



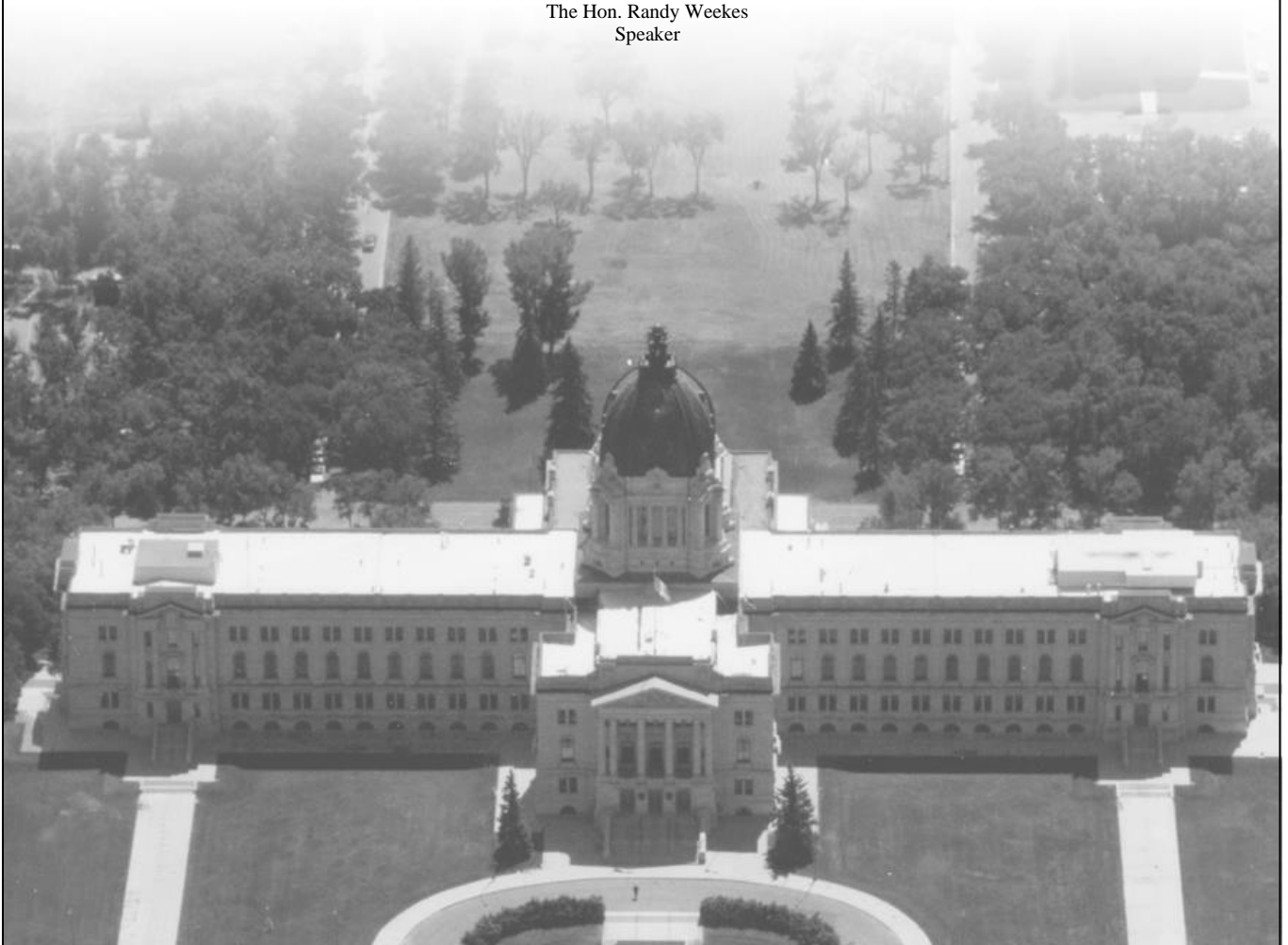
SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)	Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)	Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
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Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
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Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)	Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
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Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)	Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)	Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
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Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)	Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)
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Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)	Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
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Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)	

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

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, colleagues and Mr. Speaker, for granting us this leave on what is a very special day. And it's my honour to introduce through you to all members of this legislature, to members of this Assembly, one of Saskatchewan's most dynamic young farmers and advocates, an agricultural ambassador without peer, someone who needs no introduction in this province, but we're going to do it anyway, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with us today is Mady Adamson. Can you give us a wave, Mady? Mady is the star of the sensational YouTube series, *Learning about Ag with Mady*. And I trust all have observed the YouTube videos that she has been putting out for some time now. Accompanying Mady are her parents — her mom, Lexie; her father, Kyle — and her brother and sometimes co-star, Barrett. Mr. Speaker, I'll have an opportunity to visit with Mady and her family later this afternoon, and I am looking forward to that. I've talked to her on the telephone a number of times.

The Adamsons live in Kindersley, but they farm closer to Rosetown. Mr. Speaker, Mady is a student at Westberry Elementary School in Kindersley, and last year, Mady's class started to study agriculture.

And Mady had an idea and I would say it's a great idea. She thought that she could give her classmates a first-hand experience in a series of video shots that were taken right on her farm. Mr. Speaker, she also believed that the videos could give a broader audience a better idea of where their food comes, and in particular where that food comes from right here in Saskatchewan.

And I can say that Mady was ever so right about her great idea. Mr. Speaker, the first video was a basic overview of the crops that are grown on the Adamson farm: wheat, red lentils, flax, yellow peas, maple peas, and canola. Many of the crops that we grow across this province. But that was only the beginning, that very first video. Mady and her production team, which is basically with her here today — that's her mom, her dad, and her sometimes co-star brother — they have taken viewers through every step of our Saskatchewan agricultural process, virtually from January to January, Mr. Speaker, everything that happens

that is agricultural related.

The most recent post, video no. 55, is a commentary on the importance of the Canadian Ag Day complete with a family history that begins with her great-grandfather coming to Saskatchewan in 1909, Mr. Speaker. And if you watch the video, Mady makes a reference to how proud she is to be working the same dirt that her grandparents did.

Mr. Speaker, Mady has also popped up at major events. She's been viewed with other celebrities, other Saskatchewan celebrities, like Quick Dick McDick, Mr. Speaker, but she's been at various agricultural events, most notably such as Agribition.

At Agribition she had the good fortune of interviewing a legendary rodeo clown, Dennis Halstead, among a number of other folks, Mr. Speaker. And I'm hoping actually after question period, if we have time, that I would take the opportunity to actually video Mady about her initiative and her 55 videos that she has done advocating for agriculture in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the people across Saskatchewan and beyond our borders are tuning in to these videos, and it's absolutely no wonder. Mady has a sparkling personality, an uncommon poise for someone that is so young. Her videos are engaging, they're fun, and they're extremely informative, extremely informative for everyone that takes the time to watch. They certainly caught my eye a number of months ago, and I've been watching them throughout the course of the past year.

I've been tweeting them out, sharing them on Facebook, Mr. Speaker, and I would encourage others to do the very same because agriculture is our most important industry in Saskatchewan. It's central to the very founding of this province, and it continues to shape our identity each and every day up to and including today. Agriculture drives the economy in this province, Mr. Speaker, and I often say it's the spinal cord of the economy in this province. It plays a huge role in ensuring not only a strong economy in Saskatchewan but food security here and around the world. And we should applaud any and every effort to teach people about this crucial industry that we have in this great province.

Mr. Speaker, we are so grateful for Mady and her family to have taken on such a monumental project. And we're thankful that it will continue into the future. Mady has many more stories to tell.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Mady Adamson and her family to their Legislative Assembly. And I would ask everyone to wish Mady a happy belated birthday, as last week she was supposed to come here and due to weather conditions — good old Saskatchewan weather conditions — was unable to make it here. Mady turned 10 last week. She has accomplished so very much in the first decade of her life, Mr. Speaker. It is going to be absolutely amazing to see what happens in the next decade for Mady.

Mady, welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to wish Mady all of the best in what the future has in store for her.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just want to rise and join the Premier in welcoming Mady and Barrett and Lexie, Kyle. Mady, can you stand up? We can't see you from behind the clock. Oh yeah. Well great to see you, Mady. Thank you so much for joining us today and for the work you're doing.

You know, many in this House had the experience — the joys and challenges at times — of growing up on the farm. There's so many kids in our province today that don't get to have that experience. They grow up in the city, don't really know where their food comes from, don't understand what it's like to live on the farm.

And I've got a boy who's 10 years old. I like to take him and his little brother out to Uncle Jim's farm every chance we get. But I've got to tell the truth. I haven't watched your videos yet. So we have a weekend plan: me and Abe and Gus, we're going to watch some Mady videos and spread the word.

Thank you so much for all you're doing to make sure every kid in Saskatchewan has a chance to know about life on the farm. Thanks, Mady.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Mr. Francis: — Thanks, 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.

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming the Adamsons to their Legislative Assembly today. This family exemplifies everything that's good about our community. They're honest, hard-working, and they give back to their community.

They're very involved with our SJHL [Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League] team. Kyle is on the board as governor, and they are currently still a billet family, which I think they've had at least one billet for several years and sometimes two. Kyle runs the local Integra Tire in Kindersley with his parents, Karen and Wade. Lexie is one of the busiest moms that I know of. Obviously she owns and operates her family grain farm in Rosetown. Maybe the land's better there but the living's better in Kindersley, I think. Mady and Barrett stay busy as well with school, sports, and dance and also are obviously very involved in the farm.

It's too bad you couldn't make it last week for International Women's Day but we're glad you're here today. I'll have more to say about Mady in a member statement later on, but for now I'd like all members to join me in welcoming the Adamsons to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I too am a

fan of Mady and certainly introduced you to my granddaughter. So thank you for the work you've done there.

But equally proud, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce and welcome, seated in the west gallery, 18 grade 10 students from Melville Comprehensive School, led by their teacher Don Coleman.

I'm always very proud to introduce our Melville students as they have an award-winning MADD [Mothers Against Drunk Driving] program. They're always perennial winners at our provincial and national level of the skills competition and are pretty good athletes and scholars as well, Mr. Speaker. So I'd like to ask the Assembly to welcome the Melville Comprehensive students to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce in the west gallery, Mr. Dwight Odelein. Dwight, if you'd just give us a little wave there. Dwight operates a third-generation farm in the Quill lakes along with his wife Tanya.

Almost seven years ago, he pulled his grandfather's old Massey 124 square baler out of the bush that had not made a bale in at least 20 years. And with a bit of chain oil, some elbow grease, he got it up and running. In 2018 he restored his grandfather's barn which has now become somewhat of a local landmark and a man cave. He's also on the RM [rural municipality] of Lakeview council, and he's here to attend SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities]. I appreciate all Dwight has done to share with me his thoughts on ag water management, and I look forward to meeting with him later today.

I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in welcoming Dwight to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join with the minister opposite and introduce Dwight Odelein, or to welcome him to his Assembly. I was pleased to see him this morning at the SARM convention. And certainly Dwight is a leader within his community and someone who's been active in the conversation as well around water management, somebody that I've learned some from as well.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the pleasure of being in that beautiful, historic, incredible barn that he's restored on the farm there and having him share a little bit of his knowledge with me. Mr. Speaker, I know he's on the RM there as well and provides local leadership there as well. And I believe it's his cousin, Lyle Odelein, that once patrolled the blue line for the Montreal Canadiens and a few other teams, Mr. Speaker — a very fine Saskatchewan resident as well. But it's a pleasure to welcome Dwight to his Assembly.

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

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, in your gallery, I would like to welcome members of the rural municipal council of Tullymet. They are in town for SARM convention. Today we have Reeve Aaron Keisig; Brent Buium, councillor; Larry Bryck, councillor. We have equipment operator Mike Koerbel and administrator Sheila Keisig. They're in town for SARM, Mr. Speaker, and I'm looking forward to talking more about SARM in an upcoming member statement.

But I'm not sure what the highlight is going to be, whether it's SARM convention, attending the Chamber, or the opportunity to meet Mady. So you know, they're going to decide what they think is the best part of their day. So to you and through you, Mr. Speaker, welcome to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to welcome my CA [constituency assistant], Sean Checkley, here today. He's in town for a couple meetings. I'm not sure who's running the office but that's . . . He's got 'er covered, as you always do. Welcome to your legislature.

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

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to recognize Sean Wilson, my past president of . . . Sean Wilson, yeah. I just about said Checkley, sorry. I know them both. They're both good Seans.

Anyway, Sean Wilson, past president of the Canora-Pelly constituency, a good friend of mine, mayor of Buchanan, RM Buchanan councillor. He's up here for the SARM convention, and I just want everybody to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

[13:45]

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents in the Northeast of the province with respect to highway conditions, specifically the condition of Highway 9 located between Preeceville and Hudson Bay.

The petitioners describe this portion of vital highway to the area to just be in terrible condition, Mr. Speaker. Of course this is so important to the region. It's important to farms and businesses and people and tourists. This is a wonderful part of the province, and this highway, Highway 9 between Preeceville and Hudson Bay needs to be fixed. It was rated the third-worst highway by CAA [Canadian Automobile Association] last year on the worst-roads list.

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. I rise today to present a petition on SIS [Saskatchewan income support], Mr. Speaker. Of course yesterday we had the folks from the Avana Builds Foundation, and what struck me was hearing the CEO [chief executive officer], Jenn Denouden, talk about many of the women in their second-stage units and the fact that many of them receive SIS.

And that foundation is having to subsidize some of those women with their foundation so that they can afford utilities, really basic cost-of-living items, Mr. Speaker. And of course this speaks to rates that are far too low, and that's what this petition is about. And of course under the SIS program, utilities are no longer covered and that represents by far the most devastating cut of this program.

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 Moose Jaw and Regina, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to rise for the first time to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for home supports for older adults in Saskatchewan.

The petitioners would like us to know that all the evidence shows that older adults in our province want to age in their own homes in their own communities. We know that the factors that drive older adults from their homes often go beyond health needs, and a provincially subsidized home supports program would help older adults with other practical needs that often lead them to have to leave their own homes to move into congregate living settings and institutions.

Now we know that when older adults have autonomy and choices over their own lives that they also experience better health outcomes and better quality-of-life outcomes.

The petitioners would like us to know that providing supports for older adults in their homes comes at a significantly lower cost than institutionalized care, and that other jurisdictions have implemented similar programs, and that it's helped those jurisdictions to reduce the strain on long-term care while improving outcomes for older adults.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to work with older adults, stakeholders, and municipalities to design a home supports program that will allow seniors to age with dignity and autonomy in their homes and communities.

I do so present.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to enter a petition calling for funding of in vitro fertilization treatments in Saskatchewan. These citizens wish to bring to our attention: that one in six couples in Canada experience infertility; that IVF [in vitro fertilization] treatments are prohibitively expensive, with one cycle typically costing at least \$10,000; that despite public health care being a right in Canada, there's no government financial support for Saskatchewan couples requiring IVF treatment; that Saskatchewan people's ability to conceive should not depend on their socio-economic status; that investing in people determined to grow their families here in Saskatchewan makes economic sense; and that other provinces have created programs that financially assist in providing IVF treatments to those who are struggling to conceive.

I'll read the prayer:

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

This is signed by individuals from Regina, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Remembering Saskatchewan People Lost to COVID-19

Ms. Conway: — I rise today to pay tribute to our loved ones lost to COVID-19. I want to first acknowledge Debra Nyczai who organized a touching vigil on these steps. Elder Lorna Standingready, Father Brian Meredith, Reverends Inkham Saeng Oudum and Cam Fraser all came together with love to mark this moment, Mr. Speaker.

Two years ago nearly to the day, the WHO [World Health Organization] declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Saskatchewan soon announced its first presumptive case. Within days classes were suspended. Entire workplaces shut down. Presumptive cases became confirmed cases, and even this legislature closed its doors.

Every one of us was on high alert, wondering what this pandemic would mean for our loved ones, for our neighbours, for our jobs, for the commonplace rhythms we took for granted. As the

pandemic took hold on this province, we watched with feelings of helplessness and complicated guilt as the most vulnerable among us bore a heavy burden, and illusions of equality dissolved as marginalization compounded. Our sense of time warped, with many feeling they lost entire years, Mr. Speaker, formative years, final good years.

This was the context in which many lost a loved one, and the rituals that help us walk with loss and grief — gathering, embracing, sharing food — were denied. Final words were spoken through FaceTime, through windowpanes; final touches and embraces denied or mediated through gloves, through hospital gowns. The necessary sacrifices we all made are too great to account for, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I would ask all members to join me in a moment of silence to acknowledge the over 1,150 lives lost to COVID-19 here in Saskatchewan.

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

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

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Annual Convention

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the first day of the 2022 Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities annual convention. This year the convention is being held here in Regina. Last year's convention was held virtually due to COVID, but most participants are excited to be back in person this year.

SARM was formed in 1905, and they have been working tirelessly since then to make sure both the provincial and federal governments hear the voices of rural municipalities. They are also strong advocates for rural-based industries and are true believers in the value of education.

There are 296 rural municipalities in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and they are all served by fine citizens like the ones sitting in your gallery. There are many exciting and informative workshops during our convention, Mr. Speaker, but one of the main highlights is the bear-pit session. This format allows elected members of municipalities to pose questions to the Premier and cabinet directly. Bear pit allows the government to feel the pulse of rural Saskatchewan.

I want to thank SARM President Ray Orb and Vice-President Bill Huber and all their staff for orchestrating this year's SARM convention. I look forward to interacting with many elected officials this week, and I'm sure many of my colleagues do as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Seniors in Care

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this government continues to defend their decision to cease daily reporting of COVID data, without taking our most vulnerable into consideration, who are unable to conduct their own personal risk assessments. What we do know,

according to the government's last epi report, is that we currently have 17 outbreaks in high-risk settings, like long-term care homes.

From the beginning of the year, there have been 74 outbreaks in care homes reported. These are some of our most vulnerable. Not only are long-term care residents at risk for COVID, they are also facing crumbling facilities, crowded and poorly ventilated homes, dangerously low staffing ratios, and ultimately many going without the quality of care that they deserve.

This government has chosen to put their own short-sighted political agenda ahead of the lives and well-being of older adults. They have opted to wash their own hands of responsibility, and taken us on a path of individual risks, trust yourself, and look out for yourself. This government's lack of pandemic leadership is failing seniors in care and the workers who care for them. To those people I say that the Saskatchewan NDP [New Democratic Party] is still fighting for you, fighting for the information you need, and for a level of care that protects your dignity and your future. Thank you.

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

Prairie Harm Reduction Supports At-Risk Youth

Mr. Friesen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to recognize Prairie Harm Reduction for launching a new program in Saskatoon that provides at-risk youth with specialized supports and services. Mr. Speaker, the new program, which is based on a harm-reduction model, provides high-risk youths with a supportive, non-judgmental, semi-independent, home-like environment.

They will also have access to supports to address mental health and addictions issues, while also preparing their transition to independence. They will have 24-hour access to services that ensure their physical, emotional, spiritual, cultural, and developmental needs are met.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Prairie Harm Reduction for their dedication to some of the most marginalized members of our province. They work tirelessly to advocate, aid, and assist in the health, safety, and stability of communities, families, and individuals. They believe that every person deserves respect, kindness, and opportunities that allow them to thrive, providing culturally sensitive supports that meets people where they are at. We look forward to helping reduce barriers for these young people, while also preparing them for that next step in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members to join me in congratulating Prairie Harm Reduction on their new program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Black History Month

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year's theme for Black History Month is February and Forever: Celebrating Black History Today and Every Day, which exemplifies the

importance of protecting and celebrating those who've faced racism and systemic oppression throughout our province and country.

While Black History Month is a time for education and celebration, it is also an opportunity to recognize those who have overcome these barriers to make incredible impacts on the lives of not only those in the black community, but have changed the fabric of a multicultural society for the better. Black History Month was created to highlight the importance of opposing anti-black racism, hate, and discrimination. We know today that we still have more work to do to stand up against racism and discrimination here in our province.

I want to highlight the important work of the African Canadian Resource Network, the ACRN, whose vision is to see a united African-Canadian community that adds value to the social, economic, political, and cultural well-being of Saskatchewan. It's work like that of the ACRN that bridges these gaps within our society and creates a stronger and more diverse Saskatchewan for all.

I encourage you to take this time to reflect on the work you can do to support a more inclusive and tolerant Saskatchewan for the future well-being of our province and its people. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the importance of Black History Month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Saskatchewan Science Centre Celebrates International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Ms. C. Young: — Mr. Speaker, on February 11th, the world celebrated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, aimed at ensuring full and equal access and participation for everyone in science. In Saskatchewan we marked this day through a successful Girls in STEAM 2022 conference. The event was hosted by the Saskatchewan Science Centre and supported through the Status of Women office. More than 1,600 grade 6 to 9 girls — representing 35 communities from Fond-du-Lac in the North to Oxbow in the South — attended the free virtual event.

The students participated in some fun hands-on activities related to coding, architecture design, wildlife rehabilitation, and engineering. They also virtually met women working in the science, technology, engineering, arts, and math fields, known collectively as STEAM.

Students also heard an inspiring address from Science Sam, Dr. Samantha Yammine, a renowned neuroscientist. The feedback from one school regarding the event was: the students had an awesome day; the speakers were very inspiring; and the activities were fantastic.

[14:00]

Many thanks go to CEO Sandy Baumgartner and her team at the Saskatchewan Science Centre for showing the next generation of female leaders the possibilities of careers in science. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Saskatchewan Youth Recognized for Agricultural Advocacy

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well if anyone's looking to find out more information on Saskatchewan's agriculture industry, they needn't look any further than Mady Adamson's Facebook page. This little spitfire of a 10-year-old grade 4 student knows a lot about agriculture, her family's farming operation, and has taken it upon herself to educate people about our province's ag industry.

Mady was very frustrated that most of her classmates had no idea where their food came from, so she started on a mission to get as much information out as possible. Last spring she started a social media page entitled *Learning about Ag with Mady*. Since that time her 55 informative videos have been a hit and garnered a lot of attention, Mr. Speaker, including that of the Premier. Mady's been invited to Agribition, Manitoba Ag Days, and was recently featured in a video interview put out by the Farm Credit Corporation.

At Agribition last November, we heard she partnered up with another Saskatchewan up-and-comer, Quick Dick McDick. Mady was also nominated for the Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan Award and received an honourable mention.

I'd like all members to join me in congratulating Mady Adamson and wish her continued success with *Learning about Ag with Mady*.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Operations of Evraz Inc. and Sanctions on Russia

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday instead of the serious conversation we should be having in this legislature about protecting jobs at Evraz here in Regina, we heard instead a very unserious and partisan response from the Minister of Trade.

No one in this House wants to see anyone lose their job. That's why we can't put our heads in the sand. We must ensure that profits from Evraz are no longer benefiting Russian oligarchs like Roman Abramovich and others who enable Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. But we must also make sure that jobs are protected in this vital Saskatchewan industry.

Does the Premier recognize this is a very serious issue and one in which Saskatchewan, in which our government, must play a leading role?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, if anyone was watching the address of President Zelenskyy of the federal parliament this morning, he had asked Canadians to consider this. The comparison of what is happening in Ukraine would be of bombers coming in and bombing a Canadian city, maybe the Canadian city where you live.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very serious situation in our world, very serious with respect to the Russian invasion in Ukraine, serious for Ukrainian people. That's why the Minister of Trade

and Export has been in active conversations with our federal government about how to best support the Ukrainian people, and that includes bringing them to Saskatchewan and supporting them when they are here.

We're also working very closely with the federal government to ensure that not one dime moving forward, Mr. Speaker, of Evraz's profits do move to the Russian oligarch that is sanctioned, Mr. Speaker. We're making every effort to work with the federal government and to ensure that the profits from Evraz are not being used in the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Mr. Speaker. And we'll continue to work with the federal government with respect to this investment or any others, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we are, yes, supporting the jobs here in Saskatchewan but not supporting the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's positive to hear a change in tone today from that government, and an understanding and reflection of the seriousness of the situation. Because it is a serious situation in regards to those funds flowing to Russia but also to the risk to the company right now. A company whose shares have dropped by 80 per cent in value in the last year. A company who is billions of dollars in debt, whose shares now can't be traded because they've been frozen on the stock exchange.

None of that is happening because the people at Evraz steel aren't doing good work. We know they are. None of it is happening because there isn't demand for pipeline built in Saskatchewan. We know there is, Mr. Speaker. This is all happening because of the association of Roman Abramovich and the Russian oligarchs. It's all happening because of an association we cannot support. It's all happening because of an association that risks Saskatchewan jobs, Mr. Speaker. We want to see this government take this seriously.

So to the Premier: what financial and legal advice has he received on what choices we have before us today as a province, what we can do to end this situation and make sure that we keep those jobs safe?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the most effective effort that we can make in Saskatchewan is to work closely with the federal government to sanction individuals, Mr. Speaker, to support the government in sanctioning, in this case, Mr. Abramovich. And we do support that, Mr. Speaker.

None of the profits that Mr. Abramovich takes from his investment with Evraz, Mr. Speaker, should be used in the illegal invasion ultimately in Ukraine. We've worked closely with the federal government on not only that sanction but any discussions with respect to what may happen in the days ahead, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Trade and Export has been in constant contact with the federal government. We support the individual sanctions that have occurred to this day, Mr. Speaker. I was in contact with the Deputy Prime Minister yesterday on this topic, among a number of others, Mr. Speaker. And I have also been in touch with a number of levels of leadership within Evraz itself, with

their North American operations, Mr. Speaker, pertinent to the operations here in Regina.

And we're going to continue to communicate with all of those involved to ensure that we are, one, supporting the workers that are bringing home their family income from this facility, Mr. Speaker, providing a very much needed product here in Canada and across continental North America, Mr. Speaker, and providing pipelines for the most sustainable, accessible energy product that we have available in this nation and around the world. And we're also going to ensure that we support the government in the sanctions that they are putting forward so that these profits are not used in conflicts in Ukraine or anywhere else.

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

Provision of Health Care

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier didn't like it the other day when we pointed out the huge drop in family doctors practising in Saskatchewan since he took office — a loss of 82 physicians, a drop of 8 per cent, Mr. Speaker. He may not like it but it's true. And you know who else doesn't like it? The people in rural Saskatchewan who aren't able to access health care right now in constituencies represented by members across the way, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan has the lowest rate of doctors per 100,000 people in the entire country, Mr. Speaker, the lowest rate of doctors per capita. It's a recipe for burnout. It's a recipe to continue driving desperately needed doctors out of the province. What's the plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to the information that was brought to the floor of this House, Mr. Speaker, again, we had to have a look at that information. And what do we find is that the correct information actually does state, Mr. Speaker, that we are . . . Since time under the NDP when they drove close to 200 doctors out of this province in their quest to close rural health care facilities, over 50 of them across the province, Mr. Speaker, we are today, thankfully . . . We have 1,000 more licensed doctors, physicians practising in communities across this province.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to a number of rural facilities that do have some temporary service disruptions, I would say this to the people of those communities: our commitment remains, as it has been since 2007. We will continue to invest, not only in facilities but in the people and the services being offered in those facilities, Mr. Speaker. And every effort is going to be made to not only maintain all of the services we have in community after community across this province but to reopen those facilities sooner rather than later.

You're going to see the financial support come in the next number of days in what is the budget, Mr. Speaker. And most certainly, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure all of those folks that are experiencing temporary disruptions that this government is committed to reopening all of the services available to them. We're going to do so as soon as possible.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Eighty-two fewer family doctors — apples-to-apples comparisons of this government's own numbers, Mr. Speaker.

And you know what else is happening under this government's watch? Today in Esterhazy, in the shadow of three massive potash mines, there are zero emergency services at all, Mr. Speaker. It's a disaster waiting to happen. It's the kind of closure we're seeing over and over again under this Premier, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan has only 215 doctors per 100,000 people, Mr. Speaker. That's far below the national average. Lowest number of doctors, lowest number of specialists, second-lowest number of family doctors. Bottom line: We need more doctors and we sure as hell need to keep the ones we've already got, Mr. Speaker.

To the Premier: where's the plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you. And, Mr. Speaker, this government recognizes that having these services fully restored across Saskatchewan is important to the people of these communities, whether it's in Esterhazy or other communities where we're currently experiencing some temporary service reductions. And, Mr. Speaker, we remain committed, as the Premier has said, to fully restoring these services.

As an example, Mr. Speaker, earlier today the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] issued a press release which states that the full resumption of emergency services, acute and ALC [alternative level of care] admissions, is returning at the Redvers Health Centre in southeast Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to take this opportunity to thank the folks responsible, the local community leaders, the SHA individuals, the representatives of the South East Medical Group for their hard work and for their commitment, Mr. Speaker. This will continue to be a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan to make sure that we fully restore services across this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Education

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan kids have been through a lot in the last two years, and here we are at the tail end of the third school year upended by COVID. Instead of taking steps to protect students and staff, this government and this minister have been using them to justify their own politically driven choices — choices like sending kids back to class after Christmas without delay and without any extra supports while claiming to have consulted the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] before doing so. To the minister: why did you claim the school boards were consulted when they clearly were not?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, well as we were preparing for the return to school after the Christmas break, Mr. Speaker, there were really only two groups in this province that were calling for students not to return to class. That was the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. So there wasn't a consultation that was really necessary with the stakeholders, Mr. Speaker, because we certainly weren't considering it at the time.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, to hear the minister claim that consultations weren't necessary doesn't answer the fact that he claimed that he consulted the SSBA. But here are the words. Here are the words, and not mine, from the president of the SSBA: "There was never any indication given to us from the government . . ." What a shame. It's disappointing but it's also part of a pattern from this government and from this minister to put politics ahead of what's best for people, including our kids.

There's also a pattern of underfunding in our classrooms. Year after year, divisions are forced to cut to the bone — and I've seen this first-hand — because this government has flatlined operating funding. They've flatlined funding for teachers, support positions, mental health supports at a time when we need to be getting our kids back on track. Will we see the funding increases needed in this budget for a kids-first recovery plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have invested \$1.9 billion, an increase since 2007-2008. That's 129 per cent, Mr. Speaker. This past operating budget for school divisions is the largest in the province's history, Mr. Speaker. We fully funded the teachers' contracts. We've provided record levels of capital funding for an ever-growing school system in this province, Mr. Speaker. And I think the member opposite can wait just a few more sleeps to see what more this government's going to do to invest in our kids' futures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this minister talks a big game about decades past, but the numbers from this year don't lie. Between the 2020 and 2021 school years, our education system lost 352 school-based educators — 352 fewer staff in our schools helping kids navigate their way through this second year of a pandemic. At the same time, at the same time there were 1,612 more kids in our K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] system. Can the minister please explain how this math makes any sense at all?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, today in Saskatchewan there are 1,579 more teachers than there were under the former government. That's a 17 per cent increase while enrolment is up

only 13 per cent, Mr. Speaker. So in fact the ratio in terms of teachers and students is greater today than it ever was under the NDP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, if this minister can't answer simple questions about the same numbers that his government puts out — these are your government's numbers from 2020 to 2021 — then it appears as though he's just failed to do his homework. 352 fewer staff in schools with more kids to support and greater needs with those students.

Kids are needing and absolutely deserving better support from their government, and yet we have a cut to teachers. There was also cuts to speech-language pathologists, cuts to educational psychologists, and a cut to social workers working in schools. This is not a plan to get our kids back on track. Will this government commit today to a plan that boosts operating funding, increases staffing, and gives our kids the support that they need and deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, obviously I can't talk about what's going to be in the budget, Mr. Speaker, but I think it will be very positive news for our school system. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, as we indicated in the Throne Speech, there will be . . . There was a commitment in that Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, for additional in-class supports, particularly for our larger classrooms. And I look forward to the next couple of weeks when the budget comes out.

But Mr. Speaker, let's just be clear: regular classroom teachers up 8 per cent since 2007, student support staff up 24 per cent, English as an additional language teachers up 5 per cent, in-school administrators up 14 per cent, psychologists up 18 per cent, speech psychologists up 40 per cent, occupational therapists up 36 per cent, educational assistants up 8 per cent, Mr. Speaker. You know, the only thing that would have driven those numbers down, Mr. Speaker, is if we'd listened to the members opposite and actually kicked the kids out of the schools.

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

Rural Connectivity

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it was a pleasure to connect with rural leaders from across Saskatchewan this morning at the SARM convention. Of course, we'll be there throughout the week engaged with folks. Their voice on the importance of internet and cell coverage across Saskatchewan, connectivity across Saskatchewan, couldn't be more clear. Does the minister not recognize that in 2022, connectivity is not a luxury but that it's an essential service?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for SaskTel.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for raising the question. The concerns that he has with rural

connectivity are shared by a lot of people in the province. It's something that's important to SaskTel, and it's something that's important to this government. And, Mr. Speaker, it's something that we are working on addressing as we speak. We've brought wireless and internet services to over 99 per cent of Saskatchewan's population. In the last four years, SaskTel has built or upgraded over 200 towers. SaskTel now has over 1,000 cell towers to serve Saskatchewan people.

And, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite I'm sure is going to ask about internet fibre. SaskTel fibre internet is now available in more than 350,000 homes in over 23 communities. SaskTel is investing over \$100 million in its rural fibre initiatives so that it can bring internet to 60,000 more residents and businesses across 45 rural communities by 2023.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the minister should tell all that good news to the more than 1,000 folks that live in the community of Ministikwan, who don't even have cell service, Mr. Speaker.

This morning, SARM president Ray Orb prioritized rural connectivity in his keynote address at their annual convention. SARM has been clear on the need to make rural connectivity happen; so have the agricultural producers of Saskatchewan. They've both made this a priority and both have made recommendations to government. One of the key recommendations, Mr. Speaker, is the same one that we've been calling for: to stop the Sask Party from taking a dividend from SaskTel so that it can be invested to make rural connectivity happen across Saskatchewan. Will the minister commit to that today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for SaskTel.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I don't want to sound like I'm singing a song off of one of the recent commercials, but fibre is now available in Balgonie, Biggar, Battlefords, Emerald Park, Estevan, Humboldt, Langham, Martensville, Melfort, Melville, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, Pilot Butte, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Tisdale, Warman, Weyburn, White City, and Yorkton. Mr. Speaker, it's something that's important to this side of the House and something that we're going to.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite just referred to the APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan] rural connectivity task force. Mr. Speaker, we're working with them. And I've got a quote from the Chair of APAS's rural connectivity task force when we set it up and started to work. He said, "This is good news for Saskatchewan's rural communities, and these improvements will help increase their prosperity and resilience in the future."

Mr. Speaker, that's what this side of the House is doing. That's what this side of the House is working on. We are working with a number of private sector partners. We're going to continue working with those people. We still have a lot of work to do, but we're going to keep investing in fibre right across the province. Mr. Speaker, the NDP did nothing. They invested zero in rural

connectivity. Zero.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the digital divide is real. Connectivity isn't a luxury; it's an essential service. It's about fairness and about extending quality of life, security, and opportunity. And it presents serious economic opportunities for rural, First Nation, northern communities and residents. It's critical for today and for securing tomorrow, securing our future.

Last year the Sask Party took \$110 million from SaskTel — \$110 million that could have been invested directly into making connectivity happening while keeping rates low for Saskatchewan families. Will this government stop with the lip service, put the money where their mouth is, and treat this as the priority that it needs to be? Forgo a dividend to allow SaskTel to invest in making rural connectivity happen across Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for SaskTel.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — As we were working on the cell towers build-out, Mr. Speaker, we now have over 1,000 towers in the province — 1,000. Mr. Speaker, we directed that SaskTel put an extra \$100 million in cell phone towers so we would have more coverage. Mr. Speaker, it's something that we believe in. It's something that this side of the House and SaskTel believes in.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd remind the members opposite and I'd remind people in this province that during the NDP government, the rural investment in cell towers, the rural investment in connectivity was zero, Mr. Speaker. It goes back a number of years, and I hope it goes back for even more years, because, Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite got back into government, there would be no expenditure on rural connectivity.

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

Support for Second-Stage Housing and Survivors of Violence

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister for Social Services said there are several housing units available in response to lack of support for second-stage housing in this province. The minister should know that there are real barriers for families fleeing interpersonal violence that makes it difficult for them to qualify for public housing. It's clear from her answers yesterday that she has no credibility on this file.

If there are no issues, can she answer why there are so many units open while so many women are being turned away?

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I do thank the member opposite for the question. Mr. Speaker, when someone presents and they are a victim of domestic violence and they come to a place for assistance, we try to get them in housing immediately, Mr. Speaker. If that isn't the case immediately, we have women's shelters available. We can put them up in hotels if necessary, if those happen to be full. We have resources,

wraparound services to help those women while they're in that transition period. And yes, Mr. Speaker, we do have units that can be available for them. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, shelters are full and thousands of families are being turned away. Surely one would hope that the minister also understands that second-stage shelters require more than just physical spaces. There are wraparound supports needed, funded through operational funding that nearly every other province in this country provides, except for this one.

Mr. Speaker, CBOs [community-based organization] have been trying to do this work through partnerships and fundraising because those who work with survivors understand how crucial these supports are. Enough is enough. Does this government care about interpersonal violence or not? Will they commit to operational funding for second-stage shelters today?

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I'm listening to the member opposite, she's referring to people that are being turned away. If there is someone that truly doesn't have a place to go and there is a specific case that she is so concerned about, I ask her to please bring that to our attention. Bring that to my office and we will ensure that that person is taken care of.

Yesterday during the media scrum, the member opposite that can't manage to keep her mouth shut right now actually said . . . Excuse me. I apologize. I'll take it back right now. But she actually said, "I think many of the resources that we're pouring into this system could actually be rerouted. I think it would even be questioned about putting more money on the table."

Well, Mr. Speaker, where does she expect me to take those resources from? We have several different important files, and she wants me just to take from Peter to pay Paul. Mr. Speaker, it's not quite that easy. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'll tell that minister and this whole government right now: when it comes to interpersonal violence, I won't be keeping my mouth shut.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that this system is not working. And if it was, Saskatchewan wouldn't have the worst rates of both interpersonal violence and family violence. These barriers to accessing the system have existed for years. It seems that these concerns have fallen on deaf ears. There's been no systemic changes and no accountability.

Will the minister finally admit that the system is broken, commit to change, and finally provide operational funding for second-stage housing?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — You know, Mr. Speaker, we understand

the issues with domestic violence, interpersonal violence in this province. That's why we committed over \$22 million in last year's budget to protect victims and survivors of interpersonal and sexual violence, Mr. Speaker — just this last year's budget, an additional \$800,000. And you'll know that just recently we've expanded our first program, our rapid support program, to a number of other communities in Saskatchewan, recognizing the fact that this is a serious issue in the province, Mr. Speaker.

But I reject the premise of the question that suggests that this government doesn't care about interpersonal violence, Mr. Speaker. Since we've had the privilege of forming government, Mr. Speaker, we've expanded programming. We've expanded funding, Mr. Speaker. We take this issue seriously, and the people of Saskatchewan can count on this government to continue to take it seriously.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question no. 24.

The Speaker: — The question no. 24 has been ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 25 through 27.

The Speaker: — Questions 25 through 27 has been tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Douglas Park.

[14:30]

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon, enter into the debate on Bill No. 56. I believe I've already had the opportunity to speak to this piece of legislation, and I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to ask some important questions of the minister and his officials on this bill. And in order to facilitate that good work, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared now to allow this bill to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 56 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

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

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 57. Mr. Speaker, there's some important pieces with respect to this legislation that I'm looking forward to asking some questions with the minister and his officials at committee on. And in order to do that work, I am now prepared to allow this bill to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 57 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter in the debate on Bill No. 58. Mr. Speaker, this particular bill has some very important changes to the legislation, in particular including a definition of "promotional activity." I

think I've had the opportunity to already speak to this piece of legislation, so I won't go into any more detail about this bill.

I am looking forward to having the opportunity to ask some questions of the officials and the minister about this legislation and the impacts it will have on industry. And in order to do that work, I'm prepared to allow this bill to move forward onto its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 58 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 59, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill contains some important changes to the legislation which I've already had the opportunity to speak on. I'm looking forward to asking some questions with the minister and his officials at committee. And in order to facilitate that work, I am prepared at this time to allow the bill to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 59 be read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

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 Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet today and entering into debate on Bill No. 65, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*. And this bill is focused on implementing recommendations of the 2020 Provincial Court Commission to set the salaries of Provincial Court judges as a fixed percentage amount of the salary of the Queen's Bench judges. It's also recommending salaries of Provincial Court judges be determined for the next three years, and sets out that Provincial Court judges' salaries be set at 95 per cent of a Federal Court judge.

As I understand, these recommendations — and what are now being proposed in the legislation — are being brought forward from the Provincial Court Commission, are intended to reduce costs and complexity and uncertainty of commission processes.

I guess I would start by emphasizing the importance of judicial independence from executive government, and certainly appreciate that the legislation is reflective of that principle, and we continue to ensure that we have an impartial judicial system here in the province. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention though that we do have a justice system that is overburdened. Anything that can reduce the amount of administrative work will hopefully allow for things to run more smoothly. And I mean, it's good to see that this issue of salaries is ensuring a steady formula and, you know, fair rates of compensation for judges, Provincial Court judges that provide such an essential service to the well-functioning of our society and our government.

But certainly, of course, we know that so many people here in Saskatchewan are suffering with the crushing increases in the cost of living and the rates of inflation that we're seeing. Of course, with one of the lowest minimum rates in the country, families are finding it hard to make ends meet. We have the highest rates of mortgage arrears here in Saskatchewan. And it's these kinds of pressures that, you know, also contribute to people coming in contact with the criminal justice system through, you know, the level of desperation that they face in order to provide for their families.

And so certainly it's a balance. It's absolutely a balance here in terms of how we ensure that we have a fully functioning judicial system that remains impartial in providing timely service and access to justice, but then at the same time, that we are ensuring that we are also addressing the root causes of crime, that we're addressing the things that create an unfair system here in our province. And that, coupled with the pandemic, has made life increasingly difficult for so many people, and it puts more pressures on our criminal justice system.

I would note that there is mention of the salary rates, applying the formula that's been set, and there only being deviations in extraordinary circumstances. There's been some examples that the minister gave when introducing the bill, relating to things such as inflationary pressures, a drop in GDP [gross domestic product]. And I guess I would just have the question around, beyond these sorts of economic considerations, how else "extraordinary measures" might be defined. I know that that will be a question that our critic for this area will be wanting to explore more fully when the bill goes to committee.

And I guess I would also say that, you know, there is a mention made that resolving this question around salaries is going to free up the committee for other issues. I don't believe it was mentioned what those issues might be — again, an area where we'll want to delve in further and understand what in particular was being considered in those remarks. Certainly of course addressing the long delays in access to justice and court proceedings is one I would presume would be on that list, but I would like some more clarity around that.

I believe that is all that I wanted to say at this time. I think that there is a lot more to delve into here. I trust that the critic for this area will have those questions and be talking with stakeholders and bringing those forward to ensure that we have the best approach here as it relates to implementing the recommendations from the 2020 Provincial Court Commission in this Act. And with that, I'll adjourn debate.

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. 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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join on Bill No. 67, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2021*. I guess initially amendments are being made to protect, I guess, workers, organizations that are following public health orders to make sure people are as safe as we can keep people and our residents in our province.

And I know that my colleagues will have an opportunity to ask some questions in committee about this. And obviously there has been some concerns and obviously the minister and recommendations coming forward for this, I guess protection for workers' organizations that are complying with public health orders, to protect them so they're not personally held liable for, you know, when they're following public health orders.

And that's where I'm getting my information. Also the Crowns, I guess we have our Crowns that are protected as well. And those agencies that work on behalf of the Crowns would be protected

is what I'm getting in here, from a liability . . . I guess getting sued is what I'm assuming.

And I know that there'll be more questions in committee that my colleague will ask and will want to ask about, you know, what type of protections, you know. Is it making sure that we've got it right? Have we consulted? Are we making sure that those individuals are protected so that there isn't any liability coming back should somebody decide to take legal action against somebody that they're doing their job, they're doing what the public health order has asked them to do to protect citizens, workers?

And I know we'll have some questions in making sure of that. And I know the government, I'm hoping — and probably has — and I'm hoping, consulted. And that's why they're coming with these amendments, that there was some concerns on liability and people have brought it forward.

[14:45]

So I'm hoping that that can . . . this change here can protect those workers who are complying with the public health orders to make sure many of our residents in our province are protected and are safe as best they can and doing their due diligence following the public health orders. So at this point I don't have much more to say. As I said, my colleague will have more questions in committee, and we can, you know, ask some serious questions and making sure people are protected as best we can. So I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill No. 67, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into debate today on Bill No. 68, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2021*. I know that when we talk about maintenance orders, there are a number of folks who are in these situations, and it can be really hard for families financially when they don't receive payment to continue to live their lives in a normal way, especially when there are repeat offences of delays. And I understand that the amendments that are being put forward here today are set to address that by changing the requirement for three months to have elapsed for non-payment of a maintenance order down to one month. And it is disappointing that we have to enshrine this in legislation, but I know that it makes a huge difference to folks in the enforcement

office to have the ability to enforce these orders. And so it certainly makes sense that this legislation is coming forward. It's disappointing that it is in the context of folks sort of abusing the system that exists right now, but I'm happy to see something that's being done, you know.

A number of folks will have encountered this system through their constituency offices and have constituents that have come forward. It was maybe one of the first pieces of casework that I ever had, Mr. Speaker, was a mom who came forward and had to pull her daughter out of her extracurriculars because she wasn't getting their payments on time, and this had been going on for some time. So making sure that that enforcement office has the tools that it requires certainly makes sense, and we want to make sure that bad-faith operations are not allowed within the current system.

We will have a lot more digging to do into this legislation, and I know that the critic will want to engage as well, Mr. Speaker. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill 68 for today.

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. 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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll weigh in this afternoon on Bill No. 69, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2021*. Mr. Speaker, this bill connects directly to the previous bill when we're talking about maintenance orders, Mr. Speaker, around support orders within a family child support, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, this is an area that we are always pushing for improvements on, Mr. Speaker, because so many folks are caught up in such horrible situations, Mr. Speaker. I've seen many myself as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] where we've advocated and reach out to the Minister of Justice on these manners.

But often folks don't find adequate resolution, and they're without the supports that they need in very desperate situations, Mr. Speaker. And so the whole aspect of maintenance enforcement and adequate tools to ensure enforcement and adequate priority being placed on that enforcement is critical, Mr. Speaker.

This bill here, I understand that the amendment will eliminate the requirement that copies of support orders from other jurisdictions have to be certified before they can be filed in a Saskatchewan

court. That's a good thing. This makes it a more efficient process. Similarly, it will eliminate the requirement that Saskatchewan orders have to be certified before they can be filed in another domestic jurisdiction — also a good, sort of, common-sense measure.

The Act also provides for the transmission of other documents via electronic means. Of course that's a modernization, if you will, Mr. Speaker, and an important one as well, if we can ensure that this is making sure that everything's more efficient and to make sure that families and children are supported, Mr. Speaker.

These changes will increase access to justice for families filing support orders in other jurisdictions, and you know, this is something that we've been strong advocates on, Mr. Speaker. We're happy to see the provision allowing the court discretion if an order's authenticity is called into question. There needs to be the ability to have the powers to make decisions on this front.

It's fair to say, though, that access to justice is a serious problem, a serious issue in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and something that needs to be addressed on many fronts, Mr. Speaker. These are common-sense modernizations as far as filing of documents, recognition of those support orders, Mr. Speaker, but so much more has to be done to recognize the barriers to justice for so many Saskatchewan people and families and the horrible hardship that that represents and the lack of equity and fairness for someone in that situation.

I know our critic, the critic for Justice, the MLA for Douglas Park, this is something that she's passionate about and something that she champions and something she calls for reforms to address. And this is what she led and how she served as a lawyer before coming to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. It's where I met her while she was leading the way with the pro bono law society here in Saskatchewan, extending services, legal services and justice to Saskatchewan people that weren't accessing those services otherwise. It's also why Legal Aid Saskatchewan is so important and the supports for legal aid. We know that they've had really shoddy treatment by this government, Mr. Speaker, with budgets and on other fronts. And the work they do is so important, Mr. Speaker, and we need to see supports on that end.

And I think we just have to keep in perspective, as we're talking about any of these matters, what we're dealing with. We're dealing with families and people in so many complex and challenging situations — many, many parents.

And I've seen so many mothers caught up in situations where they've endured horrible abuse, Mr. Speaker — and then they've had the separation, Mr. Speaker, and they have then the support that's supposed to be there not extended, a continuation of that crisis, a continuation of that abuse in different ways, Mr. Speaker — and in situations where they have to make terribly tough choices, and leaving people in really desperate and destitute situations, Mr. Speaker. Which is why we welcome the improvements that we see in this bill, but why we also point to the fact that there needs to be so much more done to ensure supports and ensure access to justice, and to address, of course, matters of interpersonal violence and abuse, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, I know our Justice critic will be leading the way in consultations on this front. I ask anyone to reach out that's

impacted by this legislation or that has insight as to how we can further strengthen this legislation. That's always the commitment of this official opposition, is to be constructive and to look for every opportunity to strengthen legislation. That's how we'll go about it through this process. In saying that, I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 69.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 70

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

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know you get used to some strange things in this House, some childish responses at times to serious things. I think about our discussion yesterday around Evraz, and the very serious concerns that the people have both about funds going to fund Putin's war through the profits from that company or the risk to people's jobs. And we saw a government minister twisting in his chair, getting excitedly partisan instead of addressing those serious issues straight on. Mr. Speaker, it's surprising, but you get used to that sort of thing.

And yet I'll give this government one compliment. Despite being old and tired, out of ideas, they still have the capacity to surprise. I never thought — long before I came to this House or since I've been elected — I never thought we would debate something so fundamental as what we're debating when we discuss Bill No. 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker.

It's as though we were debating the wood on the walls or the marble on the floors, the very foundation. As though we were debating the mace that represents so much of how we approach the importance of this space, a space where we come to have serious, fiery debate, where we disagree with each other but we do so in a way that keeps everyone safe, that keeps us from exchanging blows, that keeps us from the kind of violence we're seeing breaking out today in Europe. We have this House to keep those places for disagreement safe.

And yet here we are today debating whether or not the Sergeant-at-Arms, the security in this building, should continue to be independent or not, whether it should continue to be non-partisan or not, Mr. Speaker, because that is what Bill 70 does. It takes away that pure independence that is central, that is foundational to our ability to do our jobs here in this House, to represent Saskatchewan people and their interests and their competing interests, and try to come to the right decisions and the right compromises and the right choices on their behalf.

So I'll admit I was shocked. I was surprised when I saw this

government bring forward legislation of this type, legislation that would basically turn the Sergeant-at-Arms' role into a purely ceremonial role, remove that non-partisan, independent nature of security in this House.

But then maybe I shouldn't have been surprised. You know, I think about what happened with the folks who clean this building, a government that looked around and said, folks who clean this building, who take care of us, are making too much money. They're doing too well. We're going to get rid of all of them and bring in a private company, pay them far less. That's the way they respect the people who walk around and make sure that the wastebaskets are emptied, that their offices are cleaned.

This is a government that chose to privatize cafeteria services, chose to look at the folks who serve us in the lunch line every day and say, you know, this is too much of a luxury for you to have a job that pays you this well. That was their approach. That was their approach to the folks who we've gotten to know as friends.

You know, you get to know the folks downstairs, and you get to know the folks who are working here, the commissionaires, the Sergeant-at-Arms and his team. There's a relationship that's built there. But this is a government that has been willing to tear apart those things that really make up what sort of a House we are debating in. Is there respect? Is there respect for each other? Is there respect for the people who make this place run — the Pages, the Clerks, everyone who does their roles in service of this debate?

This is a government who has shown they're willing to disrespect. It's also a government that has shown they are perfectly willing to chase away good people if they find those people are in the way of their partisan agenda, good people in leadership roles.

[15:00]

I think of Scott Livingstone. The chief executive officer of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, in the middle of a pandemic left his job. He didn't leave his job because he wasn't good at it. He didn't leave his job because he didn't want to do that job. He wanted to serve Saskatchewan people. He left that job because the Minister of Health interfered with the operations of the SHA, came in and put his own hand-picked person in there to try to direct the activity of this arms-length organization. That chased away Scott Livingstone.

It chased away Janet Tootoosis from that board, Kevin Wasko from that executive, and now he's leaving the province. Kevin Wasko is not an ordinary family doctor. Kevin Wasko is a real leader. He established the family medicine residency program in Swift Current. He's been on the executive of the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Throughout this pandemic he's been a clear voice for public health, and he's gone. He's leaving to Mississauga. These are the sorts of things we see: a government that is willing to interfere.

We're going to be discussing Bill 61 again a bit more today. You see a government that is interested in interfering in advanced education, in having more control to direct what should be an autonomous institution. You see a government that, when there

are protests or strikes, tries to tell the police what to do instead of allowing them to do their job. You see a government whose actions of interference and of neglect are forcing physicians, nurses, teachers, educational assistants, psychologists out of their professions and out of the province. This is a government that chases good people away.

And I want to talk about one of those good people in particular, and that's Terry Quinn. Terry served us here as a Sergeant-at-Arms. He did an excellent job, and he is no longer working with us today. And with not a moment of disrespect for Mr. Darling. We know how closely he worked with Terry, what an integral part he has been of that team. We're happy to see him in that chair. And we know everybody leaves some day; you know, this place is not a life sentence.

But that's not how you want to leave. You don't want to leave because you were pushed out and disrespected. And that's what we saw happen to Terry Quinn. We saw that minister rise and question his record of service, question his office, and whether they've been doing a good enough job. Never gave us a single example of them falling down on the job, never a single example of a failure. But she was willing to say in this House, in question period, in the media, that Terry Quinn and his team weren't doing the job. What an incredible show of disrespect for a dedicated public servant. But this is a government that is willing to chase away good people for their own partisan agenda.

The question though, and when we look at this bill, the question has to be why. And we've asked that question. We've asked that question over and over again. And we've yet to see a single legitimate explanation of why this government wants to interfere with something so fundamental to our democracy. Mr. Deputy Speaker, no explanation of any cases of the Sergeant-at-Arms' team letting us down, of any problems with communication or coordination with the Regina Police Service, no cases of any threats that weren't addressed. Quite the opposite. We've seen this office succeed and exceed expectations when it comes to dealing with challenging situations. And I'll get into that a little bit more in a moment, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But really what we've seen is no explanation, but also a minister with no understanding. A minister who has said, "We're the government. And this is a government building, so we can do whatever we want," has no understanding of that important distinction between the legislative and executive branch, how key that is to a functioning democracy. You cannot have the elected partisan individuals directing the legislative services in the way that this allows to happen.

It's even harder to understand when you've got the minister who presented the bill won't speak to the bill. When he's asked about it in a scrum, he literally ran away from reporters to try to avoid taking any responsibility, any accountability for his actions. My colleague would say that's a concern. That is unacceptable that you would have a minister unwilling to even stand behind the bill that he's put forward.

An Hon. Member: — A dumpster fire.

Mr. Meili: — And it is indeed, as the member said, a dumpster fire. It left Pat Shaw the former Sergeant-at-Arms, the type of role that I think everyone who knows the people who work

around this Legislative Building, these are not folks who seek the limelight. These are folks who seek to make sure that things run well and properly. Having Pat Shaw, the former Sergeant-at-Arms, come out and speak publicly on this issue, that is a huge red flag to say that he is confused, that he saw no reason for this.

And so we're left with a lack of explanation from this government. With no description of any rationale for why this would happen, we're left to imagine. And really I see three main reasons why a government would make a power grab of this sort. One is petty tyranny, the second is corruption, and the third is a disrespect for democracy. And I want to explore each of those in greater detail.

When we talk about petty tyranny, we see a government that was very frustrated by the presence of protesters, the presence of the Justice for Our Stolen Children camp, or Tristen Durocher during his time protesting and fasting in the tipi on the lawn, asking for a suicide prevention strategy. What did the government want to do? They wanted to kick them the heck out of here. They wanted to send the message to get off our lawn, instead of going and sitting down and talking to them and hearing about really serious issues — children in care, kids who were losing their lives to suicide. And this government mistreated them. The Premier refused to . . . the Premier drove by them every day, refused to walk across the street and even say a word. But he was really willing to call up the police service and call up others and try to get rid of those protesters, which is exactly what he tried to do.

Maybe they didn't want the anti-vax and anti-mask protesters here anymore, even though they'd encouraged them at so many phases throughout the pandemic. This is a government that is wanting its own partisan police force that will respond when they have a problem with who's on the front steps, will allow them to pick and choose who they allow to protest, who they allow to camp out, and who they kick out. That's not how it's supposed to be.

We see those protests on the steps. There's some we agree with and some we really disagree with, but they need to be respected and allowed to happen safely, with security for the building and those who will enter it, but without consideration of picking and choosing which ones we will support. So petty tyranny is one of the big concerns, a government that just wants their own partisan police force that they can tell what to do to control this place as their personal fiefdom.

The second is a concern of corruption, straight-up corruption, because if we see this go down the road it appears to be going, a road of privatization of these services, who is lining up to provide those services? What companies are lining up to provide those services? Dollars to doughnuts, it's going to be a company that's very closely associated with this government, friends of this government, because that is what we see over and over again. Whether it's the corruption of the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], when we saw millions of dollars going to close friends of this government, when we saw Bill Boyd facilitating his friends getting rich and ripping off landowners, ripping off nuns. Corruption. When we see over and over again contracts of public dollars going to the people who fill the coffers of the Sask Party. These are the things that worry me.

When I look at this government going down that road of

privatization of a key service, who is going to make the money? How much are they going to make? How long are they going to be locked in for those contracts? And in the absence of any rational explanation of why we need this change, that's all we're left with is to be wondering who's going to get rich off this government's latest debacle.

And lastly of course, and perhaps more concerning . . . You know, it is very concerning that we would see friends having lucrative long-term contracts, friends who will never push back against this government. But what concerns me the most is the disrespect for and disruption of democracy.

As soon as this bill came forward, when we were talking about this last fall, my mind went to January 6th in the United States when Donald Trump encouraged people to storm the Capitol Building, when violent extremists stormed a public legislative building, stormed a public legislative building . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The minister knows that what he's saying never occurred.

An Hon. Member: — It totally occurred. They spray bombed his sidewalk.

Mr. Meili: — I have never done any such thing, Minister, and that's really inappropriate for you to say. A legislative building, a legislative building in the United States, the Capitol Building. The President of the United States, who had lost the election, urging people to storm that building. This is what happened.

And I asked myself the question as I looked at Bill 70: what would that have been like if the Capitol Police, instead of being an independent non-partisan body, were answering to President Trump? What would have happened on that day? Would we have seen legislators lose their lives? What would have happened?

An Hon. Member: — They had to call in the National Guard.

Mr. Meili: — They had to call in the National Guard. That's exactly right. But what if the Capitol Police had been answering — as this plan allows for — answering to a minister, answering to the president, answering to an elected official instead of an independent body? Would they have just opened the doors and allowed those protesters in the door to walk right into those legislative chambers? And we see the people throwing up their hands, that this is crazy — how could something like that happen here? How could something like that happen here? Well we don't have to have too long of a memory to remember what happened when Sergeant-at-Arms Vickers in Ottawa stood up and protected legislators there.

But sadly we have a much more recent example that makes this even less theoretical, less far away than Washington, than Ottawa. In the midst of the deadliest fourth wave in the country, a premier who had already failed Saskatchewan in so many ways decided that instead of just being bad at public health, he was going to go completely against public health. He was going to cuddle up to the Unified Grassroots folks and start changing his language.

There's a member of his caucus that's been kicked out, that used to talk about freedoms and two classes of citizens. And suddenly the Premier started to use that language after he spent an hour on

the phone with Unified Grassroots. We saw his language go from being . . . inadequate is too generous when it comes to public health, but late to the game — eventually coming along and making choices under pressure — to fully going against public health measures and changing his language entirely, using inflammatory language to disparage public health leaders and to push people's opinions away from measured responses to COVID-19.

But not only that. He actually went out and said the vaccines don't work to reduce transmission or reduce infection. And not only did he say it . . . The minister, or the deputy whatever across the way, is chirping about that, but it's absolutely the fact. It was reported in the newspaper that this Premier repeated falsehoods about the efficacy of vaccines.

This is something he chose to do. He didn't choose to do it once. He didn't just choose to do it off the cuff. He wrote it in a letter. He wrote a love letter to those folks who were organizing the blockades and siege of Ottawa. He wrote a long love letter, repeating this idea that vaccines don't reduce transmission or infection, which is absolutely 100 per cent inaccurate, 100 per cent inaccurate. He was corrected by expert after expert after expert, but he still doubled down on a piece of information that is 100 per cent inaccurate.

Because he wanted to cozy up to the people who were planning to drive their trucks to Ottawa, to drive their trucks to Ottawa to turn into something the Premier knows a lot about, something the Premier knows a lot about, which is being a national embarrassment, which is what that event ended up being.

What a ridiculous affair . . . And apparently the minister likes it. Folks touring around Ottawa — oh right, the Whip; there you go — honking their horns, disrupting other people's freedom, disrupting other people's peace, as somehow some symbol of their freedom, these folks who went from anti-vaccine lies all the way to plotting the overthrow of the government.

That is the spread of their actions and plans: blockades at our borders, people to the point of being charged with conspiracy to commit murder. This was a group that this Premier wanted to encourage, wanted to cheer for. This government is no longer just flirting with extremists. They've shackled up with extremists and they're making ugly babies. That's what's going on, to the point that the organizers of those protests stood up and thanked this Premier by name. They're shacking up with extremists and they're making ugly babies. That's what's going on.

[15:15]

And what was that protest? What did that turn into? What did that excitement, the all-caps, multiple-exclamation-marks love letter that this Premier wrote to those organizers, what did it turn into? It turned into a total — to use a word from that side of the House — a total goat show, a total mess. Blockades in Alberta, a siege of Ottawa for weeks, a complete and total embarrassment.

And this is from a premier who once said to people, hey, we're not asking you to storm the beaches at Normandy here; we're asking you to roll up your sleeve and get a vaccine. He had a moment of courage there, but now what a coward to be able to say . . . what cowardice to be able to say to people, oh, you're

losing your freedoms if you have to roll up your sleeve and get a little poke, get a little poke. What a total mess, a complete mess across the country. But what happened here?

And I want to bring us back to Saskatchewan, and I want to bring us back to this House because I was here on the day that we saw those concrete blocks put out front. And I've got to say, I was so impressed by the Sergeant-at-Arms and their team. The work that they put into making sure that the mess, the goat show, the garbage that happened in Ottawa, the garbage that happened in Coutts, that that didn't happen here in Regina.

And I've got to admit, it was a strange moment to be in this House, to see concrete blocks up on the steps to prevent us from having the very invasion, the very invasion that this Premier was encouraging across the country, to prevent that from happening right here, to prevent that from happening right here.

I remember standing and speaking to one of the members across the way. And that member said to me, "I don't know why they're coming; the Premier's already given them everything they want." And it's true. The Premier caved. He caved immediately, gave them everything they wanted.

But the truth is, you get in bed with these folks, you're still in bed with these folks the next morning, dealing with the fact of the matter that they came here not just to protest perfectly reasonable public health measures. They came here to create real problems. These are folks that don't believe in democracy, don't believe that we should be coming together and making the right choices for people's health. And this Premier encouraged them, flirted with them, got into bed with that exact group.

Thankfully, we saw a different story unroll here in Saskatchewan. We saw the attempted occupation of Regina go completely south for those folks who came here to try to create trouble. Thank goodness. Thank goodness this Sergeant-at-Arms and his team did an incredible job. They worked alongside the Regina Police Service in a seamless fashion. So if wasn't clear, if it wasn't clear before now, if it wasn't clear before now that these people are great at their jobs, man, it is now. When you saw how badly this went everywhere else in the country and so well here in Regina, what a clear and ringing endorsement of the model we have.

Now they've been clear they're always looking for improvements, always looking to do a better job. There's a way to go about that. You bring those conversations to the BOIE [Board of Internal Economy]. That's where we have these conversations. That's where we come up with a plan that works to protect our legislature and our democracy.

If we need improvements, those are to be made with the guidance of the experts on the front line, not by that minister who's got a plan for who knows what — whether it's control of this place, whether it's money for Sask Party friends, or whether it's just to allow this kind of nonsense to go on that we saw in Ottawa.

And I've got to ask the question. If we were today, if we were today in the situation that this government is setting us up for, with a private partisan security force, would they have even tried to stop that? Would they have even tried to stop the trucks from parking here, from honking on these front steps for weeks on end,

or would they have just let them roll on up because it was entirely within their message? Fortunately, we have a situation right now where the Sergeant-at-Arms is non-partisan, does his job on behalf of Saskatchewan people, on behalf of all of us who sit here, not on behalf of one side of the House.

So as I wrap up my comments on Bill No. 70, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the choice is clear. There is a door open before us that leads us down the path of petty tyranny, of corruption, of disrespect for democracy. Or there is a door that allows us to maintain an independent non-partisan, non-biased, public-serving security force. We have a choice. And the members in this House, every one of them, has that choice to do the right thing, to bring any changes you think need to happen to security here, bring them to the Board of Internal Economy where they belong, not in this garbage bill.

Bring them to the Board of Internal Economy where they belong. Show that we value the tradition of this place that we have all committed to uphold. Start over completely. And I would say to members across the way, don't attach yourself to this. This is not a bill you can support in good conscience. Vote by your conscience. Vote to maintain the Sergeant-at-Arms and the independence. Vote to destroy Bill 70 and this awful plan. With that I'll adjourn debate on Bill 70.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 71

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 71 — *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm honoured to be on my feet and to enter into the lively adjourned debates that we're engaging in this afternoon. It's been a good one so far, and I commend my colleague and our amazing leader for the comments that he just put into the record on Bill 70.

Unfortunately the interjections from the members opposite haven't had anything resembling a coherent thought, and the impact on us has overall been a negative one. And in particular the Government Whip continues to heckle from his seat with nothing intelligent to say. And I hope that one day he's able to find his feet and enter into debate in this Assembly.

Now as it relates to Bill 71, my comments will be very short, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I'll keep it quick because I don't pretend to have deep knowledge or history understanding the insurance industry. But I will say that Bill 71, *The Insurance Amendment Act* of 2021 does attempt to codify decisions made in the Court of Appeal and to align legislation with decisions made in court, which obviously we support in opposition.

I have absolutely no reason to not stand in favour of this piece of legislation. My understanding is that these changes will protect both consumers and insurers to limit the amount of funds that can be placed in side accounts. And you know, I have no reason to stand in opposition to this piece of legislation, but I do think that I want to continue listening to the debate on this as well as listening to my colleagues in opposition. And our critic will continue to raise questions on this when it proceeds to committee. But at this time, I'll end my comments and I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 71. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 72

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

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on Bill No. 72, *The Life Leases Act, 2021*. Looking at some of the information, I just had a quick little chat with my colleague, asking because I didn't really know what this life lease operation, what it was, what's involved in it, because I didn't understand. But apparently it's a long-term lease. And I didn't really understand that there was such a thing, but apparently it's another way of making sure somebody has a residence, a long-term residence, you know, that you have.

But I guess there's been some challenges with some of the issues. And what we have here are some recommendations, from what I understood, from the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, making some recommendations to make some changes so that if you're the lease holder you will have 10 days after signing the lease to cancel without any reason. You don't need a reason, if you have.

Where before, you signed it, now you've got to understand, making sure some of the costs . . . and they can give you an opportunity after you sign it. You're supposed to be provided information making sure you understand what you're signing and you agree to it. But if somebody, some information come forward you didn't understand, you have 10 days now to cancel without any reason at all. You can just say, I've decided to get out of it, and you get out. Where before, once you signed it, you couldn't get out, is my understanding of it. So this is going to give somebody who's going to sign into a long-term lease like this the ability to make sure they understand and have a day to reflect, 10 days I guess is what they're proposing.

Initially, you know, we don't have a lot of issues with it, the recommendations that are coming forward. And I talked to my colleague and just had a little bit of understanding. It's something that maybe fix a problem that's being, causing some of our residents who are signing these leases to understand it and really

have that option.

So at this point I don't have a lot more to say. I know in committee we can do it. It sounds like it's pretty straightforward, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's probably like straightforward. But at the end of the day, we want to make sure you get it right. And this will give us a chance in committee to go through the process of asking the questions we need to make sure that our residents who are signing these, the protection . . . the recommendations that are coming forward that are protected. We want to make sure people are protected, and our residents.

So you know, at the end of the day I would say, you know, we'll let the process happen. We'll know. And my colleagues will have more questions about this, but once it gets into committee, we can do the good work. So at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't have any further comments on Bill 72, *The Life Leases Act*. I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 72.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 73

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

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again I'll keep my comments fairly short today in response to Bill No. 73, *The Animal Production Act* of 2021.

You know, upon looking at this bill, I see that it's really bringing together four pieces of legislation: *The Animal Identification Act*, *The Animal Products Act*, *The Line Fence Act*, and *The Stray Animals Act*.

And I think that after reviewing some comments from the minister and some of my colleagues, getting an understanding of this bill, that I think in opposition we stand in support of in terms of bringing innovation and opportunities to grow to our agriculture sector, I think is absolutely something that we do support and always have.

And you know, while I'm on my feet, I'll just take this time to say thank you to our producers. Our agriculture producers in this province are our backbone. And as somebody who does live in a city and has grown up and raised and is now raising a family in a city, I did hear comments today and the kind words that were expressed to a guest from members on both sides, reflecting on the need to maintain that connection to our farming community, to those doing the work to put food on our tables.

And you know, it's something that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my family, we've made an attempt in raising our children to build relationships with producers directly as far as accessing our food.

You know, absolutely when a Costco run is needed, that's what it's there for and I don't mind doing the Costco route.

But you know, I also know that it's been meaningful for my family to maintain a connection to our producers through some direct partnerships, whether that's buying our beef, our ground beef or other products directly from producers, some who sell at farmers' markets in Saskatoon, and others we will drive and pick up our produce and meats or whatever else it is directly from those producers, which is one small way that we show that appreciation. And I just wanted to make sure while entering into the debate on Bill 73 that I was able to, you know, on my feet, say thank you to our producers for helping us put food on the table in my family and thousands of others.

But at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will end my comments and continue to listen to my colleagues in opposition as this bill proceeds through the process. But I'll move that we adjourn debate on Bill 73, *The Animal Production Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[15:30]

Bill No. 75

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to weigh in briefly on Bill No. 75, *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2021*. I understand this bill is modelled off the new business corporations Act passed in spring 2021, and really what we're seeing here is a modernization for organizations, in this case non-profits, Mr. Speaker. Important pieces around flexibility, around names to be in Indigenous languages for example, as well as things like electronic board meetings and removing requirements that a board consist of at least 25 per cent Saskatchewan residents, aligning with other jurisdictions, removing the ability for a non-accountant to conduct audits or reviews, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly it looks like a lot of what is here is modernization. I know our Justice critic is going to be engaged in consultations with stakeholders on this front. I think of all the amazing non-profits in this province doing incredible work, enriching our province, enriching lives, in some cases doing life-saving work, Mr. Speaker. The work they're entrusted to is so important. We need to make sure that they have the governance model and structures and the Act that supports them.

Certainly the pandemic itself, I think, caused a bit of a hurry-up around some of the innovation that we need to bring about for corporations and non-profits, Mr. Speaker. So I would just

simply, to all those in the non-profit sector that are involved in such important work, commend them on that, but importantly ask them to engage with our Justice critic to identify any concerns with the legislation or opportunities to strengthen and improve it. That's certainly the approach that the official opposition takes with all pieces of legislation.

And with that being said, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 75.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 76

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 76 — *The Non-profit Corporations Consequential Amendments Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 76 is the accompanying piece of legislation for the bill I just spoke to, Bill No. 75, *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2021*, and these are the consequential amendments. Our critic is engaged on this front. We invite non-profits to share their view. We'll look for every opportunity to strengthen legislation, Mr. Speaker. With that being said, I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 76.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 61

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

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today on second reading of Bill No. 61. This is *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act*. There's some major changes here. It's a complete repeal and reintroduction of this bill. There's a lot to consider here, but the thing that concerns me most is a concern that we see echoes of in other aspects of this government, and that's overreach into areas that should be arm's-length.

Universities, colleges are autonomous institutions and need to be kept that way. And yet we've seen a government that is very happy to, whether it's to reach into the actions of the school

boards and give clear direction against what those school boards and what local communities want to do . . . We need to see examples of that in the Health Authority. We see examples of that from this government in multiple directions, and this gives me a great deal of concern given what could happen.

And what we've seen with these universities before, where the threats were quiet, the threats of withholding money or withholding funds happened behind the scenes instead of openly, now it's happening openly.

The government is making it clear that they will have the ability to withhold grants for institutions that are not acting in the way that pleases it, while we have a government that's going further and further down a more authoritarian, anti-science direction. That only gives me more concern when we know that they could interfere with hiring choices, with academic freedom — things that can ultimately decrease the quality of education, decrease our ability to recruit students, decrease our ability to recruit faculty.

For that reason I look forward to the discussion in committee, hope that there will be strong consideration given to the risks that this poses as members are contemplating giving a blank cheque to a government that has shown it has no discomfort with interfering with organizations that should be arm's-length. With that I will end my remarks and adjourn debate on Bill 61.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 62

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

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate again today, this time on Bill No. 62, *The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act, 2021*. We know that access to dental care is quite important, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As some folks who grew up without so many means in front of them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as myself, we know that dental care is hard to come by. And there are so many people that rely on access to dental care in a public forum.

We used to have access to a program, a dental program, in schools, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which would allow for kids to have access to basic dental services. We certainly on this side of the House are in favour of efforts to increase access to dental services, and so we want to make sure that that's what's actually going to happen in this legislation.

And there will be quite a few questions that we have to ensure that this is the direction that we're going in. And I understand that this change has been called for by industry, Mr. Deputy

Speaker. You know, we've had the opportunity to . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. I'm finding it extremely hard to hear the member speaking — in fact I can't hear her — so if you could please come to order.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I understand that these changes have been called for by industry and that extensive consultations have taken place. I will be asking future questions to ensure that there's been detail in these consultations, although I understand that, from the minister's comments, that there have been a wide range of groups that have been consulted here.

When we're talking about changes to the scope of someone's practice, it raises questions about training, or whether we have adequate training in place that is associated with these changes, whether there will be any requirements to change the training that exists. So I'm interested in what conversations have happened within post-secondary institutions as well.

And making sure that we stay relevant and comparable to what other provinces are doing. I understand that most other provinces have made this change already, so it certainly sounds like something that we would be supportive of. But we do want to make sure that we are creating a system under which we can still recruit people to these professions, and that they have the ability to do this work, and that we keep them in Saskatchewan as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I also understand there's a labour force shortage of dental assistants, and I think that's also a piece of this equation that I'll have some questions about as we go into committee. And as well which areas would be of most benefit, and what the plan is really for integrating these services across the province as we talk about underserved communities and the ability to provide dental care in underserved communities. So I'd like to know whether there's a plan in place, whether they're going to be working with practitioners, whether they've identified which communities those are, and have those conversations.

But I know that some of my colleagues still want to weigh in on this legislation as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 62.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 63

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

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet and enter into debate on Bill No. 63, *The Reviewable Transactions Act*, 2021. And, you know, I guess before I get into my more substantive comments about this bill, I just want to express my deep and sincere appreciation to our Leader of the Opposition for his remarks on Bill 70. And he raised a number of really important points, I think, that also apply to this Act here, which is on the topic of fraudulent preferences.

And you know, I'm honestly having quite a visceral reaction right now to the debate that's been under way here, the level of decorum and degree of heckling that we've been subjected to on this side of the House through these debates on matters of, you know, substantive issue and concern, you know, whether that's in relation to Bill 70 and the important points that were raised in addressing the varied concerns or here in the case of *The Reviewable Transactions Act*.

Because I think that the people of Saskatchewan really deserve that their elected members are entering in discussion in the Assembly here in good faith and with the solemnity and the seriousness with which the people expect from us. And you know, there's been a number of comments made about overreach in terms of whether it's within the health sector, the education sector, the protective services that we enjoy here in the legislature.

And I have grave concern for the robustness of our democracy here in Saskatchewan when I see the types of antics that are being undertaken to discredit and change the subject or turn away from matters of substantive issue here in the province right now. I mean, certainly when we look at the issue of, you know, fraudulent preferences and ensuring the rights of and the interests and the needs of debtors and creditors and ensuring that, you know, there's a balance there and that we're not acting without prejudice, those of course are important tenets when dealing with financial matters.

But equally so, I think these are things that the people of Saskatchewan are expecting in all areas of legislative debate, legislative measures in government operations, in the way that information is presented in a fair and balanced manner.

[15:45]

And so I do find it kind of ironic that I'm talking to a bill on fraudulent preferences when I feel like this Assembly is a fraud, quite frankly.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: — Yeah, I'd ask the member to withdraw and apologize for that comment disparaging these Chambers themselves.

I'll ask her a second time to do that.

An Hon. Member: — The light didn't come on.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw my comment and apologize, because I believe in democracy and the proper functioning of this Assembly. And it disturbs me greatly that we have had to bear such childish behaviour in the Assembly

when, you know, we're dealing with very serious matters here.

And I encourage the members opposite to think a little more carefully about the matters that have been brought before this Assembly to debate, to listen to the arguments, the points that are being made in these deliberations, because these issues matter to the people of Saskatchewan. I'm finding it hard to hear myself right now, Mr. Speaker. But as it relates to this bill, I think that it's important to understand what the extent of the problems have been in relation to fraudulent preferences, and of course we always want to see uniformity in legislation across jurisdictions.

That was the justification brought forward for why we are seeing this Act come before us. And I find it rather ironic that while modernization and uniformity are the reasons being brought forward for these changes, you know, when it comes to other bills that we're debating here, the principle of uniformity is being applied in a very haphazard manner, in ways that seem to only sort of serve certain purposes and not others. And so if that's what this is about here with this particular bill, then I would say then it needs to be equally so and scrutinized with the other bills before us, because there are bills here that when we talk about uniformity, we are not seeing that.

I think it's also important that as we're looking at these kinds of changes that yes, it's good to see that we're building on recommendations from the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, that those same recommendations are being adopted by the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan. And I wonder, I wonder if there had been a commission struck in this province to look at how to assess how protective services are being provided, if they would reach the same conclusions that had been made in that area as well.

So I'm seeing a lack of consistency here in the application of receiving and adopting the recommendations coming forward from commissions that ostensibly are acting impartially and providing the best advice that's in the interests of all Saskatchewan people. Because without that people will lose faith in their democracy, in their elected officials. They're not going to feel that their interests as creditors or debtors are being advanced.

And we risk going down a very slippery slope here towards anarchy. We are seeing that happen across the world in other jurisdictions, and we're already seen across Canada as no longer being a leader when it comes to legislative practice.

And you know, I'm a proud member of the Canadian parliamentary association. I value the opportunity to take courses offered online by that organization where it is espousing the proud tradition of the parliamentary system across the world and through the Commonwealth. And I'm concerned that we are making a great departure from that proud tradition through some of the bills that we see here before us.

So I would encourage government of the day to continue with the practice of receiving and adopting recommendations that are coming from impartial third parties that have the standing, the legal standing and the credibility, as does the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, and to continue to do that in all areas of government and not be allowing partisan politics to get in the way of good governance here in Saskatchewan.

The people of Saskatchewan are depending on us for that. Their livelihoods are at stake. As I've said already today, people are suffering. They are having trouble making ends meet. They have trouble accessing services, experiencing long delays in receiving health services. Their mental health is suffering. I could go on and on. And when our government is not functioning properly, it is exasperating the situation. It's making it far more difficult for people of our province to live a good life and a happy life in communities that are safe and vibrant.

A lot is depending on us to do our jobs with honour and dignity. And with that, I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 63.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 64

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

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer comment on Bill No. 64. This is a consequential amendment Act that is companion to the one that I just spoke on, Bill No. 63, *The Reviewable Transactions Act*. And this Act clarifies that a remedy cannot be sought under *The Co-operatives Act* or *The Non-profit Corporations Act* if a consequential remedy is made available under the Act. I understand that this will also be addressing issues of bilingualism.

And it's important that legislation is clear and concise to ensure correct remedies are being used. It's my understanding that is what this bill is intending to do. I'm sure that our critic for this area will have more to say in committee. I'll leave them to do that good work and with that adjourn debate on Bill No. 64.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:55.]

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