



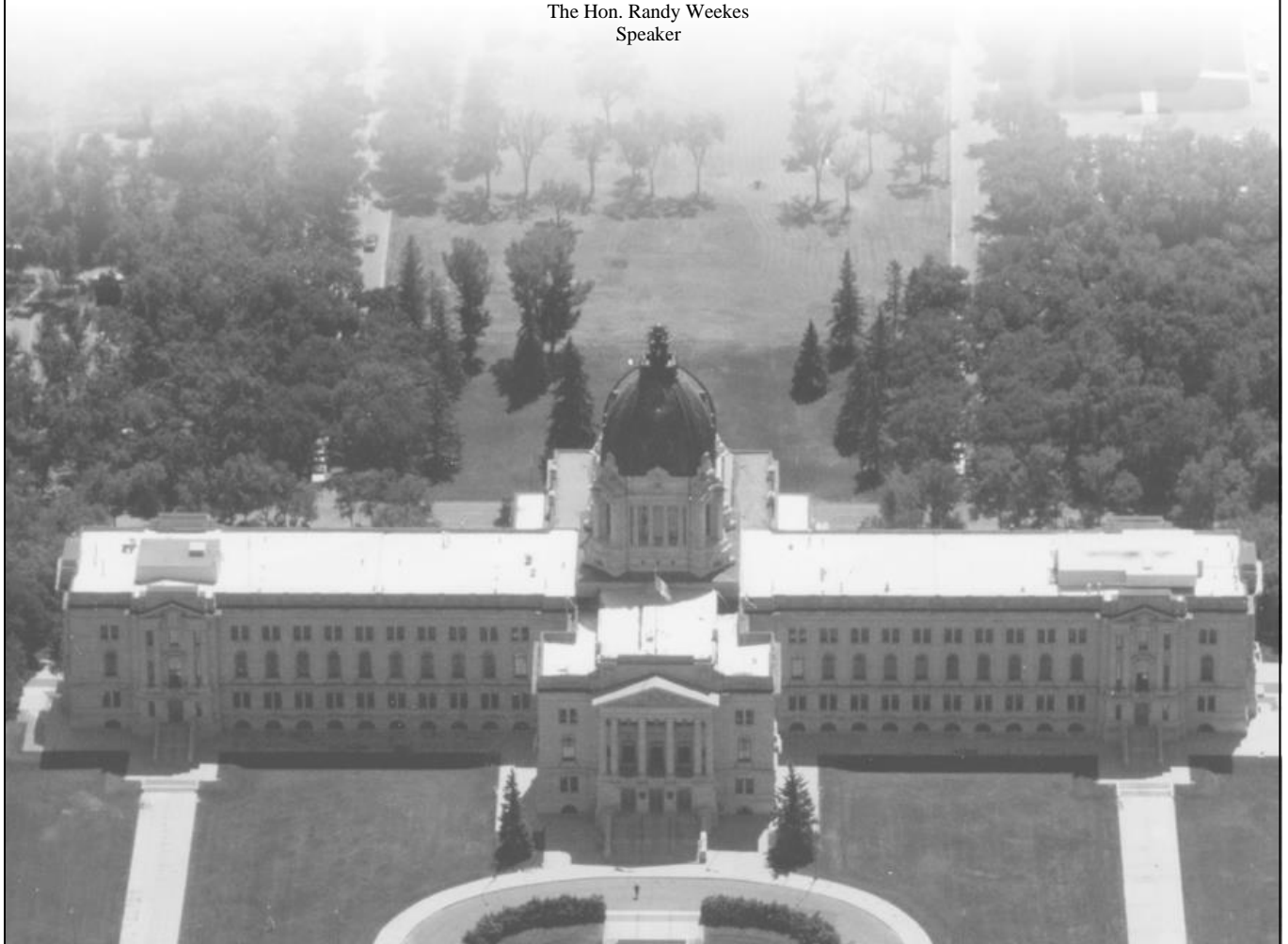
SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

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

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

Hansard on the internet

Hansard and other documents of the
Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.

<https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/Calendar>

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker	2295
Duncan	2295
Mowat	2295, 2298
Merriman	2295
Tell	2295
Sarauer	2296
Eyre	2296
Ritchie	2297
Docherty	2297
Young, A.	2297
Skoropad	2298
Kaeding	2298
Meyers	2298
Fiaz	2298
Ottobreit	2298

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Sarauer	2298
Beck	2299
Bowes	2299
Young, A.	2299
Nippi-Albright	2299

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Celebration of Eid al-Fitr	
Docherty	2300
Beck	2300
Lloydminster Hockey Team Awarded Good Deeds Cup	
Young, C.	2300
May Day	
Bowes	2300
Recognizing Saskatoon Centenarians	
Lambert	2301
Wynyard Student Excels in Sledge Hockey	
Nerlien	2301
Recognizing 10th Anniversary of STARS Air Ambulance	
Ottobreit	2301

QUESTION PERIOD

Search for Missing Child	
Meili	2302
Moe	2302
Management of Provincial Economy	
Wotherspoon	2302
Moe	2302
Eyre	2304
Treatment and Prevention of COVID-19 in Children	
Mowat	2304
Merriman	2304
Suicide Prevention Strategy	
Vermette	2305
Hindley	2306

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 70 — <i>The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur l'Assemblée législative</i>	
Bowes	2306
Bill No. 79 — <i>The Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation Act</i>	
Young, A.	2308
Harrison, J. (referral to Economy Committee)	2308
Bill No. 80 — <i>The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Young, A.	2308
Harrison, J. (referral to Economy Committee)	2308

Bill No. 81 — <i>The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act</i>	
Ritchie	2308
Bill No. 82 — <i>The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Nippi-Albright	2309
Bill No. 83 — <i>The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Ritchie	2310
Bill No. 84 — <i>The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Bowes	2311
CORRIGENDUM	2312

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my honour today to introduce the 2022 teachers who are participating in the 22nd annual Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. The institute began on Saturday, April 30th and will conclude on Wednesday, May 4th.

This group has already had a very busy schedule meeting with the judiciary, Elections Canada, the Clerk's office, caucus staff, the Legislative Library, and the House leaders. They will be in the building until Wednesday, when they will be doing a model parliament in the Chamber.

I would ask that the teachers and guests give us a wave as I introduce them: Michael Duck, Scott Collegiate; Jolene Bowes, Milestone School; Derek Bergen, Rosthern Community School; Christa Schmelsky, Yorkdale Central School; Patrick Nikulak, Punichy Community High School; Ivy Sheward, Lindale Elementary School; Rachael Goff, Kelliher School; Amanda Rae, Mortlach School; Sheryl Bellegarde, Green Acres School; Laverne Bugghins, Punichy Elementary School; Daniel Wachal, Punichy High School; Jocelyn Armbruster, New Horizon Hutterian School; Kyle Caron, Regina Huda School; Caitlynn Blenkin, Montmartre School; Tracy Hnybida, Athol Murray College of Notre Dame; Amanda Durocher, Lashburn High School; and Laura Heinmiller, Parkland College.

I would like to make special mention of our steering committee, composed of three teachers who have attended past institutes, as well as an official from the Ministry of Education. From the Ministry of Education: Ms. Jeannine Whitehouse, curriculum consultant. Steering committee members: Ms. Shayna Zubko, Esterhazy High School; Mr. Andrew Kitchen, Sylvia Fedoruk Elementary School, Saskatoon; and Mr. Riley Sharp, Swift Current Comprehensive High School.

I ask all members to welcome the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] 2022 participants to the legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If I could join with you in welcoming the teachers from the SSTI here to their Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to, I believe, meeting with them tomorrow morning and then our banquet tomorrow night. And so I would ask all members of the Assembly in joining with me and welcoming all the teachers here to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with yourself and the minister opposite in welcoming these SSTI

participants and organizers. We had a chance to speak for a while this morning about the role of the House Leader and gave them a little bit on what the opposition does as well, as well as some warning about what happens in here. So I'm glad to see them here and thank them for their interest in professional development and learning more about what happens in this space, so that they can continue to build up the next generation, Mr. Speaker.

So thanks to all these folks for the attention they're paying to our democracy in this space, and I look forward to watching the mock parliament. It's probably my favourite activity, so I look forward to doing that at the end here. And we'll welcome these guests to their Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we are joined by three members who are representing the STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service] team. And I'd ask them to give us a wave. We have Darcy McKay, the provincial director of Saskatchewan operations. We have Jon Antal, a flight paramedic, and Jen Pengelly, a flight nurse.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank STARS — and please pass this along to your colleagues — for their dedicated work in providing emergency services across Saskatchewan. STARS is a valued partner in emergency medical service, and since its inception, Mr. Speaker, it has transported almost 6,500 patients, Mr. Speaker.

This is STARS's 10-year anniversary here in Saskatchewan, and I can speak for everyone when I say that we value their tremendous service that you bring to our province. And more to say later on in a member's statement from the member from Yorkton, Mr. Speaker. So I'd ask all members in joining me and welcoming Darcy, Jon, and Jen to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the Minister of Health in welcoming Darcy, Jon, and Jen from STARS to their Assembly here today. I know that people across our province all feel safer knowing that STARS is there when they need them. We have so many, you know, rural roads, sparsely populated areas, spotty ambulance coverage across the province, and this is a conversation that we talk about quite often when we talk about access to health care.

And I know so many folks who have had the unfortunate opportunity, I would say, of interacting with STARS, but man, really appreciate you being there when we need you. And thank you so much for the work that you do and being here today.

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested for an extended

introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed May the 2nd, 2022 as Correctional Services Appreciation Day. Earlier today we recognized the recipients of the Minister's Award for Excellence.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that working in corrections is a very difficult and challenging environment. Working in this field often means working with those who have significant and complex challenges, something that the COVID-19 pandemic only amplified. Correctional services employees rose to face that challenge, and just as Barry Nowoselsky of SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] said:

For the most part in executive government they've done a pretty good job. Correctional centres were better prepared than most. They've done a pretty good job dealing with the PPE and putting policies and things in place.

Mr. Speaker, that credit, this credit belongs to the front-line providers like those here today, along with the staff across the ministry who have done an excellent job keeping offenders and staff safe during the various waves of COVID-19. Correctional services employees demonstrate courage each and every day by helping protect our communities and ensuring Saskatchewan is a safer province. We employ approximately 2,400 employees in the roles of corrections officers, probation officers, facility youth workers, and community youth workers. Each of these individuals deserve our recognition and thanks.

This year the recipients of the Minister's Award for Excellence is the Saskatoon Correctional Centre's social and wellness committee. During a difficult last two years where COVID-19 has brought additional stress to their work, the committee has taken a proactive and positive step to ensure that their own well-being and that of others is being looked after.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome and recognize our special guests who are seated in the Speaker's gallery: Sharon Markwart and Debbie Larson, who are the current team leaders of the social and wellness committee. I would also like to welcome our custody and community representatives here today: Dave Mulgrew, Curtis Williamson, Jeff Hrynchyshyn, Cassidy Hodgins, Carrie Yathon, Diane Beaulieu, Goran Grujic, Shae Jezowski, Taylor Willsey, Lisa Sicotte, Sheila Chartrand, Angelina Luczak, and Lisa Dohm.

Again I want to thank all of these individuals, who work in corrections each and every day, for what they do in keeping our communities safe. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the minister in welcoming these individuals joining us here today, thanking them for their work, and congratulating them on

their recognition and their award. I'd like to echo the minister's sentiments in thanking them for the hard and tireless work that they do every single day, every single day but in particular over the last two, two and a half years.

The pressures that you folks have faced and dealt with in the multiple outbreaks, keeping staff and inmates safe and well as much as possible, is absolutely commended. And even though we don't see your work every day here, we know that you're doing that important business every single day. So I'd like to join with the minister in thanking you so much for your tireless front-line work and commending you for receiving this award. Thank you and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will 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.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery, I'd like to welcome Grant Fagerheim, chairman, president, and CEO [chief executive officer] of Whitecap energy, Saskatchewan's third-largest oil producer. With him are Dave Mombourquette, senior VP [vice-president] of business development at Whitecap, Adlai Majer, director of new energy, and Patrick Kitchin, director of regulatory and environmental sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, Grant is one of ours. He was born and raised in Estevan where his father worked in the coal sector. He left home in 1977 to follow his passion for hockey which he says has always influenced his approach to business, to building teams. And Whitecap is quite a team, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Fagerheim founded it in 2009. Its capitalization was 46 million. It's now 6.5 billion and produces 135,000 barrels per day, a record production announced just last week, Mr. Speaker.

Whitecap has always been extremely involved in the communities where it's active, particularly in the South where it's focused on supporting children's health and education. And it's a too-untold story, Mr. Speaker, the contribution that our oil and gas companies make to their local communities in this province. Whitecap continues to hire summer students to attract them to the sector — about 20 in the office this summer, 20 in the field. The same as last year; same as the year before.

Mr. Speaker, through its CCUS [carbon capture, utilization, and storage] enhanced oil recovery operations outside Weyburn and CCUS operations across this province, our energy sector sequesters half the CO₂ sequestered every year in the country. Consider that achievement at a time when everyone is talking about net zero and the famous pathway.

We know EOR [enhanced oil recovery] CCUS has a proven economic footprint, and all kinds of synergies coming with hydrogen, Mr. Speaker. It also has an amazing environmental

footprint. It produces 82 per cent fewer emissions than conventional wells, which is why we're disappointed, of course, by the federal government's decision to not include it in the federal CCUS tax credit. But we'll soldier on and we'll continue to stand proudly behind the enhanced oil recovery in this province.

Some of the members opposite have recently come to enhanced oil, come to oil of late, resource surcharge perhaps not so much. But we would encourage them to formally put their new-found EOR support on the record to their federal Liberal-NDP [New Democratic Party] colleagues, Mr. Speaker. The time is now.

Mr. Fagerheim was an inductee to Saskatchewan's Oil and Gas Hall of Fame in 2017, a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his community and charity roles. And we greatly appreciate his always passionate, candid, and engaged points of view, and his — and, by extension, Whitecap's — many years of contribution to this province and its economy. It's the real deal, Mr. Speaker. Please join me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

[13:45]

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise with the member opposite to also recommend these fine representatives from Whitecap Resources: Grant, Dave, Adlai, and Patrick. Certainly it's always wonderful to see one of ours here promoting and ensuring that as we move forward in our industries and prepare ourselves for the future of energy here in Saskatchewan, that we're doing it in a way that is going to be sustainable and ensures that we have a pathway and synergies occurring to ensure that we continue to benefit from the resources of the province in a way that benefit us all.

We'll be hearing about more of that later. And through you and to you, Mr. Speaker, I invite all of the members here to welcome Grant and the rest of the Whitecap representatives here to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sitting in the west gallery there's 47 grade 8 students from École Monseigneur de Laval. Give us a wave. That is a lot of kids. That doesn't intimidate me at all, Mr. Speaker. I'm good. But in company with them, their teachers Parfait Karekezi and Heidi Bouvier. Excellent.

Also, Mr. Speaker, with them is Joseph Ngoy. Joseph is a talented artist, cook, and baker. He loves food, especially carbs, and sets a great example for his younger brother Noah. He's the nephew and godson to Nulee Menegbo, research officer in our government caucus office.

But we look forward to a picture on the steps and their questions. And with that, I'd like to have everyone in this Assembly welcome this group of students to their Assembly. I thank you.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to 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.

Ms. A. Young: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, what a truly great way to start off this week on this busy Monday, seeing the galleries so packed today.

Before I get into it, I recognize that the students are here from École Monseigneur de Laval, and I know the elementary school through which many of you would have come, through the Conseil fransaskois, is in the great state of Regina University. And I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming you to your legislature, and all the questions and concerns that you bring here today. Bienvenue [Translation: Welcome].

Seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is a real education focus today. I'd like to echo the welcome that's been brought by so many to the teachers here today, and take the risky initiative of singling out a few who are here. And I would like to begin with Jocelyn Armbruster. Jocelyn, welcome. I believe you're in from Raymore. We don't know each other that well, but I do know your husband Doug, a wonderful pastor and steward of his community. And Jocelyn, I know you bring the same care and love and dedication to your service in education, and I would like to welcome you specifically here to your legislature. And all the joys and struggles that your family has been through, I see you and I hear you and I'm so glad that you're here with us today.

I would also like to welcome someone who may be familiar to some members in this legislature, Mr. Riley Sharp, in from Speedy Creek, Swift Current. Riley would be known to some of them as a great and prominent local educator in his community, deeply involved, I believe, as a teacher of English and history, and also with the local drama productions. And wonderful students whether they be involved in theatre or improv.

And Riley's also an active and dedicated community volunteer. I know he was involved, along with many others in Swift Current, in supporting the push for vaccinations. Taking a lead in that, being profiled in the news, helping promote the importance of those first, second, and third doses, as well as being a founding member of the Swift Current Pandemic Support Network which early in those days of COVID providing deliveries of food, pet food, assistance to folks who for one reason or another couldn't leave their house through cause of isolation or otherwise. Truly a great community leader and a community servant who embodies that in everything that he does. And yeah, great moustache too, as pointed out by the member from Regina Rosemont.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to wrap it up by recognizing a close personal friend of mine, a terrible beekeeper and unfortunate Philadelphia steelers fan, Michael Duck ... Or

Pittsburgh Steelers — pardon me; God, this is humiliating — Pittsburgh Steelers fan, Michael Duck, a good friend of mine. He's a wonderful teacher here working at Scott Collegiate in Regina. And despite the fact that he managed to tear his Achilles tendon in a casual beer league game of slo-pitch, 10 weeks before his wedding I believe, Michael brings an astonishing competence to his profession, is truly a credit for it.

And the last introduction I have, Mr. Speaker, is a young man seated also in your gallery, Eric Horbal. He's a second-year student at the University of Regina, proud resident of Regina Rochdale, volunteer youth curling instructor, youth vice-president of RWDSU [Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union] 539, and proud political science nerd. And it's his first time in the legislature today, and it's already been an exciting day.

So thank you very much for your patience in running through those introductions. I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming these fine individuals to this, their legislature.

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

Mr. Skoropad: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to welcome one of the Arm River constituency's finest back to his legislature: Derek Griffin, seated actually behind me in the east gallery.

Derek is truly a unique individual. I don't know many more 18-year-olds that are more keenly interested in politics than he is. And certainly after spending some time with the Premier here earlier on, I'm sure he's going to be even keener than that. I certainly have enjoyed my time with him. And we've had a number of conversations over the course of the past year, and I've very much enjoyed that.

You know, actually, Mr. Speaker, he reminds me a lot of myself. And you know, I just want to let him know that he shouldn't be disheartened by that fact and there's time for him to change still. But one thing that I hope that doesn't change is his love of politics because he's brilliant and he's got a bright future. So please help me welcome Derek Griffin to his Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and on behalf of the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Moosomin, I would like all members to welcome, seated in the west gallery, 16 grade 6 students from Rocanville, Mr. Speaker. They're accompanied by their teacher, Brayden Jensen, and parent chaperones Kim Yaroszko, Coralyn Anderson, and Jessica Cuthill.

Just a couple of fun facts about Rocanville, Mr. Speaker. It's the home of the world's largest oil can but also it's home of the recently . . . multi-billion dollar expansion to the Nutrien potash mine, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome the Rocanville grade 6 students, their teacher, and chaperones to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery today are the folks from Switch Health: Mary Langley, the chief strategy officer; Vivek Prabhu, vice-president of strategy; Marc Thomson, chief operations officer. And joining them, someone who's no stranger to this side of the House, Hayley Cattell with H+K Strategies.

Now Switch is an innovative, fast-growing company here in Canada. They're in the health tech sector and they are leaders within the country when it comes to testing solutions. So I want to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. I look forward to some conversations at the reception later this evening.

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 members from Switch Health. I look forward to hearing more about the work that you do at the reception this evening. And on behalf of the official opposition, I would ask all members to join us in welcoming them to their Assembly today.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for approving my traditional clothes in the Assembly today. We're celebrating Eid today. I have two of my sons sitting in your gallery on the top right corner on the right side: Ayaz Fiaz and Kashif Fiaz. I ask all the members to welcome them in their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you to all members of the Assembly, two friends of mine and constituents up in the east gallery, just over my shoulder here, John and Karen Anderson from Yorkton. John's the manager of Days Inn in Yorkton. Karen is a long-term care worker in Theodore just outside of Yorkton, Mr. Speaker.

They actually didn't come specifically to visit me here today, although it's nice to have them come by. They came for ZZ Top. I don't quite have the beard, but you know, we had a great visit earlier. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to welcome John and Karen Anderson to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to scrap Bill 70. Mr. Speaker, those who signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: the independence of security at the legislature is of great importance to Saskatchewan people; it is a long-standing parliamentary custom that security maintain independence by reporting to the Speaker; the Speaker has a constitutional duty to defend the privileges of the legislature and its members; the Sergeant-at-Arms has successfully maintained the security of the legislature and its grounds since the 1980s.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 70 would turn the Sergeant-at-Arms into largely a ceremonial role. Bill 70 also breaches tradition in how issues of security at the legislature are handled, and historically all security concerns have been discussed at the bipartisan Board of Internal Economy. It begs the question: why would the government be making this change?

I'd like to 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 the passage of Bill 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021*.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition today come from Moose Jaw. I do so present.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to present a petition drawing attention to the long-standing crisis in our classrooms. Those who have signed this petition today wish to draw our attention to a number of points, and want to let us know that despite the minister's claims of record investment in education, anyone near a school today — and there are many in the gallery — understand that years of cuts and underfunding and failure to keep up with fixed costs have created a really, really difficult situation in our kids' schools even before COVID, and that certainly has been exacerbated over the last two years.

They also want us to know that the Sask Party government's cuts leave educators and support staff without the resources that they need to support a pandemic recovery, and also that the Sask Party government's failures to invest in our classrooms will continue to have serious consequences into the future, Mr. Speaker, if we don't rectify this.

I'll read the prayer:

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

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

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to present our petition today calling for universal access to birth control. The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan has some of the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy — that's ages 12 to 20 — in the country; that cost is one of the biggest barriers to accessing contraceptive birth control in Saskatchewan, especially among adolescents; that having consistent and affordable access to contraceptive options is essential for promoting bodily autonomy, preventing unwanted pregnancy, and saving money on sexual and reproductive health care; and that sexual and reproductive health

and rights are human rights.

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 adopt a policy making no-cost prescription contraceptives available to all Saskatchewan people.

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

[14:00]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to rise today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan calling for the funding of in vitro fertilization treatments. It's always a privilege to stand and present this petition on behalf of the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people who have signed it and the families behind them.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about Saskatchewan being the best place in Canada to raise a family, to open a business, or to invest your money, surely, surely we can be helping people desperate to start and grow their own families. Because we in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, know that one in six couples in Canada experience infertility, and that taking out loans, cashing in retirement savings, all in the hopes of starting a family in the face of the struggle and heartbreak of infertility for far too many is financially damaging, let alone heartbreaking.

IVF [in vitro fertilization] treatments are prohibitively expensive with one cycle costing at least \$10,000, and other provinces in Canada have programs that financially assist.

I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request 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 the petition today come from Wilkie, Saskatchewan. I do so present.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to present the following petition. The folks who've signed this petition wish to bring to your attention the following: survivors of both Ile-a-la-Crosse and Timber Bay boarding schools have been denied the Indian Residential Schools Settlement that other sites received, on the basis that schools were run by the province of Saskatchewan rather than operated by the federal government. The province of Saskatchewan oversaw approximately 2,000 children attend a school in Timber Bay, which operated between 1952 and 1994. The Ile-a-la-

Crosse school operated between 1917 and 1995.

In 2019 the federal government and president of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan signed a memorandum of understanding committing parties to exploratory discussions to address the legacy of the Ile-a-la-Crosse boarding school. The province was not involved in the signing, although they have been invited.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call the Government of Saskatchewan to recognize the Ile-a-la-Crosse and Timber Bay schools as provincial-run residential schools, release the records of these schools, offer the students a formal apology, and compensate the survivors.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Quinton and Raymore. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Celebration of Eid al-Fitr

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today the Premier and I were honoured to attend and bring greetings at this year's Eid al-Fitr prayer event hosted by the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan. Eid al-Fitr is a celebration at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan is marked by intense religious discipline through fasting and nightly prayers.

Mr. Speaker, Ramadan is also centred on a celebration of the five pillars of the Islamic faith, with reverence for charity and fasting. Fasting is a way for Muslims to share the hunger and thirst of the needy as a reminder of their duty to help those less fortunate. Saskatchewan's Muslim associations and mosques provide charity work year-round as part of this duty. Saskatchewan Muslims continue to make contributions to society, whether that is through charity, medicine, science, technology, or business and entrepreneurship.

Like other religious groups in the province, Saskatchewan's Muslim community has been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. That's why it was a particularly special opportunity to gather with many of the Muslim communities to celebrate this year's Eid al-Fitr, to share iftar, and break the fast.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan and Imam Mohamed Masloh for hosting the Premier and myself for Eid al-Fitr. Assalamu alaikum, and happy Eid al-Fitr to all.

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

Ms. Beck: — It's my pleasure to rise and offer Eid mubarak, or blessed feast wishes, for all those in our province celebrating today. Mr. Speaker, today is a very special day as Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan.

Ramadan is a time to reflect and practise self-discipline through a month of fasting. Muslims fast as an act of worship and a chance to get closer to God. And as we mark the end of this holiest month of self-restraint and charitable acts, we're all reminded of the importance of service, empathy, and compassion for those in need. And while it is a celebration, it's also a chance to recommit to building a better future for all in this province and around the world. Our provincial motto is "from many peoples, strength," and the Muslim community exemplifies that motto.

I was honoured to bring greetings to those gathered for prayers this morning, along with my colleague, the member for Regina Rosemont; the Premier; Chief Bray; the member for Regina Coronation Park. Thanks to the honoured imam and the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan, Regina who graciously invited us to attend this morning. And I call on all members to join me in recognizing Eid al-Fitr and in offering our thanks to the Muslim community across Saskatchewan for all they do and contribute to our province. Assalamu alaikum; peace be upon you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Lloydminster Hockey Team Awarded Good Deeds Cup

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The under-13 female Lloydminster Blazers are this year's Chevrolet Good Deeds Cup champions. Mr. Speaker, the focus of this year's Good Deeds Cup was how to make hockey more accessible for everyone in the community. The U-13 [under 13] Blazers focused on ensuring their local arenas were accessible, an idea that came about because of a parent volunteer in a wheelchair.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say the Blazers are donating their \$100,000 in winnings to Inclusion Lloydminster. And on top of their \$100,000 winnings, the owner of the Lloydminster Chevrolet dealership, Ross Ulmer, surprised these young ladies by matching their winnings with another \$100,000 toward the cause.

Inclusion Lloydminster now has plans to work with the U-13 Blazers to develop more para hockey opportunities, as well as more accessible arenas. Thank you to everyone across Canada who donated their time and effort to submitting good deeds and promoting inclusivity in Canada's favourite pastime.

Mr. Speaker, the U-13 female Blazers now have their team's name engraved upon the Good Deeds Cup alongside other former winners. This is the first female team to win this cup since its inception six years ago. I now ask all members to join with me in congratulating the U-13 Blazers on this recognition of their efforts and thank them for bringing more inclusivity to Lloydminster's hockey community. Thank you.

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

May Day

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we celebrated May Day, also known as International Labour Day, a day of recognition of the struggle for workers' rights both past and present. In 1886 thousands of workers assembled in Chicago's Haymarket Square to protest unfair labour conditions,

standing together in solidarity to fight for the establishment of rights. This fight was taken up by workers internationally and was formally established as a day of recognition in 1904.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the debt owed to these workers and to all who have followed in their footsteps across the world and here in our own province in the advancement of workers' rights.

I invite my fellow members to reflect on the progress that remains to be made, especially in Saskatchewan. We are once again the province with the lowest minimum wage in Canada. Workers still are left waiting for paid sick leave legislation two years into a major pandemic. And we face a growing health care crisis in large part due to chronic understaffing our health care workers have been made to endure. Saskatchewan workers deserve better, Mr. Speaker.

I am proud to stand with labour and I call on my fellow members to do the same. I ask that all members now join me in recognizing May Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Recognizing Saskatoon Centenarians

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the privilege of serving as the MLA for a large number of older adults who reside in my constituency. The 2-mile radius around Saskatoon's Market Mall has the highest density of seniors in the province, and possibly the highest in the country.

Part of my good fortune of representing so many mature adults is the number of constituents who reach 100 years of age to officially become centenarians. I would like to highlight the following constituents who are centenarians: John Randall, Marion Gilroy, Jean Alston, Margaret McElhinney, Esther Kimpton, Lillian Long, Elsie Brookes, Mary Nagraiff, Iris Basrab, Freda Wills, and Margaret Kirby, who just joined this esteemed cohort last Saturday.

I read an article in the *Reader's Digest* entitled "How to live to 100 and love it." Mr. Speaker, the article talked about how we are living longer than ever before, thanks to healthier lifestyles and medical advancements such as vaccines and antibiotics.

I quote:

Researchers who study longevity and health have concluded the people who live the longest share some common characteristics in where and how they live and how proactively they take care of themselves.

The article outlined 45 proven habits to help reach a ripe old age, such as watching your weight, brushing your teeth, and getting your eyes checked. Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members to join me in congratulating these centenarians, and wish them all the very best. Thank you.

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

Wynyard Student Excels in Sledge Hockey

Mr. Nerlien: — Mr. Speaker, our government, alongside Sask Sport and Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan, recently recognized the athletes, coaches, officials, and staff who represented Saskatchewan at the 2020 Tokyo summer Olympics and Paralympic Games, as well as the 2022 Beijing winter Olympics and Paralympic Games.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the newly formed, first-ever provincial sledge hockey team. Sledge hockey is the Paralympic version of ice hockey. It is a fast-paced, highly physical game played by athletes experiencing physical disability in the lower part of their body.

Wynyard's Dawson Koch, who has played for the Regina Avengers for the past five years, is a member of Team Saskatchewan. Dawson was in a motor vehicle crash which left him paralyzed when he was eight years old. Prior to the crash, Dawson played in the Wynyard minor hockey league. A year after the crash, then principal Jeff Fisher rented Dawson a sledge from the wheelchair association to trial and utilize during the school physical education classes. It provided Dawson the opportunity to participate and excel in the game he loved to play.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me to cheer on Dawson and Team Saskatchewan as they prepare and make their way to Leduc, Alberta for the national championship. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Recognizing 10th Anniversary of STARS Air Ambulance

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 30th, 2022, STARS air ambulance or Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society celebrated 10 years of operation in Saskatchewan. STARS is a valued partner in Saskatchewan's emergency medical services and has transported or provided care to close to 6,500 patients since 2012.

STARS operates out of Regina and Saskatoon, providing high-quality care to those who need it most. STARS's commitment to innovation and the skills of STARS's critical care health providers and its aviation team has provided tremendous benefits to patients across the province, particularly to those in rural and remote areas and hard-to-reach communities.

Saskatchewan Health provides 11.9 million in annual funding to STARS, or 50 per cent of its operating costs. The rest comes from generous support of both corporate and private donors. In January of '21, the Government of Saskatchewan renewed its agreement with STARS for an additional 10 years, and total government funding increased by 1.4 million annually to finance one more helicopter and meet increased operating costs — two initiatives I was very proud to take part of in my time as Minister of Rural and Remote Health. The latest helicopter named after a former Saskatchewan Party MLA, Rod Gantefer, who was integral in bringing STARS to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to take this opportunity to thank STARS and the dedicated staff that provide emergency care to our rural and remote communities, keeping our province safe. I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in recognizing the

10th anniversary of STARS air ambulance operation in Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Search for Missing Child

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Frank Young has been missing from Red Earth Cree Nation since April 17th. Frank is five.

Yesterday at the request of Chief Fabian Head, the member for Cumberland and I visited Red Earth to meet with Frank's family and with community members. We witnessed the incredible search effort that is under way through difficult terrain in a community with many serious challenges.

People are heartbroken with sorrow over Frank's disappearance but also heart-warmed, grateful, for the support of the Public Safety Agency, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], the volunteers who've been searching non-stop and providing meals and other supports for rescue crews.

[14:15]

Chief and leadership did, however, express disappointment that invitations to government members to come and visit and support the community have not been accepted. The Premier, the Minister for Public Safety, Minister for First Nations and Métis relations, the Minister for Highways who is the MLA for Carrot River Valley — this is who the community wants to see show up to support Frank's family and the search and to better understand the reality of the challenges they face. To the Premier: when will he and cabinet members be making that trip to Red Earth Cree Nation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, you know, I thank the member opposite for that question. And let me just first start by saying that all of the thoughts of the government, Mr. Speaker, and the government members, in particular the member from Carrot River Valley, are with the Young family, with Frank Young's family, Mr. Speaker.

As we know, the public service agency, the public protection agency, as well as the RCMP are working very hard to find this missing youth, Mr. Speaker.

I have not seen an invitation, Mr. Speaker, but I trust and I know that the member from Carrot River Valley will reach out and be in touch with the family as well as with authorities in the area, which I trust are doing everything within their power, Mr. Speaker, like they do each and every time in Saskatchewan and across the nation when there is a young one that has gone missing.

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

Management of Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're living in truly unprecedented times. As a result of Putin's unforgivable invasion of Ukraine, already-high resource prices have been sent soaring. Meanwhile the cost of living has been sent sky-high for Saskatchewan people. In face of this, that government has done nothing new to support families across the province struggling to make ends meet. No fuel tax relief. No break on power bill hikes. Nothing new to address record inflation.

And on top of all of that, this budget adds property tax and adds the PST [provincial sales tax] to everything from Rider games to concerts to gym memberships and so much more, making life even more expensive at this incredibly challenging time. Why hasn't this government provided a stitch of new relief for Saskatchewan families in light of the crushing cost of living that they face?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, when it comes to affordability, I take note of the members' announcement this morning to increase taxes on our industries here, our natural-resource-based industries here in the province, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if that's why we have one of our more successful natural-resource-based industries here today, Mr. Speaker, a company that employs a good many people within the province. I doubt it, Mr. Speaker.

But let me just say that this government is always looking at what options we have available to make life more affordable. That's why, as the Deputy Premier has said many times in this House, we have close to \$3 billion that is made available — annualized, each and every year — for, in particular, low-income families here in the province, Mr. Speaker. But let me . . . And we're always looking at what options we may have or what tools we may have into the future.

Here we are one month into this fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, and we have the opposition already looking at how they can raise taxes on agriculture, on oil, our oil industry, on our mining industry, Mr. Speaker — never mind the fact that the mining industry was most recently ranked as number one in Canada; in Saskatchewan, the number one place to invest; number two worldwide, Mr. Speaker.

Here's what we won't do. We won't be increasing the taxes on those wealth-generating industries in our province, those industries that are employing people, providing jobs for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

But there are other opportunities for us to support, there are other opportunities for us to support Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, and Saskatchewan families. And that's why this government is, that's why this government is looking, Mr. Speaker, at what opportunities we may have for a market-based adjustment to our minimum wage here in the province. That market-based adjustment would go above and beyond the formula that we have. This is under active consideration today, Mr. Speaker, and this is a way that the government can work with our employers across the province to support Saskatchewan families, in particular those low-income Saskatchewan families.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know, Mr. Speaker, clearly that Premier's not letting the facts get in the way of his spin and his argument here, Mr. Speaker.

"I don't care." Those were the words of this Premier, as inexcusable as they were, with respect to climate change. But it's clear that that attitude pervades his government these days. Over a buck seventy a litre at the pumps. People breaking the bank just to fill the tank. And he dismisses this a few days back as just a few extra cents.

Why doesn't the Premier care that Saskatchewan people are facing soaring costs of living? Why is he so insistent on piling on new taxes onto Saskatchewan people that are struggling so much? Why is he so unwilling to look for a constructive, co-operative solution that'll provide some relief to Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, there was no dismissing the original question. I spoke to the \$3 billion that the Finance minister has spoken to many times on the floor of this Assembly, dollars that are made available each and every year to Saskatchewan families. Mr. Speaker, I spoke to the fact that we are always looking at what options we can put in place to make life more affordable for Saskatchewan residents.

I also spoke to the fact that the government is actively looking at a market-based adjustment, Mr. Speaker, to the minimum wage in this province, above and beyond the current formula that passed unanimously with all members in this House, Mr. Speaker.

And when it comes to comments made by leaders, either the government or the opposition, Mr. Speaker, what we saw this morning was really a repeat by the Leader of the Opposition and the Finance critic, Mr. Speaker, was really a rehashing of what the NDP have been saying for years. They change leaders over there from time to time, Mr. Speaker, but the NDP just simply doesn't change.

We saw this morning, Mr. Speaker, a commitment to increasing taxes on our resource-based industries and Saskatchewan jobs. It will kill jobs in this province, Mr. Speaker. And if we go back to the 2011 election, we had another Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Dwain Lingenfelter, that said, and I quote, "Maybe we could just squeeze a little more than a nickel on a dollar out of the potash corporation and do some of the things that the people in this province want."

Mr. Speaker, leader changes, leader changes — same old NDP.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's clear that basic economics defy that Premier. It's also rather evident as to why this government has never been able to balance a budget.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan own our resources, not the Sask Party. And while our valued and incredibly important resource sectors enjoy massive windfall profits, the people of Saskatchewan are being crushed by cost-of-living increases.

The government has the ability to provide relief today, and has the fiscal capacity to do so. Now is the time to step up. That's why we are calling for a very modest windfall-profit surcharge increase to deliver a cost-of-living dividend to Saskatchewan people, to get Saskatchewan people some relief with the revenues from their own resources.

How can the Premier be so dismissive of doing his job and delivering for Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, as I said in previous answers, not only do we already provide . . . And I was mistaken, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't 3 billion a year. It's \$2 billion each year that is provided to Saskatchewan families, that is provided to Saskatchewan families each and every year, Mr. Speaker, in particular with a focus on those families, those low-income families that we have in our province, Mr. Speaker.

And we want to go further. We want to go further. And that's why the government is actively, as we speak, not looking at increasing taxes on and killing jobs in the oil industry, in the ag industry, in the mining industry, Mr. Speaker, but looking at how we can support those that are on minimum wage in this province, looking at a market-based adjustment to the minimum wage level in this province, Mr. Speaker, a market-based adjustment that would go above and beyond the formula that we all agreed to on the floor of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, that's what the government is doing to ensure that we are providing every opportunity to make life more affordable for Saskatchewan families. And we're not above looking at other options that we might have. We're just not going to introduce new taxes one month after the budget's been introduced and passed in this House.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It's hyperbole like that that undermines the credibility of that Premier and in entering some very important conversations. As for job killing, well, that would be the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history — the PST of that government just a few years ago.

Mr. Speaker, what we're talking about here is an extra 1 per cent to the provincial resource surcharge when those industries are in massive windfall profits, when oil prices exceed 90 bucks a barrel, when potash prices exceed \$700 a K₂O [potassium oxide] tonne. That could add \$250 million to our provincial coffers this year alone.

These additional revenues can and should be given . . . give a break to Saskatchewan people and be invested to leave a lasting legacy, all while continuing to ensure the strength and high profitability of this, our important resource sector.

Will this government commit to implementing a windfall-profit surcharge to get dollars back into people's pockets to make ends meet?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — It's almost unbelievable to get a lesson from that side on basic economics. They called the economy embarrassing spin, Mr. Speaker. I mean, when you look at basic market international forces, obviously creating a climate is what is important, a climate for affordability, Mr. Speaker. And among the best ways to address affordability is putting in place basic structures that create jobs, Mr. Speaker.

The first crack in the armour is the resource surcharge. We know where that is going, Mr. Speaker. Wolf, sheep's clothing come to mind. Mr. Speaker, the member for Regina Lakeview has suddenly discovered that energy workers have feelings too, that they have gone through challenges. No guff. And yet they come out with a resource surcharge first chance they get.

She'd better take up her new-found positions with the member for Regina Elphinstone, who loves production caps; with the member for Saskatoon Nutana, who said that green transition is incredibly important, sooner rather than later. Four hundred and fifty thousand energy jobs in this country would immediately be put under threat. Not without irony, Mr. Speaker: coming to oil and on the other hand going after it guns blazing.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — What a bunch of political spin and nonsense from that minister. As far as who they're going after guns a-blazing, this is the government that's piling on with new taxes onto Saskatchewan people who are facing crushing cost of living in face of this extraordinary challenge.

The government has the capacity to do this, to step up and help Saskatchewan people, to be responsive, to show that they care. A windfall-resource-profit surcharge increase of 1 per cent could scrap the Sask Party's latest PST hike and deliver \$125 million in cost-of-living rebates to Saskatchewan people, and there would still be plenty left over.

Remaining funds should be split between a much-needed cash injection into our health system facing a generational crisis, and into home, farm, and business, building energy efficiency retrofit programs, creating jobs, reducing utility costs, and cutting emissions, leaving a lasting legacy for Saskatchewan people.

Why won't this government step up to act, to lead, to co-operate, to listen, and to adopt this plan to help Saskatchewan people out?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, it is frankly unbelievable to hear this veiled justification for being pro-energy by coming out and talking about a tax on energy. It is frankly incredible if we're talking about basic economics.

And, Mr. Speaker, they talk a lot about calling up the federal

government. They like to talk about how we should call up the federal government on things. 604-291-8863. That's the number for Jagmeet Singh, Mr. Speaker. That's the new puppet master who's running things on that side. Where have they been? They could pick up the phone on any of this, Mr. Speaker.

Agreeing with their new federal NDP-Liberal coalition masters is what they're doing: keep the oil in the ground; no position on Bill C-69; carbon tax, a pointless crusade; no position on the federal clean fuels standard; kill Northern Gateway; kill TMX [Trans Mountain Expansion]; cheer the laying off of energy workers; parrot that energy companies want hard production caps.

That is what they're about. And they've just shown it one more time today, Mr. Speaker, taxing resource companies by a supposedly enlightened means, which really doesn't mean it at all. It does.

[14:30]

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

Treatment and Prevention of COVID-19 in Children

Ms. Mowat: — Week after week, the Premier and Health minister continue to downplay the chaos in our health system. Doctors and nurses pleading for help. And now we see the highest number of school-age kids presenting in our hospitals since government started presenting these numbers. Compared to two months ago, we're seeing a 380 per cent increase in kids showing up at our ERs [emergency room] with COVID-like systems. This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, and yet we're hearing nothing from that minister. What is the minister's plan to protect kids and ensure that less of them end up in our hospitals?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And obviously we have a variety of tools out there with the general public. We have our rapid testing kits, Mr. Speaker. We have access to PCR [polymerase chain reaction] tests if people are presenting with underlying symptoms, Mr. Speaker. We also have vaccinations for any school-age children which is over the age of five, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of appointments available, as the member asked. We have appointments available at the Saskatchewan Health Authority. We also have our pharmacist agreement that we have that we can get these vaccines across our province, Mr. Speaker. We have a lot of vaccine appointments available, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage people.

But one of the things that we are doing, Mr. Speaker, to be able to help out the health care system, which was just announced earlier today, was the six additional ICU [intensive care unit] beds, Mr. Speaker, that was promised in this budget and delivered by this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, those six ICU beds don't do much for prevention, now do they?

It's not just our school-age kids showing up at ERs in need of care. There are nearly double the amount of preschool kids showing up in our emergency rooms compared to school-age kids. These kids are not yet eligible for vaccines. Right now there are more preschool kids showing up in ERs than any other demographic. This is alarming. There's absolutely nothing standing between Omicron and our kids.

At the very least, parents should be able to confirm their kids have COVID without going to the emergency room. It makes no sense. Will the minister commit to expanding PCR testing for sick kids today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as far as the school-aged children, last time when my kids went to school, it was age 6, which they are eligible for a vaccine, Mr. Speaker. So they can get their vaccination shots. Mr. Speaker, we also have over 19 million rapid tests out there that are available at locations across this province. We also have our vaccine clinics, Mr. Speaker. We have the tools and we have the education.

Mr. Speaker, what they are continuing to do over there is scare parents. What they need to understand is, parents in Saskatchewan need to understand that we have the equipment and we have the tools. If there are any concerns about your child's health, Mr. Speaker, I encourage those parents to go see their family physician or call 811, Mr. Speaker. If there is severe complications, then obviously they should be taking that child into the university.

But what they're doing over there, Mr. Speaker, is continue to fearmonger, Mr. Speaker. Our hospitals are able to meet the capacity of the incoming children and the incoming adults that are coming to see our emergency wards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, parents want access to testing when their kids are sick. What we are doing is standing up for parents and their requests. Mr. Speaker, only 41 per cent of 5- to 11-year-olds are fully vaccinated in Saskatchewan, and it's no surprise that we're seeing more kids in our emergency rooms than any other demographic. We have some of the worst pediatric uptake in the country, and now more kids than ever showing up at our hospitals for care. And it seems as though the minister is too busy downplaying the pandemic to do what it takes to protect our kids.

What is the minister's plan to increase our flatlined pediatric vaccine uptake to get kids the protection they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I challenge that member opposite to find one time that I've ever downplayed this pandemic since becoming the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. And the member from Meewasin, if he's got a question, he can pop up. I've never downplayed this.

I've always been working with Dr. Shahab and our front-line health care workers to make sure that we are putting the awareness out there, having access to vaccines, having access to rapid tests, that we have more access to rapid tests per capita than anywhere else in our country, Mr. Speaker. We have never downplayed this. They continue to say it — and I've told them this in committee — they continue to say it; they continue to tweet it. Doesn't mean it's accurate, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have always taken this pandemic extremely serious. We have always followed the advice of Dr. Shahab, and we'll continue to do that. We certainly won't be looking over there for any advice.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, it would be nice to get substance from that minister for once instead of spin.

There are some provinces, particularly in the Maritimes, that are leading the nation when it comes to pediatric vaccinations, Mr. Speaker. In PEI [Prince Edward Island], 52 per cent of kids are fully vaccinated and 69 per cent have at least one dose. In Newfoundland, 66 per cent of kids are fully vaccinated and a whopping 86 per cent have at least one dose. The difference in PEI and Newfoundland? They are providing COVID vaccines to kids in schools. They're meeting kids where they're at — something this government initially planned for but cancelled in the dying minutes.

Will the minister finally recognize that meeting kids and parents where they're at, in schools, will help protect more kids? Will the minister commit to reinstating in-school vaccine clinics today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To answer the question of the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, we were in schools. We were one of the first ones in the country to go into schools, setting them up at all of the local schools and hubs, Mr. Speaker, at the high schools, to make sure that those high school students had that access.

Mr. Speaker, we've got access all across our province for vaccines. And again I'll remind the members opposite that the vaccination of children and youth is something that they have to have that conversation with their parents around the table, Mr. Speaker.

Are they saying that we should mandate vaccines for kids five and up, Mr. Speaker? Because I'd love to be able to do that. I know they moved a motion that they wanted to be able to do that, and they also wanted to make sure that they excluded kids that weren't vaccinated from schools, Mr. Speaker. On this side of the House, we'll never do that. We'll make sure that that choice of that child getting vaccinated will stay with their parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, this is the 13th day this spring I

rise on behalf of Saskatchewan families — today the Bird 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 on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I extend my deepest condolences to the Bird family and any family in this province that has lost a loved one to suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity, as many members in this House have, to speak with families who have been affected by these tragedies across this province. It's why, Mr. Speaker, this is a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan; I think, Mr. Speaker, a priority for all members of this House and the communities across our province.

We continue to invest significant dollars into the area of suicide prevention across Saskatchewan through our Pillars for Life suicide prevention plan which was released in May of 2020. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of initiatives that have been funded through that plan. There are other initiatives funded through this ministry, through the Ministry of Education, when it comes to suicide prevention strategies and programs in our schools for young people.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to make investments in this area and work with our community partners to do everything we can to help families across this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, families who have lost loved ones, seeing the Pillars for Life, some don't even know what it is. They wonder what's going on. They're asking the government for help. They want to work with the government. The opposition wants to work with the government to come up with a strategy, a plan. Legislation that we passed in this House unanimously — that's what leaders, that's what families are asking for.

Will the government once and for all commit to working with us, those families, those leaders, to do a plan to save Saskatchewan lives? And if we save one life, then it's worth the efforts we put into this legislation and the good work that needs to come forward.

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill 601 was passed unanimously last April of 2021. The strategy that bill calls for already existed, which is Pillars for Life, Mr. Speaker, and had been operational since May of 2020.

We continue to make significant investments into this area, Mr. Speaker, programs such as Roots of Hope in three northern Saskatchewan communities, Mr. Speaker. We have a letter of commitment signed with the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], and we continue to meet with representatives through our officials at the FSIN to work on

advancing initiatives and continuing to meet and discuss with communities across this province, families across this province, Mr. Speaker.

This is a challenge that doesn't exist just here in Saskatchewan. Suicide prevention is something that people across this country are very concerned about, and we're going to continue to do that work, Mr. Speaker, and work with people across Saskatchewan.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

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 University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debate for the second time on Bill 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021*.

Mr. Speaker, as we're all fully aware, this bill creates a new Legislative Protective Service that will be responsible for partisan security for the legislature. As a result, as we heard in my colleague's petition earlier today, the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms will be reduced to one of a ceremonial nature only. Under Bill 70, the Sergeant-at-Arms will only have jurisdiction over the security of the floor of this Chamber — not even the galleries of the Chamber, only the floor, Mr. Speaker.

The bill splits the Legislative Assembly into two parts: the legislative precinct and the legislative district. The precinct will be restricted to the Chamber; the district will include the rest of the Legislative Building as well as the grounds, as was previously defined as the legislative precinct. The bill also gives the Minister Responsible for Policing the ability to appoint a director of the Legislative Protective Service, Mr. Speaker.

You are of course aware of the long-standing parliamentary custom that the precincts of parliament are protected by the Assembly through the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have yet to hear any semblance of a plausible explanation from this government as to why this custom is being breached.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I've said before and I'll say again, really the most suspicious thing about this bill is that not one member from this government — not one single member — has had any actual points to make about a real, actual-life example of a security threat here that would necessitate a change in security services, which seems incredibly fishy, Mr. Speaker. It sure seems that way to those of us on this side of the House and those of us who have been raising concerns about this bill from day

one, including in the media and including a former well-known Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Minister for Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, who is responsible for this bill, the very person who the proposed new director of security would be answering to, has literally no answers when asked about the details of the bill. And that is of obvious concern to everyone on this side of the House. It's quite bizarre, Mr. Speaker. It really makes a person wonder what the real objectives of this bill are.

Mr. Speaker, there's also the matter of maintaining the independence of police from government, as well as maintaining the independent non-partisan nature of the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Any reasonable person can surely see the crucial significance of this.

And one more thing, Mr. Speaker, this has been noted by many of my colleagues already. We all know that issues related to security should be dealt with and normally are dealt with at the Board of Internal Economy as a bipartisan board. And again we've been left with no explanation as to why this process has not been followed, which raises many red flags, Mr. Speaker.

Believe it or not, and some of you may have heard this in my initial remarks, I do know a thing or two about security, Mr. Speaker. I did actually work in fact as a corrections officer at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre for about two years after university, where I was assigned to the high security unit in the correctional centre. The secure unit, Mr. Speaker, had some extremely intense security threats. There were, not infrequently, situations where the unit was set on fire, where the unit was fully flooded, Mr. Speaker, where shanks were not uncommonly found on routine searches of the unit. Mr. Speaker, those are actual real-life security threats, Mr. Speaker. That's what a real security threat looks like.

If someone like me, at the tender age of, you know, 23 years old, 25 years old when I worked there, could handle security risks in a unit like that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pretty sure we can manage just fine with the professional security services that the Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff provide for us here at this legislature.

[14:45]

So you really have to wonder, Mr. Speaker, if all of this is just the government's cowardly attempt to quash protest activity outside of the legislature that those members clearly do not want to have to deal with, so that they don't have to face the people of this province that they are failing.

I'll say again, you know, we have examples that a number of my colleagues have mentioned, which I've mentioned in my earlier remarks, camp justice, Tristen Durocher, and Walking with Our Angels. We all know the government's response to those kind of protests at our legislature. And we all know that, you know, those camps were shuffled out of here, were pushed out of here as quickly as this government could get them out of the way and out of their sight. And you really have to wonder, I mean we're highly suspicious that this bill is intended to further quash the rights of people who are protesting outside of their legislature.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, all of us here, all of us who have

been elected to serve the people of Saskatchewan, we signed up for a job that involves listening to and hearing people's concerns. It's a key element of our jobs, Mr. Speaker. It's a responsibility that none of us should be attempting to weasel our way out of. The people of Saskatchewan have a right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, which indeed includes the right to protest at this very legislature.

Protests are one way for people to express themselves; for example, in relation to decisions that are being made or not made by their government, as was the case with camp justice and Tristen Durocher, where we know the protesters in both of those cases were here to express their discontent with a lack of action. And in both cases, it was a lack of action that disproportionately impacts Indigenous people in our province, Mr. Speaker.

And I would say it's highly concerning that, especially with those specific protests, that this government did not want anything to do with it. You know, the Premier couldn't even be bothered to cross the lawn to meet with protesters. That's the kind of disrespect that this government has shown to people who are struggling, who are suffering greatly with systemic discrimination and injustice in our society, Mr. Speaker.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms sets out the rights and freedoms that Canadians believe are essential in a free and democratic society. Section 2 of the Charter enshrines a number of fundamental freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, Mr. Speaker. Justice Peter Cory wrote of freedom of expression, that it is "... difficult to imagine a guarantee or right more important to a democratic society."

The meaning of "expression," as per section 2(b) of the Charter, has been interpreted broadly to include any activity that conveys or attempts to convey meaning, with the exception of acts of violence and threats of violence. Mr. Speaker, although closely related to freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly has been written as a separate right under section 2(c) of the Charter. This freedom has been described as "the individual right or ability of people to come together and collectively express, promote, pursue, and defend their collective or shared ideas."

Mr. Speaker, I once again strongly urge this government to reconsider this ill-conceived bill. I urge them to scrap this bill and to start showing the Sergeant-at-Arms and his team the respect that they deserve. Mr. Speaker, at this time I will ask for leave to adjourn Bill 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Ms. Bowes: — At this time I move to adjourn Bill 70.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to be on my feet and enter some brief, very brief comments in on Bill 79, *The Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation Act*. You know, being a critic on this file, I know the minister and I will have opportunity for further discussion at committee and as more of the regulations emerge for this bill. I know my colleagues on this side of the aisle have been doing incredibly good work with stakeholders, reaching out and consulting, especially my colleague from Saskatoon Centre, our critic for First Nations and Métis relations.

You know, taking a read through this bill, obviously assisting Indigenous-owned businesses in accessing capital, and you know, having an organization that operates, as I understand it, similarly to our Municipal Financing Corporation here is of course great to help those First Nations who can't, you know, leverage their own equity due to the failures in the system. To do so is of course something we on this side of the aisle and, I suppose, both sides of the aisle here in the legislature, support.

But you know, being a new piece of legislation and a substantial one as well with real opportunities not just for First Nations but for Métis communities, Indigenous-owned businesses, Métis-owned businesses, there are important questions to be asked and scrutiny to take place to ensure that this new bill, this new piece of legislation is everything that it should and ought to be for all Indigenous-, Métis-, and First Nations-owned businesses or ventures here in the province. And with those comments I am prepared to let this bill move to its next stages.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 79 be read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. To which committee shall this . . . Sorry. Clerk, I won't cut you off.

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

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

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 Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. This bill has been canvassed rather thoroughly in adjourned debates thus far before the legislature, of course this bill being No. 80, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act*, looking at the creation of a single innovation agency here in the province of Saskatchewan, you know, with the stated goal of expanding Innovation Saskatchewan. And I suppose that's the government's authority to operate those parks, Mr. Speaker.

I look forward to discussing this bill in committee with the minister, and with that I am prepared to allow it to move to its next stages.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 81 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of Bill 80.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — To the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

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 Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in debate on Bill No. 81, *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act*. This is a bill that will outline expectations for all 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. The minister can order compliance on recommendations made by the minister to a regulatory body, and regulatory bodies can appeal decisions and also apply for exemption from ministerial oversight and interference.

I guess I would start my comments on this bill by acknowledging the, you know, unique direction that this bill is heading. This isn't

a typical kind of amendment to an existing Act. This is new legislation setting a new bar for how these regulated professions are going to be conforming with trade agreements. And there's a higher degree, it would seem, of involvement by the minister in what has been more independently regulated professions.

And I would say that, as a member of this Legislative Assembly who is also a member of a regulated profession, this is something that I take particular interest in debating here today. Certainly as a professional engineer, there are a number of bylaw requirements that I must conform to in the practice of my work. There is a scope of practice for the work that I'm able to do as a professional engineer.

I had to go through a very thorough process as an engineer-in-training, overseen by a senior engineer, to ensure that when conducting my work that I was conforming with the regulations and the bylaws that my profession falls under. It's a self-regulating body, you know, so our members are overseen in the governance of the profession. It requires a lot of due diligence. It is a solemn responsibility that, as engineers, we take very seriously.

And so I think, as this bill is coming here before us, it's important that it ensures that due diligence isn't compromised in the process of, of course . . . You know, we're always looking to see where we can remove unnecessary barriers to entry. And you know, obviously here in Saskatchewan we have a significant need for workers across a diverse range of professions. And certainly we don't want to see there being things put in the way, that proceeding in a fair and reasonable manner, one isn't burdened by unnecessary administrative processes.

But I would also caution, based on, you know, my experience in a regulated profession that, you know, we want to make sure that this is gone about in the right way, that there is a need for adequate consultation with all of the professions and trades and skilled workers that are going to be impacted by this Act to ensure that there aren't any unintended consequences from this legislation.

And I do want to relate a particular story here today in terms of my own experience with, you know, internationally educated professionals where there isn't the same kind of rigour in how academic credentials are given out. We do have parts of, you know, the world where they are under the influence of corruption and sometimes will not have credentials that meet our high standards.

That's something that I ran into in my time volunteering for CESO [Canadian Executive Services Organization] on the MERIT [Mongolia Enhancing Resource Management through Institutional Transformation] project, which was providing governance and oversight to the mining sector a few years ago. And I became aware of a number of the issues with the university system there in Mongolia that's unfortunately prone to a lot of corruption.

[15:00]

And so that will be the caution that I would be offering here to this debate here today. I know that other members of my caucus will have much more to say, in particular on the greater need for

adequate consultation on that bill. And with that I will resume my comments and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 81. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 82

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 82 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak on this Bill No. 82, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022*.

You know, when it comes to income tax initiatives, and this bill speaks to increasing the tax credit for value-added agriculture incentive from 15 per cent to 30 per cent on projects between 400 and 600 million, and 15 per cent to 40 per cent on projects above 600 million. It also increases the annual credit cap from 2.5 million to 3.5 million for technology start-up initiative program. Also this is updating the provincial income tax as requested by the CRA [Canada Revenue Agency].

You know, we welcome the value-add in investment in business and technology in Saskatchewan. It's also really good to see initiatives that will hopefully bring people to Saskatchewan and diversify our economy. My question is, who's going to move to Saskatchewan when our health care system and education system are in crisis? You know, we keep losing people moving out of the province.

And as much as this government keeps saying that it cares for the people of this province, it continues to tax people more, rather than give relief when it's needed the most. We all know that the cost of living has increased a lot. In this House, as elected officials, we're very, very privileged to have a salary that we do have, but many don't enjoy that privilege. There's lots of people that have to live paycheque to paycheque. More and more people are having to use food banks just to make ends meet. And then there's even some folks that have to choose between paying for their prescriptions or getting food.

Now this government has chosen to introduce 32 fee and tax increases. I don't know about you guys, but I know the people that I know enjoy going out and enjoy taking their family out every once in a while. There's going to be PST on movies. You know, like I know there's lots of people that I know that like to treat their families, little children.

I remember taking my grandchildren to a movie theatre, my husband and I, and we thought it was going to be a cheap evening. Well it cost us a lot of money for our little kids for popcorn, for pop, for the movie. And we thought it was going to be a very

cheap night for us. Well it wasn't cheap, but my husband and I could afford that. But I think of those that don't have the income, that are going to have to pay more.

So the museums, you know, I think of back home, the Saskatoon forestry farm, you know, my grandchildren go to that, and my daughter. They don't have a big income, but that's a treat for her. But now she's going to have to pay more.

The other thing is fishing. There's people that love fishing. I love fishing. Fortunately I'm a treaty status Indian, and I can go fishing as long as I show my treaty status card. But I have friends who aren't treaty, and they pay for fishing licences. So you're going to be paying more.

I have a lot of friends that love golfing, lots and lots of friends. And a lot of Indigenous people love golfing. That's going to impact them — and I'd be delighted and welcome the opportunities for those First Nations to build golf courses in their communities — because the cost, the PST that's being added today. These small towns, that's what they rely on, on these golf tournaments that come, because people purchase, get a hotel room, they eat, and so on. So the cost of that is going up, PST.

PST on conferences. Major cities — I know in the last two years we didn't have conferences — many communities, many organizations have conferences in the major cities. And we already know the cost is expensive when you want to have a gathering, but to add PST on that is going to limit how many. So the communities are going to lose that.

Residential property tax. One thing I've always said is, I don't mind paying property tax on my residential home, but I want services. You know, I want my roads maintained. I want my streets cleared off. We have to improve the services we do have today. You know, the increase on Crown land rental rate for outfitters and also increased Crown land access roads — I'm like, what?

So these taxes, how are these taxes that have been introduced by this government going to help those that don't enjoy a salary like we do in this House? And many of my colleagues will also add their remarks to this. But I just want to leave with this: that this government says it cares, but it introduced these 32 tax increases. This government does not care for the people of this province.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to adjourn debate on this bill. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 83

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 83 — *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise on Bill No. 83, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2022*. You know, of course, tobacco taxes are considered a sin tax. This one will add 2 cents per cigarette, increasing the cost from 27 to 29 cents, along with an 8 cent increase for smokeless tobacco, an increase of 1.3 for heated tobacco, and 8 cents per gram increase for roll-your-own tobacco. These increases are expected to generate revenue of 12.1 million annually. And also includes some other housekeeping amendments.

You know, this would be one of the few taxes of the 32 that were introduced in the last budget that we, you know, we can't really be in disagreement with. Certainly we're always looking for progressive tax measures that are fair and reasonable, that don't place a heavy and unfair balance on those on the lower socio-economic end of the scale.

And you know, we've talked a lot about our concerns with the manner in which the 6 per cent sales tax has been applied on everything from fitness gym memberships to Rider games, to curling, to tourism and entertainment, and you know, that we would argue is placing an unfair burden, is a regressive form of taxation, and not what we would be in support of.

And you will recall today, Mr. Speaker, that our critic for Finance made a proposal today for an alternate approach here that would provide a more fair and equitable means of revenue generation, something that I noted that the Finance minister neglected or refused or I'm not sure what — chose not to stand on her feet and answer the questions that our Finance critic brought forward to him on our proposal, which I think offered a far more fair and balanced approach to revenue generation.

And unfortunately, I don't know how this happened, but we've somehow managed to leave ourselves short for time to debate these very important matters of taxation at a time when we're debating a budget that is hitting people squarely in the pocketbook at a time when we're experiencing high inflation and windfall profits within our energy and resource sectors.

And so I take no great pleasure in having to cut those remarks short here today, and at this time will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 83.

The Speaker: — 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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 84 — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debate on Bill 84, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022*. We're short on time here so I'll be quick. Mr. Speaker, this bill will expand the PST to include admissions, entertainment, and recreation charges effective October 1st of this year. It also proposes that PST apply to services provided by credit rating agencies effective April 1st of this year.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:16.]

These 32 new taxes and fees that the government is applying in their budget to products and services are being used to fund this government's chronic and continued mismanagement of our province's finances, Mr. Speaker. I listed a number of these taxes in my budget reply, and I'll say again, a very regressive form of taxation, an expansion yet again from this government on the PST instead of implementing progressive forms of taxation that are fair for the people of this province.

PST again being expanded and impacting especially those with the least of money, Mr. Speaker. But as we've seen, that's A-okay [all systems okay] with this government, because they don't really care about working-class people or the poor or those who are otherwise marginalized in our society.

We see that reflected in our minimum wage, Mr. Speaker, the lowest minimum wage in all of Canada, a poverty wage. While Saskatchewan's minimum wage is calculated in such a way that means it does not even match the rising costs of inflation, we as MLAs just received a 2.6 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker, which is tied directly to inflation. Good enough for us, Mr. Speaker, but apparently not for the lowest paid workers in our province. We get paid the fourth-highest MLA salary in the country while the people we serve are shafted with the lowest minimum wage in Canada. Doesn't that just about tell you everything you need to know, Mr. Speaker? This government simply has no respect for the affordability crisis that ordinary people in Saskatchewan are facing. They are completely out of touch.

[15:15]

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 84, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022*.

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 Government House Leader.

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

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader 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 1:30 tomorrow.

CORRIGENDUM

On page 2122 of *Hansard* No. 44A, Wednesday, April 6, 2022, the final sentence of the third-last paragraph in the right-hand column should read:

More importantly, it provides clarity in purpose and ownership in delivering on the goal of tripling the tech sector in the province by 2030 by integrating policy and programming with facilities to support those stakeholders.

The online transcript for Wednesday, April 6, 2022 has been corrected.

We apologize for this error.

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation
Minister Responsible for
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