



THIRD 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
3rd 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 — Carla Beck

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Principal Clerk — Kathy Burianyak

Clerk Assistant — Robert Park

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

Merriman	2785
Love.....	2785
Reiter	2785
Young, A.....	2785
Tell	2785
Harpauer	2785

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Harrison, D.....	2785
Nippi-Albright.....	2786
Young, A.....	2786
Bowes	2786

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

National Aboriginal Veterans Day	
Nippi-Albright.....	2786
Appointment of New Chair to Regina Airport Authority	
McLeod.....	2787
Recognition for Eastview Seniors' Hub Club	
Love.....	2787
Reopening of Provincial Court House in Lloydminster	
Young, C.....	2787
Regina Thunder Host Okanagan Sun in Junior Football Final	
Meyers	2787
Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence Awards 2022	
Wyant.....	2788
Natural Resource Development	
Francis	2788

QUESTION PERIOD

Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit	
Beck.....	2788
Moe.....	2788
Response to Complaints Regarding Bible College	
Beck.....	2789
Moe.....	2789
Wyant.....	2789
Bowes	2789
Oversight of Qualified Independent Schools	
Love.....	2791
Duncan.....	2791
Education and Provincial Economy	
Young, A.....	2791
Duncan.....	2792
Harrison, J.....	2792
Interpersonal Violence Rates and Support for Second-Stage Shelters	
Sarauer	2792
Eyre.....	2793

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 96 — <i>The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act</i>	
Marit	2793
Bill No. 97 — <i>The Architects Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Carr.....	2793

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Ottenbreit	2793
------------------	------

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 94 — <i>The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act</i>	
Harpauer	2793
Conway.....	2794
Bill No. 95 — <i>The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Reiter	2794
Conway	2795

ADJOURNED DEBATES
SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 89 — *The Income Tax (Affordability) Amendment Act, 2022*
 Wotherspoon2795
 Harrison, J. (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee)2796
Bill No. 88 — *The Saskatchewan First Act*
 Wotherspoon2797
Bill No. 90 — *The Telecommunications Statutes (Borrowing Powers) Amendment Act, 2022*
 Nippi-Albright.....2798
Bill No. 91 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Part III) Amendment Act, 2022*
 Young, A.2799
Bill No. 92 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2022*
 Nippi-Albright.....2800
Bill No. 93 — *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2022*
 Young, A.2800

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce some members that are joined in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, from the lung association on Take Action on Radon committee. We have four guests up there. Jennifer May, who's very familiar with the Assembly, comes down quite often, a little bit of a political geek, and really enjoys question period. I think she watches it actually when she's not even here, Mr. Speaker.

We've also got David Innes, Tysan Jones, and Christine Elliott. And Christine has actually allowed me, Mr. Speaker, to share some news that she, just before question period, that she got a call from her oncologist and she is cancer free, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate her on her journey through this, Mr. Speaker. And Christine, I had an opportunity to meet her last night. What an amazing woman and an amazing story that she tells about radon, Mr. Speaker.

We're able to support radon here by wearing our white ribbons that we have, Mr. Speaker, that are distributed throughout the House. We're very pleased that they're able to be here and educate us about radon that is in our communities, Mr. Speaker. And I would encourage everybody to please go and get a radon kit to be able to test their homes.

So with that, I'd like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming our guests from Lung Saskatchewan to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Jennifer, for paying attention at question period. We love to hear when folks watch what goes on in here. Also welcome to David and Tysan and especially to Christine.

I join with the minister in congratulating you on that great news today, and along with members of the opposition, wearing our white ribbons in support of your valued work. Thank you for what you do and thank you for being here in your Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly, I'd like to introduce a guest in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Mark Scholz. Mark is the president and CEO [chief executive officer] of the Canadian Association of Energy Contractors. Mr. Speaker, that association

represents the energy service and drilling contractors, which of course play a crucial role in Saskatchewan's production of not only oil but also helium, hydrogen, geothermal, and lithium extraction.

Mr. Speaker, Mark's here today. We'll have an opportunity to meet later this afternoon, along with myself and the Minister of Highways and Transportation. But he's also here, Mr. Speaker, he'll be hosting a reception on behalf of their association for all members of this Assembly. And we look forward to that event tonight. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to please give Mark a warm welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members, I'd like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming Mr. Scholz to his Assembly and thanking you for your continued presence here over the years. I had the pleasure of attending the reception last year and had some great and colourful discussions with your members, as well as recognition, the strong advocacy work that you do for all the folks that you represent.

So on behalf of the official opposition, thank you again for your continued presence in the legislature and for what I'm sure will be a rollicking good time tonight.

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce in your west gallery 21 grade 6 students. Give a wave, guys. Here we go. Accompanying them is their teacher, Erin Doobay, and I certainly look forward to, after question period, meeting with the group along with the Minister of Finance. I ask all members to welcome them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the minister, my colleague, on the introduction of the students from Wascana Plains and welcome them all. But there's one particular student that is very near and dear to my heart and that is my granddaughter, Makenna Harpauer-Matechuk. And she's always been very near and dear to my heart. She is my only granddaughter; I have all other grandsons. And she's kind of a superstar in my heart. And her passion in this particular year is ringette. I'm able to attend some of her games but not as many as I would like. And she's also pretty good at lacrosse, Mr. Speaker. So I'm very proud of my granddaughter and I welcome her here.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring your attention to the following: that the Liberal-NDP [New Democratic Party] federal government continues to infringe on

the constitutional rights of the province of Saskatchewan and implement policies that are detrimental to our province's economic well-being; that the commitments and actions of the federal government have made the control of Saskatchewan's resource rights unclear; that an unsupportive federal government will continue to impede Saskatchewan's potential to play a global role in providing resources to the world market.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to implement Saskatchewan-first policies and legislation that will support the development of Saskatchewan as a global supplier of food, fuel, and fertilizer without federal infringement on Saskatchewan's constitutional authority.

Signed by members from Carrot River and Nipawin, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be presenting this petition on behalf of the folks that signed this around the duty to consult. We here in Saskatchewan, our Crown lands are being sold off without meaningful consultation and it's costing this province money. It's costing the people of this province money each time this government is . . . Would the minister across like to present this?

So here, Saskatchewan is a growing province, and the unoccupied Crown land that we still have need to be protected in order for First Nation and Métis people to exercise their hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. So the lack of meaningful duty to consult is of no interest to the minister in charge of this. However:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately stop selling off the Crown lands, and work with First Nation and Métis people.

The folks that signed here are from Nekaneet and Peepeekisis First Nation. I do so present.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to be on my feet again today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan calling for the funding of in vitro fertilization treatments.

Mr. Speaker, we know that this is an issue near and dear to so many inside and outside of this legislature, with one in six couples in Saskatchewan being impacted by infertility, let alone the many queer and sexually diverse couples who are eager to grow their families here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. People are good for this province and anything we can do to increase that birth rate, increase people who are willing to call this great place home, is a great thing to do for families and a sound economic

policy.

I'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, again today every signatory on this petition is from Humboldt, Saskatchewan. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present a petition today calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to bring in pay equity legislation.

The residents that have signed this petition would like to bring to our attention the following points: that Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation; Saskatchewan also has one of the highest gender wage gaps in Canada, which is the result of systemic gender discrimination in compensation for work that must be corrected by pay equity legislation; the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission over 25 years ago recommended proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation, which has to date not been pursued by the Government of Saskatchewan; that while *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* prohibits gender-based compensation discrimination, the complaint-driven process puts no positive obligation on employers; that while pay equity advocacy primarily seeks to address gender-based wage discrimination, it must also be mindful of ability-, age-, identity-, and race-based wage discrimination.

I'll read the prayer:

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

The petition today has been signed by residents of Saskatoon. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

National Aboriginal Veterans Day

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. National Aboriginal Veterans Day was created to recognize the over 5,000 First Nation and Métis veterans in Canada who served Canada. These First Nation and Métis men and women had to adjust to new cultures, be away from their loved ones, and in some cases learn to speak English. First Nation and Métis veterans played a vital role in these wars, Mr. Speaker.

As a kid in Brownies and as a teenager in army cadets, I remember marching with First Nation and non-First Nation

veterans from the surrounding communities. Every Remembrance Day I felt so proud marching with these veterans and feeling so honoured to be asked to place a wreath at the memorial. And once the laying of the wreaths was completed, we would all go back to the theatre to hear of all the names of the veterans who served in these wars, Mr. Speaker. I was so proud of these veterans, especially the ones I knew personally.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday a funeral was held in Regina for the last, oldest veteran from George Gordon First Nation, Reverend Arthur Anderson. Arthur Anderson was a gentle and kind soul. Thank you, Art, for your service. You will be missed by many.

To all the First Nations and Métis veterans in Saskatchewan and across Canada, miigwech, maarsii. Thank you for your service and the sacrifices you made to ensure the safety and security of citizens of our province and all Canadians.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Appointment of New Chair to Regina Airport Authority

Hon. Mr. McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to Trish Martynook on becoming the first-ever female board Chair of the Regina Airport Authority. Mr. Speaker, not only is Trish the first female board Chair, she is also the first-ever Chair to come from the city of Moose Jaw.

I would like to read a quote from Trish where she stated, “I feel encouraged. I think it is evidence that there is room for women at the board table.” Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more, and I hope that Trish’s well-earned appointment inspires other women all around the province to continue to get involved in the pursuits and the initiatives that they are passionate about.

Mr. Speaker, since her original appointment back in 2014, Trish has served on the board with distinction. She is the right person to chair the board as the airport seeks to recover from the losses incurred during the pandemic. Two of Trish’s main goals are to rebuild the airport’s passenger count and to regain full transborder flight capacity at the Regina International Airport.

Mr. Speaker, it is a joy and an honour to congratulate my friend, Trish Martynook, and wish her all the best as she works to bring a brighter future to the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

[13:45]

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

Recognition of Eastview Seniors’ Hub Club

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, it’s my honour to rise today and recognize the work of the Eastview Community Association in organizing and hosting the Eastview Seniors’ Hub. This is a dedicated group of adults 55-plus who meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Nutana Legion in Eastview. The seniors’ hub gives independent older adults a place to come together and socialize, as well as connect with resources right in

our community.

A few weeks ago the Eastview Seniors’ Hub Club invited me to join them at the Legion, and it was truly an honour and a privilege to spend time with some of Saskatoon’s finest citizens. Presentations were held by Saskatoon city transit, Lung Saskatchewan, an SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] dental program, the Saskatoon library, and my constituency office as critic for seniors.

I had the privilege of meeting many constituents to discuss the concerns and questions and, of course, share in some laughter. We were able to provide them with information on services for seniors and to help them navigate the sometimes confusing network of government programs that are meant to support seniors in our province. We all enjoyed the time together as a chance to connect with friends old and new. Spending time with older adults gives me meaningful prospective and appreciation for Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking the Eastview Seniors’ Hub for their excellent service to older adults in Saskatoon.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Court Services at Lloydminster Provincial Court House

Ms. C. Young: — Mr. Speaker, this year’s Speech from the Throne included a commitment from this government to ensure timely prosecution and a commitment to fully reopen and restore services in the Provincial Court House in Lloydminster. On Friday, October the 28th, we did just that.

An event was held by the Ministry and Minister of Justice and Attorney General to recognize the re-establishment of the Lloydminster Court House as a permanent location. Our government listened to Saskatchewan people regarding the rise in crime, increased caseloads, the lack of court services, and the negative impact the closing of the court had. Mr. Speaker, ensuring that everyone has equal access to the justice system is not only a priority for my constituents, but it is a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan.

The event had a great response from community leaders in attendance who stated that it will have a positive impact on the community going forward. Mr. Speaker, the permanent courthouse in Lloydminster will allow for greater access to justice, improve efficiency, and create jobs for those in the community. A total of five Provincial Court staff and five deputy sheriffs will be hired on a full-time basis to operate the facility. We are proud to be part of this improvement in access to justice in Lloydminster and surrounding areas, and look forward to the many years of operation ahead. Thank you.

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

Saskatchewan Junior Football Achievements

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well as we all know, football’s like religion here in this province, but of course the Saskatchewan Roughriders didn’t have the season that many in

the 306 were hoping for, seeing we're hosting the Grey Cup next week. However, that doesn't mean it wasn't a successful season in Saskatchewan football.

The U of S [University of Saskatchewan] Huskies and the Regina Rams finished 1-2 in Canada West and hosted both playoff games, seeing the Huskies off to the Canada West finals.

And recently our two junior football superpowers of the province met head-to-head in the PFC [Prairie Football Conference] conference final. After going a perfect 8 and 0 in the regular season for a second straight year, the Regina Thunder were looking to avenge last year's loss to those historic giants from up north, the Saskatoon Hilltops.

Powered by Ryland Leichert's 190 yards on the ground and Carter Shewchuk's 312 yards passing, the Thunder rolled to their second PFC championship. But they say any good team starts with a good offensive line, the big boys up front, the hoggies, and I just want to throw a special shout-out to one of our own, Nick Makowsky, who helped pave the way for the explosive offence.

The Thunder are now set to host the Okanagan Sun this Saturday afternoon in the Canadian Bowl at Mosaic Stadium right here in Regina. I'd like to encourage all members to get out, to support our boys from Regina, and wish them well as they head towards a national championship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence Awards 2022

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to attend and bring greetings at the 2022 SABEX [Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence] Awards which were held at TCU Place in Saskatoon a couple weeks ago. Mr. Speaker, SABEX is Saskatoon's premier business awards program and an annual reminder of the strength and success of our outstanding business community in Saskatoon.

This annual event is hosted by the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. And I'd like to take a second and thank Jason Aebig, CEO, and his team for putting together such a great event, and to Trish Cheveldayoff and Andrew McDonald for their great work as emcees that evening.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honour to be in attendance and congratulate this year's inductees into Saskatoon's business hall of fame, which were Sherwood and Elaine Sharfe. Sherwood and Elaine have owned and operated Sherwood Chevrolet in Saskatoon for over 50 years. Mr. Speaker, Sherwood and Elaine are well known in Saskatoon for their philanthropy in education and in arts, and in important community and business initiatives. Mr. Speaker, they've been strong advocates for human rights, citizenship and immigration, and inclusion through their work with Centurus Citizenship Education Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members to help me congratulate Sherwood and Elaine on this well-deserving award and thank them for everything they do for the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank everyone who attended to make

that event such a great success. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Natural Resource Development

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Old Man Winter has arrived with a vengeance and once again most of us are very thankful for the natural resources that make it possible to live here in the winter. And we are honoured to have a guest that represents the folks that unlock those resources, Mr. Speaker. From the oil and gas that allows us to run our furnaces, power our highway plows, to the petrochemicals used in making our winter clothing, we on this side continue to be proud and appreciative.

Now we know the federal Trudeau-Singh coalition and the Saskatchewan NDP don't like any of it and they remind us of that every chance they get. Yesterday the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre said, "Although they say that they take an . . . [all-of-the-above] approach to resource development, Mr. Speaker, we simply aren't seeing that."

Well, Mr. Speaker, they once again are clearly ignoring the facts. Yes we continue to promote our traditional oil and gas and mining sectors. You bet. But we also support new technologies in wind, solar, lithium, and hydrogen, the work and innovation in both the new and existing sectors that keep us warm, safe, and secure while at the same time lowering our emissions profile.

So while the members opposite like a carbon tax and continue to oppose pipelines, this government will continue to defend our rights on natural resource development. We challenge the members opposite for once to join us in supporting our resource sectors. Be proud, not ashamed of them like your federal counterparts. Will they finally put Saskatchewan first, Mr. Speaker? Highly unlikely.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, there's a bill before this House on the Premier's long-promised but yet-to-be-delivered Meewasin by-election cheques. While these cheques are welcome, Mr. Speaker, the rollout leaves much to be desired. Many will see no relief at all, including every child in this province.

Mr. Speaker, does the Premier actually think that a household with two adults deserves more support than a single parent with three children?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, we're very pleased with the strength of the Saskatchewan economy to be able to deliver the \$500 tax affordability credit cheques to the residents of Saskatchewan. I would add that the members opposite asked for \$105, Mr. Speaker.

It's through the strength of the Saskatchewan economy that we're

able to deliver \$500 in addition to paying down \$1 billion of debt here in the province, further saving \$50 million for years into the future, Mr. Speaker. So most certainly the members opposite are going to have an opportunity, I think today, to move that bill along through the process, Mr. Speaker.

I'd suggest maybe they want to consider moving *The Saskatchewan First Act* along through the process as well, Mr. Speaker, as both of these bills are in the best interest of the people in Saskatchewan. They're in the best interest of the people of Saskatchewan continuing to create wealth, so that they can provide for their family, Mr. Speaker, in light of whatever might be coming to the Canadian economy.

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

Ms. Beck: — If things were so great, Mr. Speaker, this shouldn't be a problem. Families across this province are struggling and they need help. In our province today, 44 per cent of food bank users are children. One in four children in our province live in poverty, shamefully and consistently above the national average. It makes absolutely no sense at all to exclude kids from the affordability cheques.

While it's a mistake, Mr. Speaker, it is not too late to fix it. Will the Premier opt to think of children in this province for once and will he commit to this much-needed relief for Saskatchewan families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, most certainly children and families in communities across Saskatchewan are at the forefront of what this government does each and every day. That's why we are providing the Saskatchewan tax affordability cheques — \$500 per person over the age of 18 — to provide that much-needed relief during inflationary times, Mr. Speaker, to Saskatchewan families.

Mr. Speaker, that is in addition to \$2 billion that are provided each and every year in affordability relief to Saskatchewan people. That is only available through the strength of the Saskatchewan economy. I hear some heckling from the members opposite. The fact of the matter is anybody that is able, Mr. Speaker . . . anybody that does file their income tax in the province of Saskatchewan, opens them up to a number of supports — both provincial and federal, in fairness — a number of supports, affordability measures that are in place, Mr. Speaker, including later this month, a \$500 tax affordability cheque.

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

Response to Complaints Regarding Bible College

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, despite his rhetoric, his actions show that this government does not have the best interests of kids at heart. And, Mr. Speaker, to be honest with you, this afternoon I'm angry, not just as the Leader of the Official Opposition but as a parent. Because this morning we again woke up to yet another story about discrimination and abuse in taxpayer-funded schools. And this time the Sask Party's pattern of burying abuse claims leads directly to that Premier.

To the Premier: when you were given the chance to protect kids at Briercrest, why did you not do it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, back in 2015 there was a complaint that came to the Saskatchewan higher education quality advisory board to do with respect to an individual at Briercrest. At that point in time, the Advanced Education minister at a later date was made aware of that complaint through SHEQAB [Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board], Mr. Speaker. And he ordered SHEQAB to conduct an investigation into that complaint, at which there was five recommendations made: two to the institution, two to the ministry, one to the minister, Mr. Speaker.

All of those recommendations were complied with or were already present in law or policy here in the province, Mr. Speaker. And to my knowledge there has not been any subsequent complaints that have been received.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, make no mistake. It was his responsibility. When he was minister, he knew about the concerns. He knew about the recommendations, including the recommendation to tie funding to human rights. The recommendation could not have been more clear. The question is, why didn't he do it and whose interests was he serving? Because it certainly was not the interests of those students.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier said, these recommendations were acted upon or were already in policy with respect to our institutions, Mr. Speaker. Our institutions are required to comply with the provisions of Saskatchewan law, including the Human Rights Commission, Mr. Speaker.

So in point of fact they were acted upon, Mr. Speaker. The recommendations that were made to the institution were acted upon. The minister acted upon the recommendation that was made to him. And the other two recommendations were already determined to be in policy, Mr. Speaker.

So really in terms of the complaints that came back in 2015, this government acted upon those, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the students that are attending that institution.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, this is a sick culture within the Sask Party government, burying abuse claims in schools and failing to protect students. And it's not just the Premier who ignored that recommendation from June 2016. No. It was deliberately ignored by not one, not two, but five Sask Party Advanced Education ministers before the recommendation was magically scrubbed from the board's minutes in 2019, never to be implemented. I'm sure the member for Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota remembers that recommendation well.

[14:00]

Why did this government ignore its own accreditation board's recommendations to protect students in taxpayer-funded schools?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, we've already answered that question. Those recommendations were made and they were acted upon or they were already determined to be in policy. So I'm not sure what the member is getting at, Mr. Speaker.

The recommendations that were made to the institution were acted upon. The recommendation that was made directly to the minister was acted upon. And the recommendations that were made to the ministry were determined already to be in policy with respect to our institutions, Mr. Speaker.

Those policies are meant to protect children that are attending our institutions, Mr. Speaker, so I'm not really sure what the complaint is all about when we acted upon all those recommendations.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, this Sask Party government was aware that these human rights violations were occurring and they chose to do nothing. And to the minister's claims, the minutes from the Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board prove just that. February 14th, 2017: "The minister continues to deliberate." June 14th, 2017: "The board continues to await a response." January 18th, 2018: "The minister did not reach a decision on this item." November 20, 2018: "The minister has not reached a decision on this item."

We're talking about the protection of human rights for students in taxpayer-funded schools after receiving what the board clearly felt were credible allegations of discrimination. Why did the Sask Party government refuse to make protection of students a priority?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, ensuring that our students have access to safe and welcoming environments is a priority for this government, and I take some offence to the question, given the fact that that's exactly what we've done.

The two recommendations in point of fact, Mr. Speaker: the addition of a requirement that institutions have policies and practices in place to ensure that they meet the obligations under *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* and the employment Act; and then a requirement that institutions inform students of their rights and responsibilities. Those recommendations are already in policy, Mr. Speaker, and we expect our institutions to follow them.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, at the heart of this is a government that has chosen to be wilfully ignorant of abuse going on in schools that they are funding. And they continue to fund more and more in fact. Wilful ignorance. And you have to ask yourself, why?

We're talking about a school where the president in 2019 compared sex outside of heterosexual marriage to intercourse with animals, robots, and corpses, Mr. Speaker. A student resident advisor this year was fired after she was outed, a clear breach of *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.

Will the Sask Party continue to ignore the recommendations of its own government, or will they finally commit to tying all education funding to adherence to *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, we expect all institutions to comply with the Saskatchewan law and particularly, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*. As far as I'm aware, Mr. Speaker, there's been no formal complaints made to the Human Rights Commission or to any other agency that may be responsible for investigating such complaints.

If those complaints are made to the commission, Mr. Speaker, they will be investigated to determine what action will be taken by the Human Rights Commission. But as far as we're aware, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of one formal complaint that has been made to the Human Rights Commission with respect to the matters that that member raises.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, what we are seeing here is more continued shirking of responsibility by this Sask Party government. No student should face discrimination in Saskatchewan schools, Mr. Speaker.

Many of these students were courageous enough to contact their government for help. This government failed them, Mr. Speaker. What a lesson to learn as a young student in this province, that the government will bury your allegations and continue to increasingly fund those responsible for your discrimination.

Will the minister apologize to all the students who have faced discrimination because this government refused for six years to tie funding and accreditation to *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I've already stated that students have a right to attend educational institutes in this province that are safe and welcoming, institutions that are required to comply with the provisions of the human rights code, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to fund Catholic education,

public education. We're going to continue to fund qualified independent schools and other organizations. And to suggest that we should tie funding to that, Mr. Speaker. There's been a number of complaints that have been made over the years to a number of public institutions, educational institutes in this province. We've never cut funding to them, Mr. Speaker.

But we do expect, Mr. Speaker, these institutions to comply with the human rights code. And if there are complaints, they need to be made and they need to be investigated, Mr. Speaker. And I would encourage that member to contact those that may have complaints to make those complaints so that they can be properly investigated.

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

Oversight of Qualified Independent Schools

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier refused to show leadership and find his feet on questions from the Leader of the Opposition about abuse of kids in Saskatchewan schools. He had a chance to stand up for our kids and he chose to sit down. In the minister's response, he said the ministry recommended SAICS [Saskatchewan Association of Independent Church Schools] not use the A.C.E. [Accelerated Christian Education] curriculum, and they worked together on "alternative resources" that could be used.

So a simple question to the minister: in that minister's view, is that list of alternative resources listed on the SAICS website today compliant with provincial curriculum?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I did say yesterday, in 2013 a review was conducted. The ministry did hire a curriculum consultant that had a lot of experience in developing curriculum in Saskatchewan. They went through the A.C.E. curriculum or A.C.E. workbooks that were being used at that time and frankly prior to when the government changed in 2007, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in 2013 it was determined, as a part of that review, that the A.C.E. workbooks were not in compliance with the curriculum of Saskatchewan and they could no longer be used. And working with that curriculum consultant, the workbooks that have been developed are compliant with the Saskatchewan curriculum, Mr. Speaker. And the ministry works to ensure that that remains the case today.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, that website continues to list textbooks published by Bob Jones University and English language arts novel study materials about books based on exorcisms and demons. Mr. Speaker, this is a problem for that minister who's funded these schools to the tune of millions of dollars.

As concerning is news today that a media request to speak to a paleontologist from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum about the

history of dinosaurs landed in that minister's office. Now it could be just me, Mr. Speaker, but after his answers last week to questions about dinosaurs and humans existing peacefully and the presence of a plesiosaurus and the Loch Ness, I think that minister is about the last person I'd go to for advice on science.

So to the minister: why did a media request to speak to a scientist end up in that minister's office?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I was able to say yesterday, the textbooks that have been referenced are not the main resource that are used by any of the SAICS schools, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to look at, for example, the biology 30 workbook. Workbook no. 6 is entitled *Evolution*, Mr. Speaker. It includes such topics as tracing evolution in the fossil record, fossil casts, the rate of evolution — and perhaps of interest to my seatmate — section 9.21, becoming a fossil.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, it's one thing to not be able to condemn the course materials that suggest that humans and dinosaurs existed peacefully and maybe still do, but it's another thing entirely to block media from speaking to a scientist and to block that scientist from talking to media about the facts of evolution.

Again, what exactly happened here, Mr. Speaker? How did a request to the RSM [Royal Saskatchewan Museum] to speak to a scientist get shut down by the Minister of Education's office?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I hardly even know where to begin with that. But, Mr. Speaker, what I will say is that while it is not a main resource that's being used, certainly there are aspects, including unit 1, "Cell Structure and Function;" unit 2, "Photosynthesis and Respiration;" unit 3, "Genetics, Part I;" unit 4, "Genetics, Part II;" unit 5, "Genetics, Part III;" unit 6, "Evolution."

Mr. Speaker, as I said last week, I would not presume that everything that was taught in 2005, when the members opposite were the government, is the same that is being taught in those schools. The ministry has worked hard to ensure that the curriculum of Saskatchewan is what is utilized in these schools, Mr. Speaker, and that's what we will continue to do.

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

Education and Provincial Economy

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, this government's decision, their failed leadership has real, devastating consequences on those lives, on kids not prepared for school. These are real impacts on real people.

And, Mr. Speaker, they also take a toll on our ability in Saskatchewan to attract investment, create good jobs, and retain people in this province. Mr. Speaker, they're laughing. Industry wants stability. Workers want a shot at prosperity. And families want to know that their kids will have the best education, their kids are going to have the best shot that they can. We cannot attract talent and capital in this province, Mr. Speaker, with that government intent on damaging our province's reputation with their failed leadership.

Mr. Speaker, does the Sask Party realize that their failures have a real, real consequence when it comes to jobs and our economy?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Just to be clear, I do not know exactly what was taught in 2005 in these schools that are under question when the members opposite, when the NDP was the government. And apparently they turned a blind eye to education, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we changed the curriculum that was taught in these schools beginning in 2013. There is oversight to ensure that the curriculum of Saskatchewan is taught, Mr. Speaker. But most importantly, we want to ensure that the outcomes of the students are what we need to see in these schools, regardless of where the schools are, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I can report, for instance, in this last year, last school year, 57.7 per cent of qualified independent schools' students scored higher than 80 per cent in their marks, Mr. Speaker. The provincial average is just 54 per cent.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure how to make heads or tails of that answer. Is the Education minister bragging about students achieving 54 per cent in this province?

Mr. Speaker, this government's failed leadership hurts the people they're failing. It hurts our ability to attract and retain talent and investment we need in growing this province and moving it forward. And, Mr. Speaker, people are thinking twice about moving their families to this province and staying in Saskatchewan when they see headlines — under that Education minister — about the Loch Ness monster, kids being beaten in schools, and a premier who chose to do nothing to protect queer kids at college.

So, Mr. Speaker, again, does the Sask Party realize that their failed leadership has real consequences when it comes to retaining people and good jobs in this province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just to be clear, whether the members opposite, whether the NDP was the government of the day or whether we are the government of the day, if people do bad things to kids, they need to be punished. Mr. Speaker, that is clear.

But let me be clear so that the member opposite is clear on what

I've said, Mr. Speaker. Last year the percentage of students that attained a mark higher than 80 per cent was 54 per cent in the entire province. It was 56 per cent in public school divisions, Mr. Speaker, so that would be Catholic and public school divisions. It was 64 per cent in all independents. It was 68 per cent in associates. And it was 57 per cent in qualified independent schools, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, sure, we want to see that all students are successful, but I think that this shows that students are getting a good education across the piece. And we support parents having that choice.

[14:15]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what kind of short straw the minister drew today, but that is an absolutely appalling and dirty run on publicly funded education in this province which, I would remind that minister, he is also responsible for. You don't want people beating kids in school? Cut the funding. That's your power. You can do it.

And, Mr. Speaker, he can't keep track of whether it's 2005, 2013, 2016. Who knows? But today it's 2022. Talent and investment in this world can go anywhere that they want, and we need them to come to Saskatchewan. We have a great story to tell here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We have hard-working people. We have kind people. We have innovation. We have ingenuity. But what does the Sask Party keep making news for? Inviting convicted wife killers for tea. Children being beaten in school. Does the Sask Party take any responsibility for their failures?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The NDP demonstrate every single day that they have no credibility on the economy. The reality is that there is more investment coming into this province right now than at any time in the history of the province. The reality is, Mr. Speaker, is that our population is the highest it has ever been in the history of the province. The reality is that we have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

And the other reality is, Mr. Speaker, is every time they get the chance, they support Justin Trudeau and Jagmeet Singh coalition federal government. Mr. Speaker, have you ever heard . . . Serious question: have you ever heard them criticize Justin Trudeau, ever? The answer is no. And if anything, there is mild criticism that Justin Trudeau is not moving far enough and fast enough in shutting down our economy, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

Interpersonal Violence Rates and Support for Second-Stage Shelters

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, let's be very clear who this Sask Party government is. This is the government that invited a convicted killer to the legislature, that had to be internationally

shamed into apologizing, that wants to be applauded for having the worst rates of intimate partner violence in the country, that forces shelters like SOFIA House in Regina to fundraise in order to run their life-saving programs for women fleeing violence.

Organizations like this that exist in other provinces do not have to beg for this money, Mr. Speaker, but this Sask Party government makes them do just that. Will the Sask Party commit to providing operational funding for second-stage shelters today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, let's not forget 2011, 2016, 2020 NDP election platforms. No financial commitment to second-stage shelters. A grade of C from the association of transition houses they regularly speak on behalf of, because they would not commit to operational funding.

This year we're providing funding to that association, Mr. Speaker, for services, for transition shelter members delivering direct services, a positive step. Just this past September we announced a new stream for the Saskatchewan housing benefit, which provides a monthly benefit to help those fleeing interpersonal violence to live independently, another positive step.

Sask Housing Corporation provides funding for accessible housing units for people with mental health, addiction issues, and prioritizes those fleeing interpersonal violence for placement in housing. This year we're also providing \$1.5 million to three enhanced residential facilities in Prince Albert and Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, it's one step at a time and these steps are significant.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 96 — *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 96, *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture that Bill No. 96 be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time?

I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 97 — *The Architects Amendment Act, 2022*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 97, *The Architects Amendment Act, 2022* now be moved and introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of SaskBuilds that Bill No. 97 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question no. 1.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered the question.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 94 — *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm here today to move second reading of Bill No. 94, *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act*. This legislation will establish a not-for-profit statutory corporate body to provide pension administration services to the public employees pension plan, or PEPP, and the municipal employees' pension plan, MEPP. Both will initially be the sole members of the corporation. The legislation will also enable the transfer of the staff and the services of the Public Employees Benefits Agency, or PEBA, to the new corporation.

This legislation will prescribe the structure, control the governance of the corporation, and enable the corporation to assume administration of other public sector pension and benefit plans.

The key objectives of this administrative structure change are to clarify and strengthen the governance of PEBA; to align pension

administration with Canadian best practices; and to address recruitment and retention issues, especially in key areas of investment management and pension service delivery.

PEBA administers 12 pensions and 23 benefit programs serving over 100,000 plan members and 900 employees. There are no changes proposed to current pension legislation or regulations that PEBA administers, nor changes to how investment decisions are made. Plan members will be served in the same way as they are today, with PEBA meeting and exceeding current service standards.

PEPP and MEPP members, represented by the PEPP board and the MEPP Commission respectively, have indicated their support of this initiative. Meyers Norris Penny prepared a report analyzing the board and commission's proposed plan to establish PEBA as a not-for-profit corporation. This report has been used to engage stakeholders and members. Costs for the transition will be the responsibility of the PEPP board and MEPP Commission. There will be no costs to the Government of Saskatchewan for this initiative. PEBA and the Ministry of Finance will work through the transfer of assets currently owned by the revolving fund.

As Government of Saskatchewan employees, PEBA staff will be transitioned from the public sector to the not-for-profit corporation. In-scope employees will continue to be covered by the current SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] agreement until a separate bargaining unit is established and a new agreement is bargained.

The corporation will be established by the proposed statute. A minister will be assigned responsibility for the administration of the statute in accordance with *The Executive Government Administration Act*. Reporting requirements for all plans will remain unchanged. An annual report for the corporation will be provided by the minister responsible for it. Amendments to Part IX of *The Financial Administration Act, 1993* are also required to enable the Minister of Finance to delegate the administration of plans to the corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill No. 94, *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 94 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 94, *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act, 2022*. I understand this is legislation that will enable the transfer of pension over to PEBA and transform it into a not-for-profit corporation, as well as legislation that concerns itself with the administrative structure of PEBA and to basically align this jurisdiction with best practices elsewhere in Canada.

In theory, the opposition is supportive of these changes, but we will be consulting with stakeholders to ensure that this legislation gets it right. And I await comments from the lead critic on this, the member for Rosemont.

So with that it's a pleasure to move to adjourn debate on Bill No.

94, the public pension and benefits administration Act.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 95 — *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022*

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022*. This bill will address issues that continue to be of concern to landowners, industry itself, and to the Minister of Energy and Resources as a regulator of the oil and gas industry.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, the bill will amend *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act* to allow the Surface Rights Board of Arbitration to hear cases involving delinquent surface-lease compensation owed to landowners and to issue an order for payment on oil and gas companies that owe them money.

It will also add an obligation in *The Oil and Gas Conservation Act* for operators to comply with an order for payment issued by the Surface Rights Board and create a requirement in that Act for the operator to prove compliance with the board's order for payment to the ministry in a manner to be prescribed in regulations.

Mr. Speaker, currently neither the ministry nor the Surface Rights Board can assist landowners in recovering unpaid surface-rights compensation. The proposed changes will give the Ministry of Energy and Resources additional means to help order delinquent oil and gas companies to pay surface-lease payments. If payment is not made, the ministry could look to sanction those companies using its existing legislative authorities, including a potential suspension to their licences.

Surface-rights compensation is repaying landowners for agricultural and other ongoing impacts caused by oil and gas wells and facilities on their properties. It is therefore important that compensation owed for that loss of revenue be paid. While commodity prices have recovered, the problem of non-payment of annual surface-lease rentals still exists in some instances, and the bill seeks to enable additional means to compel those payments.

The bill will better align Saskatchewan with the surface-rights legislative systems already established in Alberta and British Columbia. For years these provinces have allowed their respective surface rights boards to hear cases and to issue orders demanding payment of delinquent surface-lease rentals.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also proposes to establish power in *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act* to prescribe in the regulations that the maximum allowable compensation can be awarded by the board for off-lease damages. The current

\$1,000 that the board can issue as an award for damages no longer is an appropriate amount. Future discussions on what that amount should be will be undertaken with stakeholders over the coming months as part of potential regulation changes.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill also introduces various housekeeping amendments to update and modernize *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act*, including allowing for a notice of service pursuant to the Act to be served electronically such as through email; the removal of redundant and obsolete provisions that have been superseded by other sections of the Act; repealing sections 56-59 in part VI of the Act that duplicate the robust, science-based site reclamation process under *The Oil and Gas Conservation Act* governing the restoration of landowners' property impacted by oil and gas activity; and requiring operators to control pests in addition to weeds at well and facilities sites.

[14:30]

The proposed changes are an important step forward in modernizing an older piece of legislation and supporting landowners to receive the compensation they are owed.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 95 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 95, *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022*. Mr. Speaker, this is a framework, a legislative framework that hasn't been updated in over 50 years despite calls from this opposition to do just that. I understand that the Sask Party government did approach some changes in 2014 and then lost the gumption and abandoned the stakeholders.

You know, there has been considerable issues in rural communities around this, Mr. Speaker. Landowners in rural communities and remote communities have not had a champion in this government. They've left this framework without having been updated, as I said, for over 50 years. Meanwhile there have been reports of landowners simply not having compensation, industry . . . some actors simply walking away from compensation unilaterally. Of course, this is of concern. The fact that individuals could only claim upwards of \$1,000 for any cost recovery resulting from losses resulting from these leases . . . Of course that was a lot of money back in the 1960s, but absolutely that amount has to change, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that this legislation will provide a mechanism for landowners to apply to collect fees when leases are not being honoured, and of course it's important to have clarity in the framework for industry actors as well.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely a framework that the opposition has been saying for years needs updating. Of course our critics, our overlapping critics on this file will be engaging in much-needed consultation around this framework, and I look forward to their thoughts on this piece of legislation. With that I

move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 95.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 89

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 89 — *The Income Tax (Affordability) Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate with respect to Bill No. 89, Mr. Speaker. Of course this is the bill that's long overdue, or an action that's long overdue to provide relief to Saskatchewan families that have faced crushing cost-of-living increases, Mr. Speaker.

This official opposition, the Saskatchewan NDP, have been fighting for Saskatchewan people on this front, fighting for affordability, fighting for relief, the relief they need and deserve in face of an extraordinary situation with crushing cost of living, groceries that are through the roof, fuel that's been through the roof, cost of living that's through the roof, Mr. Speaker. We've been fighting hard on the floor of this Assembly and publicly for many months on this front, Mr. Speaker.

Of course we have a couple different situations happening in the province of Saskatchewan. We identified this at budget, that the revenues of this province were through the roof, that this government was going to be in a position of windfall revenues. We have a government that hid and hoarded those windfall revenues at budget time, that wasn't straight with Saskatchewan people, and then delayed and denied Saskatchewan people the meaningful relief that they need and deserve.

So you've got a province, the government I should say, the Sask Party government that has record revenues rolling in, Mr. Speaker, a consequence of that unforgiveable invasion in Ukraine, Mr. Speaker. And another consequence though for Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan families, Saskatchewan workers, Saskatchewan businesses, and that's that the costs are through the roof, Mr. Speaker, with this extraordinary circumstance.

And in face of this situation there's a duty of this government to ensure the owners of those resources, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan, to ensure that they receive some relief, to make sure that they receive some action on affordability, Mr. Speaker. But of course that's been delayed and denied by the Sask Party government for month after month.

Saskatchewan people went into summer with fuel prices at a buck eighty and \$2 a litre, Mr. Speaker, making tough choices about whether they could get to a provincial campground or be able to do certain activities as a family. Many shelving their plans, Mr. Speaker. Many people not being able to balance the books at the end of each month and taking on added debt, Mr. Speaker, all while this government had windfall revenues roll in. So this one-time relief is long, long overdue, Mr. Speaker.

We've been fighting for a rebate or a cost-of-living dividend for Saskatchewan people right back to budget time, months ago, Mr. Speaker. We also of course pushed and brought to the floor of this Assembly a call and a motion to suspend the fuel tax, Mr. Speaker, as the province collects 15 cents a litre — even more than that carbon tax, Mr. Speaker — of course not any of these dollars going back to Saskatchewan people, and as families faced record prices at the pumps.

But what did that Sask Party government do, Mr. Speaker? Well again there they voted against providing that relief. So they denied Saskatchewan people the cost-of-living dividend and rebate that they needed and deserved at budget time. They voted against fuel tax relief, Mr. Speaker, the suspension of that fuel tax. And then they piled on with new taxes and new fee hikes and power bill hikes and energy bill hikes, making things so much worse, piling on to an already horrible once-in-a-generation sort of challenge that families and people are facing.

It became abundantly clear that this current cast of characters that occupy the government benches couldn't be more out of touch with Saskatchewan families and people and workers and small businesses when it comes to the cost-of-living crisis that they face, Mr. Speaker.

Now we see this relief, and obviously we need to get relief out to Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. The relief itself should be improved though. This relief shuts out the cost of raising children. It excludes children with the rebate, Mr. Speaker, and children are expensive to raise.

It's simply not fair that a couple with no children receive two rebates but a single parent or a grandmother or a kohkom or a mosôm who's raising three or four or five kids is going to get one rebate. It's not fair at all. There's an inequity that should be fixed, and we have the opportunity to fix it right here in this Assembly.

We're not going to hold up this bill, Mr. Speaker, but we are going to push to fix it. And there's a call on that government to do the right thing and to work with us to make sure that children aren't excluded, to make sure that there's recognition for the high cost of raising children, the high cost for families, Mr. Speaker.

So that's our call to the Premier. We put that on the floor of this Assembly again here today. We've made that call time and time again publicly, Mr. Speaker. That was part of our initial call around dividends and rebates, Mr. Speaker, and we'll work to improve this bill at committee as well. And what we need to do is get support out the doors to Saskatchewan people but that needs to include children and recognize the cost for families, Mr. Speaker.

We also need to improve the lists, if you will, Mr. Speaker, of who's going to receive that rebate. It should be inclusive, Mr.

Speaker. It should be all Saskatchewan people, and government should be reconciling tax records — in a way that respects privacy — with health records and other government records to make sure that we're not shutting out some of the most vulnerable in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that that rebate, at this time of a generational cost-of-living crisis, gets to everyone who needs it in Saskatchewan.

Those are our calls, Mr. Speaker. We are going to continue to push. We're going to reach out in good faith to make those improvements, to call on this government to do their part on this front.

Again this bit of relief is long overdue and something that the Saskatchewan NDP have fought hard for. Saskatchewan people need and deserve relief. They need some one-time relief which this represents, Mr. Speaker, and ultimately it should be inclusive of kids and families and the most vulnerable. We're going to push for those improvements, Mr. Speaker.

And then of course they need relief with the ongoing long-time costs that are being cranked up into perpetuity by this government, and that's of course the new taxes. That's the power bill and the energy bill hikes, Mr. Speaker, which, you know, really add up for Saskatchewan people at this time. Those need to be scrapped, Mr. Speaker.

We've got a government with windfall revenues, revenues that are through the roof. We've got Saskatchewan people that are hurting and that deserve some support right now and deserve some support as we go into winter when you think of the cost around heating, the cost of power and everything else, Mr. Speaker. And that's what we'll continue to pursue.

We'll work to . . . We've made that call on the floor of this Assembly today to make the fixes, the improvements to include children, Mr. Speaker. We've made that publicly. We'll certainly pursue that at committee and other stages here as well. But I call on the government, who have delayed this meaningful support, to work with us to fix this and make sure that children and families get the supports that they need and deserve.

That's all I have to say at this point, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 89 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 88

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 88 — *The Saskatchewan First Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to weigh in to the discussion around the jurisdiction of resources in Saskatchewan as it relates in this case to Bill No. 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act*, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, I'm proud to always enter in as a Saskatchewan NDP with our history of fighting for jurisdiction on this front and fighting for Saskatchewan as a province, and I'm proud to do so as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], Mr. Speaker, in recognizing what it should mean for the people of Saskatchewan.

What we need ultimately is a government and our province able to make the case for Saskatchewan, to be able to stand up for our interests, our industry, for our resource sector and agriculture, for the workers and businesses of this province, Mr. Speaker, and to be able to advance that argument, Mr. Speaker, and to be able to have some wins, Mr. Speaker, to move those yardsticks, Mr. Speaker. But all too often what we've seen is hollow rhetoric from this Sask Party government on this front. Very quick with the tweet, Mr. Speaker, but pretty slow with being able to advance the meaningful case and action and to get the job done for Saskatchewan people on this front.

This is an issue that this Assembly should be able to be united on, and we should be able to have a rock-solid case with our facts tight, Mr. Speaker, to be able to move the yardsticks and make sure we're standing up for Saskatchewan people and getting the fair deal that Saskatchewan people deserve. And we'll always stand on that side, Mr. Speaker.

[14:45]

I think of the giants whose shoulders we stand upon in Saskatchewan on this front. And I think of that period of time in advance of the patriation of the Constitution in 1982. I think of the leadership that this province provided, along with other provinces and other premiers. I think of a time where it wasn't just sensational, divisive Twitter games, Mr. Speaker, partisan games, Mr. Speaker, but where, in the case of Premier Blakeney in Saskatchewan — yes, an NDP — and Premier Lougheed in Alberta, a Progressive Conservative, Mr. Speaker, who were able to work together to advance a case to represent the interests of their respective provinces and of the prairies, Mr. Speaker. They advanced that case. They dug deep. They had exceptional teams that they worked with.

I think of people like constitutional experts Howard Leeson and Dr. John Whyte. They brought horsepower and intellectual capacity to those arguments that few others could muster, Mr. Speaker, and they worked together across party lines to make the case for Saskatchewan, for the prairies. And in that case, they actually moved the yardsticks, Mr. Speaker. They made very clear with section 92A that resources are the domain, are the

exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces.

You know, I think that many Saskatchewan people would long for the days where those that were entrusted with serving would engage in a more substantive way on issues like this, Mr. Speaker, that would be willing to work together across party lines and across provincial lines to actually make the case.

All too often what we've seen from this government is a government that hasn't been able to win for Saskatchewan, that hasn't been able to advance the case for Saskatchewan, that hasn't been able to get the job done for Saskatchewan. And all too often what we've seen is partisan, sloppy, petty politics, Mr. Speaker, and many almost flailings in face of defeat, Mr. Speaker, all too often.

You know, we see entries of late where they brought forward a paper, Mr. Speaker, that's economic foundation, you know, couldn't have been more feeble, Mr. Speaker, that's been eviscerated by economists and from across party lines, Mr. Speaker. And it's that sort of sloppy, lazy, partisan behaviour, Mr. Speaker, that weakens the case that Saskatchewan and the Prairies, if you will, needs to make, Mr. Speaker.

It's past time this government gets serious about actually advancing the interests of Saskatchewan. It's past time that they get past the hollow, shallow, empty rhetoric. It's past time that they get past the virtue-signalling, Mr. Speaker, and that they actually deliver for Saskatchewan people.

The approach we'll take, Mr. Speaker, of course we'll always stand up for Saskatchewan. We'll always stand up for our industries, Mr. Speaker. We'll always stand up to Ottawa and whatever federal government, Mr. Speaker, is acting in a way that's not in Saskatchewan's interest. And we'll do so, Mr. Speaker, whether that's Stephen Harper, previous when he failed to deliver on his equalization promise, Mr. Speaker, or with the current iteration and Trudeau, Mr. Speaker. We'll stand up for Saskatchewan in a consistent, principled way just as New Democrat governments have previously.

What we've seen as well from this government, you know, is something that, you know, with this bill that canvasses an important area, that reiterates a domain and jurisdiction that's already been established, Mr. Speaker. So what we don't see is anything new in advancing the interests of Saskatchewan.

What we also haven't seen going into this process, Mr. Speaker, and through that process of the paper that's been debunked by economists, Mr. Speaker, is we haven't seen a stitch of consultation with the Indigenous peoples of this province, Mr. Speaker. We don't see a single mention of treaty obligations, Mr. Speaker. But we see a government, of course, that's limping along in a way that has caused them to continue to lose the fight, Mr. Speaker, when we need to be able to win that fight for Saskatchewan people and be able to work together, Mr. Speaker, with the federal government on the fronts that we can in the interests of Saskatchewan people. I think Saskatchewan people expect their government to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time, Mr. Speaker. And that's simply not the case with this current government.

So what we see in this bill, you know, it's a reiteration of what

we've established in Saskatchewan, what those have fought for before us, Mr. Speaker, and that's dried in ink. We don't see any new constitutional powers being brought in this bill, Mr. Speaker. We've heard that even from the government member. So you know, we've got arguably a lot of rhetoric again, Mr. Speaker, from a government that's never been short of rhetoric, but not a lot of results from this government, Mr. Speaker.

You know, so that's the approach we're going to have as we enter into this discussion. You know, it's passing strange and incredibly disappointing as well that if this government is actually serious about delivering for Saskatchewan people, getting a fair deal for this province, that they wouldn't be acting in a consistent way around equalization, Mr. Speaker.

This is a, you know, government that threw in the towel years ago, Mr. Speaker, that rolled over to Stephen Harper, Mr. Speaker, when he ripped up his promise to Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, I remember the premier at the time said, no, we're not going to . . . we're going to pull our equalization lawsuit; we're going to give peace a chance. That's 15 years ago or 14 years ago, Mr. Speaker. It hasn't worked out well. They walked away from a solid, legal argument, a lawsuit that had been placed on behalf of Saskatchewan people, and they rolled over to Stephen Harper on this front, all while selling out Saskatchewan people and the fair deal that they deserve on equalization, Mr. Speaker.

So you know, that would be a substantive action of this government that they could announce at this time as they suggest and purport to be standing up for Saskatchewan would be to relaunch that lawsuit, to remount that effort to get a fair deal for Saskatchewan people when it comes to equalization. But we barely hear those words uttered from members opposite.

So what we see is a lot of reiteration or a communications exercise that states that, you know, reiterates that what has already been established in the constitution, Mr. Speaker, but nothing new to advance the case, Mr. Speaker, and that's certainly a concern.

I think that Saskatchewan people . . . And I know we've got more questions about how this tribunal may be structured that they've floated out here in this bill as well. Because, Mr. Speaker, all too often we've seen some of these sorts of efforts, depending on how they're organized, go off the rails, Mr. Speaker. And I think of that war room in Alberta, Mr. Speaker, that failed their residents, that cost a whole pile of money, that turned out to be nothing but, you know, a partisan exercise that was great at tossing out, you know, hot news releases, Mr. Speaker, but that didn't get the job done.

And if we're talking about this tribunal, I think there's important questions around, how's that going to actually be independent? I don't see that in this bill at all. You know, to have more government created, arm's length of this government, you know, a partisan approach, Mr. Speaker, and appointments, Mr. Speaker, sort of in line with what we see with that debunked paper brought forward by the government, eviscerated economically, Mr. Speaker, that's not going to strengthen the argument that Saskatchewan people need and deserve on these fronts.

So again it seems to me that there's lots of grandstanding from this government, when what we should actually be doing in a substantive way — and ideally in a unified way out of this Assembly — putting aside whatever so-called politics might exist to advance the interests of Saskatchewan people, like those that have come before us have in this Assembly. And again, thinking back to that period of time of Premier Blakeney and Attorney General Roy Romanow and Howard Leeson and Dr. John Whyte, and working along with Alberta next door with Lougheed, Mr. Speaker, and actually being able to advance the case for Saskatchewan people.

Instead we have hollow rhetoric. It reminds me a little bit of, you know, sort of just before a boxing match. You know, it's like at the weigh-in when you're beaking each other and there's lots of noise, lots of rhetoric, Mr. Speaker. But in this case we aren't establishing anything new, so it's like a government that's choosing not to get into the ring, Mr. Speaker, that's throwing the towel in, if you will, Mr. Speaker, on things like equalization when we should be fighting for Saskatchewan people on these fronts, when we should be advancing the case that will ensure a better deal for the people of our province.

So, Mr. Speaker, we stand ready to represent Saskatchewan people on this front and to push back against Ottawa to advance the situation for Saskatchewan people and to work together in this Assembly whenever possible. Unfortunately though, what we see with members opposite is all too often empty rhetoric, virtue-signalling, economic and financial cases that can't pass muster, Mr. Speaker, and a real partisan interest that's always tied into these things as opposed to a true effort that would draw on the strengths of this province, that would work together and allow us to advance the interests of this province, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 88.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 88. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 90

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 90 — *The Telecommunications Statutes (Borrowing Powers) Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm on my feet here to talk about or give remarks on the Bill No. 90, *The Telecommunications Statutes (Borrowing Powers) Amendment Act*.

You know, when I read this, I think it's always good to be looking at how can we amend some of our archaic, outdated bills that we have and the legislation that we have. So it's interesting . . . I

think what struck me with this increased borrowing limit of SaskTel from 1.8 billion to 2.9 billion is that, you know, this government has been raving about record revenues in this province and I'm like . . . At first I thought, wow, why are we borrowing money when this government's talking about having lots of it? So anyway, that was my first thought.

The other thing that I thought about was it's very important . . . We all rely on internet, cell coverage, cell service in this province. And you know, we take that for granted for those of us that live in the urban centres, you know, in these larger urban centres. But what I found was, and I just kind of took it for granted, when I travel back home to my nation, there are areas in my nation where we don't have cell coverage. And I remember being at a sun dance ceremony where one of my relatives had a heart attack, and we were scrambling to go and call 911. And we had people in the community driving to go and get cell coverage to call 911. We were fortunate that 911 was called. The ambulance was called. Unfortunately that person died.

You know, and what I realized is this wasn't a kind of . . . This isn't the first time it happened. When I was out in the communities meeting with folks, I came across another nation and that was Ministikwan Cree Nation. They were talking about they had no cell coverage. They all have cell phones and they're paying for services, however their community doesn't have cell coverage.

[15:00]

And how I found out was, I was up there. I was trying to call the chief from my cell phone and then realized I had no service. I was so shocked to find out that there was in fact no cell coverage in the entire community. That's a community of 1,500 people. So folks that require emergency services like ambulance, police service, must travel a fair distance to receive cell coverage or get to a land line to call in for their emergencies. So in a province as wealthy as Saskatchewan, we should have access to cell coverage especially for things like calling in when there's an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, you know, it's very interesting to have and it's important to have connectivity here in our province, but it's sad when communities like Ministikwan was promised over 12 years ago that they would have cell coverage, and in 2022 they still don't have cell coverage, you know. And yet there was an announcement by this government that they would put up 70 towers, and again not one is going to be in a First Nation community.

You know, I'm all for, and I know the opposition is all for cell coverage, having access. Yet when this government touts itself on economic reconciliation, not one tower is available in a First Nation community.

So you know, I would say to the hecklers across the aisle, you know, go and talk with Ministikwan. You know, you may have to go and get to a land line and contact them because they don't have cell service out there, yet they're paying for that.

So I won't talk much about, share much, but I just wanted to enter into debate here on this and also put on record here that there are communities here — Indigenous, non-Indigenous communities, rural communities — that do not have cell service. And many

pay for cell service, and yet they do not have the service that they're paying for.

So with that, I'm sure my colleague who is the critic for this area will have more to say on this when he's on his feet. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 90. 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. 91

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 91 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Part III) Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter some comments into the record today on Bill 91, *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act*. You know, Mr. Speaker, I think has been noted, by both the minister and my colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre, some of the changes coming forward in this piece of legislation are certainly steps in the right direction. I'd note particularly the expansion of the definition of "workers," and with that the expansion of protection for working people in this province.

With the changes coming to this bill, my understanding is it will now be moved to include students in post-secondary as well as all those permitted to work or in training programs for employment in this province. And the expansion of protection for working people is a good thing for those people and also for the province as hopefully we continue to grow and opportunities for people in this province, and particularly students and young people and those seeking to put down roots and invest their time and their memories and their money in this province gain more opportunities as well as those expanded protections.

Another really important piece that I know we on this side — as well as the many advocates in the community, as well as on the side of labour leaders — are pleased to see is the further clarification, expansion of responsibilities of employers as it relates to harassment. This is a real workplace concern for many. I know far too many people in this province have experienced harassment in the workplace. You know, I personally was subject to this and left my favourite job that I ever had as a young person here in Saskatchewan due to ongoing harassment, which is a real challenge certainly professionally, but for many unfortunately feeling that they have raised these concerns and that this isn't being taken seriously.

There's an impact emotionally. There's an impact economically. So the strengthening and clarification of this responsibility and ensuring that it's understood that addressing harassment is everyone's responsibility and the clarification of the onus and

duties that are there on employers is critical for healthy, successful workplaces across the province. And I know this is something, Mr. Speaker, that employers will support as well because there's not a business owner or industrial partner in the province who wants an unsafe or an unhealthy workplace, Mr. Speaker. Good workers, good bosses, healthy workplaces are good for a healthy and prosperous province.

You know, Mr. Speaker, some of the other changes that I think will merit greater canvassing in some of the debate and the comments to be made on the recognition are certainly the changes to provisions around investigations and some of the implications for privacy, both as it relates to photographs and other recordings as noted by the minister, as well as the changes to the nominees that are brought forward during the investigation process, and how individuals can nominate another individual to be present.

You know, certainly the minister has been clear that it's important to have the best interest of the workers in mind in this case and ensuring that individuals are represented by a nominee who shares that belief. And that's certainly important. But changes to that provision, and especially for nominees who may not be in the best state or be in an ongoing state of vulnerability, the implications for this will be interesting to watch as they roll out. And I'm sure there's good consultation work that will be done by the critic on this file and on potentially impacted or previously impacted parties.

I think the last thing I want to draw some attention to in the changes to *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2022* are the strengthening of violence provisions, which I believe is the third amendment in this bill. You know, it was noted in the minister's introductory comments that since 2013 — and we've been talking about 2013 a lot today, Mr. Speaker — but unfortunately since 2013 there's been a 22 per cent increase in injuries due to violence in workplaces in Saskatchewan. And we on this side agree with the minister that that's absolutely unacceptable and all folks coming to work, whatever their capacity, should feel safe and be safe in the workplace. So a furthering of violence policies and provisions in legislation to ensure that all workplaces are safe and can help reduce injuries, specifically those due to violence in the workplace, is a good thing.

You know, I note that the WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] lists, I believe, workplace injuries due to violence as one of their top four causes of injury in the workplace, you know, which is just a real shame in Saskatchewan. And we continue to see the rise of serious workplace injuries, so addressing this in legislation, the amendments being made to this Act, as I said, is certainly a step in the right direction.

But I know that our industrious and thoughtful labour critic, as well as my colleagues and stakeholders around the province, will have much more to say about this bill and some of the amendments therein and whether or not they're adequate to meet the needs of our workplaces and employment overall in the province of Saskatchewan. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 91, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Part III) 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.

Bill No. 92

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 92 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Miscellaneous) 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 on my feet to give my remarks on Bill No. 92. You know, it's always really good to be clarifying these Acts and also amending them because sometimes we can still operate within archaic systems. And it's really important to become relevant and be relevant. So it's welcoming to know that there's this amendment to *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act*.

And certainly I'm sure that it will bring some relief to folks in the community around this Act because it's left many people probably feeling a lot of stress and anxiety for a long time because the government wasn't very clear on this bill. So again, making amendments that are relevant is very important.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to say too much about this because I'm not the critic for this area. I can if you want, but I'm sure the rest of the members in the House would be like, no, let's cut her short here. So the critic for this area will probably have a lot more to say on this particular bill. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 92. 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. 93

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 93 — *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a joy to be on my feet to speak about Bill No. 93, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*. But seriously, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all the good folks at SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] for the work that they do, as well as all the many people around the province who put so much effort and diligence into ensuring that the roads in Saskatchewan as well as the people travelling on them are safe, especially this week, Mr. Speaker, with the absolutely terrible weather.

Despite the weather in this province, I do find the worse that the weather gets, the better you see people in this province act and behave. I had to be out on Sunday, tragically, Mr. Speaker, running errands and ensuring my family was fed for the week. And boy, the number of people I saw shovelling out their neighbours' cars, pushing people out of snowbanks in the couple hours I was fording the streets of — well they were streets — the snowbanks of Regina, was truly remarkable. And again, just a big thank you to the many good neighbours and citizens of Saskatchewan keeping those roads safe, as well as the many people at SGI who do all of the good work in ensuring the roads and the drivers on them are safe as well.

[15:15]

This bill in particular, Mr. Speaker, you know, is the legislation that outlines and clarifies Saskatchewan driver's licence and motor vehicle operating rules. And the changes to this legislation really appear to be some major and minor clarifications for SGI on a number of issues, including the Highway Traffic Board and the inconsistency that I know we heard about through my office during my previous tenure as SGI critic, for the inconsistency between the demerit process, for the two appeal processes, as well as some of the challenges — or I should say lack of clarity — around the two-year limitation period for bereavement damages following a fatal collision.

You know, for families and for individuals suffering a tragedy, two years may seem like a long period of time, but it can go by too quickly. And as we know, tragedy and death, Mr. Speaker, can have certainly a huge emotional impact, but as well, some of the administration and challenges that go with that can be incredibly overwhelming. So clarification of that is certainly welcome, but an evaluation of those changes will be the work of the critic as well as the stakeholders and people in the province who do have strong experiences and feelings about this, Mr. Speaker.

You know, beyond that, the changes to this piece of legislation have allowed some modernization as well as housekeeping. I'm particularly interested to see the changes included as it relates to the opportunities to use electronic and digital documentation instead of physical copies. Not that these second readings are opportunities for me to read all of my sins into the record, Mr. Speaker, but I know I always have a copy of my licence on my phone. But I have found myself driving without my physical copy before, and had a panic turnaround to make sure that I have it on my person. So you know, speaking as one individual who has not followed the previous rules, really excited to see that I will now be compliant with the forthcoming legislation, I hope, if my understanding is correct, which of course, Mr. Speaker, most days is, some days isn't.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, you know, I think the changes in this bill, as with all pieces, will be best canvassed by the critic for this bill as well as the many stakeholders who certainly have an interest in the critical work that SGI and all those individuals do in the province. And with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 93, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader 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.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:19.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

Hon. Lori Carr
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. Jeremy Cockrill
Minister of Highways
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

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. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services

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 Energy and Resources

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

Hon. Dana Skoropad
Minister of Environment

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
Minister Responsible for the Firearms Secretariat

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Advanced Education