



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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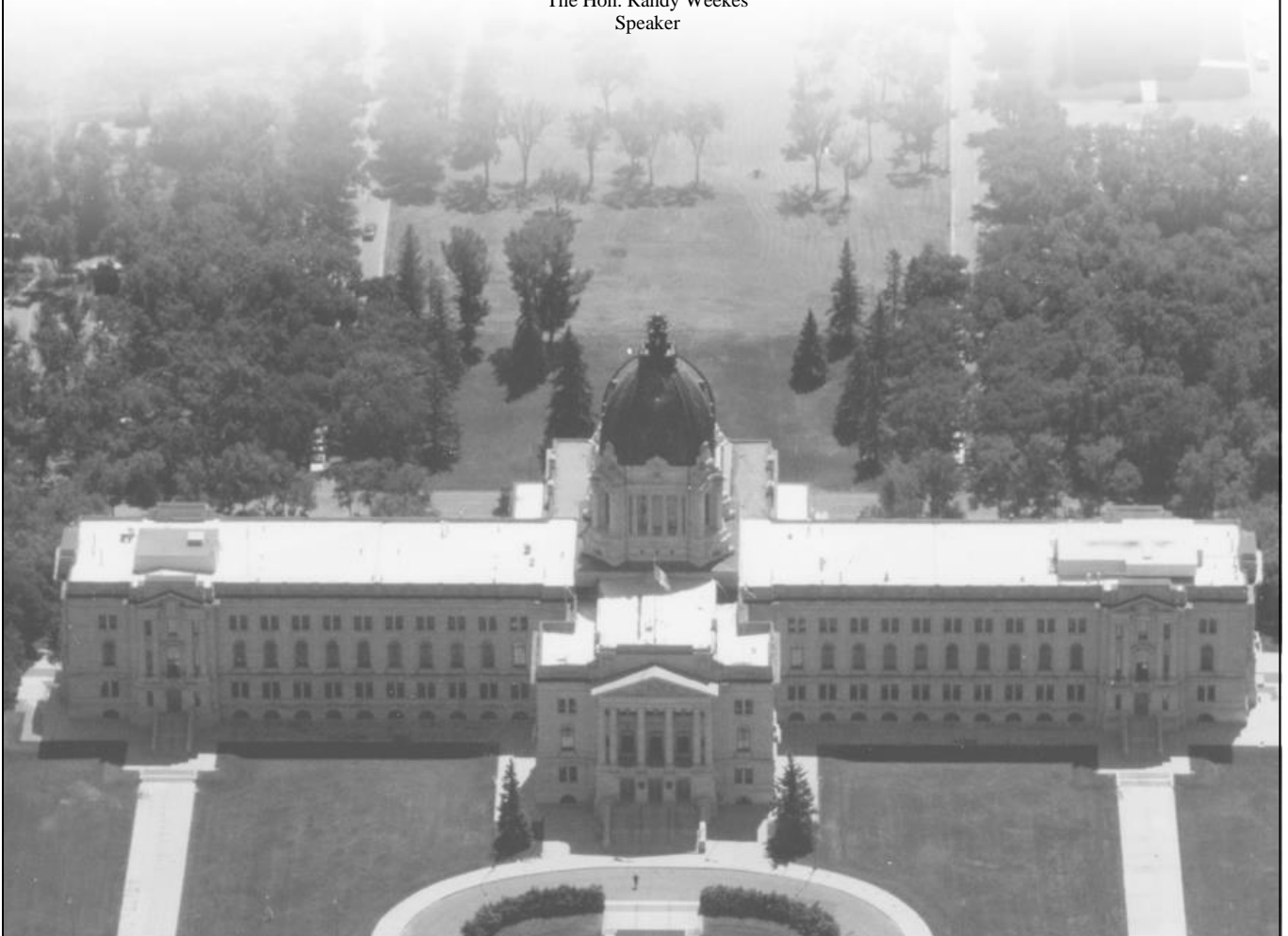
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
AND  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(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

<b>Beck, Carla</b> — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	<b>Love, Matt</b> — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
<b>Bonk, Steven</b> — Moosomin (SP)	<b>Makowsky, Hon. Gene</b> — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
<b>Bowes, Jennifer</b> — Saskatoon University (NDP)	<b>Marit, Hon. David</b> — Wood River (SP)
<b>Bradshaw, Hon. Fred</b> — Carrot River Valley (SP)	<b>McLeod, Tim</b> — Moose Jaw North (SP)
<b>Buckingham, David</b> — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	<b>McMorris, Hon. Don</b> — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
<b>Carr, Hon. Lori</b> — Estevan (SP)	<b>Meili, Ryan</b> — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
<b>Cheveldayoff, Ken</b> — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	<b>Merriman, Hon. Paul</b> — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
<b>Cockrill, Jeremy</b> — The Battlefords (SP)	<b>Meyers, Derek</b> — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
<b>Conway, Meara</b> — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)	<b>Moe, Hon. Scott</b> — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
<b>Dennis, Terry</b> — Canora-Pelly (SP)	<b>Morgan, Hon. Don</b> — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
<b>Docherty, Mark</b> — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	<b>Mowat, Vicki</b> — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
<b>Domotor, Ryan</b> — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	<b>Nerlien, Hugh</b> — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
<b>Duncan, Hon. Dustin</b> — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	<b>Nippi-Albright, Betty</b> — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
<b>Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn</b> — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	<b>Ottenbreit, Greg</b> — Yorkton (SP)
<b>Fiaz, Muhammad</b> — Regina Pasqua (SP)	<b>Reiter, Hon. Jim</b> — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
<b>Francis, Ken</b> — Kindersley (SP)	<b>Ritchie, Erika</b> — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
<b>Friesen, Marv</b> — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)	<b>Ross, Alana</b> — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
<b>Goudy, Todd</b> — Melfort (SP)	<b>Ross, Hon. Laura</b> — Regina Rochdale (SP)
<b>Grewal, Gary</b> — Regina Northeast (SP)	<b>Sarauer, Nicole</b> — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
<b>Hargrave, Joe</b> — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	<b>Skoropad, Dana</b> — Arm River (SP)
<b>Harpauer, Hon. Donna</b> — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	<b>Steele, Doug</b> — Cypress Hills (SP)
<b>Harrison, Daryl</b> — Cannington (SP)	<b>Stewart, Hon. Lyle</b> — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
<b>Harrison, Hon. Jeremy</b> — Meadow Lake (SP)	<b>Tell, Hon. Christine</b> — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
<b>Hindley, Hon. Everett</b> — Swift Current (SP)	<b>Vermette, Doyle</b> — Cumberland (NDP)
<b>Jenson, Terry</b> — Martensville-Warman (SP)	<b>Weekes, Hon. Randy</b> — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
<b>Kaeding, Hon. Warren</b> — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	<b>Wilson, Nadine</b> — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
<b>Keisig, Travis</b> — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	<b>Wotherspoon, Trent</b> — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
<b>Kirsch, Delbert</b> — Batoche (SP)	<b>Wyant, Hon. Gordon</b> — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
<b>Lambert, Lisa</b> — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	<b>Young, Aleana</b> — Regina University (NDP)
<b>Lawrence, Greg</b> — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	<b>Young, Colleen</b> — Lloydminster (SP)
<b>Lemaigre, Jim</b> — Athabasca (SP)	

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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

**Deputy Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Burianyak

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Sean Darling

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within hours after each sitting.  
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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

**Clerk:** — I wish to advise the members that Mr. Speaker is not present to open today's sitting.

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to welcome some guests here on behalf of the Speaker, from the town of Biggar: His Worship Mayor Jim Rickwood, Alan Boyle, Edward Young, Ivan Young, Kevin McNicholls, Nicole Hoppe, Dakota Ekman, Marty Baroni, and Glenda Eppler. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery today are 15 grade 12 students from F.W. Johnson Collegiate. They're accompanied by their teacher Mr. Scott McKillop. Look forward to having a chat with them after routine proceedings. I ask all members to help me welcome them here today.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Wood River.

**Hon. Mr. Marit:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, sitting in your gallery are friends of mine from the town of Assiniboia. I'd like to welcome . . . Mayor Sharon Schauenberg is here, and councilman Pat Grondin and my neighbour Bob Ellert. I'd like to welcome all of them to their Chambers. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd like to introduce a number of guests seated in your gallery. We have a group today of just outstanding advocates for the arts and culture in Saskatchewan. I'd like to welcome Em Ironstar from the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance, along with Daniel Parr from the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance, Mary Blackstone who works with On Cue Performance Hub as well as the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance. Jess Richter is here from the Art Gallery of Regina and Jaime Boldt from the Globe Theatre, and finally Josh Haugerud from the Regina Folk Festival.

These folks are here to advocate for the creative economy, and the economic development that they created in this province in 2019 totalled nearly a billion dollars. And so I thank them for being here. I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

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

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming these fine advocates for the arts community. I've had the opportunity to meet with so many stakeholder organizations over the last two years, and so I look forward to, if they wish, to sit down, have a face-to-face. Most of it's been over Zoom or Teams, so it would be a good opportunity for us to be able to sit down, roll up our sleeves, and come up with some solutions. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Jenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Today in your gallery I'd like to introduce some members of the town of Osler council. They've been in town all week for SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and decided to come by today and take in the proceedings. So I'd like us all to welcome Mayor Abe Quiring — if you could just give us a quick wave — Councillor Adam Humenuik, Councillor Susan Braun, and Councillor Len Turcotte. On behalf of the people of Osler, we'd like to thank you for your continued dedication, for everything that you do for the town of Osler. And welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce a couple of guests that are here from the town of La Ronge: His Worship Colin — and I don't want to destroy his name — Ratushniak. I would like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly. And Jordan McPhail who's a councillor but also a proud Lac La Ronge Indian Band member.

And I just want to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly and thank them for the great work you do with our tri-community of Air Ronge and La Ronge Indian Band, the partnerships that you do and the good work you do working on behalf of northern people. I just want to say thank you on behalf of the work you do in the tri-community. With that I welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Lemaigre:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to also welcome the mayor from La Ronge and council member. I had the pleasure of meeting them yesterday at SUMA, and we've exchanged conversation and some of our concerns. Whatever part of the North that you are, are the same, and I look forward to continuing our dialogue from this side of the government. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure this afternoon to rise and welcome all of those who have joined us here from the SUMA convention today. We have councillors and mayors from communities such as Biggar, Shaunavon, La

Ronge, Lanigan, Assiniboia, Osler. And my apologies if I've missed anyone.

I know that, Mr. Speaker, I've really enjoyed the last week meeting with these local leaders from right across our province. And I know they were very excited to be able to have their convention this year in person: a record number of resolutions, and very informative dialogue that happened all week, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to thank them for joining us here today, but also for their leadership and their governance in their hometowns. And I invite all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

**Mr. Keisig:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, it is absolutely wonderful to see so many elected officials in the gallery from the SUMA convention. We all thank them for their service. But I want to give out an introduction to an administrator that made it here today.

Wanda McLeod is the administrator at the village of Lipton. So, elected officials, it is fantastic all the service that you do, but administrators play a vital role in municipal politics as well. So to you and through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, welcome Wanda to her Legislative Assembly.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Indian Head.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — And Milestone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I happen to be from the Milestone part of the constituency.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank and welcome all the delegates from SUMA here today. It was a wonderful four days, or three days, Mr. Speaker. Four, I guess, if you were here on Sunday.

To see that room packed with 800 delegates from around the province, being able to rub shoulders and carry on dialogue from their community to other communities, it really was a productive three and a half to four days, depending on when you arrived here.

And I want, as other members have said, you know, we knew some of you were coming. Some arrived that we didn't know, so we don't have all the names. But to all of you on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, thanks to you for all that you've done, especially over these last two years that have been trying times for us all. Thank you very much.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would also like to say welcome to a few folks in the gallery. First and foremost, I want to say it's wonderful to see my friend Nicole Hoppe here. Nicole and I have known each other for a long time. We were teenagers and had a long relationship. And it's

wonderful to see you here in your gallery. I also want to say welcome to both Colin and Jordan from La Ronge. And on behalf of everyone here, welcome to your gallery.

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

**Mr. Steele:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, in your gallery I'd like to introduce a group from the big town of Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, down in the Southwest. First of all, Kyle Bennett, the mayor of Shaunavon. Kyle, give us a wave. The CAO [chief administrative officer], Tara Fritz, is up there. And Travis Nelson and Nolan Klassen and Brent Michelson. You're on your way home to shovel snow when you get back. Welcome to your . . .

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Rosemont. Rosemont. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise here today to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents, particular to the northeast of the province. We heard about this concern on this highway repeatedly through the SUMA convention the last few days, Mr. Speaker. And the concerns relate to the horrible condition that Highway 9 finds itself in, particularly between Preeceville and Hudson Bay, 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 are signed by concerned residents of Hudson Bay. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Honoured to be on my feet to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for home supports for older adults in Saskatchewan. As critic for seniors in the opposition, I hear from individuals all the time, as well as from various groups, stakeholders who are advocating for positive aging strategies in our province. And I believe that we heard a lot about this at SUMA this morning as there were a lot of questions about the future of care for older adults, including long-term care.

I want to point out that the petitioners would like to bring to our attention that other jurisdictions have successfully implemented a home supports program that relieves strain on long-term care and other forms of care along the continuum of care. And this is a very cost-effective way to ensure that Saskatchewan seniors are able to age in their own homes, in their own communities surrounded by their loved ones and their friends and family.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

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

Proud to say that this petition's been signed by residents of Wakefield and Prince Albert. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise on my feet and present this petition calling for the government to save our swales. The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: the Ministry of Highways is planning a four-lane high-speed highway around part of Saskatoon that will run through the swales.

The northeast and small swales of Saskatoon provide food and habitat to a number of endangered and declining species and many others not listed as endangered; are part of our shared national heritage; and include rare fescue grassland and high-quality functional wetlands.

I'll read the prayer:

We respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the provincial government to (1) suspend planning for the Saskatoon freeway and development around the swales until a regional cumulative effects assessment has been completed; (2) update *The Wildlife Act* and expand the list of wild species protected by provincial regulation; (3) recognize the swales as important ecological habitat and designate them as protected areas; and finally, ensure adequate long-term funding for research, management, and enforcement to protect the swales for generations to come.

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

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

[13:45]

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to present the following petition.

The folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention the following: we only have 10 per cent of Crown land left; this government has been auctioning off Crown land and leases to the highest bidder; they haven't meaningfully consulted with impacted communities; they are leaving the taxpayers of this province footing the bills for losses and mistakes in court; they are breaching the treaty relationship.

The first right of refusal needs to be offered to First Nations in

TLE [treaty land entitlement] process and the province must immediately stop selling off Crown land and leases and fix their broken duty-to-consult policy.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately stop the sell-off of Crown land and work with First Nation and Métis communities to develop a new duty-to-consult framework.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Saskatoon and Rosthern. I do so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Humboldt-Watrous.

#### Fourth Anniversary of the Humboldt Broncos Tragedy

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, four years ago today a Saskatchewan hockey team, their families, and community were swept onto the public stage through an unexpected tragedy that would both grieve and inspire a nation. Their courageous response to such sudden and overwhelming loss stirred hearts around the world and embodied the phrase "Humboldt Strong."

Mr. Speaker, its families were reeling from shock and trying to make sense of their tragic reality. Looking back, I would like to express my appreciation to the people in the communities of this province that pulled together to stand with my community at the time of their loss.

Most of us know where we were when we first heard of the Humboldt Broncos bus crash, Mr. Speaker. But few know what it was like to have a child or loved one on that bus. The harsh reality is that even the strong and courageous are not immune to the unwelcome waves of grief. And four years later, our friends will be suffering on their tragic anniversary.

Today in Humboldt at 4:50 p.m., the approximate time the tragedy occurred, the bells of St. Augustine Church will be tolled 29 times, reminding us of each soul on the bus that day.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my community, through all members of this Assembly, I would request that we remember those families today. And, Mr. Speaker, in light of international events, even as the world was with us in the time of our grief, let us consider others suffering today and pray for their strength as well. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to join the Deputy Premier to commemorate the immense tragedy that occurred in her community four years ago today, the tragedy that stopped this province in its tracks, the Humboldt Broncos crash. Sixteen Saskatchewan people lost their lives that day, 16 people who boarded a bus heading to a playoff hockey game. Hockey, a sport

that we, as a province, as a country, love. Beyond the 16 lives lost, there were 13 additional people on that bus whose lives were forever changed in ways that most of us couldn't even imagine.

As a coach, I've spent countless hours travelling this province, supporting our kids in pursuing their athletic dreams. The community of hockey and sports families is one of the things that makes this province so special.

But on that day, Mr. Speaker, the tragedy and grief was immense and overwhelming for everyone in this province, and it was also felt globally. What was also immense and overwhelming was the outpouring of support and love from the people of Saskatchewan. This province truly came together to support the families and the city of Humboldt. It was a testament to the community spirit of Saskatchewan people.

And with that, I ask all members to join me in pausing just for a moment to remember the lives lost and to also keep the families in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

#### **Moosomin Community Comes Together to Support Ukraine**

**Mr. Bonk:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. People in Moosomin are doing everything they can to help those in Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees when they come to Canada. Moosomin is home to many Ukrainians who have come to Canada in the last few years, and as soon as the Russian invasion began, locals set out and started up a support centre to help with relief efforts. Over 35,000 has been raised with tonnes of supplies already being shipped to Ukraine. The Ukrainian community has also been making Ukrainian lunches for businesses and schools with proceeds going to Ukrainian relief efforts.

Mr. Speaker, there was so much interest in the chamber meeting on the refugee issue, it had to be moved to the Moosomin Conexus Convention Centre. Roman Chernykh and Josef Tesar presented a plan to house and support refugees. The East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre and the local high school principal were also planning on how to host and work with refugees. Already the paperwork is under way to bring the first Ukrainian refugees to Moosomin. A major fundraiser featuring a meal prepared by the local Ukrainian community and a performance by the Poltava dancers is also being planned for later this month.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud of the Ukrainian community in Moosomin and how they responded proactively to the crisis in their homeland. It's heartwarming to see the way the people of Moosomin are rallying around the Ukrainian community and showing so much support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Pipe Ceremony to Start the Spring Legislative Sitting**

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Every day while we are in session, a prayer is read by yourself as the Speaker of House. As a traditional First Nation woman, I

embrace a daily prayer as part of our permanent procedure in the House. While I was pleased this House began the fall sitting with a pipe ceremony, I am disheartened with the lack of ongoing commitment to open each sitting with a pipe ceremony.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have often said in this House, half measures are not enough, especially if we are ever going to achieve meaningful reconciliation. Mr. Deputy Speaker, having a pipe ceremony incorporated at the beginning of each sitting would be a tangible step towards embracing Indigenous ways of knowing and doing into this provincial legislature.

Since this government did not have a budget line for a pipe ceremony at this sitting, as the official opposition we took it upon ourselves to approach sundance lodge makers to have a pipe ceremony on March 6th to start this spring sitting in a good way, while asking for prayers for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. I would ask all members to join me in thanking the sundance lodge makers back home who held a pipe ceremony to start this sitting in a good way. miigwech.

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

#### **Regina Company Providing Innovative Energy Management Solutions**

**Mr. Meyers:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm pleased to highlight a great Saskatchewan company based right here in Regina that our government is proud to support. Greenwave Innovations is an energy management company providing electricity, natural gas, and water sub-monitoring solutions. Now their technology accurately identifies the energy efficiency opportunities that produce consumption- and carbon emission-reduction results.

Now recently Greenwave was one of six Saskatchewan innovators to receive part of a multi-year investment of \$1.2 million through the Saskatchewan Advantage Innovation Fund and Agtech Growth Fund. The SAIF [Saskatchewan Advantage Innovation Fund] supports commercialization of game-changing technological innovations in the province's core economic sectors, and the AGF [Agtech Growth Fund] operates in parallel as a research and development funding program designed to accelerate the commercialization of game-changing technological innovations in the province's agricultural sector.

Now Greenwave has partnerships with the Regina Food Bank, the YQR airport, Regina Exhibition Association Ltd., and the city of Melfort where their data-driven energy management and conservation solutions resulted in the conservation of 1.6 million gallons of water annually that would have otherwise gone wasted and undetected.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, the future of this province and growth of our province is driven by the entrepreneurial spirit of those like Greenwave Innovations, and our government is proud to support them.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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



### Upgraded Amenities in the District of Katepwa

**Mr. Keisig:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Recently the district of Katepwa announced that the Katepwa Lake Trans Canada Trail was a recipient of a \$150,000 investment from the Government of Canada. This partially paved trail runs along Highway 56 on the east side of Katepwa Lake and is part of the longest trail in the world. The district of Katepwa is providing an additional \$50,000 that will allow for upgrading and paving three sections totalling almost three kilometres of the trail which leads directly into Katepwa Point Provincial Park.

Before arriving at the provincial park, visitors will enjoy a very smooth drive to the lake as they cruise along our recently resurfaced 20 kilometres of Highway 56 at a cost of \$6 million. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as if the topic of the new highway isn't exciting enough, there's more. The park also offers a newly paved parking lot and boat launch at a cost of over \$1 million.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, while you're out and about this summer exploring all the beauty that this province has to offer, I encourage you and members of this House to take a drive out to Katepwa Point Provincial Park and check out all the amenities that the area has to offer. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

### Merchandise Exports Continue to Grow

**Mr. Jensen:** — Well thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Merchandise exports are one of the most important economic indicators for our province, and over the last two years they have shown strong growth. In 2020 Saskatchewan was the only province to see the value of its merchandise exports increase compared to 2019. In 2021 the value of our merchandise exports reached a record high of \$37.1 billion.

On Tuesday that good news continued as Stats Canada released their merchandise export numbers for February of 2022. Compared to January of 2022, they increased by 6.7 per cent, the second-highest increase among the provinces. Compared to February 2021, they increased by 29.5 per cent. In the first two months of 2022, they increased by 20.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2021.

We all know that Saskatchewan has the food, fuel, and fertilizer that the world wants and needs. That's why our government has taken a very proactive approach to bringing Saskatchewan to the world. We have opened eight new international trade and investment offices in countries around the world. In the last few months, the Minister of Trade and Export Development and the Premier have travelled to several countries to tell Saskatchewan's story.

We're very proud of that hard work of the producers, exporters, and businesses that they do, and our government will continue to do its part to keep this momentum going. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Support for Health Care

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. At SUMA this morning we heard loud and clear, health care in Saskatchewan is a mess. Not enough nurses, not enough doctors, and more burnt-out and planning to leave. A different facility closing every week, and many of them staying closed for years.

And how did the minister respond? With defensiveness, with condescension. Accusing municipal leaders of taking his words out of context instead of acknowledging the urgency of the concerns they were bringing forward. Making excuses. Brushing off the fact that three of five of the nurses we have left are ready to walk off the job.

To the Premier: will he do better than the minister? Will he take some responsibility, acknowledge the mess he's created in health care, and work with those leaders who are desperate to help?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we have heard through our dialogue with SUMA members, as well as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] on this side have been working with and discussing with the folks in the communities that they represent across the province, Mr. Speaker.

That's why you saw in this budget, Mr. Speaker, a four-point plan to address human resources. There's many challenges in health care, but specific to the human resources challenge, a four-point plan that involves recruitment by recruiting nurses, physicians from around the world, Mr. Speaker.

It involves training, increasing another 150 nurse training seats in the province — almost 1,000 nurse training seats in the province now, Mr. Speaker.

It includes refocusing our recruitment agency. We had success with the Physician Recruitment Agency of Saskatchewan, Saskdocs. We're now expanding that to the entire health care field, Mr. Speaker, to recruit all of those disciplines.

And it will include targeted incentives to ensure that we are attracting the folks that we need, the specific disciplines that we need, where we need them.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard vague promises like this before, but we still haven't seen any action. Leader, Herbert, Biggar, Broadview, Preeceville, Lanigan — the list goes on and on — communities that don't have services right now. This government wants to talk about the '90s, but they've been in power for 15 years. And things are getting worse on this Premier's watch right now.

[14:00]

Doctors are leaving now. Nurses are burnt-out now. Patients are suffering now. And you're the Premier now. When will you acknowledge the mess you've created and start getting to work on fixing the problems in our health care system?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, what we're not going to do now is close 52 hospitals like the members opposite. What we are going to do now is double down on the efforts that have been successful, have allowed us to recruit about 1,000 physicians across the province over the last 15 years. We're going to double down on the efforts and initiatives in recruitment and training that have allowed us to add 4,300 nurses of all designations into our health care sectors across this province, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to continue to invest in the capital infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, capital infrastructure like the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, the hospital in Moose Jaw. New hospitals coming in Weyburn and in Prince Albert. Long-term care facilities across this province, Mr. Speaker. Long-term care . . . A significant build coming in Regina. One opening in Meadow Lake this summer, La Ronge coming, Estevan coming, Watson coming.

The record of this government when it comes to health care is one to continually work with our communities across this province, Mr. Speaker, and to continually invest — \$6.44 billion this year and more to come in the years ahead.

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

#### **Affordability and Cost of Living**

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier is living in the past. No wonder he's so out of touch with what's happening in the present. He can talk all day about building these buildings, but with three out of five nurses talking about leaving the province, how is he going to staff any of them, Mr. Speaker?

If we want people to be healthy, they need to be able to afford the basics. But the prices of groceries, of housing, of fuel, they're all skyrocketing. The Premier dismisses this as gas going up a few cents. But, Mr. Speaker, people are breaking the bank to fill the tank right now.

Why, at a time when people are so stretched, is this Premier refusing, refusing to bring in a rebate, refusing to bring in any cost relief? Not only refusing to do that but adding on 32 new taxes and fees — 32, Mr. Speaker. He's hurting already hard hit industries. He's making life more expensive. Is this Premier really that out of touch with what ordinary people are facing today?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I actually do appreciate the question. I did make a comment the other day. It was inappropriate, and in no way was meant to minimize the inflationary pressures that families across this province, across this country, and in many cases around the world are experiencing.

Mr. Speaker, we have taken action to put in place affordability measures that are not just present in this year. The Deputy Premier has read them into the record day after day. They in total are over \$2 billion, each and every year annualized, including

this year, Mr. Speaker. And I can read a number of those off.

With respect to some of the more recent initiatives to get dollars in families' pockets, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is referencing in Alberta, there's been a gas tax reduction. If you take two tanks, an average of two tanks over the course of the month, that will be just under \$60 savings for a family or a car owner in Alberta. In Ontario, similar measures, about \$50 or \$51 would be the two tanks equivalent.

In BC [British Columbia], they've done virtually — exactly, actually — the same thing that we've done in Saskatchewan with their ICBC [Insurance Corporation of British Columbia], a return of investment dollars to vehicle owners in British Columbia. That's NDP [New Democratic Party] BC. And us in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, have done the identical thing, returning \$100 this time, building on \$285 that was returned last year.

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

#### **Support for Arts and Culture Sector**

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party government claims that their budget is back on track, but it has folks in arts and culture feeling left out and asking, back on track for who? This government chose to increase taxes on some of the sectors hit hardest during the pandemic just as they started to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada that did not provide targeted provincial COVID-19-relief funding specific to the arts and culture sector. Instead they relied on the federal government to bail them out. Now for all their griping, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party often seems to need the federal government to hold their hand.

To the minister: why on earth would you choose to apply PST [provincial sales tax] and kick an already-hurting sector while they're down?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Thank you to the member opposite for the question because this is a really good opportunity for us to be able to highlight the kind of work we have undertaken for our arts community. Because our government does recognize and value our arts and creative industries in Saskatchewan.

In the 2022-23 budget, our government has committed 19 million in annual operating funding for arts, culture, and heritage organizations across Saskatchewan. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's real money. With the addition of an 8 million increase in funding to Creative Saskatchewan productions — you may want to listen up here — the production grants, we expect to see spinoff spending in Saskatchewan sectors, including arts and culture, across the province.

Now when the member opposite stated that in fact we did nothing during COVID, it's not true. Mr. Deputy Speaker, COVID-19

supports to the arts and culture sector were provided through the Ministry of Trade and Export and Saskatchewan Tourism. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, we're joined by folks in the arts and culture sector today, and they absolutely will challenge the comment from that out-of-touch minister. We have here today folks from the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance, On Cue Performance Hub, the Art Gallery of Regina, the Globe Theatre, and Regina Folk Festival, and they're here to hand-deliver a letter to the Premier, the Minister of Finance, and that minister. These are people who have dedicated their lives to preserving Saskatchewan's rich history of arts and culture.

They have come here because they need help. But when it comes to supporting them, this government seems to prefer little cash on the prairies. Over the last 10 years, provincial funding for SK Arts has declined by over \$2 million. And since 2017, that funding has been completely flatlined while costs go up. This is a sector that contributed almost a billion dollars to the province's GDP [gross domestic product] in 2019.

Will this government commit to repealing their PST increases and help those in the arts and culture sector get back on track?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to also state that the ministry is also working in partnership with SaskCulture, SK Arts, and Creative Saskatchewan on a marketing campaign that will re-engage audiences, participation, and cultural consumers through the bounce back from COVID marketing campaign. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are listening. We are working with the industry. I've had numerous meetings with them, and I'm prepared to meet with them again. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Love:** — When you tell the people that they're wrong, it doesn't show that you've been listening. These industries, Mr. Speaker, they create good-paying Saskatchewan jobs and they also share and celebrate the culture of our province. The timing of this tax increase on arts, culture, and sport could not be worse. We should be doing everything we can to support this hard hit sector, ensuring that we're filling seats, seats at Mosaic Stadium and seats at the Globe Theatre. This tax will also hurt patrons of the arts and make arts and culture less accessible for Saskatchewan people.

Again to the minister: will they repeal this ill-conceived tax increase and join us in encouraging Saskatchewan residents to go out and enjoy the amazing arts, cultural, and sporting events that Saskatchewan has to offer?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I mentioned before, the ministry is working in partnership with SaskCulture, SK Arts, and Creative Saskatchewan on a marketing campaign that will re-engage the audiences. Mr. Deputy Speaker, also our commitment of an additional \$8 million to bring it up to \$10 million for our film . . . and for Creative Saskatchewan. That's a commitment because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we value the arts community in our province.

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

### Support for Health Care

**Ms. Mowat:** — Actions speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for years now communities like Broadview, Lanigan, Wolseley, Leader, Preeceville, Biggar, and Unity have dealt with continued service disruptions and emergency room closures after this government claimed that these were temporary, necessary measures to support the pandemic response. These communities were told that they had to make sacrifices, and they did. But why haven't these services been restored today, two years later?

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

**Hon. Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I thank the communities who are here today and who were at SUMA earlier this morning presenting some questions to us on a number of these issues, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier outlined earlier today in question period, we have a four-point plan to address some of the health care shortages and temporary service disruptions that we do have in a number of communities around this province, Mr. Speaker.

We know that that is a priority for people residing in these rural communities across Saskatchewan. It's a priority for this government as well, and it's why we've invested a significant amount of dollars in previous years as well as in this year, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In the case of Lanigan, I understand that officials from the town spoke to officials from my office after SUMA this morning, and we're working on setting up a meeting to further discuss the plans to restore services to Lanigan. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — We hear the same refrains day after day, Mr. Speaker, but actions speak louder than words. These communities have reached out to those ministers and that government and they aren't getting the answers they need. Mr. Speaker, we are joined today by municipal leaders from Lanigan and Jansen. Emergency services at Lanigan Hospital have been closed since May 2020 — two years.

As leaders in their communities, they continue to receive more and more questions from residents that are getting harder for them to answer. What should these leaders from Lanigan tell the people that they represent that are having to drive further and

further to get the health care they need when they need it?

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

**Hon. Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I said in my previous answer, we had discussions this morning at SUMA with the town officials from Lanigan, and we're following up to have some additional meetings as well, Mr. Speaker.

When it comes to action, we do take this very seriously. And the members need to look no further than the community of Redvers where we worked very closely, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to restore services, working closely with the Southeast Medical Group to restore services there.

We also heard in the dialogue session this morning, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from officials from the town of Biggar who reported back to us that while they have a temporary service disruption in Biggar, they are very pleased with the collaboration that's happening with the Ministry of Health, with the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority], and they're quite optimistic that there will be a resolution to that situation in Biggar.

Mr. Speaker, that speaks to the work that this government is doing and how seriously we take this. We're going to address these issues in Lanigan and every other community across this province where there's a temporary service disruption, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, these leaders have written to that minister and they have been ignored. People should not have to come to this legislature to get the answers they need for the people that they represent. It is well past time to reopen this vital service. They were promised this closure would be temporary. It has been two years, Mr. Speaker.

Not only are residents having to travel further and further for care, but there are industrial projects in the area — potash expansions and school construction projects — tons of industrial workers that, heaven forbid, if they got hurt on the job, would have to travel far distances for care.

Will the minister commit to working with these community leaders and make a plan today, meet with them today to reopen emergency services at Lanigan Hospital?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

[14:15]

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, I speak directly to those leaders in Lanigan and Jansen area and to leaders across the province that may be experiencing some temporary disruptions in their health care services. Mr. Speaker, this has . . . Mr. Speaker, most certainly this government is committed to reopening . . . Mr. Speaker, with respect to the temporary disruption of services that we have seen in far too many communities across this province, this has been a very challenging two years for our health care

sector. Most importantly, to those folks that are working in those health care facilities in our communities across this province: know that this government is committed to reopening all of those services in each of those communities.

Mr. Speaker, as we look ahead, we have a plan. It's a four-point plan, but it's much more complex, and it's much more intricate to that, to ensure that we do it. And in particular to those members from Lanigan and Jansen, Mr. Speaker, we have their MLA, the Deputy Premier, the Minister of Finance that has put the funding behind that plan. We're going to bring those services back to these communities, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to do so as quickly as we are able.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Actions speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker, and apparently we have different definitions of what the word "temporary" means. This government needs to start taking their health care crisis seriously. At SUMA this week, we heard directly from leaders from every corner of this province. They're mad, they're frustrated, and they aren't getting answers.

We also learned yesterday that three out of five nurses said they had considered walking off the job this year. And that minister's response yesterday was to recycle tired, old lines about 2007. Completely out of touch with what is going on, completely ignoring the realities that these leaders are facing in their communities, that they are having to answer to their residents for.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister, will the minister meet with them today and work on reopening these critical services?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just because they stand up and say it in the House over and over again isn't . . . They're not reiterating anything what we said on this side of the House. We take this extremely serious. They act like there wasn't a pandemic on in the last two years where our health care workers were challenged to the utmost, Mr. Speaker, and our job was to be able to support them on that.

They think that that's all gone away, that we could just flip a switch, Mr. Speaker, and get everybody back to their original positions. We want to make sure this is done in the right way. But what we're also doing, as the Premier and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health has outlined, we have a plan, Mr. Speaker, a plan that was funded by the budget that was presented in this House, which they all stood up and voted against.

They didn't want those dollars flowing out to the communities that they're so-called representing here, Mr. Speaker. And I'll remind them, Mr. Speaker, we have worked extremely hard not just on the operating but also on the capital: building hospitals, long-term care facilities. Whether they like it or not, they need to learn they have to own their own record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Own their own record, Mr. Speaker. Own their own record. That's what the minister says that a government should do. Well he's in government right now. The Premier's in government right now. COVID is their excuse for whenever anything isn't working right, but when it's time for action to keep people safe, they refuse to do a damn thing.

So, Mr. Premier, Mr. Speaker, the . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I'll remind the member to use proper language in the Legislative Chamber.

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, COVID's their excuse for whenever anything's wrong, but when it comes to action to save lives, they refuse to do a thing.

So this Premier found his feet a minute ago to undermine the reality of the problems in communities, to downplay this as temporary, minor. Find your feet again. Say sorry this time.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier. Order. I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you. I rose in this House a few moments ago to affirm the commitment that the rural and remote Minister of Health has been giving to communities, Mr. Speaker, and to re-emphasize this has been a challenging two years.

No one's using that as an excuse. This has been a challenging two years, Mr. Speaker, but it is this government that time after time after time, when you look back over the last decade and a half, have risen to the challenges that we have faced in our communities. We have provided the funding and the planning. And we have collaborated and worked with communities, Mr. Speaker, often with communities to recruit and retain physicians and nurses, continuing care assistants, other positions in our rural centres. And we are committed to do that again. That's why I took to my feet a minute ago, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to take to it one more time before we leave here today.

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

### Provision of Security at Legislative Building

**Ms. Sarauer:** — All we see from this government every single day is arrogance, and arrogance from a government that thinks they can do whatever they want without any consequence. Today is no different. Bill 70 is another example of that, where this government thinks they can control an independent security force.

To the minister, a very simple question: why is this government changing the decades-long precedent of independence of security of this building to one that she has eyes, ears, and hands on herself?

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you. There is nothing arrogant about wanting our public institutions and our public to

be as safe as possible. Our government is committed to ensure the area around the Legislative Building and Assembly is safe and secure for everyone, Mr. Speaker.

The legislative district security unit will be composed of uniformed officers who will be able to provide expanded security coverage at the legislative district . . . The members opposite, why don't you just get up and say it? For heaven's sakes.

This means that they are all accountable to the Public Complaints Commission because they are designated as special constables. This unit will be very similar — and the members opposite like to talk about Alberta — to the model currently used in Alberta, where the sheriffs employed provide security in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Suicide Prevention Strategy

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, this is the sixth day this spring I rise on behalf of Saskatchewan families, today the Beatty family, who have lost a loved one to suicide. When will we see a real plan to save Saskatchewan lives?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Mental Health.

**Hon. Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And as the minister responsible, I extend my condolences to the Beatty family and to every family in this province that's experienced a loss as a result of suicide.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in May of 2020 the provincial government announced the Pillars for Life strategy to address and prevent suicide. That is one of the initiatives that we have provided funding towards and continue to provide funding over the past number of budget years, Mr. Speaker.

As an example, some of that funding goes towards the Roots of Hope project. \$750,000 in that particular project, Mr. Speaker, that goes to the communities of La Ronge, Meadow Lake, and Buffalo Narrows, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Saskatchewan as far as I know is the only province in Canada to fund this initiative in three different communities, serving northern Saskatchewan.

I know that there is more work that we need to do, Mr. Speaker, and we're committed to doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### Bill No. 81 — *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act*

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that Bill No. 81, *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Trade and Export that Bill No. 81, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022* be introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — When shall this bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Next sitting.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Next sitting.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

##### Standing Committee on the Economy

**Ms. C. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 73, *The Animal Production Act* without amendment.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in the Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Marit:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 73, *The Animal Production Act* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 73 — *The Animal Production Act*

**Hon. Mr. Marit:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to

adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 80 — *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022*

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to move at the end of this speech second reading of *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022*.

As announced in our budget, we are creating a single innovation agency in the province by moving the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation or SOCO under the authority of Innovation Saskatchewan. Innovation Saskatchewan promotes economic development and funds the research and technology sector in the province. And SOCO, also known as Innovation Place, operates the research parks at the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan. The alignment of SOCO and Innovation Saskatchewan into a single agency strengthens the province's reputation, mandate, and programs, and helps maximize the economic potential of its research infrastructure assets.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of introducing *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022* is to expand Innovation Saskatchewan's authority to operate those parks. The changes in legislation will allow Innovation Saskatchewan to better integrate support functions and infrastructure with policy and programs, and provides clarity to government and stakeholders. With this legislation, SOCO is simply transferring from CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] oversight to Innovation Saskatchewan oversight. We see this as a positive fiscal impact. A single agency profiles innovation in the province and is a single point of contact for stakeholders. More importantly, it provides clarity in purpose and ownership in delivering on the goal of tripling the tech sector in the province by 2030 by integrating policy and programming with facilities to support those stakeholders.

*The Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation Act* provides SOCO explicit authority to sell, lease, acquire, or dispose of land and property, borrow and invest money, undertake construction, and develop and operate research parks in Regina and Saskatoon.

Changes to Innovation Saskatchewan's Act are necessary to expand IS's [Innovation Saskatchewan] jurisdiction so it has the same authority as SOCO to perform these functions and to move

SOCO under the authority of IS. *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022* addresses these requirements. There are a number of advantages to this change, but it stems from ensuring our technology and research sectors stay strong during the next 10 years of growth. A single innovation agency will be crucial for the economic recovery and growth of our province, not only to support and grow a sector that has seen very strong momentum in the last few years, but also to help diversify our economy and provide high-paying jobs.

IS works collaboratively with industry and stakeholders to fund research and development in several areas, including mining, oil and gas, biotechnology, nuclear medicine, global food security, and more. IS also supports commercialization of new technologies important to our growth and is building and supporting a community of diverse and successful technology entrepreneurs and start-ups through a number of programs.

Innovation Place Regina and Saskatoon have approximately 140 tenants in total, many of whom align with core sectors. Example: clean energy, natural resources and mining, agriculture and agri-food, health care, and information technology. Combined with Innovation Saskatchewan's funding and mandate, there is an opportunity to better align with and support high-impact sectors.

[14:30]

Both IS and SOCO provide services to many of the same clientele. And while there is little duplication in their services, there are efficiencies and cost savings with streamlining governance, human resources, programming, communications, marketing, and tenant resources. A single innovation agency supports a provincial perspective with the potential to leverage additional funding at the federal level, particularly in relation to established strategic programs such as ag tech, health sciences, and cleantech. It would have critical mass from a staffing and financial perspective to explore and establish partnerships nationally and internationally, and provide resources for investment attraction to the province.

The technology sector has come a long way, and the Government of Saskatchewan's investments through Innovation Saskatchewan have been paying off. The sector generates over \$10 billion in revenue each year and represents 5.6 per cent of our total GDP.

Saskatchewan continues to be a great place for technology business and entrepreneurs. Last year the province had a record-breaking year, with \$210 million in venture capital deployed, compared to 16 million in 2018. The results demonstrate several established tech companies attracting large investments, but also signal the next round of up-and-coming start-up companies who have benefited from supports in the ecosystem, including Innovation Saskatchewan's funding programs and the Saskatchewan technology start-up incentive tax credits.

Key to maintaining that growth is investment. But as companies scale, they attract talent, collaborate, and spin off into new companies, and as they expand they utilize office space and specialized infrastructure such as that offered by Innovation Place Saskatoon and Regina.

Mr. Speaker, a single agency is a key investment attraction and

funding tool. Promoting both infrastructure and programming in one comprehensive package encourages new and established companies to relocate and grow in the province. An example of this is NRGene, an Israeli genomics company that last year expanded their operations to Canada. They opened an office at Innovation Place Saskatoon and accessed funding from Innovation Saskatchewan as well as established partnerships with the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], Global Institute for Food Security, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. With our international offices opening, we have enormous potential to attract more companies like NRGene and to generate new partnerships in the research, science, and technology sector.

Saskatchewan is uniquely positioned to be a leader in this area. SOCO's research parks, Innovation Place Regina and Innovation Place Saskatoon, are located adjacent to both universities in the province. They provide an affordable, high-quality space and play a key role in attracting investors, scientists, and entrepreneurs to do work within a cluster. This proximity and funding support gives tenants an opportunity to share knowledge and collaborate with industry, academia, and government. With greater opportunities to access capital and support from the ecosystem, many start-ups can bring new products to the market and create new opportunities and jobs in the province.

Mr. Speaker, the technology and research sector is a major driver of our provincial economy. This move provides a focused approach to enhance the tools for Saskatchewan entrepreneurship and investment attraction. Knowledge and innovation will play an important part in our future. Economic success in the province is uniquely positioned to be a leader in this area. We have strong academic research and infrastructure, we have made a lot of strides in attracting private investment, and we have a strong partnership with potential to develop more on an international stage.

Ultimately the province's ability to invest in innovation translates to more economic opportunities, prosperity, and improved quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan. With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to now move second reading of *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The minister has asked to move second reading on Bill No. 80, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate on Bill No. 80, *An Act to Amend The Innovation Saskatchewan Act*. Mr. Speaker, it's safe to say that we also on this side of the House recognize the important work that Innovation Saskatchewan, as well as Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, do for this province and how important the growth of the tech sector is for Saskatchewan's economy.

Mr. Speaker, from what I understand from this bill, it will be moving or, in a sense, combining resources between Innovation Sask and SOCO to allow for some efficiencies and allow for some utilizations that are used by both, or maybe should be used by both, to better align these two organizations under one single agency, Mr. Speaker, in the hopes that this will expand their ability to operate and further the government's goal, which I

understand is to triple the tech sector in the province by 2030.

Mr. Speaker, I think that while this is likely a positive move forward; however I know that the critic will be looking at this legislation with a keener eye and a sharper eye than I have and will be reaching out to stakeholders. This isn't necessarily going to be the solution to growing the tech sector threefold by 2030.

Really the main crux of whether or not that goal will be successful will lie in ensuring that Saskatchewan remains in, or is an enticing place to bring business, Mr. Speaker. And a piece of that, which I think this government sometimes forgets, is ensuring that this is an open and welcoming place for families from out of province to move in-province. So when we have stories about children's surgeries being cancelled or an education system being underfunded, Mr. Speaker, it makes it difficult to attract families to move to Saskatchewan. And we've actually seen that in the out-migration of this province recently.

So if we do, and if this government does indeed want to grow Saskatchewan's tech sector threefold by 2030, which we very much welcome and see very much the importance of the tech industry in Saskatchewan and all of the success stories that have already blossomed in this province . . . And we're so proud of all of the work that so many have done in this field in Saskatchewan. We also need to make sure that we're enticing people to come to this province and to set up shop here, set up business here, Mr. Speaker. And in order to do that, we need to make sure that we are a welcoming and an exciting province for people to want to move to. And like I said, that means we need to make sure that we have our health care system functioning properly, our education system functioning properly, Mr. Speaker.

So to wrap up, this bill is likely welcome, but like I said, I know that the critic will be looking at it much more carefully. She'll be reaching out to stakeholders, and I have several colleagues who also wish to speak about this piece of legislation. In order to facilitate that, I'm prepared at this time to adjourn debate on Bill No. 80.

**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.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 70

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

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Well I recognize you too, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Good to see you again. I'd like to say it's my honour to rise and

speaking about this bill, but it's not, Mr. Speaker. I'm frustrated by this piece of legislation. This is the second time I've had the opportunity to speak to this in adjourned debate, and I know I've had the opportunity to speak about this a lot in question period. But I still haven't gotten much in terms of answers, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and neither has anybody else. And I know my colleagues have had the opportunity to put their thoughts about it on the record, and I do very much appreciate the thoughtful responses everyone has given with respect to this piece of legislation.

I can say that everyone on this side of the House understands the importance of the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms, the importance of all the democratic institutions in our legislative branch, Mr. Speaker, including the Sergeant-at-Arms' role, the important role that they play and the history of that role, particularly in Saskatchewan. And I know I walked through that when I gave my initial remarks, Mr. Speaker.

The decades that it has been under the way it has been now, where the Sergeant-at-Arms reports to the Speaker and the importance of the independence of that institution, and the reason why back over 30 years ago it was moved from reporting to the executive branch of government, reporting to cabinet on the government's side to reporting to the Speaker, and how all parties at that time came together and decided that this was the right move, this was what needed to happen.

There were too many concerns at that time about government involvement in dealing with protests. And I think at that time, government rightly understood that this was an issue they didn't want to deal with anymore, frankly. It was too hot of a potato, and it was much better for it to be dealt with under an independent, non-partisan arm, which is what your office is, Mr. Speaker.

And also the importance of the Board of Internal Economy and the history of that table and the importance of that table, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and how over the past over 30 years, any concerns about security were brought up at that table, often went in camera. And those in camera discussions are of course confidential. But what I can confidently say is that nobody on this side of the House has ever blocked any requests for further security, any requests for beefing up the security that exists in this legislature. We have never blocked any sort of ability to grow, enhance the security that exists in this building, Mr. Speaker, which is why I take umbrage with a few points that the minister has been making in her answers in question period, Mr. Speaker.

Recently, the minister has been saying that what . . . We've been getting a bit of a change every once in a while. The talking points change about the legislation and why the legislation is needed, because the reason why that's happening, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is because there is no rational explanation for why this legislation was needed. There is no rational explanation when you drill down to it for why these concerns didn't go to the BOIE [Board of Internal Economy].

Why, if times are changing as the minister keeps saying? Sure, I don't disagree with that. I don't think anybody necessarily disagrees with that. Why there have been occasionally increasing concerns around security. Sure, we don't disagree with that, not



necessarily. I don't think anybody here disagrees with that. And why it's important that this building is safe for not just ourselves, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but for every single person who works in this building every single day as well as the visitors, the people of the public who come to this building to witness proceedings or to take tours, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or meetings. We don't disagree with any of that.

What we do disagree with is the process that this went forward with and the fact that the government has decided that what has always been independent will now no longer be independent, Mr. Deputy Speaker. At no time have we, again, disagreed with the minister's comments about changing times, about the need for security. And we've always been open and welcoming to having those discussions at the BOIE table, like we always have done, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This piece of legislation did not come through the BOIE table. This did not come through bipartisan discussions like security always has over the past three decades, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This has been a strong-armed move by the government side without any consultation from any other party, without consultation from Regina police, without consultation from RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], Mr. Speaker, the two most important security partners I would argue for this building, and put this forward.

Like I said before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there've also been independent security reviews of this building after some very tragic situations that have occurred in other parliaments, other places where legislators sit, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And at no point did any of those security reviews say that security would be improved by moving the reporting structure to be under government rather than under the Sergeant-at-Arms.

And that gets me back to the point that I was getting to, which is the minister's new explanation for why this is happening is that the BOIE process has become cumbersome. Cumbersome is the word that she uses, which is quite a joke to me especially coming from that side, from that Government House Leader, who pretends I suppose, or acts like the sanctity of what happens in this House is the most important thing and gets really — I'm trying to be really parliamentary with my words — but gets quite atwitter when anything he thinks goes south happens in this building, somewhat emotional if proceedings go slightly different than what he feels is parliamentary custom.

[14:45]

I respect parliamentary custom, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A piece of that is respecting the different officers who work in this building, Mr. Speaker. A big piece of that is respecting the fact that parliamentary custom in this building, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the Sergeant-at-Arms has been the one who has controlled security in this legislature for over three decades. And that Sergeant-at-Arms has been answerable to the independent Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So if this Government House Leader wants to get his, you know, knickers in a bunch whenever something goes in question period that he's not quite happy about, then it's really hard to take that seriously, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when one of the very important officers of this institution is being completely thwarted and

essentially reduced to a ceremonial role by the hands of this government, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'm frustrated because we're a 12-member opposition, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We've taken this bill and adjourned debate as far as we can in terms of how many speakers we have. You know, I don't know if the Government House Leader's ever told the government members, but they have the opportunity. They could engage in adjourned debates as well. They could debate these pieces of legislation. This is a really important piece, part of democracy, Mr. Speaker, that government members don't seem interested at all in engaging in, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They could continue on this important discussion on the floor of this Assembly and continue on debating this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but they don't seem quite interested in it.

But if they don't want to engage in this debate, I encourage committee members at the very least, committee members of the committee that this bill will go to, the IAJ [Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice] committee, to ask questions of their minister at committee. I know I will be asking a lot of questions. But they have every opportunity to do so as well.

That's an important piece of democracy that these government members are not engaging in, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they have every right to. And if they don't want to do it on the record, then have conversations with the minister behind the scenes. Ask her, why on earth are we doing this? Why didn't this go to the BOIE? Because I can't get a straight answer from anybody as to why this didn't go to the BOIE. There is no logical explanation other than, well we wanted to do it and so we've decided to do it.

And we've seen many examples of this government deciding that they're just going to do whatever they want and that's just how it's going to be, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And this is just another example of that.

But I caution government members, when this change is made, this change will be made. And then the security structure of this building will be answerable to the minister, the minister at that time. And I know there's not a lot of members opposite who have been in opposition, and I know that . . . And I think a member spoke about this, about the growing . . . what happens when there's not a lot of members in government who've experienced opposition before.

But governments change, Mr. Deputy Speaker. At some point government members will become opposition members. And then those members will not have their party of choice be the one who is controlling security in this building, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That's why over 30 years ago this decision was made, to take away the partisan aspect of security. That's why over 30 years ago the decision was made that security in this building was too important to be subject to political whims of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I urge government members to remember that, that at some point the person who will be in charge of security of your offices in this building, who will be in charge of the visitor services in this building, who will be in charge arguably of your constituency offices, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will not necessarily be the minister of the party of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They should be just as alarmed about that as we are, Mr. Deputy

Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill cannot be supported by opposition members because we understand the importance of the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms. I hope that government members, after hearing the discussion that we have had over the past few months, also understand and respect the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms and feel the same way we do, that this bill cannot pass because it does not recognize the important role that the Sergeant-at-Arms plays in defending democratic institutions, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The minister has, a few times in her answers in question period, spoken about other provinces as comparators to Saskatchewan. But the truth is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there is no other province nor the federal government where as much independence of security has been stripped in the way that it is being with this bill in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

The minister has spoken about Manitoba's bill. That's a bill that's before their legislature right now, Mr. Speaker, which makes some changes to their Act that's similar to ours, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But the truth of the matter is even if that bill passes, it still allows for more independence of the security . . . more involvement by the Speaker in determining security issues than this bill does, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This bill is still an outlier. When this bill passes, Saskatchewan will be an outlier, not in a good way, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I hope the government members understand that, that when the minister speaks about other comparators, Mr. Deputy Speaker, those comparators don't actually compare to what we're seeing in Saskatchewan. They don't compare to what this bill is. This bill is very much an anomaly, brings us back like I said, to the '80s which no other jurisdiction in Canada is like, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And like I said before when I spoke about this legislation before, in Ottawa when we saw the horrible situation that happened in Ottawa in the shooting that occurred, again the hero of the day that day was their Sergeant-at-Arms, who put his life on the line to protect those who worked in that building. And we know on this side of the House that our Sergeant-at-Arms and his team would do the exact same thing for us here in Saskatchewan. And thanking the Sergeant-at-Arms by . . . well this government has decided to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms by stripping him of most of his authority, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And what I was going to say is that in Ottawa when that shooting occurred there was a very comprehensive security review that happened, and several changes that were made to their security in Ottawa. But at no point . . . And there was more integration, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the RCMP and with Ottawa police with the Sergeant-at-Arms. But let's be clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker. At no time in that review or where any of those changes that had occurred, none of those changes involved removing the independence of the Sergeant-at-Arms, the reporting structure to the Speaker, and the important role that the Sergeant-at-Arms played in ensuring that there was security in the building, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Again to remind members, this bill will ensure that the Sergeant-at-Arms will only have authority over security over this floor. Just this floor, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Not the galleries, not our

offices, not the hallways, not the lounges, just this Chamber floor, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And when we see what happened in Ottawa, in the horrible tragedy that happened in Ottawa, and we see the way that their Sergeant-at-Arms was hailed, rightly so, as a hero, it saddens me. It saddens me to my core, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to see that this government, that Saskatchewan's way of thanking the Sergeant-at-Arms for the work that they've been doing keeping us safe, the work they did in ensuring the safety of this Legislative Building, is to largely reduce them to a ceremonial role, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We've seen the important work that they've done. And we saw it in action actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a few months ago when there was the group of folks who came to protest COVID restrictions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and protest this Sask Party government. And I know that there were prominent members of that protest organization who were saying they wanted to come in and occupy the building, and they wanted to come in and overthrow this provincial government, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We saw what happened in Ottawa and how they were in essentially gridlock for weeks, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I take umbrage again with that minister's response to what happened in Saskatchewan by taking credit, largely, to everything that happened by saying that the reason why this legislature was kept safe was because of her officials, Mr. Deputy Speaker, not recognizing the important role that the Sergeant-at-Arms had in doing that work, keeping us safe, keeping this building safe. And I want to, on behalf of the official opposition, thank him and his team for the work that he did and his team did in collaboration with the PCC [Provincial Capital Commission], in collaboration with the RCMP, in collaboration with the RPS [Regina Police Service] in ensuring that people were able to protest safely but this building was kept safe, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And for a government who these protesters were threatening to overthrow, Mr. Speaker, their response to the way that protest was handled is to reduce the Sergeant-at-Arms to a ceremonial role, is absolutely disgusting, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Shame on this government. Shame on a government who's gotten so arrogant and so entitled that they think they can just do whatever they want without consequence, including Bill 70, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with zero care for precedent or history or the way things have worked effectively in this building for over 30 years, Mr. Speaker. It's absolutely deplorable.

Like I said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we cannot support this bill. We cannot support what this bill stands for. So you know, the tools we have in opposition are limited, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Ultimately it's up to government to decide whether or not they're going to make this wrong-headed move or not, but we can take a stand. And we're taking that stand today, and in order to do that I'm going to move a motion, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And the motion reads:

That all the words after "that" be deleted and the following substituted:

this Assembly declines to give second reading to Bill No. 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021* because

it (1) fails to recognize the important role the Sergeant-at-Arms plays in defending democratic institutions, (2) will result in security at the Legislative Building no longer being independent while eliminating a long-standing parliamentary custom, (3) does not recognize the Speaker's constitutional duty to defend the privileges of the Legislative Assembly and its members, (4) will no longer allow for issues of security to be discussed at the bipartisan Board of Internal Economy, and (5) effectively reduces the Sergeant-at-Arms to a ceremonial role and results in significantly less transparency regarding security issues that affect all members and all Saskatchewan people.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — A motion has been moved by the member to amendment:

That all words after “that” be deleted and the following substituted:

this Assembly declines to give second reading to Bill No. 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021* because it (1) fails to recognize the important role that the Sergeant-at-Arms plays in defending democratic institutions, (2) will result in security at the Legislative Building no longer being independent while eliminating long-standing parliamentary custom, (3) does not recognize the Speaker's constitutional duty to defend the privileges of the Legislative Assembly and its members, (4) will no longer allow the issues of security to be discussed at the bipartisan Board of Internal Economy, and (5) effectively reduces the Sergeant-at-Arms to a ceremonial role and results in sufficiently less transparency regarding security issues that affect all members and all Saskatchewan people.

[15:00]

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will wholeheartedly support this amendment. I had an opportunity yesterday to speak at length to some of the very serious concerns we have with the substance of this bill. This amendment provides a landscape of what all of those challenges are. It seeks to fundamentally change the way security is done at the legislature, and for that reason, we in the opposition cannot support this bill and will absolutely be supporting this amendment. And with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill 70.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member is not eligible to adjourn debate. You can ask for leave to adjourn debate, but you cannot adjourn debate. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to adjourn debate on this bill.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

### Bill No. 79

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. J. Harrison that **Bill No. 79 — *The Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to be on my feet to enter into debate on this new bill that's being introduced by the government. As the critic for First Nations and Métis relations, I will offer my initial thoughts on this, just to have it recorded.

So I understand this bill is creating the Saskatchewan investment finance corporation. And it's going to offer 75 million in loan guarantees intended to improve capital for Indigenous communities, specifically for natural resource development and value-added agriculture. And the goal is to increase Indigenous participation in the economy and stimulate economic development in Indigenous communities.

As the critic for First Nations and Métis relations, I appreciate the investment in Indigenous-owned companies and understand it's important in furthering economic reconciliation. However, reconciliation must take place in all sectors. This is looking at natural resource development and value-added agriculture. So it would be good when we're looking at in all sectors, not just in two.

You know, I'm pleased that there has been some consultations and some round table discussions with local Indigenous communities. Having said that, I'm curious to know why these two sectors, which is natural resource development and agriculture, were the only ones considered in this Act. And I'm curious to know if the government has plans to expand this to other Indigenous-owned companies in the future.

When I was having a read through this, I thought, there's some questions that came up in the makeup of the board. First of all it says, like, there's going to be board members appointed by FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], by the Métis Nation, and of course the government. The thing that came . . . I thought about right away is, while there's 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan, we have independent First Nations that are not affiliated with FSIN. We have Métis locals that are not affiliated with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. They are independent locals. So this, I see, excludes those independent nations from being on the board as they're only appointed by FSIN and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. And in terms of the board makeup. . . And I thought, okay, that's interesting. I'd be curious to know how this government is going to include those independent nations. And is there opportunity to include them, or is it just with Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and FSIN appointing them?

The other piece is . . . You know, as an individual who worked as a community developer in the health sector for many years, one of the things that I've worked with is working with boards. And often one of the things that came up in working with boards is the capacity, the capacity for board members to be able to do their job as board members. My question is, what skill set? Is there criteria in place for board members to be on this? Do they have to have a particular skill set, or are these partisan

appointments? And that is quite . . . I think about that.

And the other thing is, you know, there is . . . Something that has come up that's very interesting is that any time this government is looking at initiatives, I'm curious. In this initiative that's being, this bill here, which friends of this government are going to get rich off of this? You know, which of your friends are going to benefit?

And why is it that this is being introduced when we have other Indigenous organizations, firms? Like we have the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation that provides loans. We have the Clarence Campeau foundation that's providing loans. Why is this government feel the need to create another body when . . . Why not build the capacity of CCDF [Clarence Campeau Development Fund], of the Clarence Campeau foundation? Give them the dollars. They're doing very well. Let them do that.

You know, another thing that I think about right away is . . . So this is going to be an investment finance corporation here. These are going to be lenders. Often — and this is what happens when Indigenous people want to buy in, get loans, etc. — interest rates go up. So I'm curious. I'm curious about the interest rates that are going to be offered to the individuals, corporate organizations that are going to be wanting to borrow money. I think about that.

The other piece that I think about is the timeline, the time frame for the application process. When I looked at this, there's no clear timeline for the application to go through. You know, I think for myself as somebody that's worked out in the community, it's important to have dialogue with people that are going to be impacted. And I'm sure that my colleagues will have more to add into debate on this.

So what I would like to do as the critic for First Nation, Métis Relations is I would move to adjourn debate on this Bill 79, *The Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation Act*. 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. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you very much, 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 the Assembly do now adjourn to facilitate the work of committee. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt this motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:11.]



# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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**Hon. Scott Moe**  
**Premier**  
**President of the Executive Council**  
**Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Hon. Fred Bradshaw**  
Minister of Highways  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

**Hon. Lori Carr**  
Minister of Social Services

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**  
Minister of Education

**Hon. Bronwyn Eyre**  
Minister of Energy and Resources

**Hon. Donna Harpauer**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Finance

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
Minister of Trade and Export Development  
Minister of Immigration and Career Training  
Minister Responsible for Innovation  
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

**Hon. Everett Hindley**  
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,  
Seniors and Rural and Remote Health

**Hon. Warren Kaeding**  
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Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

**Hon. Don McMorris**  
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Métis and Northern Affairs  
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Minister of Crown Investments Corporation  
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated  
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Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

**Hon. Gordon Wyant**  
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