



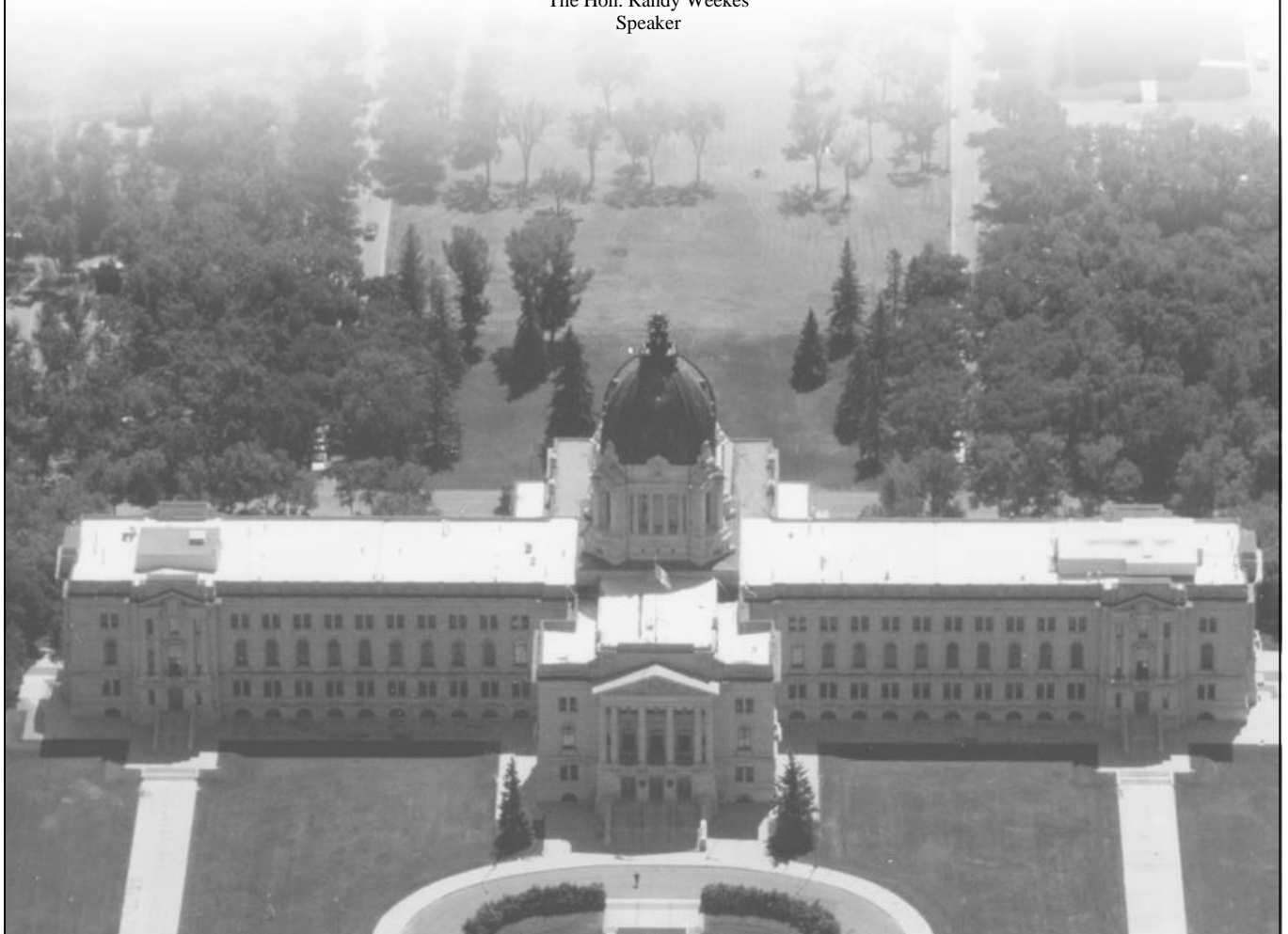
THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 29th Legislature

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

Speaker — Hon. Randy Weekes
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Carla Beck

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

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Principal Clerk — Kathy Burianyak

Clerk Assistant — Robert Park

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

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CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Tell	2847
Sarauer	2847
Keisig	2847
Wotherspoon	2847
Love.....	2847
Jenson	2855
Wotherspoon	2855
Vermette	2855
Duncan	2855

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Domotor	2847
Love.....	2847
Young, A.....	2848
Bowes	2848

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Recruitment of Health Care Workers to Kamsack

Dennis	2848
--------------	------

Remembering Greg Enion

Wotherspoon	2848
-------------------	------

Balgonie Rodeo Athlete to Compete in World Championship

Keisig	2849
--------------	------

Saskatoon Resident Wins Student Coding Challenge

Love.....	2849
-----------	------

University of Saskatchewan Huskies Advance to Uteck Bowl

Friesen	2849
---------------	------

Construction Begins on New Fertilizer Distribution Facility

Domotor	2850
---------------	------

Production Restarts at McArthur River Uranium Mine

Lemaigre.....	2850
---------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Affordability Measures

Beck.....	2850
-----------	------

Moe.....	2850
----------	------

Primary Care Physicians in Saskatchewan

Beck.....	2851
-----------	------

Moe.....	2851
----------	------

Mowat	2852
-------------	------

Merriman	2852
----------------	------

Job Numbers and the Provincial Economy

Young, A.....	2853
---------------	------

Harrison, J.....	2853
------------------	------

Student Outcomes in Saskatchewan Schools

Love.....	2853
-----------	------

Duncan	2853
--------------	------

Condition of Social Housing Units

Conway	2854
--------------	------

Makowsky.....	2854
---------------	------

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 101 — *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022*

Makowsky.....	2855
---------------	------

Bill No. 102 — *The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act, 2022*

Loi modificative de 2022 sur les questions constitutionnelles

Eyre	2856
------------	------

ROYAL ASSENT

2856

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Ross, A.	2856
---------------	------

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

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

Tell	2856
------------	------

Conway	2857
--------------	------

Bill No. 99 — <i>The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Tell	2857
Conway	2858
Bill No. 100 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accretion) Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Marit	2859
Conway	2859
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 88 — <i>The Saskatchewan First Act</i>	
Mowat	2860
Bill No. 90 — <i>The Telecommunications Statutes (Borrowing Powers) Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Love	2860
Bill No. 91 — <i>The Saskatchewan Employment (Part III) Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Sarauer	2861
Harrison, J. (referral to Human Services Committee)	2861
Bill No. 92 — <i>The Automobile Accident Insurance (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Teed	2861
Harrison, J. (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee)	2862
Bill No. 93 — <i>The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Vermette	2862
Harrison, J. (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee)	2864
Bill No. 94 — <i>The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act</i>	
Bowes	2864
Bill No. 95 — <i>The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Love	2865
Bill No. 96 — <i>The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act</i>	
Bowes	2865
Bill No. 97 — <i>The Architects Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Wotherspoon	2866

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Speaker's gallery we have two individuals, Drew Wilby, who's the assistant deputy minister in our ministry and his son Blake. Blake apparently was out of school today and wanted to come and spend a day with his dad at work. So they've been all over the place today, which is awesome. Blake . . . I mean, I could say tons about Drew, but I'm not going to speak about Drew today. Blake Wilby is nine years old and in grade 4 at MacNeill School here in Regina, loves to play hockey and football, looking forward to his season with the Regina U-11 [under 11] B Blues. Blake is wearing blue today to recognize World Diabetes Day. Blake was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when he was 14 years old and very proudly wears an insulin pump, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members to join in welcoming these two fine people to their Assembly. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to join with the minister in recognizing and welcoming Mr. Drew Wilby and his son Blake to their legislature. I've had the opportunity to get to know Drew over the last several years of working as critic for Corrections and Policing, and I can say that Mr. Wilby is very passionate about the work he does in integrated justice, and cares very much for this province and for all who are within it, even those who are often forgotten. It's so great to get to see Blake here and see that he's joining his dad at work today. I hope Blake enjoys the day. I hope his dad treated him to a real nice lunch, and I hope the both of them very much enjoy question period. I ask all members to join me in welcoming the two of them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to welcome in the west gallery, Shelby Lockie. Now I'm going to be talking about Shelby in an upcoming member's statement, Mr. Speaker, but I have one story I'd like to share quick. Years ago, my daughters and I would go to Rusty Wire Stables in Qu'Appelle and attend team penning functions. I met these very nice people, Walt and Lisa Lockie, and that's Shelby's mom and dad. And Shelby was very, very small, but I remember her in a corner of the arena eating dirt like every other farm kid. So please join me in welcoming Shelby to this, her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to pile in here on the Wilby introduction. Normally I see Blake on the ice, Mr. Speaker, and he has great hands. He's a wonderful skater. He's got a great sense of what's happening out there, really nothing like the way his dad plays hockey, Mr. Speaker. And I just want to welcome him to his Assembly here today, and wish him and the Blues all the best this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome three constituents from Saskatoon Eastview. We're joined by the Jordan family: Tanya Jordan and her daughter Wren, who's a grade 6 student at Hugh Cairns School; and Drake Jordan, who's a grade 9 student at Walter Murray Collegiate.

And I'll have more to say about Drake with an upcoming member's statement, but I ask all members of the Assembly to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that the Liberal-NDP [New Democratic Party] federal government continues to infringe on the constitutional rights of the province of Saskatchewan and implement policies that are detrimental to our province's economic well-being; that the commitments and actions of the federal government have made the control of Saskatchewan's resource rights unclear; that an unsupportive federal government will continue to impede Saskatchewan's potential to play a global role in providing resources to the world market.

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

Signed by members from Turtleford, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honoured to be on my feet to present a petition again calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. Those who signed the petition are from Wilkie, and they would like us to know that recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's rural health care facilities, leading to many ongoing closures and disruptions

when it comes to emergency rooms, acute care, lab, and X-ray services. Health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan communities and local economies.

And I'll note that last year at the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, over 94 per cent of rural leaders voted to support a resolution acknowledging the nursing and health care worker shortage. We know that this conversation will continue at the SARM convention taking place in Saskatoon later this week and we'll continue to hear concerns about the rural health care crisis.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

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.

I do so present.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to be on my feet again today, presenting a petition to the legislature calling for the immediate funding of in vitro fertilization treatments here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we know these treatments are cost prohibitive for far too many, with each cycle typically costing up to \$10,000. And, Mr. Speaker, that does not include the cost of drugs which can also be in the thousands, or the cost of travel, Mr. Speaker. For many of these families, they'll have to travel. For many that means multiple trips and overnights in Saskatoon, and for so many more that means trips out of province for more complex cases.

Again, Mr. Speaker, for a province determined to grow and a province committed to growing our population, we and the signatories on this petition believe that we should be doing everything we can to invest in people trying to grow their families right here in Saskatchewan.

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 burdens of two rounds of IVF treatments for Saskatchewan people experiencing infertility.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories of this petition today are from Moose Jaw and Mortlach. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today again to present our petition calling for pay equity legislation. The undersigned residents would like to bring the following to our attention: that Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation; that Saskatchewan has one of the highest gender wage gaps in the entire country, which is the result of systemic gender discrimination in compensation for work, and it must be

corrected by pay equity legislation; that the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has recommended proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation over 25 years ago, which to date has not been pursued by the Government of Saskatchewan; that while *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* does prohibit gender-based compensation discrimination, the complaint-driven process puts no positive obligation on employers, and it's a reactionary type of avenue for employees to have to seek; that while pay equity advocacy primarily seeks to address gender-based wage discrimination, it must also be mindful of ability-, age-, identity-, and race-based wage discrimination.

I'll read the prayer:

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

The signatories today reside in Kindersley and Saskatoon. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Recruitment of Health Care Workers to Kamsack

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the people of Kamsack and the surrounding area, I want to recognize and thank the seven registered nurses and three physicians who were recently recruited to Kamsack and are now providing care in our community. Because of you, health care in Kamsack is back on track and we are now able to start restoring the important health care services that the people of Kamsack and surrounding area rely on. Starting today, five hospital beds have been reopened in Kamsack Hospital. This is in addition to the recent expansion of emergency department hours in Kamsack Hospital that began this September.

Difficulty in recruiting health care professions is a challenge in the communities across Saskatchewan, Canada, and the rest of the world are facing. The difference is that Saskatchewan has an aggressive four-point action plan: recruit, train, incentivize, and retain over 1,000 more health care workers to communities across Saskatchewan, including Kamsack. Our plan includes a hiring incentive of up to \$50,000 aid to recruitment of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and lab technicians that are required to fully restore the services at Kamsack Hospital. I ask all members to join me in thanking these professionals who recently were recruited to Kamsack. Thank you.

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

Remembering Greg Enion

Mr. Wotherspoon: — A beautiful celebration of a wonderful person, Greg Enion, and his life of service was held yesterday at the Turvey Center in Regina. As a testament to the person Greg was and the impact he had, the place was packed with friends, family, colleagues past and present, community leaders, and

former students.

Greg Enion was an exceptional leader, an exceptional teacher in education. He made a difference in the lives of countless students, teachers, education workers, and he shaped and bettered Regina Public Schools, his community, and education in our province. In so doing, he leaves a legacy that lives on.

Born on a farm near Maryfield, Greg built a 40-year career with Regina Public Schools, starting as an intensive supports teacher, serving as a vice-principal, principal, superintendent, and concluding his service as director of education for his last seven years. He and his wife, Charlene, also a teacher, both retired at the end of June this year.

The tributes at Greg's farewell captured well the kind of teacher, leader, and person Greg was — selfless, thoughtful, and gracious in all his work, someone that could be leaned upon and lift others up. I'm thankful to have worked directly with Greg and to have learned from him in my work as a teacher, and I'm thankful for his friendship.

I ask all in this Assembly to join with me in celebrating the life and service of Greg Enion and in offering our condolences and sending care to his beloved family, wife Charlene, and his children Ashley, Colton, and Connor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Balgonie Rodeo Athlete to Compete in World Championship

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Shelby Lockie is a rodeo athlete from Balgonie who will be competing at the Rope for the Crown breakaway roping world championship in Las Vegas, Nevada, on December 3rd.

Mr. Speaker, the Rope for the Crown is one of the most prestigious events in breakaway roping featuring contestants from rodeo associations and roping events across the United States and Canada. Shelby qualified for Rope for the Crown by being the highest point earning ladies breakaway roper in the Kakeyow Cowboys Rodeo Association in 2022. This makes Shelby the only qualifying female roper from Saskatchewan.

Shelby has been a rodeo contestant since grade 6, and earlier this year she graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming where she attended on a rodeo scholarship.

[13:45]

Mr. Speaker, Shelby and her family operate a ranch east of Balgonie. Shelby also started this fall as a communications officer for the government caucus office where she's been working hard to help us stay connected with our constituents through media.

I would welcome all members of the Legislative Assembly to please join me in congratulating Shelby and wishing her the best of luck in Las Vegas. We look forward to hearing about Shelby's adventure when she returns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Resident Wins Student Coding Challenge

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great honour to rise today to speak about a young resident of Saskatoon Eastview seated here in your gallery. Drake Jordan joins us today with his mother, Tanya, and his younger sister Wren.

Last year during his grade 8 year at Hugh Cairns School, Drake attracted the attention of Apple CEO [chief executive officer] Tim Cook, and became the youngest winner of Apple's worldwide Swift Student Challenge. This challenge sees students from around the globe showcase their skills in coding to create an app in an area of their choosing. Drake created an app called Sway, which allows people to experience synesthesia, a phenomenon where you feel one of your senses through another. You see, Mr. Speaker, Drake has a form of synesthesia himself and wants others to know what he experiences.

This young man was acknowledged by the Apple company of products with a prize package of Apple items and a Zoom meeting with Tim Cook. What is also very impressive is that Drake is actually very new to the world of coding, but I think we all agree that his future in coding and innovation is bright. His current ambition is to continue creating apps for people that need help and pursue a career in technology. I'm certain that he'll have continued success through high school and beyond using his gifts and passions to innovate for a brighter future.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating my young constituent, Drake Jordan.

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

University of Saskatchewan Huskies Advance to Uteck Bowl

Mr. Friesen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently had the opportunity to meet and have coffee with the offensive line coach for the Saskatchewan Huskies, Lane Bryksa. And Lane brought up the training and practice coming up for the Hardy Cup in only one week. And another season, Mr. Speaker, another victory.

On Saturday the Huskies defeated the UBC [University of British Columbia] Thunderbirds at Griffiths Stadium. Thanks to an early lead from receiver David Solie in the first quarter, the Huskies outpaced the Thunderbirds right from the beginning. Mr. Speaker, the Huskies had an effective plan and they put it into effect as they decided to take the pace of the game.

One of the highlights of the game was the fourth-quarter interception by defensive back, Finn Marcotte-Cribb, who returned the ball nine yards for a touchdown. The interception cemented the 23 to 8 victory for the Huskies. After this game the Huskies will now advance to the Atlantic champion St. Francis Xavier University X-Men in the Uteck Bowl on November 19th. The winner of that game will advance to the coveted Vanier Cup on November 26th.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the Assembly join me in congratulating the Huskies on their excellent performance over

the weekend, and wishing them all the luck as they take on the X-Men. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Construction Begins on New Fertilizer Distribution Facility

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. G-Mac's AgTeam was excited to announce the construction of a new retail and fertilizer distribution facility located in Hamlin, 11 kilometres north of North Battleford. G-Mac's AgTeam is an independently owned crop production company who strives on providing exceptional agronomic services, Mr. Speaker, while remaining focused on the customers and communities in which it serves. Mr. Speaker, G-Mac's AgTeam employs more than 125 employees.

G-Mac's AgTeam recognized that farmers in northwest Saskatchewan needed a new ag-retail facility that is bigger, faster, and capable of handling more product than the market currently offers to farmers today. Construction of the new facility in Hamlin began in the spring of 2022 with a completion target date of February of 2023.

Mr. Speaker, the state-of-the-art facility will have a greater storage capacity than any other plant in northwest Saskatchewan. The focus, Mr. Speaker, will be to support dry and liquid fertilizer services. The dry fertilizer facility will be a 20 000 metric ton fertilizer plant with 15 bins. The liquid fertilizer capacity will include a 4125 metric tank farm which will utilize truck and rail unload.

G-Mac's AgTeam accredits customer growth as being a cornerstone of their success. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of this Assembly join me in congratulating G-Mac's AgTeam on the new build in Hamlin. The future is bright for Saskatchewan and the agriculture business. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Production Restarts at McArthur River Uranium Mine

Mr. Lemaigre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Cameco on another great achievement for the province and the North. On Wednesday Cameco announced that the first of the uranium ore was mined at their McArthur River facility and then milled and packaged at the Key Lake facility since they were shut down. Mr. Speaker, this is the first production of these facilities since January 28 when the production was shut down.

These restarts were announced earlier this year, and we are happy to hear that production has started once again. Cameco has stated that these facilities are expected to produce 2 million pounds of uranium concentrate this year and 15 million pounds per year afterwards.

Mr. Speaker, these facilities currently employ 730 people and that number is projected to increase. This is great news for the North as well. Over half of these employees are Indigenous and from the North. And, Mr. Speaker, that's growth that works for everyone.

In 2020, the uranium industry was responsible for procurement of over 235 millions of goods and services from Saskatchewan businesses, 45 per cent which came from Indigenous businesses. Saskatchewan is the third-largest uranium producer on the planet and this is yet another announcement establishing this province as being one of the best mining jurisdictions in the world. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Affordability Measures

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan families are struggling. The cost of everything is going up, and this government is actually making it worse. I see evidence of it every day: people living in tents, seniors walking past the meat aisle because they simply can't afford it, and a growing number of people in our province relying on food banks. Of all provinces, we saw the largest jump in food bank usage in the past year in this whole country. Does the Premier think that Saskatchewan people should need to rely on the food bank just to survive?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the inflationary pressures that we're seeing across Canada — due to a number of factors — but the inflationary pressures that we're seeing across Canada are creating much discussion at various provincial levels of government as well as the federal level of government, as well as at municipal levels of leadership or local levels of leadership as well, Mr. Speaker.

We in this province are fortunate to a degree, as we have a natural resource-based economy that is doing quite well in this time of inflationary pressures, as it is energy prices that are causing, in a large part, these inflationary pressures, Mr. Speaker. We have in this province the fuel, the fertilizer that is being made available to the world, Mr. Speaker. It has improved the bottom line of the provincial government.

That is why the Minister of Finance was out at the end of August with her affordability package, which included paying down a billion dollars in debt, extending a small-business tax break for an additional year, as well as \$500 tax affordability credit cheques that will be provided to all Saskatchewan residents over the age of 18, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that those cheques are in the mail and that some have even been received over the weekend here.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear that his bottom line is doing better, because people across the province are certainly not seeing that. Year over year, Saskatchewan food banks in this province saw a 37 per cent increase; 40 per cent of those visits were kids. That is simply not growth that works for everyone.

According to *Canada's Food Price Report*, the average household in this province will see a \$966 increase to their grocery costs, Mr. Speaker. And those affordability cheques that he's talking about, they'll be swallowed whole and more by food

costs alone, not to speak of gas or the number of rate and utility hikes put on them by this government. To the Premier: what is the plan to help families put food on their table and keep their lights on?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition referenced a \$960 cost. When you look at the \$500 affordability tax credit cheques that are going out, that will not entirely offset some of the inflationary pressures that families are feeling but most certainly will be appreciated by many families across the province, Mr. Speaker. In addition to that, a billion dollars has been paid down in debt.

As I said earlier, the inflationary pressures that we as residents of this province and this nation are feeling are largely driven by energy prices, Mr. Speaker. We've discussed many times in this Assembly how we could advocate and advocate together to reduce those energy prices. Get rid of the carbon tax at the federal level, for example, would be one of those ways, Mr. Speaker.

But I would put forward another way, Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of collaborating and working together. There is a bill before this very House to ensure that this province can continue to create wealth in our natural resource sector in communities right across Saskatchewan, from the southern border to the northern border, Mr. Speaker. Let's make that bill unanimous and send it off to Ottawa for the constitutional changes.

I would ask again the Leader of the Opposition and the members opposite, support Bill 88. Let's send it to Ottawa. Let's have the constitutional amendments made. And let's ensure a brighter future, a more prosperous future, Mr. Speaker, and ensure the future of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan families' opportunities is there.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, since the Premier is in a collaborative mood, here's an idea for him. How about he cuts the 8 per cent and 23 per cent utility hikes put on the people of the province by that government?

Mr. Speaker, I recently spoke to a woman who works at the food bank in Estevan. She told us that demand in her city is so high that they've had to cut weekly services and now are only able to provide support every second week. And it will only get worse because Saskatchewan is set to lead the nation in food price increases this year, which will mean that more people across this province will be squeezed out of being able to make ends meet.

Does the Premier recognize that his months of inaction in the face of an affordability crisis is pushing households, pushing families in our province to the brink?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, most recently this is . . . The inflationary pressures that families are feeling are why we made a decision as a governing body, Mr. Speaker, to provide \$500 tax affordability credits to each individual over the age of 18 in this province. Those very inflationary pressures over years gone by,

Mr. Speaker, and ensuring we do have an affordable province to live in, is why we've made decisions that have resulted in taking 112,000 people, low-income citizens, off the provincial income tax roll altogether.

Mr. Speaker, all told, as I've said many times, \$2 billion is provided annually in the Saskatchewan budget, affordability measures to ensure that in particular our families, our seniors have the measures in place to support them and their communities. We have the second-lowest personal income tax level across the nation of Canada. And with respect to utilities, we have the lowest utility bundle in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker, the lowest utility bundle when you take in together all of the suite of utilities that families use.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that some of the decisions that are being made and implemented on provinces, including Saskatchewan, by the federal coalition government are going to increase that utility cost much, much more in the years ahead. Much like we've seen in Europe, 2, 3, 5, 6 times — not per cent, Mr. Speaker — 4, 5, 6 times their power costs have increased.

I talked to a guy the other day that was in Europe, Mr. Speaker. When he checked in to his hotel room, there was a meter reading; when he left there was a meter reading. And the cost of his hotel room was the cost plus the power usage, Mr. Speaker. That's the situation they're in in the European Union, and we're going to make sure we do everything we can to ensure that our utilities remain affordable in this province.

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

Primary Care Physicians in Saskatchewan

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it's clearer and clearer every day that the tax-and-spend Sask Party are completely out of touch with the reality of families in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, our health care system is broken, but we've yet to hear a plan from this government that will ensure that people are able to find a family doctor or get basic care when they need it. Other provinces are stepping up while that Premier sits on his hands. Will he commit to a funding boost and a model review to address the primary care crisis today?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I'd just like to remind the members when you're referring to either the NDP or the Sask Party, it's NDP opposition or Sask Party government. Don't use just the party name. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said numerous times in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, it's these Health ministers, the two Health ministers in Saskatchewan that have put forward the most ambitious human health resource plan in the nation of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it's been backed up by \$60 million in funding. And it is a plan to recruit additional people of all designations, professional designations, into multiple communities across the province; to train folks here in Saskatchewan; and to incentivize those folks into hard-to-recruit positions that we have; and then ultimately to retain the folks that we already have in those

facilities through existing programs, and also through additional programs, Mr. Speaker.

And thankfully we are now having successes. We're having successes in resuming services in the communities of Kamsack, Radville, Biggar, Weyburn, Preeceville, Balcarres, Mr. Speaker, in the Prairie Health Care Centre in Cabri. My hometown of Shellbrook has the Shellbrook Parkland Integrated Health Centre. Wilkie, Assiniboia, Lanigan, Broadview, Herbert, all are having services added back in that were temporarily disrupted, Mr. Speaker.

There's more work to do on this file, but you can rest assured and the people of this province can rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that it's these two Health ministers and the Government of Saskatchewan that is going to continue that work on their behalf.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Well the Premier needs a new briefing note, Mr. Speaker. People are saying a lot of things about that health care plan, but "most ambitious in the country" isn't one of them. Mr. Speaker, my office is being inundated by people with chronic conditions who can't find a family doctor. When they can't, they end up in our ERs [emergency room] or in scarce ambulances. BC [British Columbia], Ontario, Newfoundland have all taken steps to address the family doc crisis.

Doing nothing is not a plan. When will we see something, anything, put forward to make sure that Saskatchewan patients can access care when they need it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'm glad, on behalf of myself and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, we have put forward the most ambitious plan in this country, Mr. Speaker, that has been duplicated by other provinces across . . . A lot of the provinces are coming up with their own variation of our four-point plan. Some of them go up to like 70-point plans. But we're very confident in what we have right now to be able to deliver the health care services for the people of Saskatchewan.

We have successes already, Mr. Speaker. We've seen reopenings. The Premier just went through some of the reopenings. But more than anything, it is just not factually accurate that there's no doctors in Saskatoon. As of November 1st, Mr. Speaker, there was seven physicians in Saskatoon that were taking.

Also, Mr. Speaker, there are medi-clinics. But also they have to look at other health care providers. Maybe they could go to a nurse practitioner, which we've increased in our province. . . . Mr. Speaker, what I can tell the people of Saskatchewan is, primary care is a priority for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Patting himself on the back once again, Mr. Speaker, while people are struggling to access the care they need

in this province. It's not a good look. Things are not as rosy as the minister claims. I received a letter from the president of the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians earlier this month. They wrote to me to say:

Saskatchewan must move with urgency to transform our outdated model to retain our family physicians. Every patient in Saskatchewan deserves access to the expertise of a family physician.

And I couldn't agree more, Mr. Speaker. What is the minister's plan to address this crisis in family medicine?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had the opportunity to meet with the college of family physicians' Dr. Andries on October 13th. And, Mr. Speaker, we're doing exactly what the member opposite . . . We've said this in the House. We've said it in the media. We have a primary care compensation working group made up of the college, made up of the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association], made up of the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] and the ministry.

This is exactly what we're doing, is we're reviewing the primary compensation, something that doctors have called for and that we're looking at, Mr. Speaker. I'm waiting for them to present their report, so we can have a look at it to make sure that we're competitive with other jurisdictions.

But what I can tell the House, Mr. Speaker, is the four-point plan that we do have in place has successes already — 150 more nurses in the university; we've reopened physicians in rural Saskatchewan. We've been able to do this because we have incentives, we have training, we have recruitment, and we're retaining the individuals in Saskatchewan to be able to get primary care as well as all the other services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — If everything was fine on October 13th, Mr. Speaker, then why did I receive this letter on November 2nd? That's not what they're saying, Mr. Speaker. What are they saying? In the words of the college of family physicians, quote, we are in a "crisis in family medicine."

We don't need excuses, Mr. Speaker. We need solutions. We need solutions today. To the minister: why do we always need to be laggards? Will the minister put us in competition with other provinces and move toward system reform today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — I know they have all their questions written out, Mr. Speaker. That's blatantly obvious because I just answered that question. We have a primary care compensation working group. This has been set up for a couple of months. I talked directly about this at the RA [representative assembly] with the SMA. I talked to them directly about this. They were happy with the progress that was being made. They were asking for some bylaw changes, Mr. Speaker.

Just because they write out the questions . . .

An Hon. Member: — Wait and see is not a plan.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — There is no wait and see. This is the plan. I'm not sure what you're not understanding. This is between the SMA, the SHA, Mr. Speaker. We do have a plan. It is a very good plan. And I'll rely on the physicians to be able to present that report to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Job Numbers and the Provincial Economy

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, if this is the type of failed leadership that we can expect on keeping and recruiting family doctors, then what does that say about our ability to recruit and retain other health care workers?

Because, Mr. Speaker, speaking of jobs in health care, StatsCan showed that month over month, there were 1,200 fewer people working in health and social services. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask, how much longer should Saskatchewan people expect to lose health care professionals they so desperately need?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well here is a prime example, Mr. Speaker, why the NDP have no credibility on the economy or jobs issues. That member opposite just cited a month-to-month number on health care jobs. Let me cite the year-to-year number, Mr. Speaker, which is the number, really, a lot of folks pay attention to, year over year in health care and social assistance.

What happened in health care employment? It was up 5,100. They come in here day after day, Mr. Speaker, torquing stats, trying to use them to talk down the economy. They attack job creators. They attack those that are creating wealth in the economy when the reality is the exact opposite, Mr. Speaker. It's like they live in bizarro world over there where up is down, and bad is good, and good is bad.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that this economy is growing more strongly than any in Canada. The reality is that more people are moving here than at any other time in our history, Mr. Speaker. And I look forward to the next question.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mean if today is the day that we're embracing StatsCan data in this House, that's a good day for us in opposition. Because, Mr. Speaker, the data from StatsCan shows that in the last decade under this Saskatchewan Party government, the shrinking province of Newfoundland and Labrador is the only province in Canada that has created fewer full-time jobs than that government.

So, Mr. Speaker, to fix a problem, one must first admit that a problem exists. Flatlined wages, 10,000 young people leaving the province since that Premier took office, no access to family

doctors — that is the legacy of this Sask Party government. Does the minister even acknowledge that over the last decade his government has the second worst full-time jobs record in Canada?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — More adventures in bizarro world from the NDP, Mr. Speaker. The reality is the last jobs report showed 19,000 new jobs created year over year, 6,100 jobs over the course of the last month alone. The last population report showed the strongest population growth in the history of the province, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP are so out of touch, Mr. Speaker. Everybody in the province knows that the biggest economic challenge employers are facing right now is a labour shortage. Everybody knows that except those 13 members sitting on the opposite side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, though, what do they talk about, and what do they do? They support Justin Trudeau. They support Jagmeet Singh. They support their increase to the carbon tax. Mr. Speaker, this crew opposite has no credibility when it comes to the economy.

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

Student Outcomes in Saskatchewan Schools

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of Education praised the high grades of students in qualified independent schools. In fact he bragged that they tend to be higher than those of students in public and Catholic schools. Now we've heard from former students from these schools, and they say that those schools are inflating their grades and that the quality of their education is poor.

So I wonder, what would the three administrators put in place by that minister to oversee three qualified independent schools caught up in this legacy of abuse scandal, what would they say? Will the minister release all of their findings, all of their suggestions and recommendations from those three administrators?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I've said earlier in this House, a couple of weeks ago, is that work was done after 2012 to ensure that the curriculum taught at these schools was in line with the provincial curriculum. And the members opposite unfortunately wouldn't, didn't want to understand that information. So students are not learning about Loch Ness monster or Oogopogo or Snuffleupagus, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, so then to further try to demonstrate that work had been done since 2012, what I introduced was the departmental exams' results from last year that showed that, on average, that these schools' students are in line in terms of their performance in departmentals. And, Mr. Speaker, as a former schoolteacher, he should know that teachers can't inflate the results of departmentals because the ministry marks those.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, I know that this minister loves recess, but he's playing dodge ball in the Assembly today. Mr. Speaker, last week he rolled out some statistics about test scores and then used these scores to praise qualified independent schools. Apparently he wasn't concerned with the insult, the insult that he dealt to our public and Catholic schools. Their marks have become a punchline for this minister.

Does the minister believe qualified independent schools' grades are his to brag about and that every other schools' grades are someone else's problem?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, it's true, I did enjoy recess. I hope the member opposite enjoyed detention because I think that's where the NDP have been for a long time, and they're going to be there for a lot longer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what I was trying to demonstrate is that based on . . . ensuring that the curriculum taught at independent schools is in line with the provincial curriculum, Mr. Speaker. One way to demonstrate that is to talk to the ministry to ensure that the curriculum that is checked by the ministry is in line with the curriculum of the province. Mr. Speaker, that's what the ministry officials tell me. I take their word on that.

Another way to do that, to demonstrate that, Mr. Speaker, is to see how the students do at independent schools compared to students in other schools across the province. And on average, they are in line with results on departmental exams, Mr. Speaker, which shows that, I think, students across the entire province are doing very well.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education is talking down our public and Catholic schools in order to score some cheap political points, rather than taking any responsibility for the abuse in schools that was reported to his office. Here's what he said in the Assembly, and I quote: “. . . 57.7 per cent of qualified independent schools' students scored higher than 80 per cent in their marks. The provincial average is just 54 per cent.”

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, he's not the minister for qualified independent schools; he's the Minister of Education. He's responsible for every student and every school in this province. How can the minister claim to care about education in this province when he runs down our public and Catholic systems?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That was just one stat that we could take from last year departmental exams. Here's another, Mr. Speaker. The average mark achieved in departmentals last year in public and separate school divisions was 78 per cent. In qualified independents it was 72 per cent. So

that's an example of where students in public and separate school divisions performed higher than qualified independent schools by about 6 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, this was to show that yes, students in all schools are taught according to the curriculum. And in general, by and large, students are achieving at or near the same results when it comes to departmentals, Mr. Speaker, because they're all learning the same curriculum.

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

Condition of Social Housing Units

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, last week I raised concerns about housing infested . . . rats in our province. As of this morning Dominika Kosowska and her 11-year-old son woke up to fresh rodents in their traps. Now a Regina Housing Authority unit in my constituency has exploded, and that Sask Party government has again made national news for all the wrong reasons.

We have people freezing to death in our province while over 3,000 housing units owned by this government sit vacant, some allowed to fall into such disrepair that they explode. How on earth did this happen, Mr. Speaker, and what is that government's plan to address the housing crisis?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, in terms of the preamble to the member's question, the situation in Saskatoon, my understanding is private contractors have been there, looked at that situation, and have done work on that. There's not widespread issues but, Mr. Speaker, there are in a few units and that is being taken care of.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the situation in Regina, I'm very concerned about that, obviously very concerning. I'm thankful no one was seriously injured in that situation. We don't want to jump to conclusions about the reasons for that, so looking forward to the conclusion of that to understand and make improvements.

Mr. Speaker, a vacant property here in north central Regina, no tenants at the time of course. What we do when they are empty for a long period of time is secure the building, and constant inspections are taking place by the local housing authority or private security. Mr. Speaker, there was no concerns reported with this building on the most recent inspections. We have 18,000 units right across the province, Mr. Speaker, and we work hard each and every day to make sure they're safe and secure for tenants here in our province.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on your feet?

Mr. Jenson: — To request leave for an introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Jensen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a good friend of mine and a good friend I think to most in this Assembly this afternoon. She kind of snuck in without anybody really seeing her, but we're joined this afternoon by a former Martensville-Warman MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], Nancy Heppner. And Nancy just returned from a much-delayed trip to Greece with her husband, John. And it's great to have her back in the province and great to have you in the building. Thanks, Nancy.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — To introduce a member.

The Speaker: — The member is going to ask leave to make an introduction?

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Yes.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to welcome Nancy Heppner back to her Assembly. It wasn't as much a pleasure to sit with her in this Assembly through question period some days, Mr. Speaker, because she was fierce and unrelenting, Mr. Speaker, but she was also a very effective legislator. It's a pleasure to see Nancy here in her Assembly here today, and we wish her all the best in her life and thank her for her service.

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

Mr. Vermette: — To ask for leave for an introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the members for allowing me to . . . I'd like to introduce a gentleman from northern Saskatchewan. I had the opportunity to sit on Northern Lights board of education for many years with him. And I would like to welcome Rick Laliberte to his Assembly, thank him for the many years of service to the North.

You've been definitely an advocate many times. You've been elected as an MP [Member of Parliament]. You have served the kids in our riding very well. I've had the opportunity to watch you. You're passionate. You're caring. And you did all you could do to make sure kids in Beauval and area that you served always were treated with nothing but respect and made sure the best education they could get.

So I just want to welcome you to your Assembly and again say it was an honour to serve on Northern Lights board of education with you, and again continue to hope you have health and success. So it's nice to have you here in your Assembly.

The Speaker: — Why is the Minister of Education on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Request leave for an introduction.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave to make an introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the member opposite in welcoming Rick Laliberte to his Legislative Assembly. Rick represents, I believe, areas of Cole Bay, Jans Bay, and Beauval on Northern Lights School Division.

I've had an opportunity to meet with Rick and the other board members on a couple of occasions, and I know he's down for the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] convention that's on now. And I just want to join with other members in welcoming Rick to his Legislative Assembly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 101 — *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022*

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 101, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 101 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.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 102 — *The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur les questions constitutionnelles*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 102, *The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur les questions constitutionnelles* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Justice minister that Bill No. 102 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.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill. Première lecture du projet de loi.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

I am advised that His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

[At 14:25 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Honour then gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

ROYAL ASSENT

His Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly at its present session has passed a bill which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour, to which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bill is as follows:

Bill No. 89 - *The Income Tax (Affordability) Amendment Act, 2022*

His Honour: — In His Majesty's name, I assent to this bill.

The Speaker: — Please rise for the departure of the Crown.

[At 14:27 His Honour retired from the Chamber.]

The Speaker: — Please be seated.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Whip.

Ms. A. Ross: — I wish to table the answer to question 41.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

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

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks today I will move second reading of Bill No. 98, *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Amendment Act*. Bill 98 proposes amendments that allow the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to develop equitable and efficient emergency response cost-recovery policies.

Deciding who pays for emergency response costs and how much they pay is a complex decision. We need to recognize that some emergencies are no one's fault, or that recovering the costs could cripple a person, municipality, or a business. No one wants to see people and communities face this undue hardship.

Mr. Speaker, under the current legal framework the SPSA [Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency] must recover any wildfire costs it incurs when assisting a municipality, business, or a person. However, the SPSA cannot recover non-wildlife response costs for response services like train derailments or flood assistance. This inconsistency is confusing for all parties.

The wildfire response cost-recovery framework is also very rigid. It does not provide the province with sufficient flexibility to develop policies for determining when to recover costs and how much to recover. Currently we must invoice for costs incurred.

To address this we have drafted legislative amendments that will allow government to develop a consistent cost-recovery framework. This will allow us to recover response costs across our lines of business if there is good reason to recover, but it does not require us to recover costs.

[14:30]

The amendments will also allow us to develop policies and cost-recovery procedures to determine when or if we collect and how much we collect. That includes flexible and administratively efficient policies and procedures. I want to be clear that we are only talking about response cost recovery. These are the costs we incur in significant emergencies where costs can only be determined after an event. Government is not changing its approach to supporting prevention and mitigation efforts through other services like training and education.

I'm confident the legislative proposal that is before you today helps the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency meet its purpose to provide or support public safety services for and with the people, municipalities, Indigenous peoples, public safety service providers, and the Government of Saskatchewan.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Amendment Act, 2022* be read a second time. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 98 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to be on my feet to offer initial comments on Bill No. 98 on behalf of the opposition. I understand that, based on the comments of my colleague and having reviewed the bill, that this particular piece of legislation will open up the scope of individuals and entities that the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency can seek damages for as a result of wildfires and other phenomena, Mr. Speaker.

This piece of legislation obviously concerns itself with an important issue for all of Saskatchewan people. Wildfires are certainly a threat to the entire province, and we have seen the number of wildfires increase in recent years, Mr. Speaker. And of course I think it's safe to say that these will be occurring with increased frequency as a result of climate change and other issues, Mr. Speaker, that are impacting communities around the world.

As noted by the minister, this piece of legislation would allow for the SPSA to establish policies and procedures for emergency response cost recovery from responsible parties or municipalities. It allows the minister the opportunity to provide partial remission for those costs and to develop a mechanism for calculating those costs, Mr. Speaker. And it also, as the minister opposite noted, provides a mechanism for the ministry to waive those costs altogether or make a decision not to pursue a person or municipality for a debt to the Crown.

As noticed, this piece of legislation does open up liability to individuals. And I would note that my understanding is that half or perhaps even more than half of wildfires set in Saskatchewan are set by private individuals, by people, Mr. Speaker. And obviously the other entity that could be on the hook for these damages, Mr. Speaker, are municipalities. And I understand that the minister may now take recovery options for the damages resulting from these incidents, including for the cost of Crown timber, for example.

There is also a change in this Act, I understand, where there will be a more lenient provision perhaps for industrial actors. And I know that commercial and industrial actors are responsible for relatively fewer fires, Mr. Speaker, but that is something that, just on my initial reading of the Act, that I'm flagging for my colleagues. That is something we'll want to take a good look at.

Of course it appears that on the one hand this legislation seeks to strike a balance by opening up liability to individuals and municipalities where it's seen to be in the public interest to pursue those entities or those individuals, Mr. Speaker, but I also know that the opposition will be taking a closer look at this change that would make it perhaps more lenient for industrial actors, Mr. Speaker. We will be looking of course as official opposition to ensure that the government is getting this particular piece of legislation right. We're certainly hoping that they've looked to other jurisdictions and what the impact of this kind of expanding liability has had on other jurisdictions.

We know that municipalities at the best of times struggle to meet the need in their communities with a relatively smaller source of resources than, say, the province. And so I was certainly glad to hear the minister flag that, you know, they're not out to cripple a person or municipality that is not in a position to pay these costs. But it is obviously something that needs to be on our radar that, you know, more and more costs are falling to local municipalities

for things that they may not even necessarily have much of an ability to address, like when we think of some of the catastrophic events that come with the warming of the planet. That would certainly be one example, Mr. Speaker.

My understanding is that the bill also provides for the possibility that the SPSA could identify other entities beyond individuals and municipalities that may be responsible for these types of incidents that result in damages and costs to the Crown. And you know, when we're looking at legislation like this that is punitive — and certainly there is likely a need for legislation to address some bad actors that are contributing to this very serious phenomenon, Mr. Speaker — we also want to be looking not just at punishment but at prevention.

And of course this government does not have a good track record for favouring prevention over crisis management, for example. We hear again and again the frustration from local municipalities that the costs of inaction from this government fall to them, whether it's poverty-related costs that result in increased costs to justice and social services and housing, whether it's the refusal to invest in really robust harm reduction even though those investments would certainly save a lot in terms of managing the overdose crisis. These are examples, Mr. Speaker, of a government that doesn't concern itself sufficiently with the prevention of crisis, and so it is often called upon to manage crisis, Mr. Speaker.

So with that we realize that this piece of legislation will be very impactful for the province. We take a keen interest in these matters on this side, of course, Mr. Speaker, and we are certainly very committed to reducing the incidence of wildfires and also taking legislated action to reduce the number of wildfires and other emergency-related phenomena that are costly to the Crown, Mr. Speaker.

There are some things that we look to as absolutely being positive about this legislation on face value. And as I said earlier, nonetheless we need to take a closer look, and I trust that our critics will do just that in consultation with stakeholders in this area. And so with those comments on the record, I look forward to hearing from my colleagues on Bill No. 98, and I would move to adjourn debate on *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency 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. 99 — *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022*

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of my remarks today, I will move second reading of Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act* of 2022. Bill 99 proposes amendments that allows Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to meet the changing 911 technology requirements. This bill also

provides some efficiencies that eliminate administrative duplication and overhead for the Sask911 system.

The Sask911 system is a vital emergency service that ensures those in danger have timely access to public safety service providers like fire departments and police. The Sask911 system is funded primarily by a fee paid by all phone subscribers. The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency is responsible for managing the Sask911 system. However SaskTel sets the Sask911 fee, collects it, deposits it in the Sask911 account, and pays the Sask911 system expenses when directed by SPSA.

Both the SPSA and SaskTel agree that the current Sask911 fee and account administration is complex and inefficient. This bill will allow the SPSA to manage the Sask911 fee and revenues and pay Sask911 expenses without involving SaskTel.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also makes vital changes that allow the Sask911 system to meet increasing 911 expectations. The public, stakeholders, and public safety partners rely on a modern 911 system during emergencies. The existing 911 system and the enabling legislation were based on telephone technology where the only way to connect to a 911 operator was by dialing 911. With new technologies like texting and video calls, we have the ability to significantly enhance this vital public safety service.

The federal government sets standards for 911 that provinces must meet. A next-generation 911 or NG911 will be required by 2025. Some of the changes we are proposing will allow us to adapt to those changing technological requirements. We are proposing a few additional revisions like expanding liability protection to all persons and emergency service providers responding to a 911 call. We are clarifying rules for privacy and access to 911 information. We are also adding the ability to further prohibit nuisance technology from accessing the 911 system. That is what we are proposing here today: to create a more efficiently administered Sask911 system, meet the changing technology requirements of a modern 911 system, and make changes to further protect the people and service providers that rely on this vital emergency communication system.

I'm confident the legislative proposal that has been put before you today represents the fulfillment of government's commitment to support public safety across the province. I'm also confident that this helps the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency meet its purpose: to provide or support public safety services for and with the people, municipalities, Indigenous peoples, public safety service providers, and the Government of Saskatchewan.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act of 2022* be read a second time. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 99 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to provide initial comments on Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022* on behalf of the official opposition, Mr. Speaker.

I understand, from having reviewed the bill and based on the

comments of the minister opposite, that this bill is relatively straightforward. There are some provisions of this bill that are driving some necessary modernizing aspects, which make good sense. And then I understand also that the bill will remove the collection of the 911 fee out of SaskTel's hands.

And I hear the minister say that SaskTel was collaborated with, was consulted on that, and we certainly hope and expect that that was the case. I would note that just last year in 2021, the Sask 911 fees doubled, which is, you know, another cost to Saskatchewan people during really what is a crippling generational cost-of-living crisis.

Mr. Speaker, obviously 911 is an essential service in our province. We need to get this right. We need a smooth, efficient, and functioning 911 service. And you know, often this is the difference between life and death, or certainly folks' ability to live secure knowing that this is a service that they can rely on, or living in fear, living with anxiety, Mr. Speaker.

[14:45]

And I would like to just take a moment to acknowledge and thank the first responders in our community who do absolutely crucial work, often without sufficient support, Mr. Speaker, and over the years with less and less support certainly. And their job is so important to this community. And it takes a significant toll on them, on their families, on their mental health, and I know that that work is getting more challenging for them by the day. So certainly I would be remiss if I didn't take my feet and speak to this bill and not extend a warm thank you and an acknowledgement of first responders, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I've just said that it's so important that these 911 services are reliable in our community. And I myself have had two experiences with individuals that have called 911 recently, Mr. Speaker, that really speak to the growing challenges of first responders and the services that the 911 service connects to the people of Saskatchewan.

A couple of months ago, we had a block party in my neighbourhood and someone had rented a bouncy castle. And we really had a terrifying incident take place. One of the little girls that was playing on the bouncy castle, she fell and it appeared that she almost fell on her head. And she got up and she ran to her mother and then she just passed out, and she had lost consciousness. We had no idea, and obviously we called 911. And I think it took like 12 minutes for someone to come. And I don't know whether that is a good amount of time but I can tell you that those 12 minutes felt like an eternity.

We didn't know if this little girl was okay. Her parents were absolutely beside themselves. We had the good fortune of having an emergency doctor who lived on our block that was not working a shift that day, that was out there celebrating with us, who was able to attend to her. And indeed we did have two very kind and empathetic police officers respond to this, but of course they weren't trained medical professionals.

And I had a chat with them after the ambulance finally did arrive 12 minutes later. And of course thank goodness this child was okay. We were absolutely beside ourselves as a block, as a community. We rallied around her in the hospital. But I had an

opportunity to chat with these two police officers that responded to the incident because I couldn't believe that this was part of their job description.

This little girl, who we weren't sure if she was breathing at first, she had totally lost consciousness, and it felt again like the wait was an eternity. And had that doctor not been there, had we not had the good fortune of having a doctor on our block in our midst, it would have been to those two police officers to wait with her until an ambulance came. And they said to me, I mean this happens more often than you would think. Right? So we have to do better, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to speak briefly to another incident that happened, and this was an incident that involved my constituency office a few months ago. We have a seniors' housing complex just next door, and one of the older ladies that lives in that building had a health emergency. She had a fall, and her neighbours called the ambulance for her. And they said, we can't send an ambulance; we're not sure when one will be available. So it wasn't just this delay of 12 minutes like a crisis pediatric call, Mr. Speaker. They were just told there are no ambulances available. And we're in Regina's core. We're in Regina's core. I can't imagine how more rural and remote communities are dealing with this crisis in ambulatory services, Mr. Speaker.

So it's all to say that we have not seen the Sask Party government keep up with the investments that are necessary in emergent care, in health care in general. And then now what we're seeing with primary care and the lack of availability of family doctors, the strain on emergency first responders is only going to get worse. As people don't have access to primary care, to family doctors, they increasingly go to the emergency room, Mr. Speaker, which is the precise opposite of what we want when we have a health care system that is under siege like it is today.

So having entered those initial comments on the record, Mr. Speaker, I will again just say that this bill addresses such a crucial issue for Saskatchewan people. The services of 911 connects us all. We're all dependent on these services, and they are increasingly a source of anxiety to Saskatchewan people due to the failures of this government on the health care front.

So I look forward to hearing from my colleagues who will all have an opportunity to enter in their thoughts on this bill. And with that, it is my pleasure to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System 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. 100 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accretion) Amendment Act, 2022*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accretion) Amendment Act, 2022*.

Mr. Speaker, the term “accretion” in this context is where land has become uncovered by water and can be considered permanently dry. Accretion occurs gradually, and over time this land attains the soil and vegetative characteristics of the adjoining property.

Mr. Speaker, this Act will align our approach to accretion with other Western Canadian jurisdictions. The proposed Act will provide clarity of ownership of land adjacent to water bodies. Recognizing some of the principles of the common law of accretion in Saskatchewan under certain conditions will enable greater long-term stability for surface and subsurface economic activity. This will help sustain the ongoing investor confidence in our mineral resource sector that is so integral to our future.

As well, Mr. Speaker, landowners will be pleased to learn land they may have simply assumed was theirs can in fact be surveyed and titled. It will also reduce the potential for litigation and liability to the government by removing legal uncertainty in Saskatchewan in the absence of recognizing accretion.

Mr. Speaker, an accretion working group of affected ministries and agencies has been working for the past two years to develop and recommend these changes. The group consisted of the ministries of Agriculture; Environment; Energy and Resources; Justice; Parks, Culture and Sport; Government Relations; and the Water Security Agency. The result of this diligent work has shown that stakeholders who have responded are supportive of the proposed changes and agree that our government should move forward to recognize the principles of accretion.

Mr. Speaker, I move that *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accretion) Amendment Act, 2022* be read now a second time. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 100 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to provide initial comments on Bill No. 100, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accretion) Amendment Act, 2022*. I understand that this is a piece of legislation that attempts to bring increasing clarity to the legal status of land that have developed through the phenomenon of accretion. I don't obviously know a lot about this area, Mr. Speaker, but I know that it can become a real issue of legal dispute when we're looking at the management of land — be it for agricultural use, be it for development of natural resources, Mr. Speaker — and that landowners will certainly be interested in and welcome increasing clarity in this area, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the details of this piece of legislation and whether or not this is something that the government has gotten right and struck the right balance, I know that our critics for Agriculture, for Energy and Resources, for Justice will ensure that that is the case by reaching out to stakeholders in the coming weeks.

I would note that, you know, this is a piece of legislation that addresses private land as well as Crown land. And when we speak about Crown lands recently in this legislature, it does make me think of this Sask Party government's concerning track record on the sell-off of Crown land. They've auctioned off thousands of acres. They've put over 8,000 acres of Crown land basically to be auctioned off to the highest bidder without proper duty-to-

consult, without proper consultation to Indigenous folks of course despite the fact that they have a duty to do that.

These are lands that have been used by Indigenous and non-Indigenous folks for time immemorial for fishing, for trapping, for hunting, and of course for other uses, Mr. Speaker. So that duty would apply to all land, including Crown land that is developed through the process of accretion of course.

And that brings me back to this piece of legislation. So with that, it's an honour to provide initial comments. And while I certainly appreciate the importance of getting this legislation right and welcome increased clarity in terms of the law on accretion, my colleagues and the applicable critics will have more to say no doubt in the days and weeks to come. So with that, it's a pleasure to move to adjourn Bill No. 100, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accretion) 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 Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act*.

This bill has three main parts as I see it. This bill reasserts that Saskatchewan has exclusive jurisdiction over the exploration, development, and management of natural resources — of forestry, power generation, and fertilizer use. Secondly it amends the *Saskatchewan Act* and the *Constitution Act* of 1867 to add provisions reasserting the exclusive legislative jurisdiction over all of these pieces and stressing the importance of those sectors to Saskatchewan. And third, it establishes a tribunal, the economic impact assessment tribunal, which will examine and report on the impacts of federal policies on Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does nothing new to help Saskatchewan people. On this side of the House we will always stand up for Saskatchewan, but introducing redundant legislation doesn't do anything to improve the lives of Saskatchewan people. It's the product of this Premier's separation tour, and it's a distraction from this government's failures like the chaos in our health care system, their inability to create good jobs, and their failure to meaningfully address the affordability crisis. This separation tour this summer consisted of a series of closed-door meetings that did not consult with those who needed to be heard on this

legislation — first and foremost, Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis people, Mr. Speaker.

If this government really wanted to stand up for Saskatchewan, they would renew the equalization lawsuit that the Sask Party dropped when their Conservative friend and leader, Stephen Harper, came into power. This bill doesn't do that. We will keep consulting on this legislation, the work that the Sask Party government didn't do before introducing this Act. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 88 for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Saskatoon Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy to be on my feet, enter into debate on Bill 90, telecommunications statute, borrowing powers amendment Act. It is my understanding from reviewing the legislation and the comments offered here in the Assembly that the government is looking at increasing the borrowing limit of SaskTel from 1.8 billion to 2.9 billion, which is a very sizable increase.

But I do note that this doesn't mean that all of that will necessarily need to be borrowed, but just opening up the opportunity should it be needed. And you know, I will certainly voice support in strengthening our Crowns, in particular SaskTel, at this time. And if increasing this ability to borrow will allow the good folks at SaskTel to carry out their work better, to serve our province, then I do believe that that's a good thing.

[15:00]

We certainly have lots of need in this province to address things like rural connectivity and bandwidth. And I remember the comments from my colleague from Cumberland who spoke to this at length in the Assembly about the needs, in particular for people of the North, to be able to access not just wireless internet but also basic cell service that we've all come to expect and need, especially at significant times when somebody needs to place an emergency call, get in touch with a loved one. I think that we've all been there at times around this province or, you know, other places in the past where we may have not been able to do that and how frustrating that situation can be.

But in 2022 connectivity is not a luxury. It's absolutely important for many aspects of life in this age, and that includes education. And as critic for Education, we know that this government is moving in a particular direction with distance learning, and of

course to support that we need connectivity. And so with that in mind, I'm certainly optimistic that this move is in the best interests of Saskatchewan students, Saskatchewan families, seniors, and all folks in our province.

I do raise some concern as, often with this Sask Party government, they give us reason to be concerned about the status of our Crowns and the good folks who work there. And I do remember back to the early days, prior to the writ in 2020, when I became aware that the candidate that the Sask Party was running in Eastview had written a letter to the editor of the *StarPhoenix* suggesting that SaskTel should not be a Crown corporation anymore and advocating for the sell-off. And so I do encourage the Sask Party and the Sask Party government to ensure that when they put forward candidates, they're not putting forward folks who want to run down our beloved Crowns and the good folks who work there.

Now this individual later came under fire for maybe being concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic was coming from 5G networks. So perhaps that was his concern, was eliminating, you know, viruses that spread through 5G networks, but . . . Well that's in the past now. So maybe that was why he wanted to get rid of SaskTel. We're not really too sure, and I'm glad that I see members opposite having a good laugh at this.

And who's to say? We don't really know if it was whether the economics of a Crown corporation that invests in our province and our people and our businesses . . . or, you know, eliminating viruses that come into earth from the sun or from 5G networks. Who's to say? But either way, I would encourage members opposite to eliminate that kind of thinking from their ranks and support the good folks who work at SaskTel.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my remarks, and looking forward to hearing further debate on this. So I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 90 at this time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 91

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate on Bill 91, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* amendment Act.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have put forward some good remarks on this legislation already on the record. It makes several changes. From what I understand, this is the result of some extensive consultation that went on with the ministry and various labour

stakeholders, Mr. Speaker. It also is the result of some — what I think — was important and productive bipartisan work between members on this side and members on the other side who saw the importance of expanding protection for harassment, Mr. Speaker, to a wider berth than was originally in the legislation, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the stakeholders who have already reached out to me and expressed their thoughts about this legislation. I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to speak to officials about those thoughts and ask some questions. And in order to facilitate that work, I am prepared at this time to allow this bill to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 91 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt this motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

The Speaker: — This bill stands to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 92

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 92 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to speak to Bill 92, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2022* as official opposition critic for SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance].

As this is the first time I'm standing to speak to a bill in regards to SGI, I just want to quickly say a thank you to all SGI workers and recognize the important work that these folks and this very important Crown corporation do for our province. Of course usually the only time we interact with folks at SGI is when we're seeking insurance or during a stressful situation. These employees handle all these stressful situations with great care, and for that I thank them.

I want to say thank you to the SGI employees also who are active in their local, COPE [Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union] 397, who diligently represent their co-workers. I had the pleasure of meeting many of the SGI employees from COPE 397 at the recent Saskatchewan Federation of Labour gathering. Thank you to COPE 397 for continuing to represent and advocate for SGI

workers in our province.

The SGI Crown corporation is yet another example of how, by working together, we can build something greater than the parts. SGI is an important entity in ensuring everyone in Saskatchewan has access to affordable car insurances and other affordable insurances, especially in our province that lately is primarily connected by automobiles. Because of SGI, Saskatchewan has some of the lowest insurance premiums in the country as an important player in making life more affordable for the folks in Saskatchewan.

As critic, I welcome any work by this government that continues to modernize the important Crowns like SGI. I welcome any work by this government that continues to strengthen SGI as a public entity so that we can assure that this Crown exists for all Saskatchewan people for many years to come. Many of my colleagues have spoken about the importance of modernization and clarification in these bills, and I want to thank them for their words on that matter.

In his response, my colleague from Regina Rosemont spoke about how we owe it to Saskatchewan people to get these Acts and amendments right, and I couldn't agree more as critic for SGI. Technology continues to evolve, and in no area are we seeing such change as the auto industry. The auto industry, which had stayed rather stagnant for so many years, has now started on an accelerated path of modernization and technological advancement. Primarily motivated by the threat of climate change, the auto industry is forging ahead with important evolutionary and technological advancements in the automobile sector. Nowhere is this seen more than in the advent of automated vehicles.

This Act begins to wade into the insurability of automated vehicles. As a car enthusiast myself who loves design and cool cars, I'm personally not a huge fan of actually driving that much. I'm very interested in the development of self-driving cars. I think as a new MLA, how great it would be to have an autopilot function to drive me to Regina every week.

An Hon. Member: — It wouldn't matter how tired you were.

Mr. Teed: — It wouldn't matter. Of course we all have heard stories of terrible tragedies that have occurred during these trials, news articles of cars in autopilot having disastrous crashes. The one question I will be asking stakeholders in the committee phase is how other jurisdictions are handling insurance during these research, pilot, and testing phases. And who will be offering this kind of insurance?

We need to ensure that Saskatchewan people are well served by their insurance when involved in these trials or are the victim of such a situation. It is important that the government continue to assess this, and I am happy to hear the minister's statements that we will one day see automated vehicles safely integrated into our Auto Fund.

Mr. Speaker, this Act also deals with changes to supports and dollar amounts available to support counselling after tragic accidents. My questions around this which I will explore more in committee after further conversation with stakeholders is, are these amounts enough? This is such an important area as we

continue to see mental health affecting more and more Canadians.

I can't personally imagine losing a loved one in a tragic accident, automobile accident, but so many people have stories close to them with this kind of loss. We owe it to them to ensure that we get this right. I hope that this government has done the necessary engagement with stakeholders as they come to a decision on the dollar figures offered. We will continue to do that work as well and ensure Saskatchewan folks have the best auto insurance options available to them.

Lastly this Act does important work recognizing the recent work from the courts as it pertains to income replacement benefits in ensuring folks on remand have access to replacement income benefits. This is important access for folks in our province and important to address the work that the courts are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to Bill 92, the automobile accident insurance and amendment Act as the SGI critic. Mr. Speaker, at this time we are prepared to move this bill to the committee phase and will continue and engage with stakeholders on this legislation and bring more questions during the committee phase to ensure this legislation works for Saskatchewan people.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 92 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

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

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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in. This is an interesting bill making some miscellaneous amendments to traffic safety. And I was thinking about this bill when I today wanted to talk about it and asked my colleagues. I would like to join in and have a little bit of this conversation.

But I'm going to try to use some of the good work that was done with the traffic safety hearings. You know, I was a part of the

traffic safety hearing committee. We went around the province — my colleague, members opposite — and we did some good work.

We came back after we went out and had traffic safety hearings, and we made some good recommendations. And I believe one of these is in here, the interlock ignition program. I believe that came from the recommendations from that committee, if I recall. It's been a while since we had that committee and I want to thank those, and I always did thank those that were a part of that on both sides. We did some good work and we made sure, for safety . . . We went around and we had hearings and people came forward — families who'd lost loved ones, many different organizations. Group leaders did a presentation to that committee, and we later made some good recommendations.

Unfortunately, every time you have one of these committees . . . They do some good work, and I believe they do. When we're having issues in our province, the government, opposition members, take it, you know, together. We join up and we decide to go around — a bipartisan committee. You take the politics out of it and you do some good work. And unfortunately there was an opportunity a while back to have another committee when it comes to mental health and addictions. And I'm just trying to show the good work that sometimes, you know . . . This legislation is being brought forward because of some good work from, you know, the traffic safety hearings that went around.

But now, as I said, we could have had an opportunity when it comes to mental health, addictions, and the suicide crisis. We could have had that committee work together and we could have done some good work, make some recommendations. Just like the good recommendations that were made from that committee to do some good work that we have legislation now before us and we're making amendments to it. And that's good. Obviously we want to do that. That's what we're here to do. We're here to make sure legislation is there to keep people safe, try to take care of our citizens. And that's important. So when I talk about that, I want to do that.

Now having said that, I know I have to come back to Bill 93, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act*. Now having said that, when you talk about traffic safety, that can mean anything. Traffic safety, you know, we could talk about our roads. It can be anything — handheld devices, seat belts, chairs. There's different things that you will talk about safety on our highways and, you know, in our cities, our rural areas. It doesn't matter where you are, but it is about safety.

And I just want to give some of the members . . . And you know, I was wishing the Highways minister would have been in here today just to show some, you know, he could hear what I have to say . . .

[Interjections]

[15:15]

The Speaker: — The moans are accurate. You're not to refer to a member's absence or presence.

Mr. Vermette: — Sorry about that, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping a few ministers would have heard that, but they're not in here.

Maybe they'll get the message. Anyway, having said that, you know, I just want to make sure that people understand this, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the road safety that we have, some of the challenges that we have going on in our province, on our highways, some of the families that have gone through some tough times. And I just want to bring back legislation and show sometimes when we talk about traffic safety, you know. The government has the ability, government members, you know, have the ability to make changes. They can take priorities when it's traffic safety on our highways. You know, whether it's Minister of Highways, Minister of Environment, there's so many areas where ministers have the ability to do some work. And we would work with those ministers. It doesn't matter where when it comes to safety, Mr. Speaker. And traffic safety is important.

I think about Highway 106, the Hanson Lake Road. And I've talked about cell service, you know. Maybe the government will hear the concerns of community members saying when it's about traffic safety on a highway, when they don't have cell service, when there's somebody in a bad car accident and can't call. There's no 911 to call. And I know we moved legislation today to move 911 and advancing certain things. And that would be great. And 911 does a lot of great work. But it's too bad on Hanson Lake Road, Highway 106, we wouldn't have for safety when we're talking about safety and amendments, we wouldn't do that.

Now I want to bring you back to . . . I think I referred to it here a while back, you know. And there was a terrible accident in Kinoosao. The only way into Kinoosao, you have to fly in. In summer you could take a boat to the community — it's on the border of Manitoba and Saskatchewan — or you can come in from Manitoba. You have to drive in a very long drive.

But here's about safety. There's a road that goes, and the last 30 kilometres of that road . . . and it's 994 Saskatchewan side, they would say 994, I believe, is what it is on the Saskatchewan side. And it's about safety. When somebody gets injured, they should have a safe road to be able to travel out on. Well you know, I just want to give a story again. For safety, and I want to talk about safety, and maybe this is something that government could look at.

And even, you know, when you talk about safety and you have somebody get injured, and if the ambulance comes in and it takes them three or four hours to get in on 30 kilometres of gravel because the road is so bad, the last 30 kilometres to get in from Manitoba into Saskatchewan. It's the Saskatchewan side. The 30 kilometres are provincial. There is an agreement Saskatchewan has with Manitoba to maintain that road so that people, in case of injuries, somebody's safety, they can drive out. Well if an ambulance gets into Kinoosao, it's amazing where all of a sudden they do not want to take somebody injured, the ambulance, to drive out of that 30 kilometres because that patient is in too serious injuries. And then to watch, you know, having somebody wait and suffer for hours and hours waiting, the ambulance can't go out.

And I know that I'm trying to bring it back. It's about traffic safety. Because here's an opportunity to talk about some of the issues, our safety. And that's kind of the legislation I wish we

would bring in into this thing, where you have situations like that where we could amend legislation to say, no citizen of Saskatchewan should ever suffer and have to be — safety — be sitting in an ambulance because you can't get out waiting for an air ambulance.

And at the end of the day, in this situation, we watched it. I watched it unfold on Facebook, and some of the local heroes — and I call them local heroes — of a very small, isolated community, they made sure they did all they could do to make sure. And in the end, air ambulance came in, and they flew into that late at night and took that individual out of there because they could not get on that road.

Now there's about safety. And I just want to give some examples. So remember, Kinoosao is a small community along the Manitoba border. The road that's going in is 30 kilometres. It's in terrible shape. More work needs to be done. And we will be working on that with the local leaders, and we'll try to get something. But having said that, this legislation's important. I wish there we could bring legislation in that would force government to say, you know what? We've got to do better for Saskatchewan residents.

So I'm not going to take much more time. I just wanted to get on the record because here was an opportunity to show examples of some good work that's been done on both sides.

And you know, members talk about that. Sometimes we've said in here, oh we'll work together. And I've shown where sometimes we think we're all on the same page, and we're going to go in that good direction, and we're going to work as legislative . . . that we're supposed to take care of Saskatchewan people. Unfortunately we see sometimes where some members, I think, don't support it the way maybe I felt it was or residents that come here . . . We have a government side that doesn't support it. And that's unfortunate.

But having said that, I know my colleagues have put a lot of work into, you know, talking about certain bills. But this Bill 93, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act*, I know my colleagues have made some comments. I know the critic has looked and will be talking with individuals. And I know there's going to be time, Mr. Speaker, for individuals to go to committee and ask questions. And he'll have the opportunity, the critic, to make sure he reaches out saying, is this something that's really good? And hopefully at the end of the day when we have legislation like this, the government's done their homework and the changes that they're making, amendments, are what's coming forward.

But I always know, Mr. Speaker, there is an opportunity sometimes. We have limited opportunities to raise issues and sometimes it's nice to raise them when you're talking about adjourned debates. And I know you try to relate it to the bill and safety, and that's what I was trying to show about the traffic safety and of course about safety of citizens. That should be our priority and that's kind of what I tried to do.

So having said that, I don't have a lot more at this point that I wanted to, you know, comments I wanted to make on the record. But I just again wanted to say I think I was being, you know, sincere about it and, you know, trying to go forward. And

sometimes even when you're sincere, we make mistakes and we shouldn't. We should know better. And you know, I'll give myself a talking-to about that, to know a little better next time and remind my colleagues we don't mention certain things. So you know, I hope I didn't offend anybody.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to allow this to go through the process that it needs to, to go to the good work that needs to be done. And on that I conclude my remarks.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 93 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

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

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 University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to enter adjourned debate on behalf of the official opposition with respect to Bill No. 94, *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act, 2022*. Mr. Speaker, this bill will create a not-for-profit, non-Crown corporation to administer public and municipal employee pension funds. The corporation will replace both the public employees pension plan and the municipal employees' pension plan. It will also allow for the transfer of the staff and services of the Public Employees Benefits Agency which currently administers the two plans over to the new corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the public employees pension plan has been in place for the past 45 years, since 1977. It's the largest defined contribution plan in all of Canada, and the plan provides retirement benefits to both Government of Saskatchewan employees, as well as employees of other participating public sector employers.

On the other hand, the municipal employees' pension plan is a defined benefit pension plan that provides retirement benefits to the employees of school divisions, urban and rural municipalities, regional colleges, regional public libraries, and

the other local authorities within Saskatchewan.

Of course all MLAs are members of the public employees pension plan, and it's a decent plan, Mr. Speaker, yet there are so many Saskatchewan residents who do not have the benefit of an employer pension plan. As of 2021, Statistics Canada data indicates that only about 230,000 Saskatchewan people were enrolled in some form of a registered pension plan. So many Saskatchewan people, due to this and other factors, are increasingly worried about their own retirement and how they'll be able to make ends meet, especially when you're living on a fixed income, Mr. Speaker, and particularly as the cost of goods and services has exploded throughout the current generational affordability crisis. Mr. Speaker, generally speaking, as MLAs we should be concerned with ensuring that all Saskatchewan people have similar benefits to those we enjoy as members of this Assembly.

In terms of the specific content of this bill, my understanding is that the bill's shift in administering these funds is being made to align this jurisdiction with best practices elsewhere in Canada. According to the minister's comments, it is also intended to address recruitment and retention issues.

Mr. Speaker, the opposition will continue to consult with stakeholders to ensure the changes proposed in this bill will represent the best course of action for both of these pension plans as well as for all plan members that are impacted. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 94, *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation 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. 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 Saskatoon Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't mind a little extra time on my feet waiting my turn, so it's all good. I'm happy to put a few comments on the record about Bill 95, *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act*.

First thing I want to say is I think it's been already mentioned by a couple of my colleagues that this is a long-overdue piece of legislation, you know, certainly addressing very real concerns and problems in our province as far as protecting the rights and well-being of landowners and surface-rights owners in the province. Yeah, it really just makes me wonder what took so long to get to this stage where I'm here talking about this in 2022.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, here in the NDP opposition we understand

what it means to be an underdog and to stand up for an underdog. And you know, we heard that today as my colleague from Elphinstone-Centre talked about one of my constituents who lives in a housing unit infested with rats and mice. And so we're quite comfortable over here standing up for the underdog and making sure that everyone has a chance in Saskatchewan to live life to the fullest and to have all of their rights protected and secured. And to me this piece of legislation does appear to be somewhat in line with that, standing up for an underdog, a landowner who is struggling to be compensated fairly.

I think that this legislation is about fairness. And certainly we have a lot of respect for the significance of industry and energy and resources, and that includes the oil and gas sector in this province 100 per cent. You know, we know that those industries are important to Saskatchewan, but we also know those industries can't operate without checks and balances to ensure that landowners are being compensated fairly and in a timely way when those agreements that they've made are not being kept. And so I am happy to see that this legislation does bring in some measures to help protect those surface-rights owners and landowners in Saskatchewan to ensure that those promises are kept and that they're being compensated fairly.

With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will say that I am interested in seeing this bill proceed and hearing more comments, including from our critic for this area, as we continue to touch base with stakeholders and other folks interested in this legislation. But at this time I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 95, *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Agreed.

[15:30]

Bill No. 96

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marit that **Bill No. 96 — *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to enter adjourned debates on behalf of the official opposition with respect to Bill 96, the leafcutting bee cutters . . . pardon me . . . *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act*. I guess a couple of us are a bit tongue-tied by this one.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, will repeal the 1992 Act which fines anyone who is not registered, from possessing any bees or beekeeping equipment in Saskatchewan. According to the minister's comments, the purpose of repealing the Act is to keep Saskatchewan's agriculture legislation current with the evolving industry. And, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House, we are

certainly in favour of opening up beekeeping and honey production in our province.

Honeybees, both wild and domestic, perform around 80 per cent of all pollination worldwide, Mr. Speaker. Seventy out of the top hundred human food crops, which supply about 90 per cent of the world's nutrition, are pollinated by bees. Mr. Speaker, bees are dying off as a result of a number of factors, namely pesticides, drought, habitat destruction, nutrition deficit, air pollution, and climate change.

In addition to addressing the above factors impacting the bee population, making it easier for Saskatchewan people to keep bees is something that can only represent a positive measure, Mr. Speaker. And so with that, I will be brief in my remarks and move that we adjourn debate on Bill 96, *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 97

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Carr that **Bill No. 97 — *The Architects Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter in this afternoon. I don't know if my remarks will be as sweet and stinging as my colleague on the beekeepers legislation, Mr. Speaker. But I'll be brief this afternoon with respect to *The Architects Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker, because importantly what we need to have happen here is the full consultation with those incredible architects in Saskatchewan — those professionals that ensure the integrity of our infrastructure and that build such amazing structures, Mr. Speaker — and make sure that this legislation is in their best interests, Mr. Speaker.

This is important, of course, because they're going to know best. They're going to know this Act. They're going to know the impacts of this Act. They're going to know the consequences, both intended and unintended. And we need to be engaged in that consultation as well, Mr. Speaker, because all too often — and I don't know if that's the case here or not, Mr. Speaker — but all too often we have a government, in the case of the Sask Party government, that derives legislation in a vacuum, that derives legislation for partisan and political interests, Mr. Speaker. And all too often they don't engage those that have the expertise on the ground, Mr. Speaker, those that understand the consequences, both intended and unintended, Mr. Speaker.

We know in Saskatchewan we have incredible architects, Mr. Speaker, who have so much to offer Saskatchewan and beyond, Mr. Speaker. And making sure that this legislation represents their best interests and the balance on that front is going to be important.

Mr. Speaker, I know over the years it's been a frustration across the construction sector, the engineering sector, the architecture sector, all the building trades, that this government outsources far too many projects, that they shut out Saskatchewan professionals and workers all too often on public projects, Mr. Speaker, and that they haven't looked out for the best interests of our economy on this front or for maximizing economic value through public procurement, Mr. Speaker. Certainly that has been the case with respect to architects and engineers and Saskatchewan companies and building trades across our province under the Sask Party government.

And all too often, as we've pushed for best value in procurement and we've pushed forward the case of maximizing economic return by utilizing the expertise and professionalism of Saskatchewan people on these fronts, we've had that government hold up trade agreements with other provinces for example, Mr. Speaker, as weak excuses as to why we can't maximize value or engage Saskatchewan companies and workers and professionals in the way that we should or why they need to organize procurement, Mr. Speaker, in a way that shuts out Saskatchewan professionals within this sector, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll come at this through that lens. The architects of Saskatchewan are exceptional. We need to make sure this legislation puts them in a position to thrive, Mr. Speaker, to use their skills in this province and elsewhere, Mr. Speaker. And we need this government to, you know, not be Boy Scouts when it comes to the interpretation of trade agreements, Mr. Speaker, but to make sure that they're looking at the best interests of Saskatchewan people, of our economy, and of those that build this infrastructure from the hands on the tools — as in the building trades, Mr. Speaker — through to the professionals, the engineers, and the architects, and so many more, Mr. Speaker.

So our lead critic will be directly engaged in that consultation. We'd invite right now the architects and anyone else who has expertise on this front to engage and to share their perspective, Mr. Speaker. Certainly do that with government, but importantly as well with the official opposition. Our aim with respect to a piece of legislation like this is to simply make sure that it's in the best interests of those architects of Saskatchewan, and if there's gaps or if there's challenges, to work to improve it, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 97.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member has moved to adjourn this House. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — This House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:38.]

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