it also shortens the term of the Justice of the Peace commission from six years to four years.

We know that justices of the peace play an important role in our justice system. It certainly makes sense as we look at, you know, adding administrative duties and increasing the age. We know that people are retiring later and later now, and it's hard to say

how long any of us will want to work until. But it's something we don't plan for as readily anymore, about when are you going to retire. And you know, the notion of Freedom 55 that I think some of our parents grew up with . . . Well many of the folks in this Assembly would have grown up with it as well depending on their age, and that notion is gone out the window.

So I think changing our legislation to reflect the fact that more people are working later in life certainly makes sense. And we're living longer, so it makes sense that we would be productive members of society as long as possible.

But overall it appears that these are good changes and that they're based on terms and positions that are currently used in the provincial court system, so reflecting what is actually happening. I will leave more substantive questions to the critic when this does go to committee, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but with that I would move to adjourn debate on this bill for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, mister deputy deputy speaker. I am pleased to rise again to speak to Bill No. 61, *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act*. So this bill is a full repeal and it's replacing the Act from 2000. And it provides legislative oversight for post-secondary education and skills training institutions.

It also provides the minister clear tools to oversee and account for public funds in the sector. And another area, what it also does is it centralizes the minister's authority to provide grants, and it articulates what they can receive money for. And it outlines the process for providing monies while establishing reporting requirements and new data reporting abilities. I'm curious to know what those responsibilities of the ministers are and what the powers of the minister will be.

One thing that I think about is something that's come up in terms of post-secondary institutions, and I know that this bill wants to maintain that status quo, doesn't want to change operations. I get that. One of the things that's come up in the Indigenous community is non-Indigenous people claiming Indigenous ancestry. That has been very controversial within the Indigenous community and in relation to post-secondary institutions.

And there's been many, many people in the universities in Saskatchewan, across the country that have . . . Many First

Nations and Métis people have been very . . . not happy at all with what we call "pretendians." And that's non-Indigenous people claiming Indigenous heritage. I'm curious to know if that is something that this bill perhaps could address, rather . . . And we all know that self-identification is not adequate. No, it just isn't.

And I just wanted to note that because I know within education, when institutions are touting themselves for Indigenous rates, graduation rates, all of that stuff, that when they apply for funding there's some dedicated dollars for Indigenous. So I'd be curious to know how this bill will navigate through that and ensure that there are individuals that are not benefiting when they ought not to be.

The other thing that I'm curious about is, has there been more strategies in terms of recruiting Indigenous students for those that there isn't a whole lot of Indigenous people taking, so the non-traditional training? And of course we need a strategy to increase post-secondary education seats, and especially in areas where there's not a high number of Indigenous students attending.

And again, and I'll say again that as the critic for First Nations and Métis Relations and as a First Nations woman, I view . . . My lens is through an Indigenous world view. So everything that I speak to comes from that Indigenous world view. However, having said that, I'm sure that the critic for this area will have many questions that they will ask in committee, and I'm in favour of letting this move forward to the next steps and to pass. So with that, mister deputy deputy speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 61, *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2021*. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to debate Bill No. 62, *The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act*. This is a bill that will allow for dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental assistants to practise independently, and that all with a focus on increasing public access to dental care.

And in a way, that brings Saskatchewan in line with other jurisdictions. Obviously dental care is an important area of public health, and increasing access for those that otherwise wouldn't have that access of course is an important measure. And as I say, it's something that is a solution we're seeing undertaken in other parts of the country.

And I guess what I would be wanting to ensure through this measure, or I'm assuming is the case here, is that when we have dental hygienists, therapists, and other dental assistants practising independently, that it'll be so important that our training institutions are properly educating and supporting these dental specialists in their work to ensure that when they are out working independently, that they have the proper skills and knowledge in order to perform their work.

You know, I certainly agree with the need to move forward in this direction. Dental hygiene is vitally important. It affects all areas of health. You know, when someone has a dental caries that goes unattended, it provides a pathway for potential toxins to enter the blood system and cause a whole host of other health issues.

[16:15]

And certainly in parts of the province where there is a lack of access and you're dealing with vulnerable populations and other barriers to access, you know, we want to make sure that those barriers are being removed, that people can gain access to their health care needs in a timely and efficient manner. And I guess I would also point out the fact that, you know, as this will be, I think, addressing access within rural areas, certainly we've seen how lack of transportation through the demise of the Saskatchewan Transportation Corporation has made this all the more necessary.

You know, people are really suffering in various parts of the province with access to health care, more broadly because of the lack of adequate protections through the pandemic by our current sitting government, but for a host of other reasons as well. I mean obviously, you know, cost is also a barrier. And certainly as we look to provide better access through making dental hygienists and the like available, unless you're on some kind of financial assistance potentially, or you know, have the means yourself, there are people throughout this province who for which cost is a barrier. And that concerns me.

The members opposite of course will recall that there was a time when, at least for our youth, we had universal access to dental care here in the province. I myself do recall very fondly the trips to go see the dentist in the top floor of Victoria School on Broadway Avenue in the constituency that I represent. And that was a progressive program that ensured that our youth were receiving the health care that they needed in order to lead healthy lives, to be good students, and have their needs met. And so I guess if the government opposite really wants to be showing a sincere commitment and desire towards ensuring that there is good public access, we need to be ensuring that, you know, cost barriers are also being limited through government programming.

On a more technical level, certainly I guess I would have some questions with this legislative change in terms of how dentists and other dental professionals are going to be able to interact and ensure that those who are presenting with dental needs are being not overlooked and that they're receiving the proper care that they need. It's my understanding that this legislative change has come about through the advocacy of those that work in this area. And so certainly I think that this is likely very much a good faith, goodwill exercise that will have the intent of ensuring that there

aren't any unintended consequences from allowing dental hygienists and the like from practising outside of the oversight of dentists. And I'm sure that our critic for this area will be asking those questions, ensuring that we're truly creating a better system and not unintentionally creating other issues when the dental needs of Saskatchewan people are being addressed through these changes that are being proposed through this legislation.

So very much happy to see it. Certainly more work to be done. And with that I will conclude my remarks and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 62, *The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech. I'm pleased to rise again to provide some input, my input into this proposed bill. The intent of this is to create a balance between creditors' rights and debtors' rights. It also changes terminology, which will allow for certain transactions to be reviewed where the debtor did not intend to defraud their creditor.

It also creates a review process, provides a list of factors for courts to consider the orders and remedies a court may grant. The current laws fail to address modern, commercial transaction and hence cause confusion. So this bill will replace outdated laws that govern fraudulent preferences and conveyances in Saskatchewan. These recommendations came from the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, a body that makes recommendations to ensure that legislation is uniform across jurisdictions. It's also important that there is an adequate review process and factors for the court to weigh. Modernization and alignment with other jurisdictions is welcomed.

And with that, I'm sure the critic for this area will have more substantive questions that they would like to present and ask within committee. So with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 63, *The Reviewable Transactions Act*, 2021. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to speak to Bill No. 64, *The Reviewable Transactions Consequential Amendments Act, 2021*. Of course this bill contains consequential amendments to the bilingual legislation necessary to implement *The Reviewable Transactions Act*, and it 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.

Those are sort of the highlights of this exciting piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. Of course we can all agree that bilingualism in legislation is important to ensure that it's accessible. And it's important that legislation is clear and concise at all times.

Despite that, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, I have had an opportunity to review the comments of my colleagues. This is a very straightforward piece of legislation. I'm confident that any concerns have been put on the record. And so with that, it is my pleasure to end the day by moving to adjourn debate on Bill No. 64, *The Reviewable Transactions Consequential Amendments Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:25.]

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