

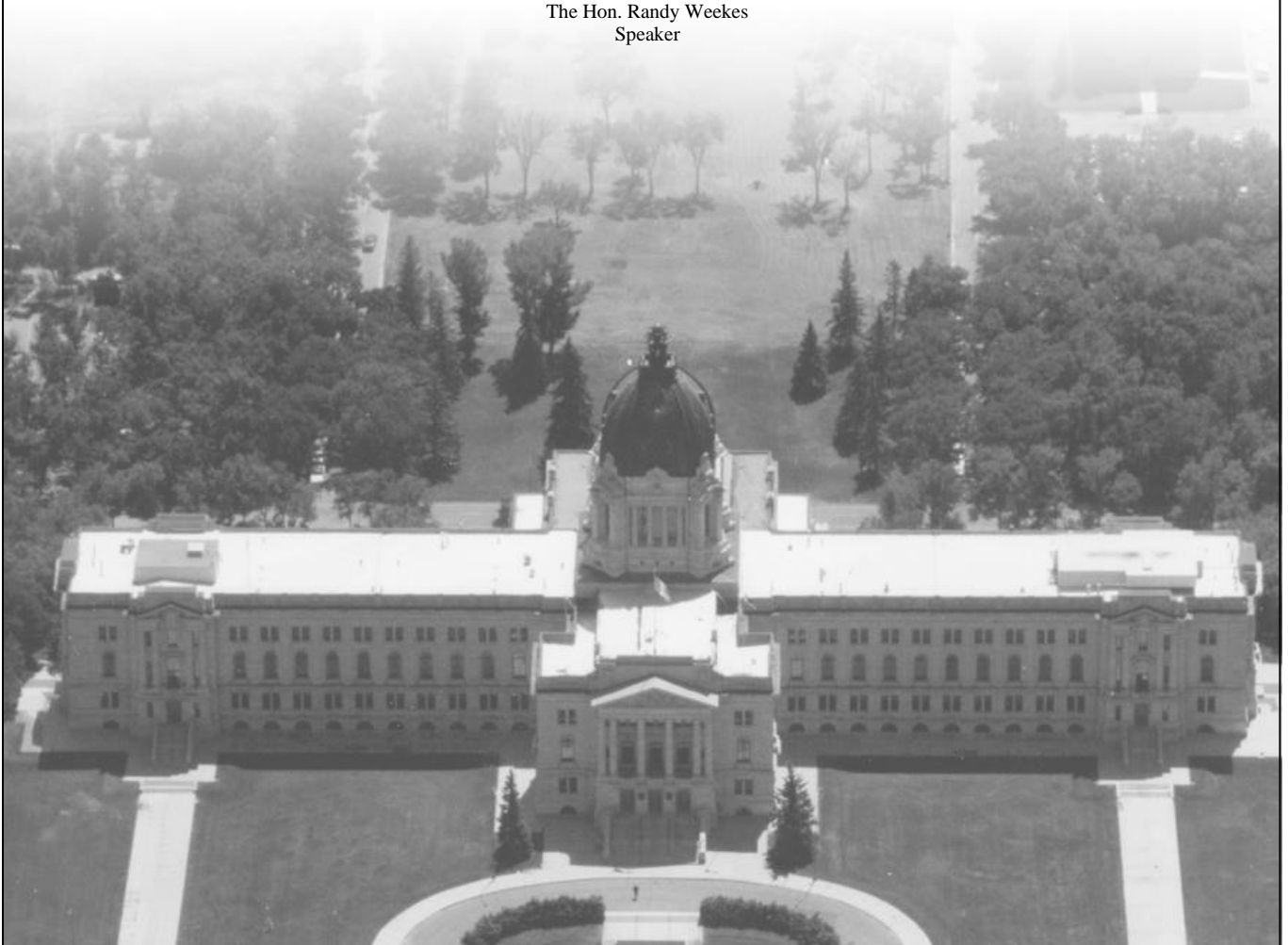
SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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)
Bradshaw, Hon. Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	McLeod, Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)	Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Cockrill, Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)	Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)	Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)	Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)	Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)	Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)	Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)
Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)	Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
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

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

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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 very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly I would like to take a moment to introduce a former member of this Assembly, the former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for The Battlefords, Mr. Speaker, Herb Cox. Or, Mr. Speaker, I should say the Hon. Herb Cox as he did serve in our provincial cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate to be elected in 2011, the same year as Herb and his battle-bruised brother from Cut Knife-Turtleford, Larry Doke, who also was elected in that year, coming down from the Northwest to Regina. It was our first time in Regina, Mr. Speaker, the three of us when we were first elected in 2011 — at least that's my story, Herb.

But I do want to acknowledge Herb. You know, he worked hard on behalf of the folks that he represented in The Battlefords. And if you ever wonder just how much they appreciate it, I had the opportunity to attend an appreciation lunch one day, put on by the current member of The Battlefords. Much of Herb's campaign team, many of his friends and community members came back to thank Herb for his decade of service on their behalf.

Herb, welcome back to your legislature and thank you for all you did as an elected member and all you've done for so many in here as a true, great friend. Thank you.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join the Premier in recognizing Mr. Cox, welcoming him back to his Legislative Assembly. We always appreciated the interactions with Mr. Cox, a man who knows an invasive species when he sees one, you know, whether he's among them or not.

And I was just remembering an interaction with Mr. Cox at the North Battleford exhibition parade, when he showed up to the parade on horseback. And it was well noted that he was well loved and received by not only the equine members of the North Battleford community. So welcome, Mr. Cox, back to his Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Dr. Tomi Mitchell. Dr. Tomi is up in the top of the Speaker's gallery there. She's a family physician here in Regina. She's a graduate of the family medicine residency program here, the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] program that runs out of Regina.

She's also part of a well-known medical family. Dr. Amos Akinbiyi is her father. He's delivered babies here in Regina for decades, thousands of kids. I met Dr. Akinbiyi first. And her brother, Tosin Akinbiyi, is a spinal specialist in orthopedic surgery, was a medical school colleague of mine. So a great

medical family.

We'll be hearing more about Dr. Mitchell later today. But I want to ask all the members to thank her for her service and the service of all the family doctors working so hard on behalf of Saskatchewan patients today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request 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. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I wish to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition introducing the former member of The Battlefords. Herb Cox served from 2011 to 2020. And it's funny that the Leader of the Opposition mentions invasive species. I think I've been asked by 20 or 30 staff in the building if I'm as passionate about invasive species as Mr. Cox. And I've had to say, no, I'm not; I've got other issues I'm equally as passionate about. But I think the province is better for Herb's advocacy on that issue.

So you know, there's really I guess three things come to mind when I think about how I know Herb and what I know about Herb's service to the people of The Battlefords and the province. You know, number one is, Herb has a quiet practicality about him in his approach to issues, and I think I'm sure there's many colleagues in this House who can speak to that even better than I can. But you know, when I speak to Herb about different issues that we have in The Battlefords, it's just . . . Maybe it's an age thing; I'm not sure. But there's certainly a quiet practicality. That's the best way to put that.

You know, the second thing, Mr. Speaker, is during Herb's time — again 2011 to 2020 — The Battlefords saw a lot of growth, you know, and we obviously saw the \$400 million investment in Sask Hospital North Battleford, improvements to Highway 4. But you know what strikes me, Mr. Speaker, is when I talk to the CBOs [community-based organization] in my community that I'm in regular contact with. A couple CBOs come to mind specifically: Boys & Girls Club and BTEC [Battlefords Trade and Education Centre]. And those are two CBOs that this man advocated very hard for on behalf of the people of The Battlefords. And that really, you know, indicates just how much he cares about the people of The Battlefords.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, Herb's a tough guy, and I think everybody, all of his former colleagues in this House can speak to that. Herb is somebody who continued to serve the people of The Battlefords while facing some very challenging health circumstances, and I think everybody in this House can appreciate how tough of a guy this is. And so it's great to have you back, Herb, in your Legislative Assembly, and we continue to wish you and Linda and your kids and your grandkids all the best. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the Premier and the member from North Battleford in welcoming my friend Herb Cox. As everybody knows, he's our buddy. He's everybody's buddy.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Dr. Tomi Mitchell for coming to this Assembly. I did read the article. I would be more than happy to sit down and have a conversation with you later on about some of the challenges that we're having within our health care system and how we can address those challenges.

But I just wanted to say thank you. Thank you very much for your service. Thank you very much for your service to Saskatchewan and to the patients that you've been seeing over the years. So I'd be more than happy to chat with you after question period's over. And I just want to say welcome very much to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to take this time to join the Premier and my colleagues from The Battlefords as well as the Leader of the Opposition to introduce former MLA Herb Cox.

In the short time I have known him, Herb, I concur with the comments that have been made previously and have been brought forward. And since you actually reside in the Cut Knife-Turtleford constituency, I would like to thank you for your years of dedicated service and welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it gives me great pleasure to introduce someone back to this Legislative Assembly, and that is a very, very dedicated teacher at the Humboldt Collegiate in Humboldt, Mr. David Millette. He has, year over year, brought his grade 12 class students to this Assembly. And that was put on pause of course when we didn't have guests coming, so it's great to see him back with 20 grade 12 students from the great school, the Humboldt Collegiate. Welcome to your Assembly, and I hope you enjoy the proceedings.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce 15 members of the public service, Mr. Speaker, in your gallery. Mr. Speaker, they're here today for the parliamentary program for the public service. They've got a full day planned. They do a tour of the building. They have briefings by various branches of the Legislative Assembly Service. They get to take in question period, Mr. Speaker, routine proceedings, and they will have meetings with members from both sides of the House later this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, they're from a number of different ministries, including Trade and Export Development, integrated justice services, Social Services, Education, Public Service Commission, and SaskBuilds and Procurement. Mr. Speaker, it's great to have them here, and I'd ask all members to please give them a warm welcome to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the minister opposite in welcoming this group of public servants to their Assembly here today, thank them for the work that they do every day in supporting this big institution that exists here with all these different pieces. I know we all come at this with our own perspectives, and we have our own work that's in front of us. But thank you for taking an interest in what happens in this Chamber and the work that happens here.

And I look forward to having a chance to sit down with you today and answering some questions about the role of the opposition and how everything functions for us. So thank you for taking the time today, and I look forward to speaking with you later on.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a couple guests from my home RM [rural municipality] of Reciprocity No. 32: division 2 councillor, Steven Bendtsen; division 4 councillor, Tyler Arthur. They're in town for the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, and I would like to welcome them to their legislature.

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

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce to you some folks from the great Southwest here. They're here for the SARM convention. We've got here, from the RM of Maple Creek, Reeve Elden Jamieson. Give us a wave. Councillor Shawn Kramer. We also have the administrator, Christine Hoffman. And from the RM of Piapot, bull rider-rancher Clay Moorhead.

I'd like to welcome you to your legislature today. Oh and — excuse me — my CA [constituency assistant], Sean. He missed the bus to go home, so welcome anyway to your legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from the northeast part of the province as it relates to Highway 9, which is in horrible disrepair. A very important artery between Preeceville and Hudson Bay that is so very important of course to the local communities, the residents, the farms, the businesses to tourism in the area. Of course this is a beautiful part of the province.

This highway here poses a significant safety concern for

travellers. The petition states that it's in inadequate condition and reports of long-standing ruts and overall deterioration, Mr. Speaker.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

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

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honoured to be on my feet again in the Assembly today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for home supports for older adults in Saskatchewan.

The petitioners would like us to be aware that, you know, there's lots of evidence that shows that older adults want to age in their own homes in their own communities. And often the way that our current system is set up, many are forced to move away from their communities and their loved ones to receive care as they age. There's a recent study done by the National Institute on Ageing that found that 97 per cent of residents in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which is how that information is delivered, 97 per cent will do anything that they can to avoid going into long-term care.

And the petitioners want us to be aware that often the factors that lead an older adult to move out of their home into institutionalized care go beyond health care needs and they fall under practical needs.

[13:45]

I also want to just make a final point that providing supports for older adults in their own homes comes at a significantly lower cost both to taxpayers and to the individual than providing care in institutions.

With that 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 support program that will allow seniors to age with dignity and autonomy in their homes and communities.

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

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to

the Legislative Assembly calling for the government to reject the proposed Lambert Peat Moss development. Many local residents, hunters, trappers, and traditional land users are opposed to the proposed peat moss mine out of their concern for the cumulative effects and potential for significant damage to critical habitat for species at risk, including woodland caribou.

They are concerned about how it will affect their traditional rights to hunt, trap, and fish; impacts on drinking water sources; and the knock-on effects of a changing climate, including peat's properties as a natural carbon sink and the increased risk of forest fires in the North.

They are disappointed with the lack of public engagement and consultation with rights bearers by the proponent and the Crown. In fact a recent scan indicates that there has been no community outreach by the proponent since September 2020 — more than a year and a half ago — or by the government since the original public notice posted February 19th, 2019. For all these reasons, more than 20,000 people have signed an online petition calling for the mine to be stopped.

I will read the prayer as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the provincial government to protect the boreal forest and reject the proposed Lambert Peat Moss development.

Signed by the residents of La Ronge.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and present a petition from Saskatchewan residents who are looking to see, finally, an adequate investment in education in the upcoming budget.

Those who've signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following points: that years of underfunding, even before the pandemic, have resulted in increased class sizes and declining supports for students; that the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on students and young learners and those needing extra supports; and that even though our schools and school staff do amazing work — the most important work, Mr. Speaker — they need more support to ensure that the impacts of this pandemic are not felt for a generation.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to immediately fix the crisis in our classrooms by providing stable and adequate funding for public education in Saskatchewan.

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

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Westview.

New Child Care Spaces Allocated to Saskatchewan Communities

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today our government announced great news for parents and families in our province — 1,202 new child care spaces have been allocated to communities across Saskatchewan, not least of which includes my home city of Saskatoon. The Saskatoon region will receive 285 new spaces under today's announcement. Combined with our previous allocation in December, the Saskatoon region has received 341 spaces since the signing of the federal-provincial child care agreement.

Under this \$1.1 billion deal, we aim to create 28,000 new child care spaces and reduce the average cost of child care to \$10 per day. This work has already begun, as fees have been reduced by 50 per cent. This deal also supports the early childhood workforce with the creation of the wage grid, up to a \$3-an-hour wage increase, additional professional development opportunities, and post-secondary support for early childhood educators. Province-wide, 1,800 new spaces have been allocated since the signing of the child care agreement. 8,973 spaces have been allocated since 2007, of which 1,896 have been in Saskatoon.

Our government understands the importance of quality, affordable child care, and today's announcement is another step toward keeping Saskatchewan on track to create 28,000 new child care spaces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Miskasowin Emergency Youth Shelter

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and give thanks to the management and staff at Saskatoon Tribal Council's Youth Emergency Shelter, known as Miskasowin. Miskasowin is located at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge, which is within my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, every day at 10 p.m. in the gymnasium of the White Buffalo Youth Lodge, staff set up an emergency shelter from scratch to provide a safe space to sleep, warm meals, and offer showers for up to 20 individuals under the age of 30. And every morning at 8 a.m., so that daytime programs can take place at the facility, the staff take down the shelter and pack it away like it never was there. The management and staff have been operating this shelter for over two years.

Mr. Speaker, these folks take in youth as young as 16. We see more and more young people being homeless. I see this every day in my home city of Saskatoon, and you all see homelessness right across this province. Join me in recognizing and giving thanks to the Saskatoon Tribal Council staff and management team for the good work at the emergency youth shelter known as Miskasowin. miigwech.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

More Pre- and Post-Addiction Treatment Beds Operating in Saskatchewan

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People across the province now have better access to the care they need to recover from addiction challenges. Mr. Speaker, 38 more pre- and post-addiction treatment beds are operating in Saskatchewan to help people recovering from substance abuse disorders, including drug and alcohol addiction. These new beds are part of the province's 2019 commitment to provide an additional 50 pre- and post-treatment addiction beds throughout the province. A further 10 beds will open this summer in Regina.

These beds support people who do not have stable, safe housing in the time between completing detox and beginning in-patient treatment. They also help those who need supportive housing after treatment to keep and strengthen the gains they made during treatment.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that residents have access to high-quality health care is vitally important to our government. Enhanced residential supports are a key recommendation under Saskatchewan's mental health and addictions action plan. These pre- and post-treatment beds build on our government's ongoing work to increase addiction services for the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Social Work Week

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to mark Social Work Week in Saskatchewan and to honour and celebrate the more than 2,000 social workers who show up every day to support people across our province.

Whether they're connecting youth with mental health supports, assisting seniors, helping someone navigate grief after a critical incident or loss, building community, or advocating for an individual or even the entire province, they do their vital work without a lot of recognition. But as this year's theme states, these social workers are in critical demand.

Even before the pandemic, social workers in Saskatchewan were facing high workloads and enormous pressures, helping to address the consequences of this government's cruel choices and pandemic mishandling and the effect they've had on people experiencing all kinds of added stress and challenges in their lives: from housing to loss, from being out of work to putting food on the table, or just making ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a social worker, and I ask all members to join me in showing our gratitude for all social workers and their dedication, their compassion, and their hard work. And I ask this government to show sincerity in their words by committing to reverse their cruel cuts that have hurt Saskatchewan social workers and, more importantly, the people they serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Long-Time Unity Business Owner Retires

Mr. Domotor: — Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate Dusan Maljan, a cobbler and owner of Maljan Shoe Repair in Unity for 63 years. At age 88, Mr. Speaker, Dusan has decided to retire. Immigrating to Canada from Yugoslavia, now Croatia, Dusan was seeking a life in a free country, Mr. Speaker, and he found that in the community of Unity where he resided since 1958.

In addition to shoe repair, Dusan fixed clothing, did reupholstering, repaired canvases and tarps, as well as skate sharpening. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Dusan has sharpened skates for four generations of family members.

Mr. Maljan even purchased two chairs from the old theatre in town with the sole purpose of having a space for people to visit. He wanted to provide space to enjoy a coffee and share stories, Mr. Speaker. With a constant twinkle in his eye and a beaming smile, Dusan doesn't always recognize how much happiness he gives to others.

Mr. Speaker, I would now ask that all members join me in congratulating Duse, as he is affectionately known, on his successful 63-year career. Thank you for being such an important part of the Unity community and area, and best wishes to you in your well-deserved retirement. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Uranium Industry Contributes to Saskatchewan

Mr. Lemaigre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin contains the largest high-grade uranium deposits in the world and is Canada's only uranium-producing province. Mr. Speaker, one in 10 homes in Canada and millions more in other countries receive electricity produced from Saskatchewan uranium. Our uranium industry employs more than 2,000 people, over half of which are northern residents.

In 2020 the industry provided almost \$6 million in community investments with local organizations, Indigenous partnerships, and scholarships. That same year the industry acquired \$235 million in goods and services from Saskatchewan businesses. Cameco, the largest industrial employer of Indigenous workers in Canada, announced they will restart their McArthur River and Key Lake mining operations, an increase of 900 jobs for 2025, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan uranium is vital for clean nuclear energy development in Canada and around the world. Our government will continue to support the growth of our uranium sector as we work to meet your growth plan goal to increase in annual uranium sales to \$2 billion by 2030.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank our uranium workers and industry for their important contribution to our province. marsi.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Call for Action to Prevent Rail Labour Dispute

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our economy depends

on our ability and our exporters to deliver products to market. The anticipated labour dispute at CP Rail [Canadian Pacific Railway] and any subsequent shutdown of their network would have a critical impact.

CP typically handles about 50 per cent of our grain and grain products that we move by rail. Our government recognizes the serious implications of such a disruption on a supply chain that's already under stress. Mr. Speaker, rail service in Saskatchewan already has challenges with car supply and container availability. The lack of adequate service to grain shippers has resulted in lost sales, penalties, and demurrage, as well as reputational damage.

On top of these existing problems, a rail strike would be devastating for our shippers and producers. Not only that, we need adequate rail service to ensure we can receive imported products, specifically corn and other feedstuff, for our livestock producers. We've requested the federal government take the necessary steps to prevent this.

Mr. Speaker, our producers have faced drought, increasing input costs, and unpredictable markets due to global instability. They simply cannot afford an additional fallout and transportation disruptions a rail strike would create. I ask all members to join me in calling for swift action to prevent this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Operations of Evraz Inc.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was good to hear the Premier finally change his tune yesterday on the extremely serious question on the future of Evraz. I will admit, given the Premier's history, it was surprising to hear him so keen to put that decision in the hands of Justin Trudeau and the federal Liberals, given the serious ramifications this may have for Saskatchewan's economy.

[14:00]

So to the Premier: what are the options that he's putting forward, and how is he going to make sure that Saskatchewan and the workers at Evraz are part of making the best solution to keeping those jobs here in Saskatchewan and stopping the flow of money to Putin's war?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the last statement in that question is precisely what we are doing. We're working with the federal government — not deferring to the federal government — working with the federal government to provide them information that we have ultimately, Mr. Speaker, so that we can stop any flow of dollars to Russia and Russian oligarchs so that they are able to fund this invasion of Ukraine.

Two, we are ensuring, we're making every effort to ensure that in places like Evraz, it's business as usual for the folks and the families that are being supported by that industry and by that particular industrial site, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue

to work with the federal government on all fronts, like a province should on issues that are international in nature such as this.

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

Operations of Evraz Inc. and Support for Physicians

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Saskatchewan and the people working at Evraz are expecting more specifics, something not so vague, but a real plan.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tomi Mitchell has practised family medicine in Regina for the last 10 years, building up a practice and providing excellent service to patients here in this city. Unfortunately, she's had to make the decision to close down that clinic. That will leave thousands of patients without the ability to access primary care.

It's a decision she didn't want to make, but due to this government's unwillingness to support folks on the front lines, she felt she had no choice at all. In Dr. Mitchell's own words, and I quote, "We are exhausted and we feel like we're not being listened to, like we're being taken for granted."

A year ago, we were calling docs heroes. Why is the Premier now driving them out of the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Two topics in that question, Mr. Speaker. First with respect to Ukraine and Evraz and what this government is doing. I'm meeting with senior Canadian management of Evraz immediately following question period today, Mr. Speaker, as we have been in touch with the folks at Evraz for a number of days now.

With respect to physicians in this province, Mr. Speaker, and our physician complement in Saskatchewan, I won't speak to specifics of an individual case. But to Dr. Mitchell I would take the opportunity on behalf of the government to thank her for her service. And most certainly I wish her the very best in whatever she chooses, her next endeavour.

Mr. Speaker, in this province we have one of the highest compensation physician rates in Canada. You can either work a fee-for-service or there are opportunities for salaried positions as well.

A couple of years ago, almost to the day, Mr. Speaker, when we entered into the pandemic phase, there was many changes in our personal lives, in our careers as well. And the Minister of Health and Ministry of Health and the Saskatchewan Health Authority worked hard, Mr. Speaker, to work with our physician complement across the province, to offer salary transitions potentially from fee-for-service to a salaried position. We opened up virtual appointments across the province. And we also increased our physician compensation here in the province, Mr. Speaker, with some success over the last number of years. We do have more physicians working in our province and more health care professionals in general.

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

Support for Physicians

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear a lot of spin but no answers and no plan to make sure that we support doctors in Saskatchewan. Doctors like Dr. Mitchell who are burnt-out, fed up, and ready to leave, doctors who say that compensation plan the Premier's so proud of is leaving them unable to pay staff and keep the lights on in their clinic, Mr. Speaker.

No wonder we have the lowest proportion of doctors in the country, the lowest proportion of specialist physicians, the second-lowest number of family doctors — and falling — as docs like Dr. Mitchell, docs like Dr. Wasko are leaving the province or leaving the profession.

To the Premier, Mr. Speaker: when will he stop the spin and show us the plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as the Premier outlined, we have one of the best compensation packages in the country. According to recent data, in Saskatchewan's average gross clinical payment per physician, we were first in total specialties, Mr. Speaker, and second only behind Alberta in medical specialties.

But what I could also say, Mr. Speaker, is we are supporting physicians in multiple ways. In some circumstances, in some communities, we do a fee-for-service. But we also have a salary. But once we pay that out to the physician, it's up to them to be able to manage their clinic and their facilities, Mr. Speaker. We try to support them in that.

But what I can say, Mr. Speaker, is what the Leader of the Opposition is referring to is completely wrong. We had over 900 physicians that had a temporary contract through the Pandemic Physician Service Agreement, which this government provided \$80 million during that pandemic to compensate physicians for exactly their great service that they were able to provide with us throughout the pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't matter who comes forward — doctors, nurses, health care aides, executives leaving the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority], the thousands of patients who are waiting for care, waiting in pain while they see the waiting lists grow because of the mismanagement of COVID-19 under this government. Doesn't matter who it is, the answer is always the same: it's all fine and they're wrong. The people are wrong — that's the message that we hear from the minister today.

But we've got an opportunity to change the tune. So to the Premier: instead of having these messages fall on deaf ears, will he admit that there's a problem? And will he sit down and meet with Dr. Mitchell today, show that he actually cares about the people that are being forced out of the profession here in this province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, what I can say in this House, and I'll say it many times, is the people are never wrong. The NDP [New Democratic Party] are always wrong, Mr. Speaker, always wrong.

Mr. Speaker, in my introduction — if the Leader of the Opposition was paying attention — I offered to sit down with the doctor to be able to do that. I offer to sit down with physicians all the time, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Rural and Remote Health and myself and MLAs on this side of the House, we continually contact and stay in touch with our physicians, with our health care teams in our community.

The MLAs bring that information back to the Minister of Rural and Remote Health and I, and then we sit down with our officials to be able to devise a plan on how we can work with those physicians and with those clinicians to be able to make sure that we're providing the best service possible that we can within Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Education

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the minister defended the loss of 350 educators since last school year by boasting about an 8 per cent increase in teachers since 2007. Well what he conveniently left out is that there are 13 per cent more students in our classrooms over that exact same period. The reality, Mr. Speaker, is under this government, teachers are continually asked to do more with less. Students are less supported during a critical time in their development. Why does this minister support a record that doesn't support our students?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think if the member went back and looked at *Hansard* he would know that what I said yesterday was that enrolment is up in this province since 2007 by 13 per cent. But the overall teaching complement is up 17 per cent — nearly 1,600 teachers, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what I would also note, unfortunately the member opposite was incorrect and unfortunately can't read a chart, apparently, because he indicated yesterday and put out a news release saying that full-time support positions dropped by 330 from the same time this year to last year. In fact those positions are up 22 from last year.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, I know that the minister loves recess, but this isn't dodge ball. We're talking about the loss of 350 educators from our classrooms. Now this government likes to talk about childhood and youth mental health and, let's be honest, this is a very real concern in our communities. But talking the talk is not walking the walk, and since the Premier was elected we have lost school-based counsellors, social workers, and psychologists. While mental health supports for students are declining, the number of students and their mental health needs

are increasing.

If this government is truly concerned about the mental health needs of our students, they would be investing in these positions, investing in our kids. Will the minister finally put some money where his mouth is and commit to real action to support mental health for our students?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this certainly is one of the three priority areas for the school sector in Saskatchewan last year and this year as well. That's why we've provided \$400,000 to ensure that every single school in this province has at least one adult trained in mental health first aid. That's why we've provided \$1.3 million to develop the mental health capacity-building pilot project in this province, Mr. Speaker.

That is why we've provided \$243,000 for mental health training initiatives. A total of 25 school divisions are using this funding to implement training, Mr. Speaker. And in fact Northern Lights School Division received \$24,000 to coordinate training events in four locations: La Loche, La Ronge, Creighton, Cumberland House. We invested nearly \$600,000 in an action plan to address bullying and cyberbullying, Mr. Speaker.

Under this government, in fact under this Premier, Mr. Speaker, counselling positions in schools have gone from 99 to 153, and counsellors with education degrees have gone from 15 to 26. We've done a lot. More work to be done for sure, but we've done a lot, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to do more.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, we continue to see this minister support numbers that just don't add up. We know that the result is teachers feeling overburdened, under-supported, and completely burnt-out. And it's just one more sector, one more sector that this government has left high and dry.

Saskatchewan's per-student funding is going down, and this is serious. This is serious. It is not something for the minister to be proud of. Will we see an honest acknowledgement of this problem, perhaps for once even humility from this government, or will we see more boasting about numbers that don't add up to the support that our students, teachers, and classrooms really need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. School divisions in this province have received \$1.96 billion in this last year in operating funding, Mr. Speaker. They also received \$155 million in combined federal-provincial, as well as savings from school divisions' operational budgets because schools had to be shut down in 2020 because of the pandemic. Those dollars have been well used by school divisions, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to be able to provide additional support to school divisions in the upcoming school year. Thank you.

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

Government Support of Affordable Housing

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a government that's happy to pat themselves on the back and celebrate their own success stories, but they're unwilling to celebrate anyone else's.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week we were talking about Avana, a great local success story, and everybody except for the Sask Party seems to recognize the value of the work that they're doing. But in true toxic government fashion, instead of admitting that they were wrong, they'd rather look arrogant and out of touch.

Mr. Speaker, Avana has built more affordable housing in three years than this government has in their entire tenure, managing nearly a quarter-billion dollars in assets, employing hundreds of people, all while filling a void in the social economy left by this government.

Mr. Speaker, simple question: is the minister proud of this record?

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the other day I talked about our government's record on affordable housing. And we do think affordable housing is important, and it is a priority for the Ministry of Social Services and the Saskatchewan housing authority, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since our government came in in 2007, we've invested \$806 million in affordable housing . . . 5,800 to repair existing homes, and 12,113 housing units. That's a lot of units since we've been in government, Mr. Speaker. So I would just like to know the accountability for that as far as units that are being built by other developers. But what I can say is when the NDP were in power, they developed 909 units from 2001 to 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's try again. That was a simple question. A private developer has built more units in the last three years than this government has in their entire tenure.

Mr. Speaker, again to the minister: yes or no? Does she think that is sufficient? Is she proud of her record?

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

[14:15]

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, housing is important and we take it very seriously. And I would like to congratulate Avana, the federal government, the city of Regina for getting the partnership together to be able to build the units that they are able to build.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan invests in innovative housing development projects for people with difficult . . . accessing and maintaining stable housing, which includes people with low incomes, physical disabilities, mental illness, addictions, behavioural issues, and cognitive disabilities, Mr. Speaker. I've already gave our record on how many units we've built, and just because that member says we haven't doesn't make it so.

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

Job Numbers and Management of the Provincial Economy

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, maybe to this tired, arrogant Sask Party government, a few hundred jobs leaving Saskatchewan is just a blip in the 40,000 people who have left this province under this Premier's watch. Mr. Speaker, they're happy to talk about their growth plan, but what they're not happy to talk about is the number of people packing their suitcases and heading west.

And, Mr. Speaker, Avana is no exception. They're turning their attention to the west. I quote: "Alberta is very supportive when we're building," said CEO [chief executive officer] Jenn Denouden.

Mr. Speaker, people are leaving. People are leaving this province. And with all of the migration of people and jobs, why do these investments and these jobs not matter to that minister?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I am very happy to talk about jobs in the province of Saskatchewan, which have increased by 30,000 over the course of the last year.

And, Mr. Speaker, more good news today. Wholesale trade numbers out, very significant leading indicator for the economy. We have seen not a 20 per cent increase, not a 25 per cent increase, not even a 30 per cent increase — a 35 per cent increase in wholesale trade over the course of the last year, Mr. Speaker, which puts us where in Canada? First.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. High growth and commodity successes are all things that we can celebrate on both sides of this House. But with inflation and the cost of living skyrocketing, affordable housing and good-paying jobs are still in short supply.

So, Mr. Speaker, to recap: 700 jobs in Meadow Lake and that minister couldn't find his feet; 1,000 jobs in the lurch in Evraz and that minister chooses to live out some sort of McCarthyist fantasy talking about communism instead of talking about a real issue that matters to 1,000 people here in Regina. And now, Mr. Speaker, that government would rather flip the bird than crow about a woman-led affordable housing company that employs 600 people. That minister said, we can't fund them all.

But, Mr. Speaker, if there's a will, there's a way. Pulp, steel, homebuilders — these are all jobs that that government used to care about. Mr. Speaker, have they lost their way?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Once again, Mr. Speaker, we are very, very happy to talk about jobs created in this province. The jobs report that came out just last Friday showed Saskatchewan with the second-lowest unemployment rate in Canada, the lowest unemployment rate we have had in this province in seven years. And that is due to the wonderful work of our job creators in this province who have done some wonderful work.

But also, Mr. Speaker, it's because they've had the opportunity to operate for the last two years, which they would not have if they were under lockdown for the last two years like they would have been under those members opposite, who have stood up over and over and over again.

And I guarantee it, Mr. Speaker, if those members were in government right now, we would still be operating under economic restrictions, limitations on capacity. All of those things I guarantee you would still be in place if those members opposite were in government, which is why the people of this province are so glad that they are not. And also, Mr. Speaker, why they sent Jim Lemaigre to be in this Assembly.

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

Provision of Security at Legislative Building

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Corrections' attempt at defending her and the Government House Leader's pet project in Bill 70 has not been able to answer any questions about why this bill is apparently needed. If only the minister could defend her power grab — and maybe the Government House Leader too — half as well as the Sergeant-at-Arms did in defending this building a few weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, will this government acknowledge finally that the Sergeant-at-Arms has proven that we have the best security? Will this government do the right thing — acknowledge that — by scrapping Bill 70?

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is committed to ensuring the symbols of our very democracy, the Legislative Building and the legislative grounds, are safe and secure. Bill 70 expands the current jurisdiction and provides more resources for security officials while also removing it from the cumbersome process that it currently falls under.

The Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety has significant experience in the areas of safety and security, and they're very well suited to manage the challenging issues of providing safety and security, whether it's here in this building, outside the grounds, or throughout the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, can the minister please explain why the non-partisan BOIE [Board of Internal Economy] process, the process that's always been used for legislative security over the past few decades, has now become, as the minister just said, cumbersome?

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It just so happens that the legislature in the province of Manitoba is undergoing a review and changes of sorts. I'm going to quote Minister Goertzen of the Manitoba legislature:

We have an expectation and a responsibility to ensure that the building is accessible for the public, but that it's also safe for the public that's visiting here, those that are working here [are safe] and those . . . here for other reasons.

The ministry, along with public safety partners, ensured that the physical barriers around the Legislative Building were in place to ensure public safety and security during the recent rally. It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that the member from Regina Douglas Park stated on February 7th, "The responsible agencies worked in collaboration, and wise choices were made to maintain safety while still allowing space for peaceful protest." What the member is failing to understand is the fact it was the Ministry of Corrections . . .

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Well thanks, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't really getting an answer to my question anyway, so maybe I'll ask it again. We'll try this again. Can the minister explain why the non-partisan BOIE process has apparently now become too cumbersome, and can she do so without parroting another Conservative government?

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — The government's response to keeping the grounds of the legislature safe during the last rally demonstrates how improvements can be made to security. Bill 70 will formalize these steps, Mr. Speaker. The ministry, along with public safety partners, ensured the physical barriers around the Legislative Building were in place to ensure public safety and security. And by gosh, Mr. Speaker, it worked.

The members opposite clearly support these measures when they didn't realize that the government was responsible for these measures during the freedom rally. The people that work and visit in this building, Mr. Speaker, deserve to feel safe, and that's exactly what this government will do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the collaborative process that

already exists does work. And when the minister quoted my tweet from after the freedom rally, she forgot to mention that I also took the time to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms and all of the partners for their hard work.

Instead of the minister doing that, thanking the Sergeant-at-Arms, she decided last time we talked about this in question period to boast about her government's role in deterring the protests. I think she just did it again, actually. Last time she said, "... the reason that there was a safe environment was because of the extra efforts made by government officials."

Well, Mr. Speaker, since the minister won't actually speak to the plans of the bill once it's implemented, will she at least speak to what extra efforts the government was involved in?

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to quote a former Clerk of the Privy Council, Michael Wernick: "There are serious threats to people in office all the time and it's important that ... [we take the threats] seriously." Mr. Speaker, as we have seen in the Manitoba legislature, just like here, but with Manitoba it was a lone actor ... can cause damage to important government institutions, forcing governments to implement stronger security measures.

We want to be proactive rather than reactive to these concerns and mitigate potential security risks and not rely on the cumbersome process that the members opposite want to pursue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

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

The Speaker: — State your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Sure, Mr. Speaker. I'm calling a point of order on myself. During question period, I referred to the member for Athabasca, newly elected Sask Party member for Athabasca, by his proper name, Mr. Speaker. Obviously that's out of order, so I would apologize and withdraw for that, Mr. Speaker, and thank the newly elected Sask Party member for Athabasca for his understanding.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's my pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 62, *The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act*. A little bit quieter in here than it was the other day when I put some remarks on the record, Mr. Speaker. This legislation is something I've already spoken about, so I will reserve further comments and questions for committee, Mr. Speaker. But with that I would allow this piece of legislation to move on to its next steps.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 62 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 Human Services.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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 Speaker: — Why is the member ... Are you on your feet? No. 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. 63. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes several changes to the fraudulent preferences and fraudulent conveyance pieces of legislation. I believe I've already had the opportunity to put some comments on that on the record. I'm looking forward to having the chance to ask some questions of the minister and his officials about this particular bill. And in order to facilitate that work, I am prepared at this time to allow it to move to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 63 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: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

[14:30]

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise and enter in the debate on Bill No. 64. This is the consequential piece of legislation to the bill that I had already discussed earlier today. I'm looking forward to asking some questions of the minister and his officials about this piece of legislation. And in order to facilitate that work, I am prepared now 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 64 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: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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. 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 Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in some brief remarks on Bill No. 67, *The Emergency Planning Act* No. 2. I understand from the minister's second reading speech that this is a subsequent amendment to *The Emergency Planning Act* that we brought in last year. And that the intent of these changes is to build on the existing protections that were passed in the spring, ensuring that citizens that faced

COVID-based litigation for following public health orders would be protected. So these amendments provide enhanced protection from liability to these individuals and to organizations that are just trying to do the right thing and follow the laws, Mr. Speaker.

It certainly seems prudent that these changes would come forward, although any time there are Justice bills in front of me, I always have to take a second and third look because I don't come from this world. But I definitely think our critic is well on top of this and will have a chance to review these questions and changes in committee. But with that I would move to allow this piece of legislation to move on to its next steps.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill 67 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: — The bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 69, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes some very important changes to this legislation to allow it to be more accessible. Very important for families seeking some support-order relief, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to ask the minister and his officials some questions with respect to this legislation, and in order to facilitate that work, I'm prepared 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 69 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. 70

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

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be on my feet to add my remarks and speak to this bill, Bill 70, and the repercussions this amendment is going to have on our community, specifically the Indigenous community, Mr. Speaker.

What we have currently with the Sergeant-at-Arms is very welcoming. They've been understanding and have knowledgeable staff. People feel welcomed. As an Indigenous person, the first time I walked into this legislature as a new MLA, I was welcomed and I was received well by the Sergeant-at-Arms. And not once did I feel unsafe. I always felt safe coming into these doors. We've seen peaceful demonstrations set up out on the lawn and not once, at least from my office and the Office of the Official Opposition, ever felt less than safe here.

You know, when I think about the peaceful protests that had happened here and the tipi protest, people have felt welcomed and they felt they had a place here where they could demonstrate in a peaceful way. And that's because we had the Sergeant-at-Arms here. We were feeling very safe and not being, feeling stereotyped and not feeling threatened.

With the pushing of this new bill, Bill 70, we're heading down a dark path, Mr. Speaker. A partisan security force here on these grounds will bring an environment of mistrust, misunderstandings. And this is very opposite of reconciliation. If we're looking at being inclusive of the Indigenous community, what is that going to mean to them? You know, we've had this gallery full of First Nations leaders, students, elders. And they felt safe coming through these doors, and they felt not judged by the Sergeant-at-Arms. With the ramming this through, how are the Indigenous people going to feel?

And I've had some conversations with Indigenous leaders out there. And I asked them, do you know about this bill? Has anyone asked you about this bill? And their response was, no. There hasn't been that consultation to those that are going to be impacted the most. And Indigenous people are a group that will be impacted. It's bad enough when we go into the grocery stores, that we are stereotyped and we are followed. What's going to happen here when we have a partisan security force here? What's going to happen to us?

I'm not going to say much here because my colleagues here and the critic for this area will, I guess, have more questions. But I do want to say to this government that it's important that when legislation is being passed, that the people that are going to be impacted be consulted in a meaningful way.

My concern is for my fellow First Nations people that are often harshly, unjustifiably stereotyped, mistreated with racism. They're going to be impacted. And if they have a peaceful protest out there, can they do that without the fear of being arrested and thrown in jail? That concerns me.

As a First Nation mother and grandmother, I'm concerned about my little grandchildren, who are darker skinned than I am. It's bad enough we face a lot of racism in this province. And if we put in a partisan security force, how is that going to impact Indigenous people, especially those of us that have darker skin than the rest of us?

So I'm asking you, I'm imploring you, as representatives, as elected officials, go and consult those that are going to be impacted the most. Go and ask your neighbouring First Nations communities and ask them, do they want more police force. Do they want that? Do they want a government process or a non-partisan force protecting these grounds?

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I have nothing more . . . I'm sure I have more I can say but I won't say that, won't say any more. And I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act* of 2020. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 71

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

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debate on Bill 71, *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*. My comments here are going to be brief. A number of my colleagues have already spoken to this, and it seems quite straightforward.

Mr. Speaker, the bill makes amendments to codify a recent Court of Appeal decision respecting the limit on the amount of funds that can be held in side accounts for life insurance policies. It also limits the amount of money that can be deposited into side accounts associated with life insurance contracts and protects both insurers and consumers.

For this bill, you know, we're always happy to see the codification of court decisions. Our courts are very much an essential part of the legislative process, and additionally limiting

the amount of money that can be deposited into side accounts will certainly protect both consumers and insurers.

Again, I think I'm going to wrap up. It's already been spoken to quite a bit at length. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 71, *The Insurance 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. 72

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

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

Ms. A. Young: — Mr. Speaker, as always, it is exciting to be on my feet speaking to legislation before this Assembly, today of course beginning with Bill No. 72, *The Life Leases Act*, a new piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, requiring life lease operators to disclose entrance fees and other financial obligations to potential leaseholders before a life lease is executed. There are a number of provisions set out in this piece of legislation in regards to terms and timelines and the ability of lease operators to do things like establish reserve funds, which are of course necessary for maintaining any kind of facility or complex.

And again we see the important element of governance present in this piece of legislation as it pertains to AGMs [annual general meeting] and the necessity of ensuring transparency and engagement with members in those communities. We have certainly seen examples of this pop up in local news across the province over the years, or at least for those of us who pay too much attention to real estate and development in the province, Mr. Speaker, perhaps fantasizing about all of the properties we will never own.

Personal interest aside, it is always a happy day when we see the government move forward with legislations that have been recommended by the Law Reform Commission here in the province. And I know, Mr. Speaker, that the important details of this and the oversight and engagement will be provided by our very able critic in committee. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to conclude my remarks on Bill 72 and move to 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. 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.]

[14:45]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to weigh in, albeit rather briefly here today, with respect to Bill No. 73, *The Animal Production Act, 2021*. I definitely look forward to engaging at the next stages as critic on this front. When we're talking about these pieces of legislation, they're encompassing a very, very important industry in this province, Mr. Speaker, and we need to make sure that we get this right.

A very proud industry that plays such an important role in providing incredible product to the world, and of course to us, that we can be proud of, the livestock industry in this province is just invaluable to this province. In fact it's facing a lot of pressures right now, Mr. Speaker. If you look at the beef situation alone right now and what cattle producers are facing, this is an incredibly stressed situation.

And I'm chatting with lots of hard-working, proud, successful cattle producers across this province who are grasping at straws at this very time to figure out how to see their way through this scenario we see, of the potential of a very, very serious, devastating reduction of herd and breeding stock across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and real, serious challenges of course of feed and water that have continued from the horrible drought of last year, and you know, a responsibility of course that's sort of second to none, that livestock producers feel in the care and stewardship of those animals.

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, livestock — and let's just look at the cattle industry as an example — it plays such an invaluable role in the management of land and grazing that land and the sequestration of carbon, that important, invaluable work of protecting those pastures, those native prairie grass, and grass itself, and that role as environmental stewards, Mr. Speaker.

And without appropriate response to the very serious challenge that livestock producers are facing in our province, Mr. Speaker, we put that incredible industry and that incredible work and that legacy of generation after generation building up breeding stock and genetics that are second to none, Mr. Speaker, and put that at risk.

So any piece of legislation relating to the livestock industry is a very important one, Mr. Speaker. And we need to, as we talk about it, make sure we're recognizing the very serious challenges that this sector and so many producers, so many ranchers are facing across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, you know, we'll engage in making sure that we fully understand the aspects of the bill that's being brought forward at this time.

I would really urge the minister, Mr. Speaker, to be working hard with producers across Saskatchewan right now, Mr. Speaker, with the very real challenges that they're facing, before we end up dealing with a massive sell-off of the herd, Mr. Speaker, before we see a massive sell-off of breeding stock, before we see a loss of these invaluable operations, before we see that relationship of grazing, Mr. Speaker, lost and see that land put to

plow, Mr. Speaker, and brought into crop production.

I think it's really important that we maintain diversity in our agricultural sector, and the livestock sector in Saskatchewan really is second to none, but it needs, it needs the attention of government right now.

I certainly don't see anything in this piece of legislation that addresses the very real concern that I'm hearing from livestock producers across Saskatchewan right now, Mr. Speaker. So we will engage of course, and what this does bring to bear, we'll discuss with stakeholders any consequences, intended or otherwise, that are not in the interests of the industry, Mr. Speaker.

And we'll always work to strengthen a piece of legislation like this, Mr. Speaker. But we will, as I say, we will continue to press this government to recognize what's at stake right now in our livestock industry, what's at stake for producers and ranchers, and to make sure that they're there and that they show up to have the backs of these producers and ranchers before it's too late, Mr. Speaker, because some of these things just aren't easy to undo, Mr. Speaker.

And as I speak again, I just think of those generations of family farms and ranches that have worked so hard to build something so special, something that's so valuable to the world, Mr. Speaker, something for which we can proudly celebrate as something, you know, that Saskatchewan is so proud of, Mr. Speaker. But we need to make sure at this very challenging time that the programs and supports are there to make sure that we see our way through.

And just to touch again on the importance of grazing, Mr. Speaker, in this sector. The role of the livestock producers and of grazing, Mr. Speaker, is really invaluable from an environmental stewardship side, being a steward of that grass, of those pastures, and of sequestering carbon, Mr. Speaker. A story that we should all be proud of, Mr. Speaker. But it's something we can be proud of because of the incredible hard work, grit, determination, and care and passion that's poured into farms and ranches across Saskatchewan by incredible, incredible people, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll engage in the technical aspects of this piece of legislation. We'll work with the sector partners on this front, Mr. Speaker, make sure that . . . right now I'd say to them please bring forward your input with respect to this piece of legislation. As always, we will do all we can to make improvements to make sure that legislation is as effective as it can be, Mr. Speaker.

And I would just remind government again to please, you know, not just look at technical legislation like this. Look to what's happening in the province right now, and the tough choices and conversations that are being had by farms and ranches across the province with respect to their operations, Mr. Speaker, and these animals and their herds and the breeding stock that they've worked so hard to establish.

I guess just in closing, Mr. Speaker, I don't see anything in this legislation here to bolster and build up the meat processing industry in Saskatchewan, and that's a shame, Mr. Speaker. This is an important area that government can provide leadership by working with producers and working with communities, rural

communities across Saskatchewan. Without a doubt we should be seeing way more processing within this province. There's an economic scale to be managed on this front. There's a consumer appetite for local product, local livestock, Mr. Speaker, an understanding of where it's coming from.

And we've recognized as well, all too often, just how hamstringing this sector is, and how to the detriment, you know, producers are positioned when we see the consolidation of the meat-packing industry, Mr. Speaker. And we would be well served to be working on a very serious and robust meat processing development program across Saskatchewan, working with producers, working with local economic leaders, Mr. Speaker, working and understanding the scale that's working for operations in this province right now, Mr. Speaker. I know I have spent time learning from and talking to those that are running viable operations in this province, some that have come together in sort of a co-operative model, some that have come together in an incorporated model or in a business model, Mr. Speaker.

There's some really good things that have been done, but there's lessons to be learned out of their experience. And we need to make sure that government plays a lead role on these fronts. You know, I've said in this House before and I'll say again, you know, we have the value-add tax credit that the province will tout, and that works for some scale of investment in certain sectors, Mr. Speaker. But it really shuts out meat processors, Mr. Speaker, because of the scale that most of those operations need to be viable, Mr. Speaker.

So what I'm hearing from those that are successful right now across the province on this front — those meat processors, those abattoirs, Mr. Speaker — is that right now the threshold for that value-add tax credit to apply, incentive to apply to them, Mr. Speaker, it's just beyond the scale of what's economically viable for the types of operations we could see all across Saskatchewan. So I would urge the government again to look at that instrument, to look at that incentive, and to look at other models and incentives and supports that could be in place that would be appropriate to the scale and size of the investment, Mr. Speaker.

And when I talk about that, I think, you know, it's important for us to recognize we're not talking about just a couple small abattoirs or processors that could be in place, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about strong rural economic development that could be occurring in every part of this province, Mr. Speaker, supplying a couple extra jobs to many small towns, providing added value to producers and market opportunities for producers. And if you look at building that out all across the province, it in itself provides some economic advantages for producers. And it also pushes back against the real risks, you know, of the consolidation of this industry, the meat packers, Mr. Speaker, how exposed producers are and our whole food chain is to the consolidation on this front.

So I'll have more to say throughout this process with respect to this piece of legislation. But again I would really urge the government though to make sure that they're actually doing something right now that responds to the very serious pressures that livestock producers are facing across the province. The stress I'm hearing in the voices and the folks I'm chatting with across the province, often on a nightly basis right now, Mr. Speaker, is palpable. And they're making choices that can't easily be

undone, Mr. Speaker. And I know there's a lot of sweat and tears in those operations and in those herds and the breeding stock that's been built up.

And we owe it to them, Mr. Speaker, to have their backs, to see this industry through for so many reasons. And I don't see anything in this Act that's responding to the challenges that I'm hearing on a nightly basis from folks. Nor am I seeing anything in this legislation that can bring about the kinds of building out of meat processing across Saskatchewan, with viable economic opportunities for small communities and for our producers in this province, with the added benefit of what that means for people and our food chain and food security and all those other pieces, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said with respect to Bill No. 73, 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. 75

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

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I won't say much about this Bill No. 75, *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2021*, as my colleagues, critic in this area, and others have already shared a lot.

What I will say is that this bill is about modernization, so it's allowing for electronic filing, board meetings to go electronically, etc. I think one of the things that's really interesting for me as I read this is that I'm happy to see that corporation names will be able to register in Indigenous languages. That's very pleasing for me. I'm pleased to hear that because before, having Indigenous languages, registering Indigenous languages wasn't allowed prior to this, and that's why it's important to update this legislation.

So having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 75, *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2021*. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 76

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

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

[15:00]

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again, and I will try to be as brief as I was prior to this one. So this is the Bill No. 76, *The Non-profit Corporations Consequential Amendments Act*. So this I would just want to say is, I'm in agreement of moving this forward to the next steps, and I'm sure the critic in this area will have more to say in committee.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 76, *The Non-profit Corporations Consequential Amendments Act, 2021*. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I enter into adjourned debate here today on Bill 61, *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2021*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill is a full repeal and replace of the Act from 2000, so what we're seeing here is certainly very considerable.

Bill 61 provides substantial legislative oversight for post-secondary education and skills training institutions and provides the minister with tools to oversee an account for public funds in the sector. The bill centralizes the minister's authority to provide grants to institutions, articulates what the institutions are able to receive money for, and outlines the process for providing monies. The bill also establishes reporting requirements for the institutions as well as new data reporting abilities.

Mr. Speaker, it's rather suspicious that the Sask Party is looking to make such broad and sweeping changes to Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector with this bill. Concerns have been raised by numerous stakeholders about this bill, particularly around the sections dealing with powers of the minister as well as post-secondary education funding.

Under powers of the minister, section 4(a) and (c) are of

particular concern. 4(a) reads as follows:

establish priorities and associated evaluation systems for the post-secondary education sector.

This wording, Mr. Speaker, is something that stakeholders have flagged as potentially being of grave concern. Universities have autonomy from government, and the wording of this clause would certainly appear to run contrary to traditional relations between our universities and our government. 4(c) reads as follows. The minister may:

develop and implement accountability measures for grants or funding provided to post-secondary education institutions by the Government of Saskatchewan.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this wording is of serious concern to various stakeholders I have spoken with about this bill. Here we see power being transferred away from the universities and into the hands of the minister for accountability measures. And so under the old Act, universities themselves were required to establish accountability measures, not the minister, Mr. Speaker.

As well, numerous stakeholders who I've been in contact with have expressed concern around what exactly these accountability measures will be. There's no indication in the bill about what metrics will be used, for instance. What's more, accountability measures will presumably allow the government to shape what the universities' priorities are. This concern has been expressed in that this could have either a direct impact on the shaping of priorities or an indirect impact, where the institutions may simply anticipate government desires and set their priorities accordingly.

Then as well, under "Post-secondary education funding," section 6(1)(d), even more flags are raised, Mr. Speaker. 6(1)(d) reads as follows. The minister may:

subject to the regulations and for the purpose of establishing accountability measures, enter into agreements with post-secondary education institutions with respect to grants or funding provided by the minister to those institutions and students of those institutions.

And then 6(1)(e), Mr. Speaker, further allows the minister to "... impose terms and conditions on grants or funding provided by the minister" to the institutions and students of those institutions.

So stemming from the above language, Mr. Speaker, we have heard serious concern expressed by a variety of stakeholders that the Sask Party government appears to be laying the groundwork for bringing in performance-based funding for post-secondary institutions in our province.

One of those stakeholders has had the courage to be very vocal about his concerns with Bill 61, Mr. Speaker, and that is Dr. Marc Spooner. For those members who may not be aware, Dr. Spooner is a professor in the department of education right here in town at the University of Regina. Dr. Spooner's research interests include the effects of neo-liberalization and corporatization on higher education — very pertinent to the examination of this bill, I would suggest.

Dr. Spooner is known as an expert on these subjects, Mr. Speaker, and on this side of the House, we make a point of listening to the experts. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to read an excerpt from an editorial written by Dr. Marc Spooner around Bill 61, which was published both in the *Leader-Post* and the *StarPhoenix* just yesterday. Listen to this. In Dr. Spooner's words:

Bill 61 wrests much of the accounting and financial responsibility away from the university and places that authority into the hands of the minister, complete with the power to make funding contingent on performance against a select group of indicators.

And as I flagged earlier, Mr. Speaker, what will those indicators be? What will those metrics be? I guess that remains to be seen. But the thing is we've seen this story before, Mr. Speaker, in Ontario, in Alberta, and now happening in Manitoba, so we can likely make some educated guesses about what we'll be seeing here. In Ontario, for example, metrics like graduate employment earnings, research funding from industry sources, and graduate employment rate in a related field have been employed — performance, Mr. Speaker, being evaluated largely by labour market, industry, and economic outcomes.

So why does this matter, you might ask. Well there are some of the concerns with performance-based funding that Dr. Spooner has outlined, and I'm going to quote from Dr. Spooner again:

The metrics coerce universities away from fostering critical, creative, and well-rounded citizens — while performing research in the public interest — and instead toward drastically retooled, narrowly conceived "outcomes" focused on serving the current labour market and performing corporate-styled research and development.

Mr. Speaker, and of course we must be conscious of the increasing corporatization of our universities and the detrimental impact this has had.

I should also mention, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Spooner is one of the editors of the award-winning *Dissident Knowledge in Higher Education*, a book which won the Saskatchewan Book Award in 2019 for publishing and education, one of the very first books I had the pleasure of checking out right here from our Legislative Library after I was elected. And you know, there's a copy available just down the hall, Mr. Speaker. I'd encourage the Minister of Advanced Education to pop his head into the library, pick up a copy to read himself. Who knows? He might learn a thing or two, might come to his senses, and might reconsider this dubious bill of his.

Here's a passage from the book for him to sink his teeth into right now in fact, Mr. Speaker:

The values of the traditional university are being replaced by a second set of values, namely those that characterize the marketplace and corporate culture. Others contend that the growing influence of an audit culture contributes to the disappearance of the idea of publicness, as traditional public service norms of citizenship, representation, equality, accountability, impartiality, openness, responsiveness, and justice are being marginalized or replaced by business

norms like competitiveness, efficiency, productivity, profitability, and consumer satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, and we see real issues with a lack of transparency too with the rise in corporatization of our universities. Mr. Speaker, a few years back — you might remember seeing this in the news — another Saskatchewan professor, Dr. Emily Eaton, was forced to take the University of Regina to court simply in order to obtain basic information about who was privately funding research that was being conducted at the U of R [University of Regina]. She questioned whether it was okay for private, secretive research to be done in a public institution using public money. We should all be concerned about this, Mr. Speaker.

I do also want to note, concerns that have been raised by stakeholders are not just limited to those from our universities. One stakeholder, who's the head of a theological college here in Saskatchewan, had this to say about the wider scope of Bill 61:

Much of the current focus in post-secondary policy is on tailoring education and training to the job market, employability, and economic productivity. These goals are laudable in themselves, but sometimes appear to be emphasized at the expense of other complementary values, such as a well-educated public or the building of community through relational commitments.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps most succinctly, Dr. Spooner has described the seemingly cloaked intent of Bill 61 with the analogy of getting the plumbing roughed in but then claiming you have no plans for a washroom.

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I will wrap up. I'm going to move to adjourn debate on Bill 61 for today, *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 65

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 65 — *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into adjourned debate today on Bill 65, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2021*. This bill, Mr. Speaker, implements 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. Salaries of Provincial Court judges now being determined for the next three years with this bill, and the Act sets out that Provincial Court judges' salary be set at 95 per cent of a Federal Court judge. The

bill reduces cost, complexity, and uncertainty of a commission process.

And so in terms of my take on this bill, the official opposition stance, we certainly recognize the importance of judicial independence from executive government and the value of impartiality. Our justice system is definitely overburdened as it is, and so anything to create less administrative work will hopefully allow for things to run more smoothly.

I think I'm not going to go on too much longer for this bill, Mr. Speaker. Our critic will have some further questions at committee. And so for now, for today, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 65, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 68

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

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege to wrap things up today by speaking on this important piece of legislation, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act*, Bill 68.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the fact that this legislation is necessary is, I imagine, disheartening to all members in this Assembly. And based on a read of the minister's comments, there's a number of pieces in this new amendment that'll give the maintenance enforcement office discretion to commence enforcement proceedings after a payer is one month in arrears as opposed to being three months late and then restarting the process after a minimal payment, of course penalizing their partner or former spouse on the other end of that relationship.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, furthermore my understanding is that, you know, these changes have been made in response to some withholding payments for up to that three-month period. And it is unfortunate that a bill like this is needed. And you know, I think it's important for all members in this House to recognize, Mr. Speaker, that unfortunately these actions do take place and there are real repercussions for the individuals impacted by these arrears or this late payment. It's an obligation to families. It's an obligation to children.

[15:15]

And when we look at this province, Mr. Speaker, all too often it is women and children in this province who are living in poverty.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, we spend a great deal of time in this House talking about many of the symptoms of poverty and perhaps not enough time seeking to address some of the root causes. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, having women and children consistently in this province, the most vulnerable, living in poverty, is a record that all of us should be aware of.

Unfortunately, this is not a record that only one party can take ownership of, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But you know, right now, with where we are with the rates of child poverty in this province, it is something that should be concerning to all of us.

And when we talk about the opportunities of this province and we talk about growing this province and the government's own plan for growth, having 26 per cent of little people in this province, Mr. Speaker, living in poverty, is a daily tragedy. And it is something that I hope all government members in particular think about when they make these important decisions around their cabinet table, they have discussions in their caucus room, and certainly the members who serve on treasury board.

I know many members in this Assembly are parents and grandparents, and while, you know, these may not be your children and your grandchildren, these are still children. And children don't understand and children should not have to live in a province as glorious as Saskatchewan hungry and going without.

When we think about addressing child poverty in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, again it is unfortunate that this legislation is necessary. I recognize, you know, in the minister's introductory comments, he talked about how these cases are few and far between. This is not overwhelmingly the case when it comes to maintenance orders in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. But I think we have to recognize that this happens either enough that this piece of legislation was necessary, or we have a government which is more happy to use the law and the tools of legislation but less inclined to use their generosity and reciprocity in building support in for these children and families.

In the minister's comments when he spoke about these cases being few and far between and he spoke about the perpetrators of what is essentially financial abuse, which as we know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, all too often goes hand-in-hand with sexual abuse, emotional abuse, physical abuse, of which unfortunately women and children in this province are all too frequently the victims of . . . But we have a piece of legislation before this House, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which speaks of consequences for the perpetrators. And I look forward to hearing hopefully a thoughtful discussion on these thoughtful proposals from the minister on what is being done to support the victims on the other side of this, recognizing again few and far between. But if this is few and far between, there should be ample opportunity to use the mighty tools of government.

And government should be our greatest servant. As members of the public and as people in Saskatchewan, it is here to serve us. And there should be opportunity to use the resources and the might and the foresight that can exist in the public service and in government to help those victims, not just punish the perpetrators. Because this has huge repercussions, as I know all members know, but these are real and remain concerns whether we're talking about student achievement in this province

flatlining, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . .

We have 20 per cent of students here consistently not graduating high school in this province, Mr. Speaker. Twenty per cent of students who consistently — those numbers are flatlined — are not meeting the achievement targets set out by this government. And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I spend a great deal of time in the education system, and we see the same number and unfortunately all too often the same individual students who we can identify in kindergarten, in grade 1, who are struggling. And it is these same students that we lose 12 years later. And, Mr. Speaker, for so many of these children, they're not failing because they're stupid. They're not failing because they're bad or there's something inherently wrong with them. So many of these children are failing because they are poor.

I have a constituent, Mr. Speaker, who I believe the member for Lakeview referenced in her comments on this piece of legislation, Dr. Miguel Sanchez who's an incredibly interesting person in and of his own right. He was a Catholic priest and a student activist, and he fled the dictatorship in Chile, fled after imprisonment and fled fearing for his life. And I'm proud to call him a constituent, and he's a well-known and established member of the University of Regina faculty.

And Dr. Sanchez, in addition to that storied early part of his life, every year puts out a report on child poverty in this province, and unfortunately it remains static. And I know there's been celebration in this House over a drop from 30 per cent to 26 per cent, Mr. Speaker. And of course dropping child poverty rates is cause for celebration. But 26 per cent? We're the highest in Canada, and I don't feel proud about that. And I can't imagine that any member in this House who spends time with children — whether they're their own, their grandchildren, their neighbours', schoolchildren in their own communities — can feel good knowing how many little people in this province struggle and how many of those tiny, tiny, small bodies and those tiny sparks of opportunity go without.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we look at this legislation, which is good and which is necessary, again I come back to . . . This is a piece of legislation. This is the tools of government. This is legislation, the law being used to punish the perpetrators of this financial abuse and its perpetuation of poverty and the symptoms of poverty, and that is good, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But what we do not have is matching support for the victims and ultimately the people who are penalized by this process.

I know the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre spoke about it, but it's important again to note we still have these maintenance payments clawed back from social assistance. And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for mothers and children, all too often who are the victims in these situations, surely none of us thinks social assistance is adequate to raise and feed a family and lift them out of poverty. And you know, if that were the case, Mr. Speaker, we would not have the numbers of people on social assistance at a historic high, more than ever before, and we would not continue to have 26 per cent of children in this province living in poverty.

Healthy, whole, established people and families can create and can support healthy, whole, productive, and grounded children who then go up through our education system and enter our province as good neighbours, as good stewards, as good

employers, as good employees, and can stay here to help us build a Saskatchewan that is truly better for all.

And, Mr. Speaker, while again I applaud the intent behind this piece of legislation, I look forward to hearing more from government members. And I do hope they think about these things around all of those tables that they have the privilege of sitting around, as they consider and as we look to build this province, ensuring that one in four tiny people isn't going to bed hungry. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I move to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committee this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:25.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Minister of Highways
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Hon. Lori Carr
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