



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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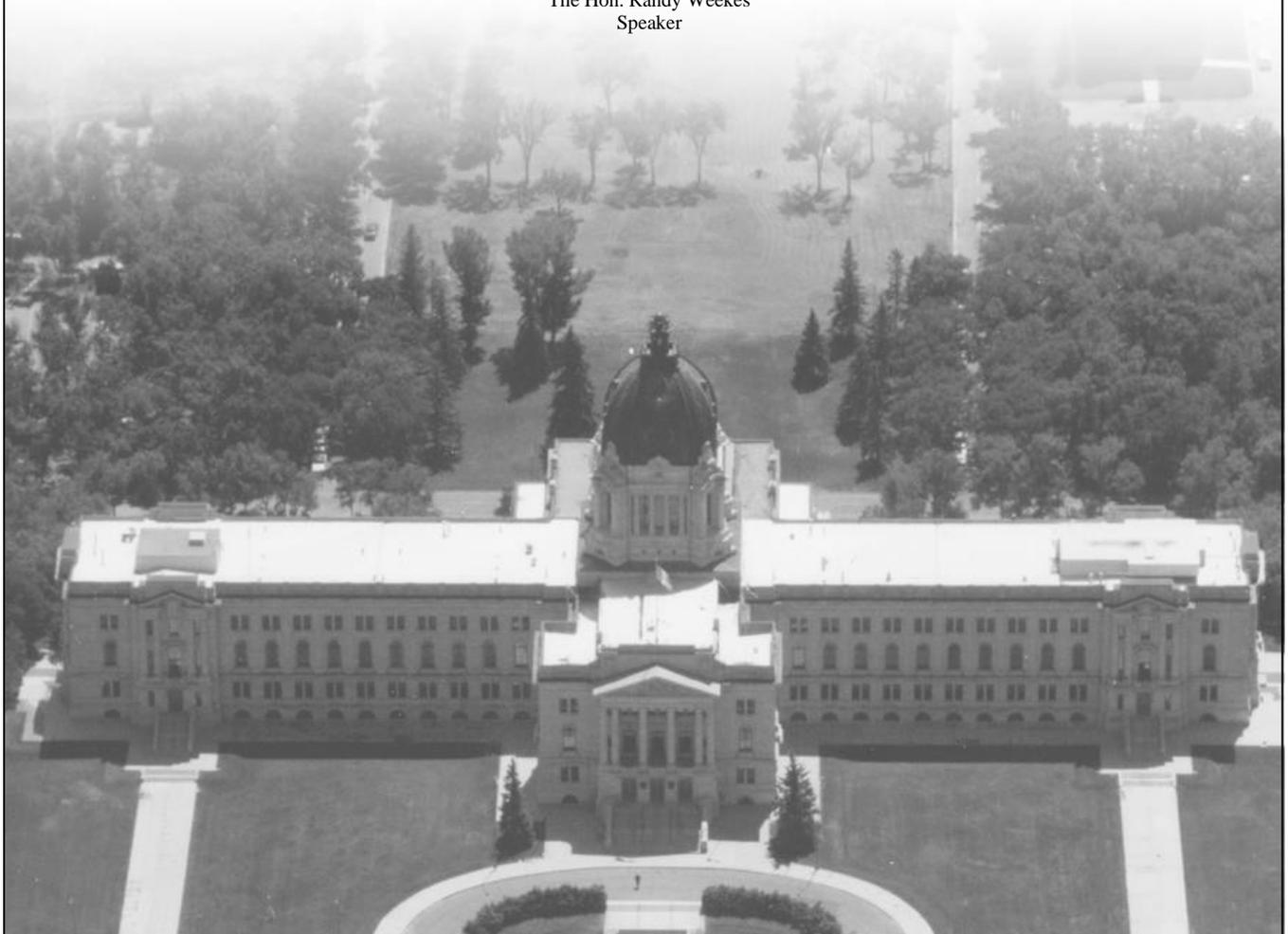
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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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

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<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)
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<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)
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<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)
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<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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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There's many people I'd like to introduce today, but I'll keep it down to just one specific individual. We have Dino Sophocleous here, who is here from the Regina hospital foundation. This foundation does amazing work not just in Regina, but for all of southern Saskatchewan. Fundraisers, some of the money that they've received. . . They're working on their fundraiser projects include the Rawlco centre for mother baby care, the Dilawri Simulation Centre, the breast cancer assessment centre, and the Mosaic Heart Centre. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome Dino to his Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Dino and I have been trying to connect for about two weeks now to go out for supper. I promise it will happen very soon, sir. We will get together and enjoy a nice supper at Memories restaurant, which is also here, Mr. Speaker. We'll make sure of that. And my friend the member for Walsh Acres will continue on with some other local heroes here in Regina. But I'd like to welcome Dino to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the minister opposite in welcoming Dino to his Assembly today. I believe we'll have an opportunity to chat at the reception later on this evening, to hear about all the good work that they are up to. And just thank you for all of the work that you do in supporting our health care system and supporting patients across the province. And I know it's incredibly meaningful for those individuals and for families that get to benefit from the work of the Regina hospital foundation. So welcome to your Assembly.

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

**Mr. Meyers:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And for those of you who are not familiar with Dino, you are certainly becoming very familiar with him. I want to join with the minister and the member opposite in welcoming Dino to his Legislative Assembly. Sitting with Dino we have a number of the committee from An Evening in Greece. This is one of the biggest fundraisers, single-day fundraisers that goes on here in Regina, and all the money they raise goes to the Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

So I'd like to introduce Spiro Bonis as well as Fotini Gargatzidis, and a couple of founding members, Thomas Siarkos and Gerri Mouyios, to their Legislative Assembly and thank them for all the work they do which I'll be able to highlight here in a couple of minutes. So I'd ask all members to welcome them to their

Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I guess first of all, request leave for an extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to start, I'll join with the member opposite, the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Walsh Acres, to welcome Dino and all of the leaders in the Greek community and the Evening in Greece and the support that they provide for the Regina hospitals foundation. Thank you so very much for all that work and all the leadership in our province. So it's a pleasure to join with them. I ask all members to join with me in providing them a warm welcome.

While on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I have some very special guests in your gallery here today, Mr. Speaker, that make a tremendous impact in the lives of so many young people in our community and in our community as a whole. These are some of the leaders with Ehrlo services within our city, within our community.

I'll start with welcoming Shelley Sayer, the director for housing with Ranch Ehrlo. Give us a wave, Shelley. And my good friend Gloria Patrick, who's the program director of Ehrlo sport services. I'll have more to say about her in a moment.

And she has some of the Ehrlo sport services sport ambassadors that are here with her today, remarkable folks. Braydon Westerman, who's a social work student just finishing up as well, and he's also the ambassador at the Rosemont Outdoor Hockey League site. Jocelyn McGillivray, and Jocelyn is studying education and also an ambassador. And Josh Brears is here. Josh, give us a wave. He's studying human justice, just finishing up. He's the nephew of the late Trent Brears, who we all, I know, were so fond of as the chef in this Assembly.

These folks do incredible things with sport in our community: Monday Night Football, the Outdoor Hockey League, basketball, Mr. Speaker. They run the Sport Venture library which lends equipment, removing the financial barriers to sport. They're working with the Blue Jays, with the Jays Care program where they're also, you know, extending food security to those that are involved in the league. And they're working on Monday Night Football, for example, Mr. Speaker, where now they're extending supports through legendary Rider Dan Farthing and the team over at Level 10 which are doing some training for the kids that are involved in the sport as well.

The impact of these leagues and these leaders that are here today just simply can't be understated. And I just simply want to say thank you to them and a special shout-out to Gloria Patrick. It was her birthday yesterday. She's a good friend. She's a Master

of Social Work, social worker; she's the program director at Ehrlo services. She makes all of this good stuff happen, brings together the partnerships, makes sure the trains are running on time, Mr. Speaker. And I'm so very lucky to count her as a good friend as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to welcome the people from Ehrlo services here today — Shelley, Gloria, Braydon, Jocelyn, and Josh. Without our community-based organizations and individuals like this, our communities would not be what they are. So I would truly like to thank them for all of the services that we've heard the member opposite describe, whether that be housing, food, health, sports, that they provide within our communities because it's so important. Welcome to your Assembly.

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

**Ms. A. Ross:** — Could I ask leave for an extended introduction?

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Ms. A. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and all members of this Legislative Assembly, it is my pleasure and honour to introduce Natalie Clyke and her daughter Minghella Coates, who are seated in your gallery today. I've had the pleasure to get to know Natalie over these last few years, and she does wonderful work with the vulnerable up in our city. And it's just such an honour that she's here today.

Just a little story about Natalie: on the 19th of March of 2020 she promised Minghella that she would find a way to feed the homeless in Prince Albert during the pandemic. And she kept that promise, and they provided many hot meals to many of the misfortunate in Prince Albert. And Prince Albert Grand Council recognized the talent of this fine woman and actually hired her on to be their pandemic coordinator, where she did even more work.

She has distributed food supplies. Guru Nanak from Regina came up and they gave food out to a lot of the vulnerable in Prince Albert, and then she came back here and did the same thing here. She had a smudging ceremony on the riverbank and they distributed food there. And you know, she provides such caring and compassion. If people need a hug, she gives them a hug. If they want to dance, she'll dance with them. If they needed medical help, she calls EMT [emergency medical technician].

She is a shining light and a wonderful example for her daughter Minghella. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to welcome Natalie and . . . [inaudible] . . . Minghella — I keep wanting to rechristen her — to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the member opposite in welcoming these guests, Natalie and Minghella, to their Assembly today. It sounds like you've been doing some very important work in the P.A. [Prince Albert] area. And I just want to say that, you know, this is what brings Saskatchewan together is the spirit of co-operation and helping each other out and lending a hand to your neighbour. I think these are very much what our values are here, and thank you for living those in such a selfless way. On behalf of the official opposition, we'd like to welcome you to your Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Grewal:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, it is my pleasure to rise and welcome the grade 6 class from Henry Braun School sitting the west gallery today. Welcome to your legislature. I hope you enjoy the proceedings today and I look forward to meeting you afterwards. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming these 25 wonderful people to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you, through you, to all the members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce a few guests seated in your gallery. And from your left side, Mr. Speaker, Asif Khan. He is from Toronto, Mr. Speaker, and Asif Khan is the national secretary for public and media relations for Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at. Assalamu alaikum. It's nice to see you here.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know Asif since more than 25 years. I see him since that he's been doing a lot of volunteer work for Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, and I would like to say thank you for your volunteer work and your leadership in our Jama'at as well, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Asif Khan is also the founder member of Parliamentary Friends of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at as well. And he is known by many political elites.

And beside him, Syed Mubarak is from Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. Syed Mubarak, a lot of my colleagues know him, is a good guy. He is known as a good guy from Saskatoon. And it's nice to have you here today . . . [inaudible] . . . And we have Qazi Mansoor sitting. He is also from Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. Qazi Mansoor built our mosque without any cost. He was a volunteer building this Regina mosque. Thank you very much for doing that. We appreciate it very much.

With him we have a few friends: Naveed Choudhry and Ashfaq Ahmad. I would like my colleagues to welcome my friends and our friends in our Legislative Building.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the member opposite in welcoming these faith leaders to their Assembly today, especially given the time of Ramadan that is the holy month that's being observed right now, and thank them for taking time to participate here and also for all the work that they are doing as leaders in their communities. So thank you and welcome on behalf of the official opposition.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on my feet again today to present a petition calling for real action to fight climate change. The undersigned residents of the province wish to bring to your attention the following: the UN [United Nations] has declared climate change the defining issue of our time; climate change impacts are global in scope and unprecedented in scale; rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities are required to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C [Celsius] to avoid irrevocable and devastating impacts; parliamentarians have a vital role to play in tackling the climate crisis, including establishing the necessary legislation and policy frameworks to transition social, economy, and land-based approaches to avoid climate catastrophe.

[13:45]

I will read the prayer:

We call on the provincial government to enact a credible climate action plan and allocate appropriate funding to ensure real reductions in Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions that are consistent with the scientific consensus to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

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

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present a petition to call on the Government of Saskatchewan to stop the closures at Wilkie and District Health Centre. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that the Saskatchewan Health Authority is unable to provide reliable and consistent health care services in Wilkie; the health care emergency department has been regularly closed for years; several rural communities rely on Wilkie and District Health Centre for health services; and the hospital is a key component to the economic vitality of the region.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to stop closing emergency department and out-patient services at Wilkie and District Health Centre.

This is signed by individuals from Wilkie and Battleford today, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Bowes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition calling for pay equity legislation.

The undersigned residents of Saskatchewan would like to bring to our attention the following: the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission over 25 years ago recommended proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation, which to date has not been pursued by the Government of Saskatchewan; notable is that while the human rights code prohibits gender-based compensation discrimination, this is a complaint-driven process, and so it puts no positive obligation on employers, which creates in turn barriers for those who are seeking to access this complaint process; that while pay equity advocacy primarily seeks to address gender-based wage discrimination, it must also be mindful of ability-, age-, identity-, and race-based wage discrimination.

I'll read the prayer:

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

The petition today, Mr. Speaker, has been signed by residents of Saskatoon and Regina. I do so present.

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

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise again today and once again present a petition to this Legislative Assembly calling for the funding of in vitro fertilization treatments here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, starting a family is a blessing, a joy, and an act of such optimism and generosity. And, Mr. Speaker, far too many people in Saskatchewan struggle with that through no fault of their own. As we know in this House, Mr. Speaker, infertility or trouble conceiving is a health issue. And despite having public health care as a right here in Canada, there is no government funding available to individuals trying their darndest to start a family here in Saskatchewan.

The ability to have a family in this province and to grow this province and to contribute should not depend on your socio-economic status. And, Mr. Speaker, we in this House know, we know by now that IVF [in vitro fertilization] treatments, fertility treatments are prohibitively expensive with one cycle typically costing up to \$10,000. Other provinces have created programs that support, support financially, people trying to access IVF or fertility treatments, those struggling to conceive.

I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately move to

cover the financial burden of two rounds of IVF treatment for Saskatchewan people experiencing infertility.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories of this petition today reside in Weyburn. I do so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Regina Outdoor Hockey League Season a Success

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the great Canadian tradition of outdoor hockey was alive and well here in Regina this past season once again, including at the Rosemont outdoor rink. The Outdoor Hockey League, known as the OHL, eliminates the financial barriers to hockey by not charging a registration fee and by lending equipment for the year, also at no cost. This was my 21st season helping out as a volunteer coach, offering so many great memories.

This year there were 329 players at eight rinks across our city. This wouldn't be possible without the incredible leadership of Gloria Patrick, program manager of Sport Venture library, Ehrlo Sport Venture; her team of ambassadors — Braydon Westerman, Jocelyn McGillivray, Josh Brears, Jordan Leibel, and Drew Cheers; as well as the donors — Jumpstart, Optimist Clubs of Regina, and the Co-operators Centre. Importantly, I want to thank all the dedicated volunteers, coaches, and helpers and offer a special shout-out to my fellow Rosemont coaches, Curtis Dorosh, Hunter Litzenberger, and Warren McCall.

Mr. Speaker, we know what hockey means to this province. It binds communities together with pride and makes a difference in the lives of young people. This is epitomized in the OHL with so many positive impacts. I ask all members to join with me in recognizing the OHL and thanking Ehrlo Sport Venture, the donors, and all the amazing players, parents, community, and volunteers for making it all happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Southwest Residents and Crews Work Together after Severe Storm

**Mr. Steele:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As southeast Saskatchewan braces for a record-breaking blast of winter, I'd like to rise today to talk to you about the April 4th storm that left 6,400 residents of the Southwest without power. Mr. Speaker, we communicated quickly with power officials and the community leaders to understand the extent of the damage. It was determined that nearly 600 poles and cross-members had been damaged, which would require significant resources and repairs.

SaskPower crews worked closely with communities and utilized the support that was on offer. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the residents worked alongside crews to help restore the power. Farmers and ranchers like Allan Ternes from Fox Valley offered the use of their quads and side-by-sides to quickly identify and assess the issues. The RM [rural municipality] of Maple Creek offered their office compound as a staging area for needed resources.

Mr. Speaker, the town of Maple Creek and the local Salvation Army opened up a station where residents could go for meals and to keep warm. They even hosted a thank you supper for the SaskPower and contractor crews who worked together to repair the damage.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Southwest, thank you to everyone who worked together to restore the power and the peace of mind. It's truly the Saskatchewan way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Equal Pay Day

**Ms. Bowes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Equal Pay Day. Equal Pay Day is observed each year to raise awareness around the persisting gender pay gap. This year, April 12th marks how far into the new year women in Canada would have to work to earn as men did, on average, in the previous calendar year.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Saskatchewan has one of the highest gender wage gaps in Canada, with women on average earning nearly \$5 an hour less than men in our province. This gap is even worse for marginalized women. As I've noted before, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission recommended pay equity legislation over 25 years ago, yet Saskatchewan remains one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation.

Mr. Speaker, there are significant economic impacts on women associated with the gender pay gap, such as decreased financial independence, diminished ability to save for retirement, and lower economic stability in general. Pay equity is needed to remedy this.

Last April the minister committed to having the office of the Status of Women conduct a jurisdictional scan on pay equity. Since that time she has repeatedly refused to release these findings. This minister must stop blocking efforts made by the women of this province to achieve equitable pay and get to work on passing this crucial legislation.

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

#### An Evening in Greece Fundraiser Held in Regina

**Mr. Meyers:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Feta, spanakopita, baklava — opa! The history of Greek settlement in Saskatchewan dates back to the early 20th century. The Hellenic culture is part of the very fabric of our great province, and never is that more on display than the annual fundraiser An Evening in Greece.

Since 1994 guests have enjoyed authentic Greek cuisine, live entertainment, dancing, and a selection of live and silent auction items. But the best part of the evening, Mr. Speaker, comes last. It's where the people are encouraged to come out on the dance floor and break some plates and shout "opa!"

Mr. Speaker, in March of 2020, Evening in Greece was one of the last live events many in Regina had a chance to attend before

the pandemic changed everything. I know; I was there. But almost two years to the day later, Regina's Greek community was back on track, returning as one of the first big, in-person fundraisers. And again I was proud to be there, Mr. Speaker.

Evening in Greece is one of our community's largest one-day fundraising events, and since its inception the event has donated over \$2.5 million, including \$96,000 for the 28th annual event. And that money was going to the Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Thomas and Gerri, Fotini, Spiro, Dino, and the entire Greek community for their devotion to health and wellness, and most of all to giving generously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Community Cares Kitchen Serves Prince Albert and Area**

**Ms. A. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Prince Albert Grand Council Community Cares Kitchen was born during the pandemic. It came from the need to care for the elders and vulnerable members of PAGC's [Prince Albert Grand Council] 12 First Nations and 28 northern communities.

Mr. Speaker, these are the people who had found their way to Prince Albert, but may not have had a place to stay. Community Cares Kitchens started feeding folks during these early days of the pandemic. Since then the lodge keepers at the Kitchen has served over 220 meals daily, as well as providing clothing, wellness checks, and compassion to those they serve.

This past December their services expanded to include a warming shelter at 8th Street East. They named it Moose Lodge and Cona's Kitchen to honour James "Moose" Sewap and Cona Custer, Mr. Speaker, both of whom were kind and caring members of this Prince Albert community. They also help prepare evening meals for up to 25 people seeking shelter at Stepping Stones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Prince Albert Grand Council for the care and compassion they have shown and the valuable work they have done for the less fortunate in Prince Albert.

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

#### **Saskatoon Hockey Team Helps Vanscoy Couple after Robbery**

**Mr. Jenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NHL's [National Hockey League] Montreal Canadiens are having a disappointing season, but the Western Canadian Montreal Canadiens Fan Club rec hockey team in Saskatoon is not.

The team, along with countless others, did something great for a couple from Vanscoy. You see, Mr. Speaker, Rachele Zacharias and Braden Fauchoux had been searching for their lost French bulldog Chiko for over a week. That's when somebody called to say that they had found him. But when the couple arranged to go

pick him up, nobody showed. Upon their return home, they found that their place had been ransacked.

Mr. Speaker, when Jim Taman of Warman, who is president of the fan club hockey team, saw their story on the news, he noticed a Montreal Canadiens jersey. As it turns out, Mr. Speaker, Braden is a diehard Habs fan. So the club quickly put together \$500 for the couple, and Jim invited them to visit their unique locker room filled with memorabilia. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report that the good news doesn't end there. After 18 days and another anonymous message, Chiko was found, safe and sound.

I now ask all members to join me in thanking those who helped turn a setback into a success, and I encourage anyone with information about this incident to contact Crime Stoppers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

#### **Specialized Policing Teams Carry Out Successful Operation in Archerwill**

**Mr. Nerlien:** — Mr. Speaker, on March 30th, RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] executed a search warrant at a residence in Archerwill. This resulted in the arrest of two individuals and the seizure of methamphetamines, LSD [lysergic acid diethylamide], oxycontin, cash, and several illegal weapons. Two government-funded initiatives, the crime reduction team and the warrant enforcement and suppression team, WEST for short, played a critical role in this operation.

The government has provided funding to the RCMP and municipal police forces to develop eight additional crime reduction teams across Saskatchewan, for a total of nine. These teams respond to surges in crime caused by street gangs and prolific offenders. Last fall we announced a \$3.2 million annual investment that expanded the model to La Ronge and Meadow Lake.

The warrant enforcement and suppression team announced in the 2021 Throne Speech further supports these efforts through a \$1.6 million annual investment from our government. WEST focuses on high-profile offenders who have outstanding warrants and who are in violation of court conditions.

Crime reduction teams and WEST are just two examples of how our government is partnering with police to keep Saskatchewan communities safe. We are proud to support the work done by these teams and are always gratified when they conduct a successful operation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

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

#### **Provision of Health Care**

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, last week there were 30 more people in hospital with COVID-19 than the week before. There's

now 354 people in hospital with COVID. Today in Saskatoon there are 64 patients sitting in ERs [emergency room] who need a bed and can't get one. And with COVID skyrocketing in Saskatoon's waste water, there is no end in sight to these pressures. What's the plan to ensure people needing hospital care are able to access it when they need it?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as Dr. Shahab was just out last week on Thursday to be giving his weekly media avail, he explained that Saskatchewan is in an extended plateau, Mr. Speaker. It's something that we're keeping a very close eye on within our hospitals. We've seen other areas in the country that have risen up in their case numbers, but we're keeping a very close eye on this.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that we are not at capacity at our hospitals. We are managing the best we can. We do have some seasonal influxes of patients that the health care workers are addressing. But I can assure the people of Saskatchewan that our health care system is operating at the best it possibly can right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, this government's choices in the pandemic have come at great cost for those needing non-COVID care. One of those families is here with us today. Gillian and Brennon Dulle are in your gallery. Brennon had a stroke and has needed brain surgeries. He needs another one, Mr. Speaker, but he can't get it because he can't get his pre-op procedure because our health system is overwhelmed and the staffing shortage is oh so very real.

What does the government have to say to the Dulles who have been left waiting as a result of this government's mismanagement of the health system?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I welcome Gillian and Brennon Dulle to their Assembly. I'd be more than happy to sit down and discuss the surgical concerns that they have brought forward to this Assembly, as I do with any people that reach out to my office.

Mr. Speaker, we did have some challenges last year. I think that's well documented that we had to compress our health care system to be able to deal with the Delta wave and subsequent Omicron wave. We had to make some difficult decisions to make sure that our overall health care system . . . This did have impacts, Mr. Speaker. This government was very clear in communicating those impacts out to people to make sure that they could adjust, Mr. Speaker.

We have talked to the surgeons. We have talked to the general practitioners, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to say that we're almost at 97 per cent of the scheduled surgeries are being completed within the province right now. And we have a surgical plan to be able to address the backlogs that have accumulated over the last two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — I'm so happy to hear that the minister is willing to meet with the Dulles now. Now the Dulles have reached out to the minister's office before, and the response they got back was no help, no plan, no offer to meet, and frankly not worth the paper it was written on. Mr. Speaker, this is a reality not just for the Dulles either. It's for so many people throughout Saskatchewan. Of the nearly 36,000 people waiting for surgery, many of them are in the same position as Brennon, in urgent need of life-changing surgery but stuck in limbo because services people need are overwhelmed.

How many urgent surgeries are being deferred or cancelled because they can't access the procedures they need? How many of the surgeries that are getting kicked down the line are those needed to treat serious, debilitating illnesses?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right here in Saskatchewan, we're not immune to this. This is something that is happening across Canada, that there are clinical decisions on when a surgery can happen. That's not something that ever should be directed out of the minister's office, Mr. Speaker. They are prioritized by the doctors.

What I can say, Mr. Speaker, is all emergency surgeries, as I was told, certainly within our cancer area and other areas within our health care system, were done as soon as they possibly can. The clinicians decide when those surgeries happen, how fast they happen. That's not something that I would enter in on, Mr. Speaker. But again, I'd be more than happy to be able to sit down and talk about their specific case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, Brennon's doctor is furious and frustrated because he can't get the surgery he needs right now, the one that the doctor wants him to get, because he can't get the pre-op procedures he needs because there's no staffing available to do them, Mr. Speaker.

Brennon's life has been changed as a result of his brain injury. He experiences regular grand mal seizures and now lives with a severe type of epilepsy. In his partner, Gillian's, words, "That status quo that we have maintained for the past 22 months is not acceptable. You cannot put every other medical condition to the sidelines."

I'm happy the minister again will meet with the Dulles. But will he work with Brennon's and Gillian to ensure he can get the treatment he so desperately needs?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And this is why during the worst phase of the pandemic we did balance our surgery. We put high priorities on surgeries. We didn't cancel everything. That was again a clinical decision on what surgeries needed to be done and which ones could be temporarily

postponed. We do have a surgical plan to address the surgeries that have been backlogged over the last two years. We've injected \$21 million into our surgical capacity, Mr. Speaker.

We also have more ICU [intensive care unit] beds. We have high-acuity beds here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. We are doing this. We have our urgent care centres. We have our resourcing plan to be able to recruit, retain, and incentivize individuals to work here in Saskatchewan. These are the budget items that we had within this last budget, that are exactly what we are going to be addressing to be able to clear off those backlogged surgeries over the next three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Just a wildly insensitive answer from that minister, Mr. Speaker, to suggest that this surgery isn't needed and necessary right now.

Mr. Speaker, there are 800 kids on a wait-list to see a psychiatrist at all times in Saskatoon. As we saw this week, this is tremendous tragedy and loss when people fall through the cracks in our broken mental health system, when people are stuck on wait-lists instead of being able to access care.

With only 120 psychiatrists in Saskatchewan and a shortage of psych nurses, that's only set to get worse. People are being denied the care they need. Dr. Doug Urness, president of the Canadian Psychiatric Association, said it well: "Delayed care means progression of illness to a more severe level that may have been preventable."

When can Saskatchewan people finally count on timely and adequate mental health care when they need it the most?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

**Hon. Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last two years have been extremely difficult for everyone in this province, and it has led to some wait-lists and growing wait-lists that we are aware of, that we need to address. And that includes on . . . When it comes to mental health and addictions supports in this province for the people across Saskatchewan, whether they're adults or children and youth, we are committed to trying to address those wait-lists as best we can, Mr. Speaker.

And in this year's budget, there is a commitment to add additional training seats for registered psychiatric nurses in this province a little bit later this year, Mr. Speaker, through the Ministry of Advanced Education. And we'll add an additional 24 seats to that complement of registered psychiatric nurses in Saskatchewan as we try to tackle this backlog. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — The minister knows that that number of seats is too little, too late, Mr. Speaker.

It's been more than three years since this government opened

Sask Hospital North Battleford, and what a journey it's been: complete exterior replacement; flooding; faulty roof; electrical issues; they can't drink the water; residents and staff displaced with units shuttered for repairs in a brand new facility.

And to this day, Mr. Speaker, it's still only half full because this government can't staff it. There are currently 18 job postings for nurses, including psychiatric nurses, in the facility, which has left upwards of 70 beds unoccupied, 70 beds that have practically never opened.

What is the plan to recruit staff and finally make Sask Hospital fully operational?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

**Hon. Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is proud to have opened the new Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford in 2019. That was a 100-year-old facility that the members opposite, when they were in government, did not replace and did not make a priority for the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we do have some beds that are not operational. They're all fully funded, and we're working to staff up those beds. As I said in my previous answer, we are enhancing and improving upon the number of registered psychiatric nurses that we are training in this province, Mr. Speaker.

It's important to note that for a number of years, nearly a decade, we weren't training or graduating any registered psychiatric nurses, Mr. Speaker, as that program was shut down by the former government. We brought that program back in 2008, and we continue to build upon that program so we can fill some of the gaps that existed when we had the opportunity to form government in 2007. We're committed to continuing to do that work, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — It's entirely the MO [modus operandi] of this government to point the finger for something that happened 15 years ago, Mr. Speaker, when I was in grade school. No acknowledgement of the significant problems that exist right now in staffing in health care that have happened under their watch, Mr. Speaker.

We have a mental health and addictions crisis in this province, and the government's response: to reduce the proportion of the health budget that's devoted to mental health and addictions and to say no to funding safe consumption sites again this year. Last year we had the highest number of deaths due to overdose ever seen in this province, up 110 per cent from four years ago.

We met with the Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan today. They are calling on government to fund safe consumption sites and save lives. Will the minister commit to that today?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

**Hon. Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and myself have also met with some of the medical students as well about two or three weeks ago to discuss this issue. We are investing in the area of harm reduction, in this government and in this budget, \$3.8 million in harm reduction alone in this year's budget, nearly nine times the amount that was spent in that particular area prior to 2007, Mr. Speaker.

We're also investing — since 2018, since this Premier took office — \$92 million into mental health and addictions across this province. We have invested in a number of key areas, Mr. Speaker, expanding into more addictions treatment spaces across this province. We're expanding the take-home naloxone program. We're providing drug-checking strips across this province, more harm-reduction initiatives, stigma-reduction initiatives, youth treatment beds in the Southwest, Mr. Speaker.

We know that this is a significant challenge, not just for Saskatchewan but for provinces and territories across this country. And we're committed to making sure that we provide as much support as we can to as many people across this province, to bring those supports to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Enough paying lip service to harm reduction, Mr. Speaker. The evidence is clear. Harm reduction saves lives. And he has actively chosen not to fund safe consumption sites.

Not only do these programs save lives, Mr. Speaker, but they save costs to our already-burdened health care system. Saskatchewan has some of the highest rates of hospitalizations due to drug toxicity in the nation. We spend countless dollars on reactive care. One Calgary safe consumption site alone was estimated to save \$1,600 per overdose that they manage, over 2 million in savings to the health care system.

Knowing the life savings and the cost savings that these safe consumption sites will bring, why won't the minister completely fund these sites?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

**Hon. Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the commitment of this government to try to provide as much harm reduction and mental health and addictions supports as we can to as many people across this province regardless of where they live. It's why we fund 29 fixed and 4 mobile harm-reduction sites presently in this province. It's why we fund four rapid access to addictions medicine clinics, Mr. Speaker. It's why we're funding community wellness buses.

It's why we are increasing funding into a number of different areas, including a million dollars in response to the Saskatchewan drug task force recommendations, with respect to this particular issue. And of that funding, Mr. Speaker, funding to go towards an initiative called hot-spotting which will meet people where they are at.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that a large majority of the overdoses are occurring in residences. So we need to be able to provide these

supports across this province in our urban centres, our regional centres, rural communities that are struggling with this as well. And also, Mr. Speaker, remote communities in northern Saskatchewan, including First Nations communities which is why we support projects like the Muskwa Lake wellness recovery camp up in Pinehouse. We're trying to get these supports out to as many residents of Saskatchewan as we possibly can.

[14:15]

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

### SaskPower Rates

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The derision and backslapping from members opposite on these very serious issues is absolutely heartless. But let's talk about something for which they can take full credit.

Mental health, addictions, all of these crises are exacerbated by economic insecurity and an inability to pay your bills at the end of the month. And, Mr. Speaker, this Sask Party government is nickel-and-diming people left, right, and centre. Thirty-two tax hikes and fees. No relief at the pumps. And this is before an 8 per cent increase in SaskPower rates, Mr. Speaker, hikes at a time when families, farms, and businesses simply can't afford it. We're in a period of critical economic recovery. Will the minister pull this 8 per cent rate increase?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the expectation from all of our Crowns is that they charge enough money that it recovers the costs of capital, the costs of operating. Within those expenses are collective bargaining agreements that have been negotiated over the years, people that the members opposite should be supportive of. I don't expect that they want to go back to those people that are working in those Crowns and say, you don't get the raise that you're entitled to. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, these people have worked zeros in some years. We value the work that they do. We want to make sure that we maintain the viability of the Crowns.

The member opposite raises concerns about the potential increase in costs. There's a process that it goes through. It goes through the utilities review process. It comes back to cabinet. We're not prepared to prejudge that process. We're quite prepared to allow the process to proceed in the ordinary . . . and respect the independence of that process. I can see the member across chirping from his seat. Clearly somebody that doesn't value or respect that. We do.

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

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see it's the fault of the workers. It has nothing to do with the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], carbon capture boondoggle, this government's misspending.

But you know, speaking of cabinet, Mr. Speaker, even members of that minister's cabinet have acknowledged that power rates are just too darned high. In committee just last week, the Minister for the Economy said that there are areas where Saskatchewan just isn't as competitive for investment, including around power generation, where, and I quote, "... we're just more expensive here." We're just more expensive here. Right on the record. And this is before an 8 per cent hike. He's hearing it from people. He's hearing from industry. And now he's hearing it from his own House Leader. Mr. Speaker, how does the minister square his power rate hike with his cabinet colleague who says that the rates are just too gosh-darn high?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite need only look at a map and see which provinces have abundant hydro and which ones don't. I'd also ask the member opposite to consider talking to her colleagues about a couple of things. One, ensuring that they maintain some support for the small modular reactors that are under active consideration. It's a time-consuming process and their support would be appreciated, especially when dealing with the federal government, Mr. Speaker.

Their leader Jagmeet Singh and their leader Justin Trudeau need to look carefully at what the costs of those things are. They've layered a carbon tax on all the costs in this province that affect our utilities, our vehicles, heating our homes. Mr. Speaker, if they want to do something about costs, they should speak to their leader Justin Trudeau, and see if we can't do some help with the carbon tax.

And I'd welcome their assistance with the nuclear file as we go forward. They're fully aware of what those costs are. And, Mr. Speaker, I would close by pointing out we have the second-lowest utility bundle in Canada.

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

**Ms. A. Young:** — Second-lowest until they raise rates 8 per cent, at which point we'll have the highest.

But if you want to talk about our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, just yesterday that minister's colleague, the member from Cannington, on the record, stood up and applauded \$20 million in revenue from a single public offering for oil and gas rights.

It's great news for the sector, Mr. Speaker, yet it's also perplexing. Because the Sask Party is pleading poverty to justify their tax grab on everything from the Grey Cup to craft shows. And why? You guessed it. For \$20 million in revenue. It's wild. They're both simultaneously in the poorhouse while also celebrating an increase to government revenue. And yet they're also scraping together a few bucks off people in the province on fun taxes and plowing ahead with an 8 per cent hike to power bills.

Will this government stop talking out of both sides of its mouth, get its story straight, and freeze rates for families, farms, and small businesses?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we've got emissions requirements we plan to meet in this province. There are 2050 targets, 2040 targets, some that the federal government has raised to being 2030 targets. And we will work to meet those targets. Some of those targets will have a cost to them. Mr. Speaker, I've heard the members opposite being openly critical of some of those things.

SaskPower right now is working on a number of projects that will add 50 megawatts of additional solar power. There will have to be a power purchase agreement for each one of those things. The first utility-scale solar project in Saskatchewan was completed near Swift Current this fall. It added 10 megawatts of clean electricity to the grid.

We're also working on geothermal. We've invested 175,000 in the capital Deep Earth Energy project to build Canada's first geothermal plant. We've also worked to do biomass.

And we have some of the best wind in the world. Some of it comes from over there. Some of it comes across the Great Plains. And, Mr. Speaker, we've worked hard to make sure that we're able to capture all of the wind that goes across the plains. We haven't done as well for those folks.

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

### Pay Equity and Equal Pay

**Ms. Bowes:** — Mr. Speaker, although the other side seems to have forgotten, today is Equal Pay Day, which symbolizes how far into the year the average woman must work, in addition to the year prior, in order to have earned what the average man had earned in the previous year alone. That's an extra three and a half months, Mr. Speaker. Just shameful.

We know that here in Saskatchewan women on average earn nearly \$5 less an hour than their male counterparts. This inequity is why almost all other Canadian provinces have introduced pay equity legislation. What steps has this government taken to address pay equity and to address the fact that Saskatchewan has long had one of the largest gender pay gaps in the country?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Status of Women.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And we did have a fruitful discussion last night in committee. And again I will reiterate, equal pay for equal work legislation already exists in Saskatchewan. *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* stipulates that an employee of one sex is not to be paid less than an employee of another sex who performs similar work at the same workplace where the skill, effort, and responsibility is the same.

Now, Mr. Speaker, after looking at jurisdictions across the country, it is clear that every jurisdiction in Canada is doing it differently. In 2013 our government expanded the provisions so that an employer could not pay one employee a different rate of pay based on any of the prohibited grounds in *The Saskatchewan*

*Human Rights Code*, for example, race, colour . . .

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

**Ms. Bowes:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you. The member should know, the minister should know equal pay for equal work is not the same as pay equity — totally different things. We've seen this mistake made twice.

Yesterday when I asked the minister about the results of her jurisdictional scan of provincial pay equity legislation, the minister said that after looking across Canada and noting that provinces have taken different approaches to these laws, that the Government of Saskatchewan would not be taking any steps because there wasn't enough consistency for the minister across provincial pay equity legislation.

Is this government seriously so lacking in creativity, so lacking in resolve that despite having one of the largest gender pay gaps in Canada, they've decided to do nothing because, as the minister put it, there's no one-size-fits-all solution?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of the Status of Women.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank the member opposite for the question. Wage issues are complex, and the Status of Women office works to address them in many ways.

A good example is education. Funding for girls in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math] conference was held, which offered a unique opportunity for over 1,600 girls in grades 6 to 9 to hear from inspiring women and participating in hands-on activities in engineering, architecture, design, wildlife rehabilitation, and coding. Mr. Speaker, we fully believe that education is going to be the key to wage success for women in Saskatchewan. Thank you very much.

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

### Suicide Prevention Strategy

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

**Hon. Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I extend my sympathies to the Nippi family. As the member and I discussed in estimates yesterday, provided a number of updates on the initiatives that are being funded by this government through the Pillars for Life suicide prevention plan, which includes five pillars there which are focused on specialized supports, training, also awareness, means restriction, and safety and evaluation. Those are part of the Pillars for Life plan. We continue to consult with community leaders and families across this province to look at further enhancements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Please state your point of order.

### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, the member from Regina University said that the minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] speaks out of both sides of his mouth, inferring that he was lying. Mr. Speaker, we know that this is not parliamentary procedure. It's the same as double-talk, Mr. Speaker. These have been ruled against by previous Speakers, Mr. Speaker, and I'd ask her to get up, stand and withdraw and apologize.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was listening very closely to the question. I believe that everything that the member said was in order when she was referring to the actions of the government. I would ask you to review and provide . . . and follow up later with a judgment.

**The Speaker:** — I would invite the member from Regina University to stand and apologize.

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize and withdraw.

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The member has requested leave for an introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to welcome Gillian and her partner Brennon to their Assembly here today. It's clear though that Brennon was too fatigued to be with us in the gallery at this present moment. He was here earlier. I just want the Assembly to know that I really appreciate them making the trip down to Regina today to put forward their case and advocate for the treatment that Brennon so desperately needs here in the province.

I had the distinct pleasure to sit down and visit with Gillian and Brennon earlier today, and I was so impressed with both their, you know, their ability to, in times of great distress, still give back to their community. I heard many wonderful stories of how Brennon is working to help those who are disadvantaged in our community and continue to be strong community members. And I'm just very grateful that they would make this arduous journey down here. It wasn't an easy one for them to make. And I invite

all members to join me in welcoming them to their gallery.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 82 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022*

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

[14:30]

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm here today to move second reading of Bill No. 82, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022*. This legislation implements the income tax initiatives that were announced on March 23rd, 2022 as part of the 2022-23 provincial budget. The legislation also updates the provincial income tax by amending technical provisions that have been requested by the Canada Revenue Agency and reviewed by officials at the Ministry of Finance in order to ensure consistent and effective administration of taxes.

The budget increases the tax credit available in respect of the Saskatchewan value-added agriculture incentive, SVAAI. The SVAAI is a non-transferrable 15 per cent tax rebate on capital expenditures valued at 10 million or more for newly constructed or expanded value-added agriculture facilities in Saskatchewan. Budget 2022-23 increases the tax credit from 15 per cent to 30 per cent for the portion of a project between 400 million and 600 million in value and from 15 per cent to 40 per cent on the portion of a project in excess of 600 million. The budget also will cap the dollar value of the SVAAI credit at 250 million, meaning no single project can be eligible for more than that amount of SVAAI corporate tax relief.

The SVAAI will continue to incent global corporations to undertake major projects in Saskatchewan in canola crushing, pulse processing, grain milling, and more. These corporations are investing billions, creating construction and permanent jobs and establishing Saskatchewan's leadership in value-added agriculture. Enhancements to the SVAAI will make Saskatchewan even more competitive and effective in attracting investment to grow the industry and our province's economy.

Last year the budget announced a five-year extension of the Saskatchewan technology start-up incentive program, STSI. This is another income tax initiative that encourages investment in the technology sector. The 2022-23 budget increases the annual credit cap from 2.5 million to 3.5 million, meaning more investment can flow into the technology sector. The STSI is designed to encourage investment in early-stage technology start-ups that bring new projects to market and create jobs in Saskatchewan. The program offers a non-refundable 45 per cent tax credit to Saskatchewan-based investors who invest in eligible technology start-up businesses.

Amendments to the Saskatchewan technology start-up incentive regulations will enable these changes. As the increased credit cap is accomplished by regulation, no amendments are required to *The Income Tax Act, 2000* for this change to occur.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill No. 82, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022*.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved that Bill No. 82 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 82, a piece of legislation that makes several changes to *The Income Tax Act*, Mr. Speaker. Of course a value-add and investment in business is very important to Saskatchewan's economy and something that we welcome. The critic of course will be scouring this legislation with a fine-tooth comb to ensure that the measures being put into place in this bill will have real and tangible benefit to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

But let's be clear. This is a government that typically likes to tax more than they like to provide tax relief. In fact I don't think I've ever met a group of conservatives who doesn't love taxing more than this group over here, Mr. Speaker. I know I'll have many other colleagues who'll love to enter into the debate on this piece of legislation. And in order to facilitate that, I'm prepared now to move adjournment on Bill No. 82.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

##### Bill No. 83 — *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2022*

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 83, amendments to *The Tobacco Tax Act, 1998*. These amendments implement a tobacco tax rate increase of 2 cents per cigarette, 8 cents per gram of fine-cut tobacco, and 1.3 cents for heated tobacco products.

This change is expected to generate incremental annual tax revenue of about 12.1 million. An increase in the tobacco tax rates will keep Saskatchewan's tobacco tax rate relatively consistent with other Western provinces. Increasing the tax rate on fine-cut tobacco will create added incentive to reduce consumption of this type of tobacco.

To implement this initiative, specific amendments to *The Tobacco Tax Act* are required to amend the current tax rates to increase the tax on cigarettes by 2 cents per cigarette from 27 to 29 cents; smokeless tobacco by 8 cents per gram from 25 to 27 cents; heated tobacco products, or heat-not-burn, by 1.3 cents per unit from 20.5 cents to 21.8 cents; and roll-your-own tobacco by 8 cents per gram from 27 cents to 35 cents.

The legislation includes a housekeeping amendment to make regulations under the Act retroactive back to March 23rd, 2016 to align with record retention and audit requirements. Mr. Speaker, these changes strengthen and modernize the Act, sustaining the province's revenue base in today's ever-changing business environment.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill No. 83, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2022*.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved that Bill No. 83 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 83, and I appreciate the Finance minister's comments and explanation of this legislation. Yet another tax hike, Mr. Speaker. Shocking. I wish I could say I was shocked by it. I am not, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, Sask Party love to tax.

I will say — and I'm paraphrasing the Finance minister, and I hope she'll forgive me — but on budget day she mentioned that as a smoker she was going to take one for the team on this particular piece of legislation. I thought that was hilarious. And I appreciated the honesty, Mr. Speaker, and the openness.

Mr. Speaker, I know there'll be lots of my colleagues who will be interested to enter into the debate on Bill No. 83. In order to facilitate that work, I'm prepared to move adjournment on this bill.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 84 — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022***

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 84, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022*. Mr. Speaker, this bill proposes an expansion of the provincial sales tax, or PST base, to include admissions, entertainment, and recreation charges following the federal goods and services tax, or GST base, for simplicity and ease of administration with an effective date of October 1st, 2022.

In addition, this bill proposes that PST will apply to services provided by credit rating agencies such as Moody's Canada Inc.; and Standard & Poor's Global Canada corporation, S & P, effective April 1st, 2022.

The legislation includes housekeeping amendments that will further define specified, tangible, personal property as including goods in which PST has already been collected by a marketplace facilitator or an out-of-province vendor. This will address the double taxation concern from a provincial perspective, and it will clarify the existing policy for exemptions in relation to meals or prepared food and beverages which follows those in the *Excise Tax Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill No. 84, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022*.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved that Bill No. 84 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 84, another piece of legislation adding more taxes onto the people of Saskatchewan. Now this government seems to get quite offended when I say that they're a group of conservatives that love to tax. And I've never met a group of conservatives who love to tax the people of this province more than this group that's right here, Mr. Speaker. But they keep proving me correct by introducing more and more legislation that adds more tax on the people of Saskatchewan.

This one is the Sask Party tax on fun, Mr. Speaker. I wish I had the list of the 32 taxes and fee hikes in front of me that I had during my budget speech but, Mr. Speaker, this one will expand tax onto Rider games, gym memberships if you can believe it, Mr. Speaker, curling. And I hope not a single one of these Sask Party MLAs show their face at a Brier Patch again, the fact that they're putting a tax on curling, Mr. Speaker, of all things in this province. How dare they, Mr. Speaker.

Many other things that I think the people of this province would consider fun and enjoyable, Mr. Speaker, I hope they know that the Sask Party are putting a tax on that, especially at a time like the pandemic when people are trying to gather, businesses who've been suffering for the last few years are trying to encourage more people to come to their venues.

Concerts, Mr. Speaker, live music is something that I've desperately missed over the last two years, desperately, Mr. Speaker. And I'm sure there are members opposite who also miss live shows. Why they would choose at this point in time to expand the PST onto things like live music venues, who've really suffered over the last two years, is absolutely astounding to me, Mr. Speaker, absolutely astounding.

Mr. Speaker, I know I'll have several other colleagues who'll be very interested and keen to weigh in on the debate on this piece of legislation. And in order to facilitate that, I'm prepared now to adjourn debate on Bill No. 84.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**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, and the proposed amendment moved by Ms. Sarauer.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Eastview.

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're having so much fun in here today, I wonder if the government is going to try and tax my speech. Now I already had a chance to speak to Bill 70, and I'm pleased to rise in my place today and speak to the amendment that's before the Assembly. So I'll remind the Assembly a little bit about where we were at in the fall session when this bill was presented. And many members had a chance to get up and speak to our concerns and I think the concerns of a lot of Saskatchewan people on Bill 70.

Now the night that I entered into debate, it was a blustery December evening, and I had much less advance warning that I'd be speaking than I had today. And you know, the way that it arose is there were some threats to not allow adjournment coming from the Government House Leader, let a colleague go a little bit over time in her speaking. And it led to, I think, probably what we might refer to as shenanigans, you know, saying if you don't do this then we'll do that, and if you don't do this then this is what's going to happen. And anyway the end result was that I was told by our Opposition Whip that I had to speak until at least 9 o'clock p.m.

So with very little warning, I came in here with a page of notes with fewer words on it than what I've got today, and I gave it my all. I put some comments on the record about my concerns, this dumpster fire bill and the comms disaster that's unfolded for the government. I think I spoke for about 90 minutes that evening, and today I'd go back and I'd like to read each of those words back into the record. Just kidding. I'm not going to do that.

I will provide some new thoughts, as we have proposed an amendment. And I want to start by talking just a little bit about some of the process that we've seen go through this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. We have seen Bill 70 debated in question period. We've seen thoughts from every member of opposition put on the record in adjourned debates — lengthy comments, I'll say. There's dozens, if not hundreds of pages of *Hansard* record of comments from myself and my colleagues reflecting the concern from Saskatchewan people, reflecting concerns from former Sergeant-at-Arms, reflecting concerns from Saskatchewan citizens, reflecting concerns of folks who have maybe come to protest outside the legislature on the legislative grounds.

And I think I want to start by saying I really believe in the merits of the argument that my colleagues have brought forward. There's been a very thoughtful response from each member in opposition as we speak to what we are hearing and obviously, you know, opining on our own views in opposition of the dangerous path that this piece of legislation is leading us to.

But of course this is not the first . . . I mean this is probably the most visible time that the Sergeant-at-Arms and legislative security has been discussed in here, but it's not the first time. You know, the office that we currently have and the model for legislative security that we currently have goes back to 1984. And of course through the years it's been through, you know, some changes and refinements. But with each step those changes have aligned the Saskatchewan legislature with other legislatures around the country and with our House of Commons and the types of security that are provided in those buildings.

[14:45]

I will note that this is typically a discussion that would take place at the BOIE [Board of Internal Economy]. And in particular we know that there have been reviews and debate that have gone on at the BOIE to examine the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms and, you know, over the years to evaluate the level of security provided here. And each step along the way, you know, I think that the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms has always been proven to be having done their job effectively, professionally, and always meeting the standard that we as legislators have, and I would say even going beyond that standard.

There's never been a reason for complaint. That's 38 years of respected tradition that this piece of legislation is undermining and disrespecting. That's 38 years of tradition that this legislation is showing disrespect towards. There's not been a single reason, Mr. Speaker, put on the record to doubt the service of this office, not a single reason put on the record. I would say that the professionalism and the competency of our Sergeant-at-Arms has stood the test of time. We have decades of evidence to rely on, and I believe that that office has stood the test of time.

But most recently we've seen our Sergeant-at-Arms again prove his worth and the worth of that office and the tradition that comes with it to the people of Saskatchewan. And I'm speaking about the freedom convoy protest that took place just outside these grounds. And the reason that it took place just outside these grounds is because we have a professional and competent individual and team providing security to the building and the precinct.

Now it's very disappointing, Mr. Speaker, to hear the minister use that experience as evidence for change. And this is what I would call a classic Sask Party spin, to say something that clearly points otherwise and spin it to a way to justify their own narrative and their own misguided direction. I would say that what we have with the freedom convoy protest is all the evidence we need of a professional and competent Sergeant-at-Arms.

I believe that what happened with the freedom convoy and the protest in Regina is all the evidence that we need that our Sergeant-at-Arms has professional relationships with other branches of law enforcement that work. That's exactly what happened on the days that that protest was taking place, the days before and the days after, professional relationships by experienced law enforcement individuals working with other jurisdictions, including Regina Police Service, working with, sharing information with the RCMP. This is exactly what happened. And for the minister to use this to justify the need for change, I believe is something that we need to interrogate and question.

And the minister has said — and I'm paraphrasing here, I'm not quoting — but the minister has said that that shows that the government had to get involved. So on one hand she's saying that the government won't be involved in the new legislative security. But the minister is also saying, but in this example the government got involved and that is why things worked out so well.

So I guess my question is to the minister. Which one is it? Will the government, will the Saskatchewan Party be involved in the

new legislative security or not? And you can't have it both ways. And I won't say anything about sides of a mouth, but I'll say that the minister can't have it both ways, and the reasons provided don't make any sense to me.

Now I want to just close by saying a little bit about the information, the evidence being used to justify Bill 70. And if this part of my time today in a subheading, it would be "Bill 70, lessons from Highway Hotline." And maybe some members opposite will remember that several weeks back I did do a member's statement commemorating the Highway Hotline. And I received an unusual level of support for that member's statement, which was confusing at best.

But I want to say that what I see the government doing with Bill 70 is fairly similar to what this government is asking from the people of Saskatchewan when it comes to COVID risk assessment. They're suggesting that we make changes to our behaviour without any information to justify that change, changes to our behaviour, our COVID behaviour, whether it's distancing or masking or group size, any of those things, without the information that we would need to make such decisions.

And it's kind of what they're suggesting here with Bill 70. Let's overhaul. Let's scrap what we were doing that worked. Let's make some major changes without any of the information that we would need to make that type of risk assessment. If there are risks in this building, we deserve to know. We deserve that evidence. We bring our families here. We bring our children here. I have a baby — a baby — sitting next to me in the Assembly on most days when my colleague is here. We bring guests here. We bring stakeholders here.

We open the building. It is the people's building, not the government's building — the people's building. We have an open-door policy with our current security situation where all those visitors are coming through a system run by the Sergeant-at-Arms and the security team, and it's working. There's no evidence has been provided to suggest otherwise.

Now the minister relies on broad but empty talking points to justify the change. And often what we get from the minister is a bit of a word salad, empty comments without any evidence, any examples, or any details. But it's some collection of words like: times are changing, risks, threats, CSIS [Canadian Security Intelligence Service], times are changing, CSIS, ever-changing world, times change, and CSIS. And in different combination, that's kind of what we hear.

No details, no examples, nothing concrete. There's been no reason provided to this Assembly, no reason provided in the media for this change. And so people are left to wonder. People are left to speculate. People are left with confusion as to why this particular change is needed.

Now I'll say, Mr. Speaker, you know, as a teacher I've seen assignments like this as a teacher. This isn't a talk down to my students, but I've seen students hand in assignments where they have no detail, just big, broad statements with no evidence or examples to back up. And it's usually an indication that someone hasn't done their homework. They don't understand the concept, and they rely on big, broad statements to cover up the lack of understanding and knowledge.

And that's a lot of what this looks like coming from the government right now — big, broad statements that are void of detail, void of content, and void of deeper understanding. We have not seen any evidence.

Oh, but I didn't get to Highway Hotline. So I would suggest to the government that the route that they go is to look to Highway Hotline for a bit of a model. And again, what Highway Hotline does when they expect people to make changes to behaviour, they give us the reasons for that. They provide us the detailed information of what the risks are. If there's road conditions that aren't safe for driving, that's reported publicly. It's shared with the people who might be, you know, driving on the road.

And in this Assembly in opposition, we haven't received any of that information. If there are legitimate threats we deserve to know, just like we deserve to know when we get on the road to drive back to our homes and constituencies or to go visit family, we want to know what the risks are so that we can make changes accordingly.

And again, I'll point to Highway Hotline as a great example for this government. If they expect people to change their behaviour, we need the information. Big, broad statements without any details and examples simply don't work. And when it comes to Bill 70, that's what we're getting in opposition. That's what the people of Saskatchewan are getting from this government.

I think that we deserve answers that we've not yet received. I think that we have not seen anything from this minister, from the Premier, from the Government House Leader, whose name is on the bill. There's been no evidence given to why this is needed or how the changes proposed will lead to a safer building than what we already have. So with that, Mr. Speaker, at this time I will ask for leave to adjourn on Bill 70.

**The Speaker:** — The member has asked leave to adjourn debate. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Mr. Love:** — I move to adjourn Bill 70.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is the Assembly ready to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to

enter into debate today, this time on Bill No. 79, *The Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation Act*, 2022. It certainly in title sounds like something that is absolutely welcomed and necessary, Mr. Speaker. As we say, the devil's in the details, so we'll have to see what changes this amounts to for investment in our province.

And some of the details here are that the Act will create the Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation, SIIFC, that will provide 75 million in loan guarantees which is intended to approve access to capital for Indigenous communities, specifically for natural resource development and value-added agriculture. And the goal here is to support increased Indigenous participation in the economy and stimulate economic development in Indigenous communities.

We certainly appreciate that investment in Indigenous-owned communities should be taking place, and understand that this is a key component of reconciliation. And I had an opportunity to take some professional development — as we do from time to time, Mr. Speaker — on the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation, and economic reconciliation was intensely highlighted as part of that professional development. And they talked about the amount of money that our economy is missing out on because we haven't adequately invested and made sure that our Indigenous corporations have the ability to thrive in our current climate, Mr. Speaker. I was surprised by how often it came up in that course, but it certainly makes complete sense and is something we should be working towards.

The only real questions I have on this are, why just specifically these sectors, why it couldn't be expanded to other aspects of our economy. We know that there is an incredible depth of knowledge and skill and so many different entrepreneurs out there that could benefit from something similar.

So I'll be very interested to see what the SIIFC does moving forward, and how these loans are able to be utilized, Mr. Speaker. We know that reconciliation needs to include action, and meaningful action. I think we're all at the point now where people are talking about it, but we need to see movement on it as well. And we, I think, should be calling ourselves back to the 94 Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which at this point sadly are getting a bit dated, and we still have so much work to do across all sectors of our society to ensure meaningful reconciliation.

I know that there will be many more questions about this legislation, Mr. Speaker, but with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 79 for today.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 80

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. J. Harrison that **Bill No. 80** — *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022* be now read a

second time.]

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

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to be on my feet to enter into debate on Bill 80, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act* of 2022. I'll keep my comments fairly brief today for this one, compared to my last entry.

[15:00]

You know, it is my understanding that this bill creates a single innovation agency by bringing some bodies together. And I did read a story in the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* last week talking to folks involved in the innovation sector in Saskatoon. And I think that the way it was described, and I'm just going from memory here, Mr. Speaker, was it's a bit of a growing up, a maturing of our tech sector was the way it's described, a sector that, you know, has maybe moved from like infancy into adolescence and moving into more of an adult sector of our economy which, you know, I think is great.

And I hope that all the consultation that's been needed has taken place to ensure that those entrepreneurs, those businesses, those organizations that are driving our innovation and tech sector are getting what they need to help that sector mature the way that it has. We know that innovation and technology in Saskatchewan is an increasing part of our economic development and activity in the province, and I for one, I think that's great. I hope that that continues for years to come as we see increased investment and innovation.

And I think that one of the ways that we see innovation working in our province is to not just consider the challenges of today but the challenges of tomorrow, and both of those. And so we see some really neat start-ups and things happening addressing the challenges of things like waste, food waste, challenges of climate and the climate crisis, challenges of transportation. And so it's really, I think, good to see that hopefully this bill is giving them the support that they need to mature as a part of our economy.

I'll also mention, Mr. Speaker, that, you know, as a former teacher, I've had the honour to kind of follow some of those former students as they've started some new initiatives and you know, kind of follow as a fan and watch them succeed.

And there's a couple young start-ups in Saskatoon from, you know, young business people that I knew them as teenagers. One of them is Clever AI, and it's artificial intelligence, a student at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] who won the Co.Labs competition a couple years ago to win some seed money and investment into starting his company.

And another one is a young guy by the name of Carter, who started this company used to be called arctic fridge, and I think now is called Cubbi. And what they do is they provide food into the workplace using an app and a fridge, kind of a community fridge where everyone using an app on their phone gets access to a little cubby within the fridge. So it's a food delivery service that fuses technology with food delivery, and it's really cool.

Another former student that I talked to recently works with

electric vehicle start-up infrastructure. And they work out of Innovation Place in Saskatoon. So we have lots of exciting stuff happening in our province helping us to meet these challenges. And you know, I just hope that the growing tech sector in our province has been widely consulted with this change and future changes so that we can support that sector as it continues to grow.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks and seek to adjourn debate on Bill 80, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 81

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. J. Harrison that **Bill No. 81 — *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today, this time on Bill No. 81, *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act*, 2022. I feel as though some of my earlier comments stand with this bill as well, Mr. Speaker, in that it certainly sounds like there are some big promises being made with this legislation. And we will see what ends up coming out in the details.

We know that this bill outlines expectations for regulatory bodies and registration practices. It gives the minister power to advise any and all regulatory bodies on issues of labour mobility and professional registration. So of course we're talking about the ability to attract workers to our fine province, make sure that we have those folks in place because our economy needs to keep functioning.

The minister can order compliance on recommendations made by the minister to a regulatory body, and regulatory bodies can appeal decisions and can also apply for exemption from ministerial oversight and interference. So this bill seeks to address challenges from organizations and people who want to come to our beautiful province to live and work. There are a number of implications, as you might expect, with immigration, also with justice and labour that are going to require significant consultation.

There are some ways that these groups already work in concert, but largely one of the biggest challenges when we talk about credentials is the fact that all of these regulatory bodies are sort of operating on their own systems. So I know that this is quite the challenge, Mr. Speaker, but we know that we need more workers in our province, especially with our large rates of out-migration.

We are no longer the premier destination for skilled workers. And we know that we have a shortage. We've talked so many

times in this Assembly about health care staffing. We have a shortage of nurses that's really impacting care across Saskatchewan right now in some of our hometowns or smaller urban centres. We have a shortage of doctors, teachers, educators, hospitality staff. The list goes on, Mr. Speaker. We need to have a meaningful plan to address these concerns. We need to make sure that folks are supported once they arrive in our fine province. And I think these are all components to a good plan.

So we need to have that labour market analysis. We need to know what our needs are in the future as well as what they are right now. Because in many cases, they're not being met right now, Mr. Speaker. So get the reactive side done; start becoming more proactive. And I really do hope that this legislation is able to address some of those challenges in a meaningful way.

But we will certainly have many questions about how it seeks to do that, whether it's in line with what other jurisdictions are doing, and best practices in industry, as well as what consultation has taken place with impacted industries because there is so much potential for bleeding into other aspects of our labour market here, Mr. Speaker.

Lots more to say in the future, but with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 81 for today.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees, I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has moved to adjourn the House. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:09.]



# 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**  
Minister of Environment

**Hon. Gene Makowsky**  
Minister of Advanced Education

**Hon. David Marit**  
Minister of Agriculture  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

**Hon. Don McMorris**  
Minister of Government Relations  
Minister Responsible for First Nations,  
Métis and Northern Affairs  
Minister Responsible for the  
Provincial Capital Commission

**Hon. Paul Merriman**  
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**Hon. Don Morgan**  
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety  
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation  
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated  
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Saskatchewan Government Insurance  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Power Corporation  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Telecommunications  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Water Corporation  
Minister Responsible for the  
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

**Hon. Jim Reiter**  
Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement  
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor  
and Gaming Authority  
Minister Responsible for The Global  
Transportation Hub Authority

**Hon. Laura Ross**  
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

**Hon. Gordon Wyant**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General