

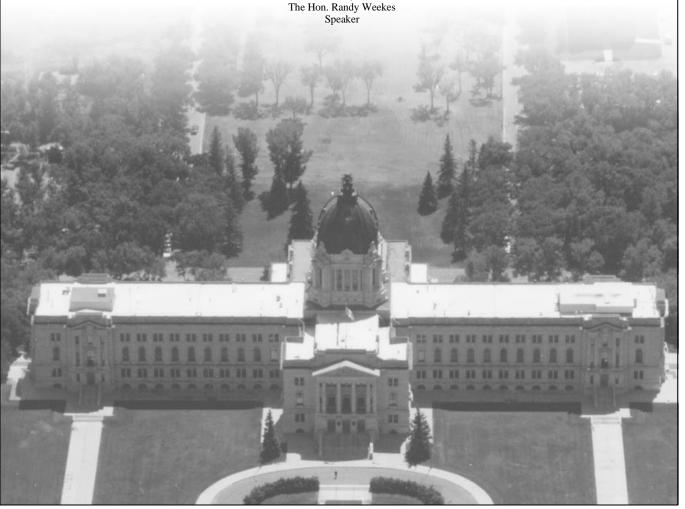
 ${\it THIRD SESSION-TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE}$ 

of the

# Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

# DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

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



# 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)

Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

**Bowes**, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP) **Bradshaw**, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

**Buckingham**, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)

Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)
Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

**Dennis**, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)

Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)

Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)

Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)

Friesen, Mary — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)

Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)

**Grewal**, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP) **Hargrave**, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)

Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)

Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)
Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

**Lambert**, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP) **Lawrence**, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)

**Love**, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)

Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

McLeod, Hon. Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)

McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)

Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)

Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)

Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)

Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Skoropad, Hon. Dana — Arm River (SP)

Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

Stewart, Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)

Teed, Nathaniel — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)

Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (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 Burianyk Clerk Assistant — Robert Park Hansard on the internet Hansard and other documents of the Legislative Assembly are available within hours after each sitting.

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

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

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#### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN November 9, 2022

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

#### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to introduce a good friend of mine and a good friend of many of the members of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Mubarik Syed is here with us today. Can you give us a . . . [inaudible].

Mr. Speaker, Mubarik is one of the leaders of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Saskatoon. He's here today to discuss a number of issues with a number of cabinet ministers on issues that are important to his community. Mr. Speaker, Mubarik and the Ahmadiyya community are great friends of ours in Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, he's welcomed many of us into his community, welcomed us to his mosque and into his home, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the motto of the Ahmadiyya community is "love for all and hatred for none." And love for our country, Mr. Speaker, is part of their religious beliefs. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be more important I think today as that builds on our motto, Mr. Speaker, "from many peoples, strength," Mr. Speaker.

So I'd ask members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming Mubarik Syed to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Request leave for an extended introduction.

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

 $\textbf{Some Hon. Members:} \longrightarrow \textbf{Agreed.}$ 

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start today by joining with the minister and welcoming Mr. Syed to his Legislative Assembly. We welcome you here to observe the proceedings and thank you for your contribution and the contribution of your community to a brighter Saskatchewan for everyone.

While on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also introduce three guests seated in your gallery, two of them no strangers to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, my mom and dad, Ray and Judy Beck. It's always nice to see them up here, although I do admit I get a little extra nervous when I'm introducing them.

My dad turned 70 this year and retired from 30 years of being an RM [rural municipality] councillor with the RM of Scott, Mr. Speaker. And they also celebrated another anniversary this year,

25 years in the outfitting business with their Norland Creek outfitting business. Mr. Speaker, I remember it well. It was the same year that we got married. It was a busy year for them.

But it continues to be busy. My mom, in addition to the work that she does with the outfitting business, is a United Church lay minister. And probably don't say this enough, but I'm incredibly proud of the very difficult work that she does, often being with families in some of the most difficult times. And the care and support that she provides to families when they have experienced a loss, Mr. Speaker, is something that not a lot of people can do, but she does it very, very well. And I hear that all the time.

And I want to introduce for the first time to her Legislative Assembly, my very good friend, my sister, Rawda Al Khalif. Rawda and her husband, Abdelkarim, arrived in Regina in January, I believe, of 2016. They came here having fled their home. They were farmers near Hama in Syria, spent some time in Lebanon, and came here and made a life for themselves in Regina, Mr. Speaker. And what an addition to our community.

Abdelkarim very recently became a Canadian citizen, something that he is incredibly proud of, Mr. Speaker. And I consider Rawda a sister and in fact had the opportunity to be with her for the birth of her youngest two children, Mr. Speaker, something that was an honour. And she named her youngest daughter after my mom, Judy.

She recently got word... Since she's been in Canada, her brother and his family have joined them here in Regina and recently got word that her second brother, with the help of many supporting the sponsorship, including my mom and many others, that her brother is going to be joining us here as well, Mr. Speaker.

I am so thankful that you chose Regina. I am so sorry for the devastation in your homeland that caused that to be, and I value your friendship and the contribution you and your family make to our community. I would invite all members to please join me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Sarauer**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce a number of guests seated in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker. The school group, the Campus Regina land-based learning program, is here today. Hi, everybody. They are a group of grade 11/12 students doing pretty amazing things, along with their teachers, Karen McIver and Tanja Portrais.

Very much looking forward to speaking with you all after proceedings. I hope you do enjoy question period, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Bowes**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce in your east gallery a large delegation of pro-choice advocates from across Saskatchewan. These people are here to call for an expansion of access to abortion in Saskatchewan, and

they held a fierce rally today outside their legislature calling for just this. I invite all members to welcome these people of Saskatchewan to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member opposite in welcoming the school group and everybody else here but certainly the people that are pro-choice out protesting on a very brisk day in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet just to single out two special guests that are part of the pro-choice delegation. One is Barb Byers, former president of the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour], who is much beloved and known around here, led her union through some pretty turbulent times — privatization, attacks on workers' rights — and was with, after that, the SFL for many years before she moved over to the Canadian Labour Congress. She's a fierce advocate for working people and has been something of a mother figure to me over the years.

Speaking of mother figures, I do want to also welcome my mom who is here with us today. Dr. Sally Mahood is seated in the east gallery. Sally has been a fierce champion for reproductive health care throughout her professional life. She has been involved on the front line of the fight for abortion access here in Saskatchewan for many decades. But not just that: she does obstetrics, women's health of all kinds; she's led a family medicine teaching practice where she's educated many of the future family docs in this province; and she's been a fierce advocate for primary health care and universal medicare.

So with that, she's also many other things, but I just wanted to . . . I haven't had a chance to welcome her to this, her Legislative Assembly, so I wanted to do just that.

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

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members I'd like to rise, as it's apparently family day on this side of the House, and welcome no stranger to this Assembly, but seated in the east gallery is my dear old dad, Don Young.

Yes, he's hiding his face but no, as I said, no stranger to this Assembly. But I would like to recognize him both as my wonderful father and Hara's beloved grandpa. She jumped out of my arms last night and ran over to her papa, which hopefully says volumes about him and nothing about me.

He has a strong history in the journalism field of political activism against apartheid in university and knocked with the original Notley, Grant, over in Alberta, and is one of our most recent imports to Saskatchewan and now proudly calls Regina home, although I sadly note it is Regina Douglas Park, not

Regina University.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming my dad, Don Young, to his Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce my parents as well but they're not here today. But instead, Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the member from Regina Douglas in welcoming the students from Campus Regina landbased learning. Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity just a couple of weeks ago to be one of the parent chaperones on my oldest son's land-based learning opportunity at Brown's Coulee, just north of the city. I'm sure the students are likely aware of that area, Mr. Speaker. And lo and behold, it was my son who was the first to enter into the creek, not unexpectedly, Mr. Speaker.

But I want to welcome the students here, and I truly appreciate the work that their teachers do, Mr. Speaker, and all the work that they do in the land-based learning program, Mr. Speaker. And so I would just join with the member and ask all my colleagues to welcome these students to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe**: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I, as well, will not stand to introduce my parents, Mr. Speaker, as they're a ways away today. But I will join with all the members in welcoming everyone that is here today, but in particular join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming her parents, Ray and Judy Beck, to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. As I always say, members in this Assembly do not serve alone. We serve only with the support of our immediate families, our parents, our extended families, Mr. Speaker.

And although there are times we may not disagree across this floor, I think at this point and this time of the year in the advent of Remembrance Day, Mr. Speaker, we can be very thankful that our differences across this floor are much, much less than some of the differences that we see in other areas of the world.

So I would like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming her parents, Ray and Judy Beck, to their Legislative Assembly.

# PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Nerlien: — 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 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.

The undersigned residents of Saskatoon, Regina, and Moose Jaw. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be on my feet to present the following petition. Also I just wanted to say that the folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention the following.

For starters I'm just grateful and I just want to say thank you to all the nations that have been writing this government about the failed duty-to-consult policy that's being revised.

#### [13:45]

In Saskatchewan we only have 10 per cent of Crown land left, and the government has been auctioning off these Crown lands and leases to the highest bidder; and the government has also been breaching the treaty relationship; so the first right of refusal needs to be with the First Nations, with the TLE [treaty land entitlement]; and also that the lack of meaningful duty-to-consult in this communities, leaving the taxpayers of this province footing the bill for its mistakes and losses in court.

So I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately stop the selloff of Crown land and work with First Nation and Métis communities.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Canoe Narrows, Red Earth Cree Nation, and Cote First Nation. I do so present.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet today to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. The folks who signed this petition would like us to know that recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's hometowns and rural health care facilities, leading to many emergency room, acute, lab, and X-ray service disruptions.

In particular, the ongoing pandemic has created burnout and led to early retirements and resignations. And the health care workers that I've had the honour to meet with over the last couple of years are really feeling this pressure at all stages of their career. And it's having a ripple effect from urban centres into small communities, small urban centres, all around the province.

Health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan communities and local economies, and they need to be treated so.

I also note that at the 2021 SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, over 94 per cent of rural leaders voted in support of a resolution acknowledging the nurse and health care worker shortage across Saskatchewan. With SARM meeting next week in Saskatoon, I'm sure they will continue to hear concerns about the status of rural health care.

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 fix the rural health care staffing crisis.

Today this petition is signed by residents of Wilkie. I do so present.

**The Speaker:** — I'd also like to welcome our guests to the Assembly today but just want to remind you you're not to participate in the proceedings. That includes, well saying anything or clapping, so please respect that.

I recognize the member from Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to rise today, as it is every day, to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for the funding of in vitro fertilization treatments for folks here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as members in this House will know by now, one in six couples in this province, as well as countless individuals, will experience some form of infertility which of course we know is a health condition. And despite health care being a universal right here in Canada and right here in Saskatchewan, there is no treatment provided for these folks unless they're willing to pay out of pocket to the tune of tens of thousands of dollars — money, Mr. Speaker, which could be much better spent investing in retirement, homes, starting businesses, or heck, spend it on whatever it is you want here in the local economy.

Mr. Speaker, we should be investing in people determined to grow their families here in Saskatchewan. It's the kind thing to do. It's the right thing to do. And it makes economic sense.

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.

The signatories of this petition today, Mr. Speaker, are from Avonlea. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today to present our petition calling for universal access to birth

control in Saskatchewan. The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan has some of the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy in the entire country — that's young people ages 12 to 20 years old; that cost is one of the largest barriers to accessing contraceptive birth control in Saskatchewan, especially among adolescents; that having consistent and affordable access to contraceptive options is essential for promoting bodily autonomy, preventing unwanted pregnancy, and saving money on sexual and reproductive health care; and that sexual and reproductive health and rights are human rights.

#### I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to adopt a policy making nocost prescription contraceptive available to all Saskatchewan people.

Our petition today has been signed by folks in Regina. I do so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Saskatchewan Veteran Killed in Action in Ukraine

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday Saskatchewan learned that one of our own heroes had fallen in battle while defending Ukraine. Joseph Hildebrand, a veteran and farmer from Herbert area, was killed in action while conducting a military operation around the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut. Bakhmut is described as the epicentre of the Russian invasion and is seeing heavy combat daily.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph had already served Canada twice with two tours of Afghanistan during our peacekeeping operations there. While the world faces the economic shock waves created by the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine, we must remember the very real and human cost of this war.

Mr. Speaker, what's truly honourable about Joseph's sacrifice was that his family had no ethnic nor familial ties to Ukraine. He simply knew it was the right thing to do and he answered the call. Our hearts go out to the Hildebrand family and families of those soldiers fighting beside him.

As the many other Canadians fighting in Ukraine, stay safe. Slava Ukraini. Thank you for your sacrifices in the name of freedom.

I would like to ask all members to join me for a moment of silence to honour the memory of Joseph and his courageous spirit in this Legislative Assembly.

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Meewasin Artists Featured at Remai Modern

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to stand and recognize two outstanding Saskatoon Meewasin residents and artists who will be featured in an exhibition at Remai Modern in Saskatoon this fall. Dawna Rose and Betsy Rosenwald will collaborate in an exhibition entitled, *Journal of the Plague Year*. Both Dawna and Betsy are accomplished artists with careers that span years.

In February 2021 they presented a joint exhibition of paintings created in response to the pandemic and politics of 2020 at the 330g Projects in Saskatoon. As the plague year morphed into years, Rose and Rosenwald continued their creative and passionate response to pandemic in politics during residencies in Newfoundland and Labrador, and Saskatoon. Taking its title from Daniel Defoe's book, *A Journal of the Plague Year*, the exhibition will include works that each artist painted on post-consumer waste cardboard, a material of choice inspired by signs the artists witnessed at the 2017 Women's March in New York City. The artists will share a record of their journal to date and create new work on site in Remai Modern's Connect Gallery. *Journal of the Plague Year(s)* will run from November 19 to February 20 and is curated by Remai Modern's curatorial team.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Dawna and Betsy on this remarkable accomplishment.

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

#### Yorkton Celebrates 25th Annual Health Foundation Gala

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 22nd I was joined by my wife, Leone, and attended the 25th annual Health Foundation Gala in Yorkton. I was honoured to take part by offering a blessing on the evening and the meal at the event that Leone and I have personally never missed. We have supported it personally, corporately, and through Brayden Ottenbreit Close Cuts for Cancer for all of its 25 years.

It has been held every year at St. Mary's Church Cultural Centre, which guarantees a superb meal and service. Grain Millers was a presenting sponsor and was joined by a wide variety of other sponsors, as well as volunteers and a committee that guaranteed a successful event to remember. The evening entertainment was world-renowned mentalist and magician Yan Markson, who kept the huge crowd on the edge of their seats and in awe.

Aside from the funds raised by the event — including a sizable and high-quality silent auction — a special presentation was made by our own local Ag Community Farming for Health committee who presented a cheque for \$395,000, which brings their 10-year total in excess of 2 million donated through the Health Foundation. Half has gone to equipment upgrades and the rest towards a new hospital project.

Our government has allocated 700,000 for a new facility for scoping and planning to be complete next spring, and the community continues to raise funds for a new facility that will serve the third-largest trading area in our province. And they look forward to the eventual site selection and design work in the not-too-distant future as the project moves ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Walk a Mile in Their Shoes Event

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize the YWCA's [Young Women's Christian Association] Walk a Mile in Their Shoes event that took place in downtown Regina this past September, which I had the privilege of attending along with many members from both sides of the House.

This event is a community-focused fundraiser where supporters are asked to step up to raise awareness on gender-based violence by stepping into a pair of red shoes for an awareness walk through downtown Regina.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that Saskatchewan has the highest rate of domestic violence in Canada and that 50 per cent of Canadian women have experienced abuse. And Saskatchewan is one of only a few provinces that doesn't provide operational funding for second-stage shelters supporting survivors of interpersonal violence.

Walkers at the YWCA's event were invited to learn more about the realities of interpersonal violence in Saskatchewan while stepping into their roles as leaders, allies, and difference makers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me today in recognizing the YWCA and the Walk a Mile in Their Shoes event, and take note that when we collectively step up at Walk a Mile, we're standing up against gender-based violence and that we are being asked to step up as allies in all the work that we do, not just one day of the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

# Saskatchewan Achievement in Business Excellence Awards 2022

Mr. Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our province's business community was centre stage at the annual Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Achievement in Business Excellence Awards held in Saskatoon on November 5th at Prairieland Park.

Mr. Speaker, award winners were presented in eight categories. And I'm proud to recognize Sandy Shores Resort and Marina at Lake Diefenbaker for winning the Marketing Award, Pet Planet in Prince Albert for the Service Award. Alicia Soulier of Saskatoon's Salon Scale Technology was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Canadian Organic Spice & Herb Co. of Watson was exporter of the year. The Innovation Award went to Custom Agricultural Intelligence here in Regina. Synergy Credit Union of Lloydminster took home the Community Involvement Award. Saskatoon's Maven Water & Environment won the Growth and Expansion Award. And Farmer Jane Cannabis Co. of Regina picked up New Venture of the year.

Mr. Speaker, two other long-time businesses in our province were also recognized. The law firm of McKercher LLP was inducted into the Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame, while the Roger Phillips Chamber Builder Award was presented to Evan Ortynsky, owner and president of Key Auto Group in Yorkton.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses play an important role in our economy here in Saskatchewan, and our government is proud of the contributions these and all the other businesses in our province make. Thank you.

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

#### **Melville Lawyer Receives Nation Builders Award**

Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, a long-time Melville resident, Merv Ozirny, was recently honoured with the Ukrainian congress of Canada's Nation Builders Award for his work in promoting economic trade, youth programs, and leadership in Canada. With degrees in commerce and law from the University of Saskatchewan, Merv was admitted to the Saskatchewan bar in 1969, practising in Yorkton before establishing his own law firm in Melville, which he still operates. He served as Crown prosecutor provincially and federally before moving to criminal defence and civil litigation trial lawyer. He has appeared at all levels of courts in Western Canada including the courts of appeal as well as the Federal Court.

Merv is a charter member, former governor and auditor of the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association. He has served on the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and as a member of the National Energy Board in Calgary and as legal counsel to numerous First Nations. He was co-founder of the Central North American Trade Corridor, running from Canada through the United States into Mexico, and was their first international president. Mr. Ozirny is a former air cadet, is a pilot, was a 21-year commissioned officer, captain, and president of the Air Cadet League of Canada, and has been the recipient of numerous service awards. Contributions towards his community and fellow citizens over the years are more than what can be categorized or summarized in a members' statement. On behalf of the province of Saskatchewan, Merv Ozirny, we thank you.

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

# **New App for Highway Hotline**

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, there's an app for just about everything these days. And I'm pleased to say that now includes Saskatchewan's Highway Hotline. That's right, Mr. Speaker, you can now download the Highway Hotline mobile app for free through Google Play and the Apple store. Updates include additional functions, cleaner graphics, and an expanded route-planning feature that includes road conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the Highway Hotline began nearly 50 years ago as a phone-based service that provided information about road conditions. It has since evolved into a phone- and web-based service that shares information about highway conditions, road closures, construction zones, ferries, and border crossings.

[14:00]

It features a network of more than 40 cameras on our highways

and airports, providing real-time, current images of weather and highway conditions which help travellers make informed decisions about safety.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, driving through the prairies can be unpredictable and depending on the weather, sometimes less than desirable. That's why the Highway Hotline is so valuable. I want to thank all of our highway employees for the work they do, especially our Nipawin crew which does an amazing job. In appreciation of their efforts I took them out for dinner last Friday night, setting a precedent for our new Highways minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

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

#### Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit

Ms. Beck: — Yesterday the Premier bragged about the strength of the economy, while he was making excuses about why he excluded kids from his affordability plan. He said that this is a government that puts kids at the forefront, a claim, Mr. Speaker, that is more and more doubtful every day. But he has a chance to fix it. Will he change his bill and get support to families with kids today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe**: — Mr. Speaker, we were very pleased towards the end of August, by the strength of the Saskatchewan economy, the Minister of Finance, the deputy minister was able to go out with a number of points addressing affordability challenges that we have in Saskatchewan and that we see other Canadians being challenged with as well, Mr. Speaker.

We have put forward a plan to help small business. We've put forward a plan to pay down debt, a billion dollars in debt, thereby forgoing about \$50 million in interest each and every year. And yes, a plan to provide individuals, the rightful owner of the natural resources in the province, Mr. Speaker, all of those over 18, with \$500. That's about \$395 more than what the opposition had offered, Mr. Speaker.

Most certainly I would say it's only through the strength of those resources that we're able to make decisions like this. I would ask the opposition members to support *The Saskatchewan First Act*—put that through the Assembly as quickly as possible, make it unanimous, and send it off to the federal government, Mr. Speaker, for the constitutional changes—so that we can preserve that ability, that ability to create wealth in families, in communities, in town after town, in city after city across this province.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, across the board this is a government that has made life harder and more expensive for families — cuts to classrooms that resulted in lunchroom fees, hikes to heating and electrical bills, even taxing children's clothing, Mr. Speaker. And now cheques are going out to single individuals regardless of need, but there isn't a dime to support families with increased costs. Can the Premier give me one good reason why he's chosen

to leave families with kids behind?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, costs are up largely at the grocery store. Costs are up in virtually everything we do each and every day because the cost of energy is up. And, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have no credibility on this issue as they support the federal NDP, who support Justin Trudeau in charging Saskatchewan residents and Canadians a carbon tax which is driving those costs up even higher.

Mr. Speaker, it's this government that is focused on the affordability of Saskatchewan residents, the rightful owners of the resources that are creating wealth, yes, within the government, the government finances. That's why we're forwarding \$500 to each and every individual — not just single individuals — each and every individual that files taxes, over the age of 18, Mr. Speaker.

Two billion dollars each and every budget year in the annual provincial budget provided to address affordability of Saskatchewan families, including children, Mr. Speaker, with the largest tax exemption for children. We introduced the active family benefit in this province for children. The children's prescription drug plan, introduced by this government, as well as working with the federal government to lower daycare fees for families in this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, that word salad and spin does nothing to address the needs that families face today. BC [British Columbia] has an affordability plan that includes children. Manitoba is offering affordability funding for parents with kids. These governments, these governments recognize the struggles that families are facing, and they're actually doing something about it.

Mr. Speaker, this bill goes to committee today. Will he fix this bill, and will he do something to help families in need?

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the largest child tax exemption in this province. It's not word salad; that's action. Working with the federal government to lower the fees that are being paid for child care. That's not word salad; that's action. Introducing the active families benefit. Not word salad, that is action on behalf of the families we ultimately represent, Mr. Speaker. And so the bill is going to hopefully go to committee today so that Saskatchewan residents can receive their cheques, and I would hope it would go through all stages as quickly as possible.

What I would say is, let's put a bill through with it, Mr. Speaker. Let's put — unanimous in this House, all members — *The Saskatchewan First Act* through so that we can preserve the opportunity for families in communities across Saskatchewan to preserve and continue the opportunity to create wealth into the future for their family.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that's a lazy, entitled government on full display over there. It makes no sense to be sending two rebates to a couple with no children. Meanwhile a parent, single parent, a mom or a dad or a grandma or grandpa or a mosôm or a kohkom raising four kids gets one rebate, Mr. Speaker, and doing all they can just to keep the lights on. It's not fair and it's not right.

Why won't the Finance Minister, who is sitting on windfall revenues, fix this and include children in the rebate program?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it would be interesting to go to the Saskatchewan people and say for a family of four . . . Under the NDP they would give them each \$105 under their plan and what they said they would do. And if it's a single parent and three children they would get \$500, Mr. Speaker.

So no matter how they want to do this, Mr. Speaker, this is more money. Five hundred dollars is more than 420. It is the choice this government made. We believe that everyone should benefit from resource revenues since they own the resource, Mr. Speaker.

We address the pressures of child expenses in a number of ways. The Premier just listed the number of programs introduced or enhanced by this government to recognize the pressures and to offer affordability for families within our province.

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

# Affordability and Government's Fiscal Management

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Well don't let the facts get in the way, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that hid and hoarded windfall revenues at budget time to deny Saskatchewan people of the relief they deserve in face of an affordability crisis, Mr. Speaker. This rebate leaves out so many families that need the help the most. But this Sask Party is leaving them behind.

It's not just the rebates where they're failing. They're also jacking up power and energy bills for families during an affordability crisis as we head into winter, while pulling dividends from our Crowns all while having windfall revenues. Let's call this what it really is. It's backdoor taxation to pay for that Sask Party government's mismanagement for their fiscal incompetence, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Sask Party scrap their plans to jack up power and energy bills 8 and 23 per cent?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. It's been a number of years since SaskPower has increased their rates. This increase will work out to approximately for residents about \$5 per month. And the corporation needs to stay viable and sustainable into the future, Mr. Speaker. There's a number of pressures, pressures that's being put on them, quite frankly, by policies coming from the federal government.

These are policies, quite frankly, that the members opposite have not said one word about. They have not said they don't agree with them. And in fact they support them in many, many ways especially through their silence. Mr. Speaker, maybe they should speak out against these policies because it is going to make energy rates unaffordable within our province and across our entire country.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — While that Sask Party government sits on windfall revenues, it's higher energy bills and power bills for Saskatchewan people because of that Sask Party government. Higher taxes and fees. New PST [provincial sales tax] that's being imposed. And no relief at the pumps. In fact that Sask Party government voted against that relief in this legislature. Families are breaking the bank just to fill the tank. And that tired Sask Party government still hasn't delivered a dime of relief for Saskatchewan families.

Why is it that the Sask Party keep finding more and more ways to take from families for their mismanaged projects, leaving families with less and less during an affordability crisis? How on earth can they be that out of touch?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the member opposite brought up the fuel tax quite frankly because 500 litres of fuel is about \$75 worth of provincial tax. It is over double that on how it's taxed by the federal government because they have a carbon tax on that very fuel. And then they charge GST [goods and services tax] on that tax, Mr. Speaker. It's tax on a tax.

Mr. Speaker, where is the opposition complaining about that? Where are they standing up for Saskatchewan residents and saying that the federal government is making fuel unaffordable? And if they continue increasing the carbon tax, it will become higher and higher. What are they going to say then?

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

#### **Access to Reproductive Health Services**

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, earlier today Saskatchewan people rallied in front of their legislature to call on the Premier and his Sask Party government to get to work improving access to abortion services here in our province. Regular, reliable access to surgical abortions is not available in most Saskatchewan communities. Many barriers exist, contrary to what the Minister for the Status of Women claimed back in May.

So to the Minister of Health: will he ensure the same level of surgical abortion access is made available in both Saskatoon and Prince Albert as the level of access available here in Regina at the Women's Health Centre?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman**: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The government, as myself, are very supportive of women's right

to be able to choose in their productive process, Mr. Speaker.

In talking specifically to access, Mr. Speaker, we have most of our surgeries that are done in our major centres. This is how things run for other surgical procedures in our province. You have to come to the major centre to be able to have that surgical process performed. This is no different, Mr. Speaker. If there is travel costs, some people have to incur that for any other surgery that they're coming in for to the major cities to be able to have that done. This is no different. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Bowes**: — Mr. Speaker, it's not the minister's job to preside over the status quo. It's his job to ensure that everyone has access to barrier-free health care in this province, including abortion.

Mr. Speaker, today there are different standards depending on where you live in Saskatchewan. Unequal access. In Regina you can access a surgical abortion without a referral up to 14 weeks of pregnancy, but in Saskatoon you need a doctor's referral and, until recently, could only access a surgical abortion up to 12 weeks. In Prince Albert there is no access whatsoever to surgical abortion. It makes no sense, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Sask Party finally fix this inequitable access and bring forward universal standards for people accessing abortions in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to reiterate, the surgical procedures are always done in the major centres. This is something that we . . . This is a pretty serious subject, Mr. Speaker. I'd appreciate if the members opposite didn't heckle. There are some discrepancies between Saskatoon and Regina we have identified, and we're working on the process to align those two time frames. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Bowes**: — Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert is a major centre. It's the Gateway to the North in our province. A person seeking an abortion in Uranium City would have to travel over 1200 kilometres to the nearest surgical abortion centre in Saskatoon. We need access in the north of our province.

[14:15]

And, Mr. Speaker, advocates aren't just calling for change in our larger centres. They want to see a central intake line that anyone can access, no matter where they live in our province, one that can answer questions and help people needing abortion services to access the health care they need and that they are entitled to, Mr. Speaker.

So will the Sask Party government work with the people who are here in their legislature today — some of whom I see the Premier's private security detail tried to remove earlier — will they work with the people who have come here today to build a province-wide intake system and ensure people get the

reproductive health care that they need?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And for the member opposite to say it's just status quo for this government, that's not the case at all. In June of 2019, Mifegymiso was extended out at no cost to people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

As I identified in my previous answer, there are some discrepancies between Saskatoon and Regina. I've asked the health region, the Saskatchewan health region . . . This is something that was from the old health regions, Mr. Speaker, that was carried over, something that we need to address outside of other issues that we have in bringing all of those health authorities into one. This is one of the issues that was identified, and we're going to work on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Just before we go on, just want to advise the member of Saskatoon University not to include the galleries in the debate.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

## **Oversight of Qualified Independent Schools**

**Mr. Love**: — Mr. Speaker, in what is almost becoming a daily occurrence, another former student of a qualified independent school has come forward with allegations of discrimination. This time it's Prairie Christian Academy.

The minister should find this troubling. We're talking about the abuse of kids in Saskatchewan schools. Stories like this should make this minister pause for a second and question whether his oversight is protecting students. But this minister spent the last two weeks saying that he only learns about abuse in schools if he gets an email about a lawsuit. Does he not have an ounce of curiosity when he sees stories like this in the media? He is the Minister of Education. Does he care about what is going on in these schools?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm a parent of two children that are in the school system in this province. I care about their experience as I do for every single child in this province. And what I would want for them is what I want for every single student in this province — to be in a safe and welcoming environment, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in the event of an allegation, certainly there are processes that take place to check the veracity of those allegations, whether that be through the institution, through the police, through the Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I don't adjudicate human rights allegations. There are appropriate authorities that would do that. And I would say that that would be the case whether we're talking about an independent school, or sadly, allegations that are raised in the public or Catholic school divisions as well, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this government's been in power for 15 years, and they're the ones cutting cheques to these independent schools. And now Prairie Christian Academy has received nearly \$3 million of support from the Sask Party government.

Now the minister can't say that the safety of students is his number one concern and then receive allegations and just shrug them off — like he just did here — saying well, you know, we just expect that these schools will follow the guidelines, but if they don't file a human rights complaint then we won't do anything about it.

Yesterday, yesterday we saw how fast this minister can act. When a reporter asked to speak to a scientist about dinosaurs, he jumped to action. Where is that same sense of urgency when it comes to protecting our kids?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan**: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly allegations that are made need to be investigated, and there's a number of authorities that are responsible for investigating those allegations, Mr. Speaker. And if those allegations prove to be factual, then the appropriate action has to take place, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we as a government believe that in a pluralistic society like Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, there's ample opportunity to ensure that there is choice for families when it comes to educating their children. We don't pull funding or close schools when there are allegations in the public system or when there are allegations in the Catholic system, and the same is true for the independent school, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, we're talking about students that are speaking out about their experience of being outed and shamed at a school, and that that experience led to suicidal thoughts. Mr. Speaker, it was at a school that's received nearly \$3 million from that Sask Party government. One thing is clear: whatever oversight this government has developed is failing, and it's failing our kids.

Expecting schools to follow guidelines and schools actually following those guidelines are two different things. So a simple yes-or-no question to the minister: can he guarantee that no school under his supervision is currently violating human rights of their students?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, when there are allegations that have been raised, whether they be public through the media or any other means, there are appropriate steps that need to take place to investigate those allegations, including through the Human Rights Commission, where those types of complaints are appropriately investigated. When there are rulings that anybody's rights . . . or where laws have been broken, Mr.

Speaker, then the appropriate action must and will take place.

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

# **Interpersonal Violence Rates and Support for Second-Stage Shelters**

**Ms. Sarauer**: — Mr. Speaker, after inviting a convicted wife killer to the legislature, being internationally shamed into apologizing, and forcing shelters like SOFIA House in Regina to fundraise to shelter women fleeing violence, I didn't think it could get much worse.

But to have that minister play politics, talking about election platforms from a decade ago as she sits on her hands instead of funding life-saving services — sorry, seven years ago — while she sits on her hands instead of funding these life-saving services, this is a new low, a new low for this morally bankrupt government and for that minister's office.

Enough is enough. Will this government finally commit to funding operations for second-stage shelters today?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-five million dollars, Mr. Speaker, \$25 million is what we've invested this year in early intervention and prevention. We've provided funding to expand 211 call line supports for interpersonal violence. We've passed *The Protection from Human Trafficking Act*. We've proclaimed Clare's Law. We've proclaimed *The Privacy Amendment Act*, which provides the victims of intimate image violations with the ability to take direct action against their perpetrators, Mr. Speaker.

In 2015 we opened the first new transition house in Saskatchewan since 1989. In 2021 we passed legislation that allows employees who are survivors of sexual violence to access five paid and five unpaid days to access services and supports, and victims of sexual violence to break a lease.

Mr. Speaker, they groan. They mock. They laugh. It really is quite something, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — They're the worst rates in the country and this minister time and time again asks us to thank her, thank her government, for the work that they have done. That's enough for them, apparently.

Mr. Speaker, Jill Arnott, the executive director of the U of R [University of Regina] women's health centre, had this challenge for this government:

Go ahead and visit a shelter, see what it looks like and find out what the wait-time is . . . They should read some stories, listen to what victims have to say. They are here to lead us, so in the aftermath of a mistake like this, creating cultural change and attitudinal change means having those tough conversations.

Cultural change means stepping up and actually doing something to address nation-leading domestic violence rates. Again, will the minister commit to operational funding for second-stage shelters today?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Mr. Speaker, the grade of C from the association of transition houses — that they speak on behalf of — came two years ago, on the record, Mr. Speaker. This is not the time to discredit the amazingly good work that's been done on the intervention-prevention side, Mr. Speaker.

And I've referenced some of those projects. FIRST [family intervention rapid support team], for example, which offers rapid support in a number of communities. The safe shelter in Melfort. Improved, renovated shelters in Meadow Lake, La Ronge, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, P.A. [Prince Albert], Regina, Swift Current, and Yorkton, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of second-stage funding, we've seen additional funding in Regina, for example, through the YWCA. A 40-shelter bed and 68 units ... Again, they mock. They mock 68 units of congregate living.

Mr. Speaker, I will say this. There is more to come and we are working on this every day, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

# **Support for People Experiencing Homelessness**

**Ms. Conway:** — Mr. Speaker, it's beyond disturbing to see that the worst domestic violence rates in the country is good enough for that Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, we're only a few days into winter, but people are already freezing to death in our province. A man from Montreal Lake Cree Nation was found frozen to death in Prince Albert. Another died in Saskatoon outside of a downtown church. This is not growth that works for everyone.

In a rich province like Saskatchewan, no one should die alone in the cold with nowhere to go. Is this acceptable to the Minister of Social Services? And what actions will he take to ensure that no one dies freezing to death in this province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of these two cases that the member opposite mentions, and I won't presume as to what is the outcome of that investigation that is still happening. But of course on behalf of myself, I give condolences to the individuals and their family and their community in this case, Mr. Speaker.

Of course homelessness is a complex issue that many across the country are dealing with. What we are doing — the member opposite referenced — just today we announced our cold-

weather strategy where municipalities are working in concert with CBOs [community-based organization] as well as community organizations to ensure that folks are looked after. Of course the ministry is involved with that.

Just the day before, Mr. Speaker, 1.7 million in addition to the over 10 million we've spent on homelessness initiatives this year with our CBOs to ensure that there is more spaces and that spaces that we have, have enough funding for this upcoming winter, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly a challenging situation, but we're continuing to work on it.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 98 — The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Amendment Act. 2022

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 98, *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Amendment Act* of 2022 be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 98 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.

**Deputy Clerk**: — First reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell**: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 99 — The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act* of 2022 be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker**: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 99 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.

**Deputy Clerk**: — First reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell**: — 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 table the answer to question no. 2.

**The Speaker**: — Question no. 2 is tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Ottenbreit**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the questions 3 through 40.

[14:30]

**The Speaker:** — 3 through what? 40? Would the Government Whip clarify that? There isn't 40 questions. 3 to 20, did you mean?

Mr. Ottenbreit: — We will do 3 to 40, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Try again.

**Mr. Ottenbreit**: — Third time's the charm, Mr. Speaker. We will order the questions 3 to 39.

**The Speaker**: — The Whip has ordered questions 3 through 39.

### **GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

## SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 96 — The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Marit**: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will move second reading of *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act*. Mr. Speaker, this Act will repeal *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Act*. This legislation has not been used or enforced for 25 years.

Repealing the Act will not have any impact on the productivity or health of the leafcutting bee sector. This will only repeal an out-of-date piece of legislation. Industry was consulted and no issues were brought forward, Mr. Speaker.

The leafcutting bee industry is still supported by the ministry's specialists and repeal of this legislation does not diminish support for the industry. It is an effort to keep Saskatchewan's agriculture legislation current with the evolving industry. Repeal of this redundant legislation will help reduce government red tape and increase government efficiency. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act* be read a second time. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved that Bill No. 96 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I'll recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, I'll keep my remarks on this brief. Today was the first time I learned that we had a leafcutting beekeepers registration Act, so I'm sure if there is anything that we need to enter into the record on this piece of legislation, I'll leave it to my colleagues to do that as I'm just getting eyes on this for the first time.

But I do know that the bee and honey industry is very important across Saskatchewan. The prairies provide 75 per cent of all honey in Canada. And I will note that our bees are facing many threats through exposure to pesticides, through the decrease in diversity of flowers, and that this last winter was particularly hard on them. I myself hosted beehives and was an unfortunate recipient of the high bee mortality rates that we saw over this past winter.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, because I don't have anything particularly germane to say about this legislation at this time, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 96, *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal 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. 97 — The Architects Amendment Act, 2022

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the conclusion of my comments I will be moving second reading of *The Architects Amendment Act*, 2022.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes updates which allow a mutual recognition agreement signed by the Government of Canada and the European Union to take effect in the province of Saskatchewan. This mutual recognition agreement will provide qualified architects with a credential to allow for labour mobility to practise architecture between signatories. It also outlines specific requirements that architects must satisfy to pursue this mutual recognition including education, internship, work qualifications, and submitting documents to confirm the individual's credentials.

Mr. Speaker, provinces and territories have the constitutional authority to regulate professional qualifications and services within their jurisdictions and to delegate this authority to the competent authority, in this case the Saskatchewan Association of Architects. While the Government of Canada signed this mutual recognition agreement on behalf of the provinces and territories, officials from the Ministry of Trade, Export and Development were present during negotiations. A letter of support for the mutual recognition agreement was also provided to the Government of Canada.

The proposed amendments to the legislation include an interpretation of trade agreements and provide the Saskatchewan

Association of Architects the authority to issue licences to practise architecture in the province of Saskatchewan to those identified in the trade agreements. Amendments also provide the Government of Saskatchewan the authority to draft regulations identifying signed trade agreements. Mr. Speaker, with that I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Architects Amendment Act*, 2022.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved that Bill No. 97 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter debate on Bill No. 97, *The Architects Amendment Act*, 2022. Hearing my colleague's comments that this piece of legislation deals with two main things — concerns itself with trade agreement Acts and then allowing the Sask Association of Architects to issue licences — this all appears to make good sense. Our critic will of course consult and ensure that this legislation gets it right.

I don't have much to say on this piece of legislation at this time. I would just probably like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the talent, skill, and commitment of the hundreds of architects in our province. They do good work, Mr. Speaker, and of course we should be working in this House to keep the legislation that regulates that profession up to date. And with that I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 97, *The Architects 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.

# ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

# 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 University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and enter some comments into the record on Bill 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act*. And I mean that genuinely because it gives me the opportunity to briefly, and I do mean very briefly, wax poetic on the strong history that the Saskatchewan NDP has for supporting this province, supporting the rights of this province, and standing up in an efficacious way and defending them nationally.

Members in this House will of course be familiar with my deep admiration for the work of some of the greats upon whose shoulders all of us stand. I think particularly of a former premier, Allan Blakeney, recognized across aisles — across aisles perhaps despite the Minister of Environment's chagrin — and across partisan lines as a true statesman and a true architect of not only

this province but this country.

And in looking at Bill No. 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act*, it really in essence has three main parts, Mr. Speaker. You know, the bill reasserts that Saskatchewan — and I use the word reasserts — that Saskatchewan has exclusive jurisdiction over the exploration, development, management of natural resources, forestry, power generation, and fertilizer use.

And yes, Mr. Speaker, this is true. This is a right that this province has fought for and won successfully through the work of those greats who I mentioned like Allan Blakeney and Roy Romanow, who along with fellow statesmen, the Gang of Eight ... And I think in particular of Peter Lougheed, you know, a gentleman, a statesman from another political party but with whom our past government, our former premier worked closely to ensure that the rights of prairie provinces and the rights of Western Canada were defended and defended successfully and enshrined in the Constitution. So that first part really pays tribute — and I thank the members for that — for the great work of Allan Blakeney and Roy Romanow in standing up for Saskatchewan in a way that actually got things done for the province and protected our rights.

Mr. Speaker, the second main part of this bill amends the *Saskatchewan Act* and the *Constitution Act* of 1867 to add provisions reasserting — and again I use that word reasserting, Mr. Speaker — exclusive legislative jurisdiction over natural resources, again forestry, power generation, and stressing the importance of those sectors to Saskatchewan. And again, you know, reasserting. It's so far, Mr. Speaker, a glowing tribute to the work of past Saskatchewan NDP governments and the work that they've done on behalf of all Western provinces to ensure the rights that we have for control over those things within our jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, the third part of this bill, and perhaps the novel part of this bill, is the establishment of what I believe it calls an economic impact assessment tribunal, which . . . I mean, I love the word tribunal. It does sound a little medieval, but beyond that does sound a bit bureaucratic, Mr. Speaker, with the intent, I understand, to examine and report on the impacts of federal policies on Saskatchewan. You know, and it's this third point around which there are some questions. In my mind, Mr. Speaker, the duty and the obligation of any government made up of whatever party currently holds power in the province of Saskatchewan is to do that, is to really address the economic realities, the future prosperity, the goals, and the impacts of other jurisdictions, of international events, of economic forces, social forces on this province that we all call home.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, looking at this tribunal at this point with no clarity from the government and, indeed, a number of . . . I believe the Leader of the Opposition used the term "word salad" today. And I read a few of the articles in which the Minister for Justice has spoken on this bill, particularly on Pipeline Online and they're nearly impossible to follow in regards to coherence. But it's this third point around which there are real questions and, at this point, no forthcoming answers.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, as was said by the member for Regina Rosemont, we should, in this Assembly, be able to be rock-solid and united when it comes to making an economic argument for the province of Saskatchewan, but, Mr. Speaker, it remains to be seen. As I've said, there are many questions whether an economic impact assessment tribunal will be able to do anything of merit for this province, Mr. Speaker. Or perhaps it is an Alberta-style war room by another name. Another level of bureaucracy, potentially of paid appointments, empowered to do little more than issue press releases on behalf of the government's political interests.

And I could be wrong, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps there will be more details forthcoming on what this tribunal is actually able to do. But, Mr. Speaker, looking at the most recent history, this government's public record on making economic arguments is poor at best. I believe it was said most succinctly by an economist from Alberta when he called the government's most recent white paper and the math contained therein, "insane and completely uncredible."

So you know, Mr. Speaker, to me, the work that is being purported to be done by this tribunal is really work that should be done by this government on a daily basis and should be done by any government in Saskatchewan. I fail to see — and again, perhaps answers are forthcoming — what an added level of bureaucracy or another group of people issuing press releases on behalf of the government may do to advance their agenda.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I understand the minister has spoken about the potential of this being used as, hopefully, credible evidence in court cases going forward. And of course there's questions on that and clarification that I'm sure will emerge from much more learned people than myself, speaking of course of constitutional experts who will understand the ability of bodies such as this hypothetical economic impact assessment tribunal to have evidence actually considered by the courts in a real way.

#### [14:45]

But you know, Mr. Speaker, it remains to be seen whether this will in fact be taken as expert testimony in any future lawsuits that the province decides to pursue, which is likely potentially what we are looking at, because the first two pieces of this bill that I've canvassed, Mr. Speaker, really just reassert existing documents. You know, this bill doesn't do anything to help Saskatchewan people. It does nothing thus far to advance the economic interests of Saskatchewan. At best those two portions — while I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the record of former governments of Allan Blakeney and former Premier Roy Romanow, then attorney general — you know, at this point it is without any real teeth, without any real ability to actually help the people of Saskatchewan, little more than legislative virtue signalling.

And, Mr. Speaker, we on this side, and I hope all members in this House, can be united because we do need to stand up for Saskatchewan. We need to be the adults in the room, the adults at the table going to those tables and getting a good, fair deal for Saskatchewan. Introducing redundant, virtue-signalling legislation which does nothing new does not help that case.

And again it further degrades the reputation of this province, and again is part of a sad pattern of behaviour demonstrated by the Sask Party in which they put party over province again and again and again. Political interests over province. Politics over making

a real, sound, credible economic argument for this province that has not been widely dragged by every credible thought leader and economist in the country. Again you cannot find a credible conservative thought leader who will stand behind the decisions and priorities being made by this government.

I've already read a number of enjoyable Howard Anglin quotes into the record, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And while I would love to do it again, I think I did lie off the top and say I would be brief, so I will move on.

But, Mr. Speaker, we should be able to be allies in this fight. There is a real need to stand up for this province, to get clarity on a path forward for critical things for Saskatchewan like power generation, like the development and management of natural resources, and like Indigenous rights in this province, Mr. Speaker, of which there has been no mention and really quite frankly nothing but logical fallacies from the government, which I believe just yesterday... And I should have checked *Hansard* and I'll go back, but I believe there was an assertion made around the duty-to-consult legislation that my colleague from Saskatoon Centre has been calling for on behalf of the many Indigenous people and nations in this province who want a better deal, who want greater recognition.

And I believe it was said by Sask Party members in this Assembly that, well we don't need legislation because it's already in the Constitution. So why would we just restate something that's already in the Constitution? It's a good question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's one that I would put to the members opposite when we examine the first two parts of Bill 88

You know, Mr. Speaker, I'm all for the showmanship and pageantry of politics, but when we're talking about the economic reality and very much the livelihoods and in some cases the lives of people in this province who are really struggling, are struggling with change in their industries . . . They're struggling with their houses — I think of folks in the Southeast — not being worth the equity they've put into it potentially, and they have little hope. And those are real challenges and those are real concerns for those families and for all members in the House. And I know members on this side are deeply, deeply frustrated and deeply, deeply concerned for those people because these economic realities are serious. These are deadly serious for people. So when you have . . .

And you know, the Minister for SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] is heckling that we should stand up for Saskatchewan, and I'm glad she agrees with the point that I'm making. It's great to see some bipartisan agreement in this House, Mr. Speaker, because we should. The minister agrees with me. It's great. We should be able to be united and rock-solid on this front. But it seems like, by her fellow ministers' own logic, simply reasserting things which are already in the Constitution are pointless. So again I struggle to see what, if anything, this bill does to truly help Saskatchewan people.

And that is what members on this side are looking for. We are looking for an agenda that is credible. We are looking for a fight that we can win and a fight that this government is not going to simply humiliate us in. Because their record right now is like, oh and what? And with legislation that has little teeth and little

opportunity to do anything except, again, make themselves feel better, put party before the province, the only solution that I see — again not a lawyer, not a constitutional law expert, Mr. Speaker — but the solution seems to be this province ending up back in court.

And for members opposite to be staking the hopes and beliefs of so many people in this province on a piece of legislation that may not in fact, may not in fact do anything to truly help the people of the province, is deeply troubling when we consider the economic realities that so many are struggling with today because, Mr. Speaker, people in this province have a real affordability crisis on their hands.

People are struggling. We had two people freeze to death in the province. It is the second week of November — the second week of November. Food bank use is through the roof. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I know members opposite will sometimes not pay attention. They'll shrug. They'll go, oh, you know, the poor, or homelessness, it's complex, it's a challenge. Many, many . . .

I believe we should care about the chronically unhoused. I believe we should care about the most vulnerable. But if it's a stretch for some members, I want you to consider that so many of the people who are struggling, to them this struggle is new. They're working people. They're people who go to work every day, maybe at one or two jobs, and they cannot keep up. Gas is expensive, food is expensive, power is going up, energy is going up—these are fixed costs that cannot be avoided.

You know, this isn't your lattes and avocado toast, Mr. Speaker. These are working people going to the food bank with their children because that is the only place that they can cut corners to stay afloat. And in a province as wealthy as Saskatchewan, a province where we spend \$20 billion a year on a population of 1 million people, surely we should be doing better than two people having frozen to death in the first 10 days of November.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we look at this, when we look at the affordability crisis gripping the province, you know, that again the members have done nothing on so far except pat themselves on the back again, putting party before the province, putting their party and their political interests before the province of Saskatchewan, I look at this bill and I ask, what does this do to help Saskatchewan people?

And as these questions are answered, as more clarity emerges and we start to see more discussion of this, I want to be clear. I'm open to learning more about this, but as I said, this government does not have a record of strong support from any economists or credible thought leaders. In fact the only person I can see who has stood up and applauded this bill thus far, aside from members on that side, is the ... I believe she was called the beleaguered Premier of Alberta, you know, Mr. Speaker.

And I referenced the good work of Allan Blakeney and Peter Lougheed and, boy oh boy, the Premier and Premier Smith are no Allan Blakeney and Peter Lougheed. I look at the support, I assume in a coordinated fashion offered by the Alberta premier; the Alberta premier who had to walk back her public comments that maybe Ukraine was asking for it and Russia might be in the right; the Premier of Alberta who's shared links to anti-Semitic blogs and, again, had to walk that back; the Premier who's

blamed cancer patients and victims in her crusade for leadership, and to try and court the most divisive elements of Alberta politics — that is your only public ally to date.

And the members on that side: I just ask you, if you're in a fight and you look around, look at the people standing next to you. And if the only person standing next to you is the lady who's on the same side as Vladimir Putin, maybe reassess.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, if this government truly was interested in some real substantive economic fights that they could win with the federal government in Ottawa — and God knows, there are some fights that we should be having and some fights that we could be winning — I would encourage them to revisit the equalization lawsuit that they dropped soon as Stephen Harper asked them to.

I believe it was the former member for Regina Douglas Park who said — what was it? — tickle my tummy? He rolled over faster than you could say, tickle my tummy. I'll check *Hansard* again, Mr. Speaker. Paraphrasing there. Yeah, I should be clear so I'm not found in contempt of the House for misquoting the former member, former Finance minister. But tickle my tummy, Mr. Speaker.

So if this government truly wanted to stand up for Saskatchewan, get a better deal for Saskatchewan, they would renew that equalization lawsuit. They would have their Health minister at the first meeting in four years of Health ministers, fighting for more health care dollars for this province instead of sitting in the front bench, heckling for fun. Where was he, I wonder.

So, Mr. Speaker, you know, this bill, I guess I really did lie. I said I was going to be brief but there's . . . I did, yeah. My colleagues are reminding me. You know, it does nothing to help Saskatchewan people. It does nothing to stand up for Saskatchewan, and we need to stand up for Saskatchewan. We need adults in the room, and we need a government that is not consistently putting their party over this province.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will refrain from saying, tickle my tummy one more time. And I will conclude and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act*. Thank you.

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

**Some Hon. Members**: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

#### Bill No. 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 Speaker**: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette**: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join on Bill No. 90, the telecommunications borrowing powers amendment Act, 2022. Before I start out commenting, of course I want to

keep my comments clear about SaskTel, a great corporation. The people's corporation, SaskTel. We own that corporation, very proud of it. I want to thank those workers that do such a great job, SaskTel workers. You know, I'm just . . . I watch as they go around when it's wintertime. And we've seen what happens in our province when you don't take care of yourself, and my colleague before me talked about two people that we lost, frozen to death, you know, outside, alone. And you know, it's sad, and my heart goes out to the families and those that are struggling out there, families.

But before I get into that, we have a Crown corporation, SaskTel, that provides good cell service. It provides the internet service, home phone lines. It does so much and it has so much infrastructure and does a great job. And you know, I thank . . . and I'm grateful that, you know, the Sask Party government, it's tried to sell off our Crown corporations, reversed its decision on stuff. I'm realizing and hoping that they understand never to go there again and never try to sell off our Crown corporations that the people of this good province own and are so proud of. So I want to start out with that, thanking the good workers.

#### [15:00]

Now, Mr. Speaker, you know, I look at the legislation and I think, okay, they want more borrowing power. And I . . . [inaudible] . . . to myself, wow. You want to borrow more money, you know, when everyone's struggling, people are struggling. Sask Party government, I used to think you had amazing credit cards you guys were using because you spent . . . I think you put us, tripled the debt.

But having said that, I want to come back to this bill because it's important, what I want to talk about. You want permission to borrow more money to be flexible, to borrow more for infrastructure for capital, and there's nothing wrong with that. A corporation needs to do that, and I think SaskTel wants to be competitive, you know, out there and making sure it's doing its part.

But I want to remind people when you borrow this money, you know, I would like to say, do you really need this money? What are you going to do with this money if you allow our corporations to borrow more money? Are you going to provide more services? Are you trying to provide infrastructure?

Like, I think about this: internet for communities. We have communities that have very, very poor internet. And you know, our Crown corporation is moving; I hear the Minister of SaskTel talk about how he wants to move and SaskTel wants to move in a certain area when it comes to infrastructure. And you know, you hear them talk about it, and they announce that they're putting up towers in different places. And I watch in the rural areas and different areas. It is; they're trying to make cell-tower internet better for Saskatchewan residents who own that company.

Well there's many people who live on First Nations communities. They have a right to have good internet. We think of the tri-community, and we had to petition, and I thank those leaders and I thank those residents of La Ronge, Air Ronge, and Lac La Ronge Indian Band who fought hard, had a petition going because they wanted better internet service. It was needed with

education. You know, we were dealing with the crisis with COVID. And they said, look, online, kids were struggling to even get on that. The system just wasn't enough capacity to allow kids to do their studying online.

So when we look at all these different things, and then I hear a government saying how it wants to allow its Crown corporations to borrow more money to move. And I think about First Nations, our rural communities, smaller communities that could use, you know, internet services, better internet services, cell service.

I'm going to talk about a story about a kohkom who gave me a call. About two weeks ago I talked to her. And she said, you know — she lives up north in one of our northern communities; she lives in Pelican Narrows — and she said to me, I want you to know something, she said. She said, we travel from Pelican on the highway, the Hanson Lake 106. We travel lots and accidents happen, people break down, and usually, you know, people will take care of their neighbour and they will stop and try to help.

And she said, I want you to know, my daughter, her partner, and their children were in a car accident. And I want you to know how hard it was to know that my daughter and my grandkids and her partner were there in an accident on the side of a road for hours without help. No one could phone to get . . . You know, there's no cell towers anywhere along that whole stretch.

And I listened to her story and she said, you know, she was so grateful. She said, Doyle, I want you to know I was so grateful that one of the Crown corporations within our province — I think it was SaskPower, whichever it was, whichever; it was a company — she said, they came along. And my daughter, and they had come up off the road, the kids were stuck upside down in the vehicle. And the husband finally got to them and could get the kids out of the seatbelts and try to get . . . And she was injured pretty bad in this car, the mother, and she said, you know, just broke many different bones, was really in tough shape. And she said, they waited for a long time, hours, she said, to get help.

And finally a vehicle pulled over and they finally got a hold of ... This vehicle didn't have a cell phone. He had a satellite phone, this Crown corporation, and he made a phone call for 911 on this, what I got from her. And she was so pleased that that happened. She was so grateful that, you know, they could get some, finally, emergency services in.

So I've talked about this in the House and want to give credit to our leaders out there, our First Nations leaders, our municipal leaders. Residents have raised it to this government. I have raised it in question period. We have talked about this. So when they want to borrow money, more money for infrastructure, I think for our Crown corporations to do the good work it needs to do, we'll all look at that. And you know, we got to make sure we provide the services that are out there in the province. And it's the good people that own that Crown corporation who will pay that debt off.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, when we have incidents like this where somebody needs help, here's where an opportunity for government . . . I'm hoping if they go this . . . because we can't stop this. Like, let's be honest; we can talk for 20 hours and try to hold the bill up, but this government is so powerful with so many members that they will pass whatever legislation they

want. We have provisions as opposition members to do certain things and question, making sure that people are talked to and are consulted. And we see that in so many areas. First Nations, Métis people do not get consulted by this government and many Saskatchewan residents don't get opportunity to be consulted by the government. The government just does it. We know what's best for you. We'll do whatever. You're going to vote for us anyway.

But I want to go back to saying it's about safety, Mr. Speaker. In this Bill 90, I want to come back to this. They want to borrow more money for capital infrastructure. I'm hoping that this government would've come up with a plan, and I was hoping because the leaders have asked. We have tourists. And if you won't do it for residents who travel to go to mines, working to travel up north when they go get goods and services, you won't do it for your own Saskatchewan residents, well maybe you'll put cell towers up and you'll come up with a plan along the Hanson Lake Road and other areas where we need a road for the tourists.

We have many tourists that come up here. They come from all over. Well maybe you'll do it for the tourists if you won't do it for your own Saskatchewan citizens. Maybe that's the way you'll do it. Maybe you'll take this money you want to borrow, more money, billions, you want to have room to be able to help Saskatchewan residents who deserve — a lot of them are Indigenous — they deserve to have 911 access, a cell tower.

If you couldn't come up with a plan to say, well you know what maybe, Doyle, we can't do it all in one year. Maybe we'll do this over a three-year plan where we'll make sure we'll start putting up . . . And I know there's members opposite, you know, I know that there's a few that understand what it's like to be travelling. And I know that and I've heard that person. You know, we've had talks just saying about safety. And that's the right thing to do.

So I'd encourage anyone who knows, travelling along that highway, if you had family members, if you had people you know, would you want them to have access to cell towers, cell service in emergency? I'm sure you would. So I'll ask any of those members, push your government and try to ask them to please help. It's the right thing to do to make sure.

Now I know Bill 90... You know, again I've got to go back to it and I want to make sure you understand. Sometimes we come across bills, and you know, it gives us an opportunity to talk about Saskatchewan residents and the need for Saskatchewan residents. And this legislation here gives me the opportunity to talk about internet service, and I've said that it's needed so badly.

You know, we could do so much better in our province for Saskatchewan residents. You know, the government wants to talk about growth for everyone and all that. How about cell service and safety for everyone, for all residents? Doesn't matter if they're Indigenous, non-Indigenous, whether they're in the North, the rural, urban. It doesn't matter. Let's be proud of our Crown corporations.

And that's how they were built. They were built to make sure Saskatchewan, our rural people that were long distance, we subsidized them because we put in towers and we had the ability to do that, to make sure everyone paid together. Well let me tell

you, this government, you have failed northern people in the Cumberland riding. When I talk to them, Hanson Lake Road, many of the North's . . . You know, you have failed them when it comes to services.

And I want to give credit to SaskTel again. Workers, they do a great job. The corporation does a great job. I want to make that very clear. It has nothing to do about that. It's about the government making the choices. And the minister, I'm hoping the minister will look at this, who's in charge of SaskTel, and say hey, it's time to look. It's time to have a serious plan to make sure that the Hanson Lake Road, Highway 106, has cell service so people can call an emergency. And if we have to phase it in over two or three years, we'll do that.

Now again, the last thing I'll say, I want to thank our leaders, you know, northern Saskatchewan, who have been pushing: mayors, Denare Beach, Creighton. I've been to many communities: Pelican Narrows, Deschambault, Sandy Bay. They're talking about, they need that cell service for safety. And I'm hoping this government, the petitions that have been brought in about cell service, I hope you'll make sure you'll hear that.

And when you're doing this, borrowing all this money, and you're going to ask those residents who do have . . . You know, they have cell service. They pay their rates to have a SaskTel phone number. They pay their rates. Shouldn't they also have cell service as they're leaving their communities and travelling for goods and work and business? Shouldn't they have the same opportunity as anyone else to have, you know, cell service in emergency?

So having said that, you know, I want to again go back to reminding the government. You know, you talk about . . . And I say this: this isn't the members, Sask Party government who owns this; it's the people's corporation. And it's time you started treating it like it's the people. And truly I'm hoping the minister and those officials are hearing what's going on. And it's time to act on this, and it's time to make sure we have internet services for First Nations, many communities, and also, you know, cell service.

So you know, you want support, I think, for this bill. And I know you don't need our support because you're going to . . . you pass it. You're big and you guys . . . And this is the last thing I'm going to say about this part of it because I've never seen such big government. Like, you are. It's amazing how many seats. I've said that before. You know, they laugh at us, and you know, we . . . back and forth, and I get it. But they have so many backbenchers. They're amazing how many backbenchers they have.

And they have some Indigenous backbenchers that are really back there. I kind of know my Indigenous brothers and sisters are way back there. And you know, I see them once in a while, and I hear some people, and I wave at them once in a while. And they do a lot. And one day I'm hoping. You know, one day I'm hoping, instead of just using them for photo shots, you'll make sure that they're . . . Move them forward. Like, come on. Help us. Like, move them forward, and you know, maybe we'll get some action on bills like this. And we'll have a Minister Responsible for SaskTel, and they'll say it's time. When we borrow this money, we're going to do this. We're going to make

sure the Indigenous people and northern people are taken care of. Maybe that will happen someday, Mr. Speaker.

But having said that, you know, I think time for the photo ops is over and it's time to get some work . . . I'm being sincere to the Minister of SaskTel and the Crowns. I hope he could look at this. Leaders have asked and saying it's time that we deal with some of the places that truly do need cell service, the internet service, and as a very proud Crown corporation we will provide that. And we will be there for Saskatchewan residents, all Saskatchewan and not just ones we pick. Oh, the last thing I'll say is, even though they didn't vote for your big government and they voted for another party, you'll still say, we'll take care of all people in this province.

So having said that, I think I've gone on lots when I seen about how much they wanted to borrow. I think it was like, they went up, borrowing limit of . . . These are a lot of zeros in here. I want to make sure I've got my math right because I know their math is terrible. I've seen the white paper and some of the stuff coming out. It's terrible. But I think it's 2 billion, 900 million, and it has a whole bunch of zeros after it. So I'm sure that's what it is. It's 2 billion, 900 million that they want to provide room to do the infrastructure and work that they want to borrow, is my understanding. If I got that wrong, well I'm sure I'll be corrected on it. But that's what my understanding is, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, on that note, I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill No. 90. Thank you. I'll move adjournment on that.

**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 Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be entering into debate about the bill, Bill No. 91, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Part III) Amendment Act.* So you know, it's always good. It is really good when we start changing to become relevant, you know, and it's always good to do that. It's always good to take that time to say, is this relevant, and also to hear from folks that have had concerns about whatever bill we have and to listen to the folks that we represent.

[15:15]

So when I was reading this, a few things came up. First of all, I just want to say it is very important that we protect the people in the workforce. You know, I think back to when I was young, much younger than a lot of people here but a lot older than probably all of my colleagues. I remember, and we didn't have

this — I do not believe I had it when I was much younger — some kind of legislation on harassment. And I was a young person. I was a young person in the workforce. I was so delighted and tickled to be working for a Crown corporation.

And a couple of times I was told that the only reason I got that job was because of a partnership that was created between that corporation and the Saskatoon Tribal Council. And when that first happened, I felt quite uncomfortable. And anyone that knows me knows that I'm not one to be pushed around. And I stated that I got this job based on my own merit, but the damage was done.

As a young person, as a single mom, you know, I worked very hard. I had a couple of jobs to take care of my baby, my daughter, because I was the only person to take care of my child, because her dad was deceased. So for me, I took pride in the work that I was doing and I worked very hard. But to have somebody say to me, the only reason I got that job was because of a partnership that was created, that stunk, you know.

And when it first happened I thought, okay, not a bad deal. Not bad. I can deal with this. I'll do my work, put my head up. But I always felt uncomfortable, and I knew that I was not welcome in that place, and I knew something was wrong. And being a young person — and I see this with lots of young people out there — sometimes we don't have that information of what our rights are. That's not given to us, but it certainly would have helped had somebody said hey, this is harassment.

That happened again in that same place. And again I said, I got that job based on my merit. And I tried to advocate for myself, but there was absolutely nothing I could do. As a young person being employed in a Crown corporation, there was nothing there to protect me. And I think about that. This is in the early '90s.

And then in my workplace as I got older, I guess, and in the area that I worked for a long time, I've had many individuals reach out to me about harassment because many of these folks that reach out to me had a lot of trust in me and were First Nation and felt . . . They were actually often the only First Nation employed in that organization and were harassed, and they often reached out to me. And the thing I remember . . . Because of the background I had, I would say, you know what? You have every right to have somebody sit with you. Get an elder. If that is what you feel is comfortable, bring in an elder.

So when I think of ... When we're trying to make ourselves relevant in terms of the legislation, it's so good that we're looking at protecting employees. It's important that we protect employees. So I think about how, you know, we're wanting to update this, clarify some of the work, and just have this general housekeeping, general amendments. They are necessary to keep legislation relevant. But I just wanted to ... I was just reflecting on this, and I thought, okay, this is really good that we're looking at trying to protect employees.

Harassment. Harassment is not only sexual assault or sexual harassment, it's also intimidation. It's also the comments that are derogatory. It's those kinds of harassment that happens, and it's really good to see that we are looking at protecting employees. And it's very important, especially for our young people that are entering the workforce, for them to know that they are going to

be protected. There are things in place here that will protect them.

I'm sure the critic for this area will have many other questions and comments. I won't take up too much more of your time. I just wanted to share, just kind of reflect also in my own experience as a young person not being protected by this kind of legislation, and also to remind folks that it's good to have somebody with you in situations like this to not only document that but also provide that emotional support.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 90, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Part III) Amendment Act*, of 2022. 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. 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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in, albeit briefly, this afternoon with respect to Bill No. 92, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act*, 2022. This legislation is very important. It's important certainly to SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], a valuable and important Crown corporation that delivers exceptional value and protection and support to the people of Saskatchewan. We'll always aim to improve that value and make sure the protections are there and that modernizations are occurring as needed as society changes, Mr. Speaker. I see some nod to . . . some of that possibly in this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

And of course, it's really important that we get this right when we open up this Act for Saskatchewan people, for drivers, for families, Mr. Speaker. This legislation, you know, relates directly to property insurance, to injury coverage, to liability insurance, Mr. Speaker. So we need to make sure that any change of this Act is improving protections for Saskatchewan people and the support that they need and deserve.

One of the aspects that's referenced in the minister's remarks are changes around counselling supports and the dollars available to support counselling following a tragic accident, Mr. Speaker. And you know, we'll make sure we're consulting on this front and making sure that those changes are what they need to be for Saskatchewan people. I can only imagine the horrible trauma that many endure through traffic accidents through those tragedies, Mr. Speaker. I've, you know, witnessed first-hand the impacts through many that have experienced that sort of loss and tragedy, Mr. Speaker. We need to make sure that counselling supports are there for them.

I understand there's changes here as well with respect to the automation that is moving quick for vehicles, the shift towards highly automated vehicles, self-driving vehicles, autonomous vehicles, Mr. Speaker. And so this will be important that certainly SGI, you know, is structured and that the Act is structured in a way that sets Saskatchewan drivers and SGI up well on this front to respond to those new challenges, Mr. Speaker. And it's through consultation that will, on our side, be led by our critic, Mr. Speaker, that we'll make sure that that's the case with the changes that are being brought here, Mr. Speaker.

What I would say to anyone, there's so many experts and stakeholders that know this legislation well, that have expertise and knowledge on this front. I would urge them to of course share their perspective on this legislation, of course with government, but importantly as well with the opposition and our lead critic, the member for Meewasin.

It'll be our aim and our lead critic's aim on this front to make sure that we take every opportunity to make sure that this legislation and the changes brought about are in the best interests of Saskatchewan people, and we'll look for every opportunity to make improvements where needed. Mr. Speaker, we'll do that through consultation and working with the experts.

We know that all too often the current government, Mr. Speaker, doesn't consult with the impacted stakeholders. And there can be a real detriment when a government goes about deriving legislation without understanding the intended consequences and unintended consequences by working with all stakeholders. I hope that's not the case with this legislation, but we'll be here to be a constructive force on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, with that being said, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill 92, the automobile . . . I'll move to adjourn Bill 92, *The Automobile Accident Insurance 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. 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 Douglas Park

**Ms. Sarauer**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 93, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to read the minister's second reading speech, and in it, provide some clarity as to what this bill's intentions are.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments, from what I understand, will essentially provide some clarity to the existing legislation based on feedback I understand the minister's office has been receiving

from concerned stakeholders about the legislation and improvements that are needed, Mr. Speaker. He mentions that some SGI customers were frustrated with the inconsistency in the appeal process between the two programs that exist within the SGI, for example, the Highway Traffic Board program and a secondary program that he mentions. And this is intended to clarify that process so that it's a bit more user friendly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also understand that this bill will allow SGI the authority to allow drivers the option to use approved electronic documentation instead of a physical copy of their licences if they so choose, Mr. Speaker. But it will also include not just licences, but vehicle inspection certificates, vehicle registration insurance certificates, and the like, Mr. Speaker, which makes sense in the way that registration renewal processes now work in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the critic, our critic for SGI will be consulting widely with stakeholders and soliciting feedback on to the legislation and the contents thereof. I know I have several colleagues who are also very interested in entering into this debate. So in order to allow that debate to continue, I am prepared to move . . . adjourn debate, sorry. Holy, it's been a little while since I've done this apparently. I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 93. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

**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. 94

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 94** — *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little out of breath after rushing back in here to make sure I could put some comments on the record with respect to Bill No 94, *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act*. And I will keep my comments brief, which we've heard several times today, and I hope I can follow through on that commitment.

I've taken time to review the legislation as well as the comments put on the record by the Finance minister. And I understand that the goal of this legislation is to create a new not-for-profit corporation to bring together work being done to administer services for public employees pension plan, or PEPP, and the municipal employees' pension plan, or MEPP.

I think that the comments that I see from the Finance minister in presenting this legislation, you know, certainly it checks some of the boxes that we would be looking to see in terms of

consultation. But there is still many questions to be asked. In particular, we want to make sure that we get this right with this legislation as there are just so many folks with their life savings really involved here — 12 pensions, 23 benefit programs serving over 100,000 plan members. There's a lot of individuals and families that are relying on this being done well, and we want to make sure that it is done well.

In particular, also want to keep our eye on the plan for those employees who will be transferred, including those who are current members with SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] that will be rolled over and will be pursuing a new agreement. We want to make sure that working people in Saskatchewan are considered when all decisions are made and that these important workers will be consulted, there'll be a fair and free collective bargaining that takes place for that new agreement.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my remarks. And I do look forward to our lead critic on this, my seatmate, the member from Regina Rosemont, to continue consulting stakeholders and to bring his remarks at a future time as we consider this legislation. But at this time I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 94. Thank you.

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

**Some Hon. Members**: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

#### Bill No. 95

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 95** — *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon**: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Those were moving remarks by the member previous.

Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to enter in briefly here today with respect to Bill No. 95, *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022*, Mr. Speaker. Changes to this Act are long overdue, Mr. Speaker. This is an industry that's important to Saskatchewan. But very importantly we need to make sure that landowners', that surface-rights holders' rights are protected. And there has been serious concerns for a number of years on this front that have been shared by rural landowners, agricultural producers, Mr. Speaker.

And we have an industry in Saskatchewan, if we're talking about the energy sector for example, that's so important to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. But that's changed significantly over the last decades because this piece of legislation hasn't been touched since the 1960s, Mr. Speaker. Horizontal drilling wasn't even a thing at that point in time, Mr. Speaker.

And so we've been hearing concerns about the balance not being

right, about needed improvements on this front, about recourse for landowners, about the ability to make sure that payments that are owed are provided, and other aspects as well that are so very important to, you know, rural regions and to agricultural producers. Of course we need to do this in a way that, you know, understands the important energy sector in this province as well, Mr. Speaker.

But this legislation's long overdue. Now the question's going to be, you know, what's the contents in it, Mr. Speaker? And does this bring about the kind of fairness that people deserve? Is this the right balance, Mr. Speaker? That will, you know, be shared with us through consultation, through our lead critic, the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Regina University, the critic for Energy and Resources, Mr. Speaker.

I know that there's a lot of good people that have led on this front, Mr. Speaker. I think of the Southeast Surface Rights Association, Mr. Speaker, and conversations and meetings over the years, and then advocacy on the floor of this Assembly that I've been able to bring on this front, Mr. Speaker. And it's those types of people and organizations that we'll be drawing upon now.

Our critic will be engaged right across the whole sector with all impacted stakeholders, Mr. Speaker. And in fact we would invite all impacted stakeholders on this front to share their expertise, their perspective on this legislation at this point in time, certainly with government but then also with our critic, Mr. Speaker. Because it'll be our aim to make sure we bring forward constructive improvements, Mr. Speaker, make sure that this legislation is what's needed right now. We'll be looking for opportunities to strengthen it, Mr. Speaker, if gaps exist through that consultation.

I know there had been a lot of good folks that had been involved, a lot of agricultural producers and industry as well, when government had finally suggested they were going to take this project on a number of years ago, sort of through 2013. And then the minister at the time punted that project, Mr. Speaker, and that was the wrong approach, in our view, Mr. Speaker. You know, fairness is something that's important, and this industry has changed and surface-rights holders have legitimate and important concerns to be understood and to be represented in improved legislation, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 95, *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act*, 2022.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:39.]

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