



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

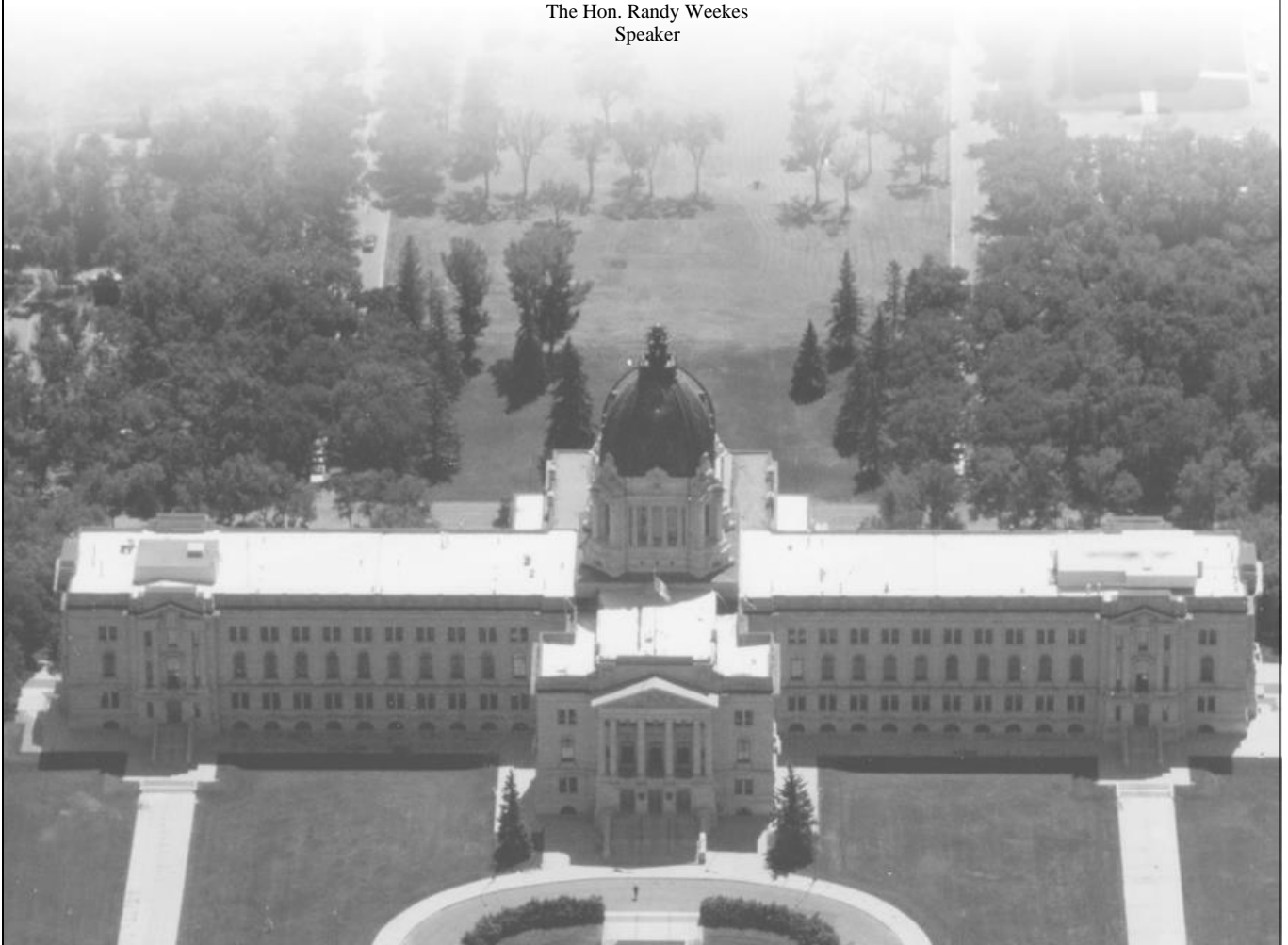
of the

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

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CONTENTS

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker.....	2891
Wotherspoon	2891

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reception

The Speaker.....	2891
------------------	------

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Moe.....	2891
Teed.....	2892
Makowsky.....	2892
Mowat	2892
Eyre.....	2892
Wotherspoon	2893
Carr.....	2893
Sarauer	2893
Lambert	2893
Skoropad.....	2893
Buckingham	2893
Docherty	2894
Grewal	2894
Nerlien	2894

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mowat	2894
Lemaigre.....	2894
Love.....	2894
Teed.....	2895

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Celebrating Louis Riel Day

Lambert	2895
---------------	------

Woodland Wellness Centre Opens in La Ronge

Vermette	2895
----------------	------

Satellite Programs Support People with Accessibility Issues

Jenson	2895
--------------	------

Transgender Awareness Week Helps to Remove Barriers

Mowat	2896
-------------	------

Timber Allocation for Prince Albert Furniture Company

Kirsch.....	2896
-------------	------

Support for Hope Restored Canada

Ross, A.	2896
---------------	------

Two New Physicians Recruited for Health Care Complex

Francis	2896
---------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Health Care Services for Children

Mowat	2897
Merriman	2897

Assignment of Long-Term Care Spaces

Love.....	2898
Hindley.....	2898

Affordability Measures

Wotherspoon	2899
Harpauer	2899

Food Pricing in Saskatchewan

Wotherspoon	2900
Marit	2900

Interpersonal Violence Rates and Support for Second-Stage Shelters

Sarauer	2901
Eyre.....	2901

POINT OF ORDER

Carr.....	2901
Wotherspoon	2901

ORDERS OF THE DAY**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Ottenbreit2901

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**SECOND READINGS****Bill No. 103 — *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act***

Makowsky.....2902

Sarauer2902

ADJOURNED DEBATES**SECOND READINGS****Bill No. 88 — *The Saskatchewan First Act***

Teed.....2903

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

Sarauer2904

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

Mowat2904

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

Vermette2904

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

Love.....2904

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

Vermette2905

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

Vermette2906

Bill No. 100 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accretion) Amendment Act, 2022*

Love.....2906

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

Sarauer2907

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

Wotherspoon2907

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — I would like to welcome all our guests in the galleries today. I just would like to caution you not to take part in any of the proceedings — that's anything verbal or including clapping.

Also I'd just like to remind everyone that at 1:55 there's going to be a SaskAlert system test, so shut your device off. Or if they go off, we'll work through it.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker: — Yesterday, November 15th, 2022, the Deputy House Leader raised a point of order alleging that the member for Regina Rosemont used unparliamentary language during his response to a ministerial statement. The Opposition House Leader requested a review of the record. I have done so, and I am prepared to make my ruling.

A very similar comment by the member from Regina Rosemont was the subject of a ruling by Speaker Docherty on March 11th, 2020. Speaker Docherty found a similar expression by the same member to be unparliamentary. The member's comments that relate to the government ripping off nuns and filling the pockets of those connected to the government insinuated that members of the government had acted in an unethical manner.

As members know, remarks which question a member's integrity, honesty, or character are out of order. Once again the comments used by the member from Regina Rosemont went too far. For that reason, I find the point of order well taken, and would ask the member for Regina Rosemont to rise, withdraw the remark, and again apologize for his statement.

I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I withdraw and apologize.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reception

The Speaker: — On October 11th, 2022 the Board of Internal Economy recommended to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan that Ms. Sharon Pratchler be appointed to the position of Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner for the province of Saskatchewan, effective November 1st 2022.

Joining us today in the Speaker's gallery are Ms. Pratchler and members of her family, friends, and staff from her office. All members are invited to join me at a come-and-go welcome reception for Ms. Pratchler this afternoon in the Saskatchewan Gallery from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

I ask that all members please join me in welcoming Ms. Pratchler and her guests to the Legislative Assembly.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I would ask leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues. I would take the opportunity to welcome everyone that has joined us here today. We have a new Ombudsman, Mr. Speaker. We have a number of folks from across the province from our disability community here, a number of students, and so many that have joined us from across the province of Saskatchewan. I welcome all of you here today.

And it's also my honour to introduce to you and to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, in light of a big week and a big weekend in this city, we have with us our CFL [Canadian Football League] commissioner, Randy Ambrosie. Randy is accompanied by his wife, Barb, here today in our legislature, Mr. Speaker.

And as we all know, it's Grey Cup week. It's Canada's largest party, and it's about to get going in earnest in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Grey Cup is one of the busiest times of year for the staff at CFL headquarters, and Randy can attest to this. And with this year's Grey Cup game featuring the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the Toronto Argonauts, Mr. Speaker, and as we are fully aware it does not feature our beloved Saskatchewan Roughriders, it's a tragedy that we're still processing here in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Randy claims he is agnostic when it comes to the outcome of the game on Sunday. Given his position, we can agree that he has to remain scrupulously neutral. But it would be understandable, Mr. Speaker, if Mr. Ambrosie was somewhat conflicted as, you know, he was born and raised in the community of Winnipeg. He went on and cheered for the Bombers as a young boy. The Riders were just over here, Mr. Speaker. But way back when Don Jonas was handing the ball off to Mini Mack Herron, Mr. Speaker, Randy went on to play at the University of Manitoba. He earned all-Canadian honours as an offensive lineman, and then on to the CFL where he had a stop in Toronto playing with the Toronto Argonauts as well, Mr. Speaker. So the commissioner for the CFL does have connections to both teams here.

He had an outstanding career playing in the CFL from 1985 to 1993. In addition to the Argos, as we're all too aware in this room, Mr. Speaker, he played for the evil empire which is also known now as the Edmonton Elks. Mr. Speaker, there are members in this Assembly who quite frankly resent Randy's involvement in both of those Alberta teams as he played with the Stampeders as well. But if the member from Regina Gardiner Park is willing to let bygones be bygones, Mr. Speaker, I think I

would put forward that we all should be able to do that.

Mr. Speaker, Randy was named the CFL commissioner in 2017, and he'll be the first to tell you that he could not do his job as commissioner without the support of his wife, Barb, as well as their two daughters. Randy has steered the league through some very challenging times, in particular over the course of the last two, two and a half years, Mr. Speaker. The CFL has put on a full slate of games this year. That's the first time since 2019. Scoring was up and there was a pretty good TV deal in place and the new revenue-sharing agreement is in effect. And I would say that that is all good news for the future of our Canadian Football League.

And there's every reason for us to believe that we will be cheering for the Riders at Mosaic. We're going to be, as we should, booing the Bombers for many, many years to come, not just this weekend. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to welcome Randy and Barb Ambrosie to our legislature today.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members, I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming Randy Ambrosie and his wife, Barb, the CFL commissioner, to his Legislative Assembly as the official opposition critic for Parks, Culture and Sport.

Mr. Speaker, there is no other place in Saskatchewan where you'll find more dedicated fans to football. I have many in my family. I am excited to attend my very first game at Mosaic Stadium. I have to say it was quite something to drive into Regina for the first time and see that magnificent stadium — very excited. And I just also want to say quickly a huge thank you to all the organizers, the Grey Cup committee. No one knows how to put on a better party than the folks at Mosaic Stadium and here in Regina. So welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier had mentioned it. We have several members of the disability community here with us. We had a bit of a lunch and discussion on the introduction of *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*. The Premier was able to join us as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, seated in the Speaker's gallery are friends from the CNIB [Canadian National Institute for the Blind]: vice-president, Christall Beaudry, and staff member, Chidinma Obidegwu; representatives from SaskAbilities, executive director, Ian Wilkinson, and president, Michelle Hunter; representatives from Métis Nation-Saskatchewan including Marg Friesen and vice-president, Virginia LaCroix; SARC's

[Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres] executive director, Amy McNeil.

And seated on the Chamber floor are representatives from Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services including director, Nairn Gillies, staff member, Patricia Spicer, and ASL [American Sign Language] interpreters, Sue Schmid and Brandie Radcliffe, who you see signing here today. Members from Barrier Free Saskatchewan: president, Robin East, his spouse, Verlina; and vice-president, Brenda Edel. From the Voice of People of Disabilities, board member, Charlene Eger; our friends, Inclusion Saskatchewan, including director, Shandrea Verboom, and advocate Jamie Ellis; staff from Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan including executive director, Launel Scott, and staff member, Farzana Nazir.

Mr. Speaker, these organizations do essential work for peoples with disabilities in our province. There are several folks from the ministry here as well. I want to thank these important stakeholders here today and our colleagues not in attendance for the important work they do each and every day. It's because of these and other partners that Saskatchewan is closer to becoming more inclusive and accessible place where everyone can fully participate.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to help me in joining these important guests here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Deputy Leader.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the minister opposite in welcoming all of these accessibility advocates to their Assembly here today. I expect this coincides with the second reading of the accessibility Act. I want to thank all of these individuals for their leadership in community, all of the ways that they advocate for folks who can't often speak for themselves, and in their advice that they're providing to the ministry throughout the minister, but also in the programs that they access day to day because without that on-the-ground experience there can't be improvements.

We know that there is work to do but I do want to thank you for everything that you've been putting forward on the front lines and for all of the advice that you're providing. In particular I want to say a special hello to Brenda Edel, who I've worked with quite frequently on disability issues, and Nairn Gillies, who spent quite a bit of time chatting on deaf and hard of hearing issues. But welcome to everyone here today on behalf of the official opposition. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, in the east gallery I would like to welcome guests from the Saskatchewan Realtors Association. With us today, Lane Boghean, Tim Otitoju, and Craig Adam. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to proclaim this week as the first-ever Realtors Week in Saskatchewan and I thank these fine folks and their organization for all they do for the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister opposite to welcome Tim, Lane, and Craig to their Assembly. These are very fine realtors in our community, in our city, in our province. Beyond that, they're real fine citizens, Mr. Speaker, and it's a pleasure to have them here today. I thank them for all their leadership in their profession, Mr. Speaker, and all their service within our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are 19 public service employees seated in your Speaker's gallery today. They're here today to take part in the parliamentary program for the public service. The program includes a tour of the Legislative Building, briefings presented by various branches of the Legislative Assembly Service and Executive Council, an opportunity to sit in the Speaker's gallery and observe question period and other House business, brief meetings with members from both sides of the House. And I do have the honour to be able to speak with them after proceedings today, so I'm really looking forward to that, Mr. Speaker.

The participants are employees from the following ministries: Advanced Education, Agriculture, Education, Health, Government Relations, Immigration and Career Training, Public Service Commission, Social Services, and the Legislative Assembly Services. Please join me in welcoming these very important visitors to their Legislative Assembly today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 welcoming these 19 public service employees to their legislative gallery. As the minister mentioned, they're taking part in a parliamentary program today. They get the opportunity to speak with the minister, and I'm looking forward to also having a chance to chat with them as well. I hope that they enjoy their day. I hope they enjoy the proceedings.

[13:45]

Thank you so much for the work that you do every single day in your work as public servants. I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce a constituent of mine, Harold Sokyryka, who is sitting in your gallery today.

I had the pleasure of meeting Harold when I spoke at an event in my constituency for Cosmo Industries last year, where a collaboration was announced between Harold and the Cans for Cosmo collection program, operated by Cosmo Industries.

Harold has been an entrepreneur and an inventor for the past 50 years. He is the president and founder of Best Way recycling consultants. His latest invention is the Kwik BagIt system, and that features reusable, washable polycloth bags. These biodegradable bags can be reused hundreds of times and eliminate the dependency on the plastic bags, those plastic bags that take a long time to decompose and are damaging to our landfills and our environment.

I want to thank Harold for his efforts to improve recycling in our province. Couple of things I want to mention about Harold: he is the longest surviving heart transplant patient in Canada, and he is also the father to Theresa Sokyryka. She was the singer who was the *Canadian Idol* runner-up in 2004. So I ask all members to please join me in welcoming Harold to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Skoropad: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to join with my colleague in welcoming Mr. Sokyryka here today to this legislature. I will be meeting later on with Mr. Sokyryka and I very much look forward to that opportunity and that conversation. So with that, I just welcome you here to your legislature.

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

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to welcome and recognize 25 students that are grade 8 students that are down here today from Caroline Robbins School in Saskatoon, along with teachers Jennifer Hogg, Eryn Murray, and Connie Kinakin.

Mr. Speaker, a little bit of trivia on the Caroline Robbins School: it was built by a sitting member here today. He helped his father to build it, and that was probably about 60 years ago the member from Saskatoon Southeast helped to build that school. I don't want to give away his age or anything but . . . So I look forward to meeting with you after session, and please help me welcome these grade 8 students to their Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in the west gallery, I want to give a warm welcome to Jigar Patel, a real leader within this province, a real leader in the community, a business leader, Mr. Speaker, and a leader within the Gujarati Samaj of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, a proud and growing and vibrant community, Mr. Speaker.

It's always a pleasure to join with Jigar around community events. Most recently we were out at Navratri, which was four days of dancing and gathering. The dancing would start at 10 o'clock at night, I think, or 9 o'clock at night, and then way past my bedtime all the way till 1 a.m. or so. Thousands of folks were in celebration, just as they would've as well in India, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome my friend Jigar Patel to his Assembly.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sitting in the west gallery, it is my pleasure to introduce two members of the Gujarati community. Thank you to the member opposite for starting my introduction — appreciate that. Mr. Jigar Patel is a businessman who has served Saskatchewan for the past seven years. He's past president of the Gujarati community and director of the Hindu temple. And joining him today is Mr. Ankur Shah, a businessman from India who is visiting. And it is our pleasure to host you here, sir. So I'd like to thank both for their contributions to these communities. You've made Saskatchewan certainly better, and thank you for that. I'd like to ask all members of this Assembly to join me in welcoming them to this legislature. Thanks so much.

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

Mr. Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to join my colleague in welcoming these two fine gentlemen sitting in the west gallery. Jigar is a great volunteer in the Gujarati community, organizing big events like garba and organizing cricket tournaments, which I love to participate once in a while still. And Ankur Shah is visiting from India. His daughter is going to the University of Regina here. Hopefully, Ankur, you will make Saskatchewan your home as well. So please join me in welcoming these two fine gentlemen into this Assembly.

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

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I always appreciate when you save the best for last. Mr. Speaker, very, very proud to introduce to the legislature today 29 grade 8 students from the wonderful community of Wadena. They're joined by teacher Angela Fielding and the chaperone, Kelsey Bachinski. And I want to note in particular two special guests among them, two grade 8 students who have recently arrived from the Ukraine. Please welcome Anton and Vlad to this Legislative Assembly and the rest of our guests to their Legislative Assembly. And I look forward to meeting with you after question period downstairs. Please welcome.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to immediately create a bipartisan committee on the mental health and addictions crisis. It's been more than two years since the passing of the suicide prevention Act, and it's past time for this government to put their words into action. It's completely unacceptable that this government sits on their hands while suicide rates for Indigenous people in Saskatchewan are four times higher than non-Indigenous people.

And according to a new report by the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], rates of hospitalization for self-harm are also significantly higher for First Nations people than everyone else: seven times higher for females and four times higher for males. It's past time to act, Mr. Speaker.

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 immediately create a bipartisan legislative committee on mental health and addictions crisis.

This petition today is signed by individuals from Air Ronge, La Ronge, and Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Lemaigre: — 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 the federal government have made the control of Saskatchewan's resources rights unclear; that an unsupported federal government will continue to impede Saskatchewan's potential to play a global role in providing resources in 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 Lipton and Balgonie. I so present.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy to bring forth concerns from people of Saskatchewan to this petition to the government to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. Those who've signed the petition today would like the Assembly to know that recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in rural health care facilities; and that this problem has led to many emergency room closures, acute care closures, lab closures, X-ray service disruptions; and that those problems continue throughout the pandemic, which continues through this province.

I'd like to note today that health care workers and their families are valuable assets. They contribute to our communities. They contribute economically. These are good-paying jobs that every community in Saskatchewan relies on. We know that currently going on today in Saskatoon is the 2022 SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, and that rural health care continues to be a major concern for those rural leaders. Last year, 94 per cent of the delegates voted in favour of a resolution acknowledging the nursing and health care shortage 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.

Today this petition is signed by folks from Wilkie and Unity. And I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to stop the closure of public liquor stores. Mr. Speaker, closing the public liquor stores is bad for competition, bad for affordability, and bad for jobs. Losing good, mortgage-paying jobs during an affordability crisis is a terrible jobs plan, especially before Christmas.

The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: that public liquor stores have remained profitable and self-sufficient while providing good-paying, stable employment for 350 Saskatchewan residents despite the competitive private and for-profit liquor stores, and the shuttering of the remaining 34 remaining public stores across Saskatchewan will see the loss of those 350 jobs; that revenue generated by public liquor stores helps to fund crucial public services such as health care, education, and highways; that income earned by employees in public liquor jobs is spent in Saskatchewan communities, with taxes going back into the province's General Revenue Fund.

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 immediately reverse the decision to close the remaining 34 public SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] liquor stores.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Celebrating Louis Riel Day

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this day, in this city in 1885, Louis Riel was executed by hanging. He was convicted of high treason for his role in leading the North-West Rebellion. He fought and died for Métis rights and political recognition.

Today is not only one of remembrance, but also a day to celebrate Riel, a hero and mentor who stood up for the Métis way of life and the federal government's encroachment on Métis lands. He established the first provisional government of Saskatchewan at Batoche on March 19th, 1885.

Mr. Speaker, Métis people across Canada were labelled as traitors, and for generations many felt the need to hide their Métis culture and heritage. My maternal great-grandmother, Rose-de-

Lima Daignault, lived here in Regina and was a first cousin once removed to Louis Riel. She was one of those who did not disclose her Métis lineage. Mr. Speaker, despite this oppression, many Métis people found a way to preserve their customs and language, and passed it on to current generations. My colleagues from Moose Jaw had the privilege to attend a flag-raising ceremony this morning at Sask Polytechnic and bring greetings.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of my Métis heritage. The strength of the Métis Nation today is a testament to the legacy Riel left behind and the courage, pride, and resilience of the Métis people. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Woodland Wellness Centre Opens in La Ronge

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, today I rise to give a well-deserved congratulations to the Lac La Ronge Indian Band on the completion and grand opening of the Woodland Wellness Centre in La Ronge. With the growing need of mental health and wellness facilities, the centre will provide a service which is desperately needed in my riding. This facility has 24 beds and is operated by approximately 25 staff. With treatment available for families as well as individuals, they will be able to meet the needs of many people.

I was happy to attend the grand opening of the wellness centre, which celebrated the much-needed project and recognized the partnerships that made it a reality. I am so moved by the leadership in our community that made this happen. I'm also proud to be a part of a team in this Assembly who have always understood the need in the North for more mental health and addictions services.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating the Lac La Ronge Indian Band on the grand opening of their Woodland Wellness Centre. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Satellite Programs Support People with Accessibility Issues

Mr. Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very excited to recognize the grand opening of SaskAbilities' two newest satellite programs in Saskatoon and Warman. Just a few weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the opening on behalf of the Minister of Social Services and say a couple of words.

It's because of our community partners like SaskAbilities that Saskatchewan is closer to becoming a more inclusive and accessible place where everyone has the supports they need to reach their full potential. These partners are essential to giving people with accessibility issues a voice and ensure that they have agency and control over their lives. These new programs will help keep everyone in Warman and area, as well as Saskatoon, included in their communities. And, Mr. Speaker, that's growth that works for everyone.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in making this opening a success, and I'm very excited to see more individuals being included in our communities with accessible programming. Mr. Speaker, we are committed to our partnership with SaskAbilities and to increasing inclusion for people with disabilities in Saskatchewan communities. We're all on a constant journey of ensuring our programs and services are person-centred, and that important work will continue for the benefit of all.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, thank you to SaskAbilities and everyone who works to make our province more accessible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Transgender Awareness Week Helps to Remove Barriers

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Transgender Awareness Week, which takes place from November 14th to November 18th of this year.

Trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people are going through social, medical, and legal transitions to access gender-affirming care, and yet are presented with barrier after barrier. Just finding a family doctor that provides gender-affirming care is a significant barrier, and often involves a referral process among community members.

Other provinces, including BC [British Columbia] and Ontario, have been stepping up to improve access. Trans and gender-diverse people are historically underserved when it comes to health care. They experience discrimination and systemic hurdles each day in our health care system. We need to listen to the lived experience of community members and research and recommendations coming from the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health and the World Association for Transgender Health standards of care.

We need to ensure that all primary care providers are knowledgeable on trans health care and that gender reassignment surgery is available without unnecessary delays in the approval process. We need to provide culturally appropriate care, timely mental health care, and to support the good organizations who are working to connect people with services.

Mr. Speaker, on Transgender Awareness Week I urge all members of this Assembly to do better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Timber Allocation for Prince Albert Furniture Company

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with great news coming out of our world-class forestry industry, and to announce a timber allocation for yet another company in our province.

Our government is proud to announce the allocation of over 100,000 cubic metres of hardwood timber to Pivot Furniture, based in Prince Albert. Mr. Speaker, Pivot is a new company that utilizes locally sourced timber and builds many different types of home furniture and names each design based on a town here in

Saskatchewan. Pivot has invested millions and has plans for even more growth and jobs in P.A. [Prince Albert] and Saskatoon, which already accounts for 250 direct jobs in the province.

Mr. Speaker, this is yet another investment in our excellent forestry industry, and another project that will continue to bring investment and jobs to Saskatchewan. Pivot's work, along with the other five major forestry projects on the go, account for nearly 80 per cent of our government's growth plan goal of doubling the forestry industry by 2030.

Our forestry industry continues to be the North's largest industry with a 27 per cent Indigenous workforce which we can all take pride in. And that, Mr. Speaker, is growth that works for everyone. Thank you.

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

Support for Hope Restored Canada

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2021, this government introduced the Saskatchewan trafficking response team. This is a specialized intelligence-led enforcement team that focuses on addressing illegal weapons, drugs, and human trafficking. Their focus is on long-term investigations to take down sophisticated criminal networks that are targeting vulnerable people.

Just last month, Saskatoon police arrested six individuals as part of a human trafficking investigation. To further address this issue, our government has directly invested \$150,000 into Hope Restored Canada to help individuals recovering from human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, Dailene Kells, their board Chair, had this to say:

This funding provides critical one-time support to continue to operate Hope Restored Canada. We are the only program in Saskatchewan with such a mandate and are grateful that the Saskatchewan Government recognizes the positive impact Hope Restored Canada continues to make in our communities. These funds will help sexually exploited . . . participants to heal and turn their lives around.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to building a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people and creating safer communities. That is growth that works for everyone. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Two New Physicians Recruited for Health Care Complex

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some very good news for the residents of Spiritwood. Spiritwood and District Health Complex recently welcomed two new physicians to the community, bringing them up to their full complement of three.

As you may have been hearing these last couple months, difficulty recruiting health care professionals is a challenge that communities across the nation and the rest of the world are facing. The difference here in Saskatchewan is that we have

programs like SIPPA [Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment], as well as an aggressive four-point action plan to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain over 1,000 more health care workers to communities across the province — the most ambitious plan in the nation.

Just last month, services were also fully resumed in Biggar at their health centre. Because of this plan, this will equate to success for health centres across the province. That definitely is growth that works for everyone.

Dr. Modaressi is the most recent physician to join Spiritwood community earlier this month. Dr. Karami joined the Spiritwood community in August. They joined Dr. Person, who is currently the longest serving physician in Spiritwood, and we certainly thank him for his continued service.

Mr. Speaker, our province is known for its great people and great communities. I ask that all members join me in welcoming our newest residents and thank them for choosing Saskatchewan.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Health Care Services for Children

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, parents across the province are scared and rightly so. Classrooms are half empty because so many kids are sick. Flu, COVID, and RSV [respiratory syncytial virus] are spiking with no end in sight, and sick kids are ending up in our emergency rooms and waiting too long for care.

This is the tip of the iceberg, Mr. Speaker, and we're expecting a long winter ahead. ERs [emergency room] are bursting at the seams; pediatric wards are full. What is the plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And Dr. Shahab was available this week to talk specifically about this. We've been very transparent in giving out our CRISP [community respiratory illness surveillance program] report every two weeks to show what the status is. Yes, we are seeing an influx of RSV and of flu in our communities, Mr. Speaker, and also COVID, but very, very low levels of COVID.

This is a seasonal thing that the health care providers are prepared for, Mr. Speaker. Our ERs are busy. What I would encourage anybody to do if they do have a child that's sick or they're sick themselves, please call 811, get triaged by a nurse there, and find the appropriate care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — I'm not sure the minister knows the definition of "transparent," Mr. Speaker.

Today we're joined by Janna Pratt. Earlier this week her four-year-old daughter, Jream, was taken by ambulance to the Regina General Hospital. Sadly she's back in the ER again today. Jream

has brain cancer and multiple tumours that result in seizures. On Monday she was admitted to the pediatric ward when she got to the ER, but beds were full. They had to wait in the ER for 20 hours before she got a bed. She was supposed to be airlifted to Saskatoon, but they didn't have enough staff. And yesterday at the children's hospital in Saskatoon, kids were in makeshift beds made of chairs because they didn't have capacity.

Does the Premier think it's acceptable for sick kids to wait almost a whole day before they get a hospital bed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd be more than happy to meet with Ms. Pratt after to be able to discuss the circumstances of her specific child. But as a parent, certainly I understand this. As a parent who has had a child who had seizures, I understand this even better. This is a very important and serious situation, Mr. Speaker.

But what I can say, Mr. Speaker, is what was said by Ms. Dornstauder of the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] this morning. She said on the John Gormley show, "We are still receiving all of the children who need a bed. It's a bit of delay sometimes coming out of emergency, but most certainly every child is receiving a bed."

Mr. Speaker, our health care system is challenged right now, but that's exactly why we've been able to work with our four-point plan to be able to bring in . . . The member from Kindersley just highlighted some successes here. We're trying to bring that support in not only for our emergency rooms but for our system across the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Twenty hours is more than a bit of delay, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, that Premier's predecessor used to have big plans on ER waits. Ten years ago here's what his vision document promised: "The Government of Saskatchewan has committed to eliminate wait times in emergency rooms by 2017." ER waits gone by 2017.

Here's what actually happened. This government watered down that promise year after year, and now the government doesn't have any plan whatsoever or any targets at all. And Jream's experience is the result. Wait times in emergency rooms that are out of control. What is the plan to ensure sick kids can get emergency care when they need it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've been outlining our plan for several weeks, Mr. Speaker, starting back in September, actually starting all the way back in March with outlying budgetary dollars to be able to recruit more people.

When the Minister of Rural and Remote and myself travelled across the province, what we heard consistently, Mr. Speaker, is we need more people. We are bringing in more people. We have 130 more doctors that have come in in the last 13 months, Mr.

Speaker. We're recruiting more nurses across. We're leading . . . the first Canadian province to go to the Philippines to be able to recruit people to bring them back here to be able to help out the health care workers that have carried us for the last two years.

Mr. Speaker, we also have 150 more nurses in our post-secondary education. We're working on this. We are, and we have successes. We've had major successes in rural Saskatchewan. There's still some more work to do on this, but we're getting there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Twenty hours waiting for a bed, Mr. Speaker. It's not working.

Another mom wanted to be here today to advocate for her sick kid, but she's not here because she's used up all her sick leave from work driving around to find children's Tylenol, Mr. Speaker. She had this to say:

My four-year-old daughter has asked why her little brother is crying, and I have to explain to her that I'm not able to get him medicine. I have to hope that the last bit of Advil can be stretched through and help long enough to find more.

This is a crisis of public health which sends countless children to what she calls "overcrowded, underfunded hospitals" just to control a fever.

Why has this government done nothing to help families scrambling to find medicine for their sick kids?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, there obviously is a national shortage of some of the children's medications, certainly for colds, and we recognize that. I have reached out to the federal minister, Minister Duclos, directly on this to be able to see if there are options.

Can we get some . . . Because I've been told, Mr. Speaker, that this is a labelling issue. I've been asking if we can get some English-only labels in this province to be able to meet the needs of the Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, we're going to be joined by other provinces also asking for that, to be able to say that having an English-only medication is better than having no medication.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to work with the federal government. They have assured us that they will have a three-month supply on the ground in our province within the next two weeks. But we've asked for this as an interim measure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, countless families are dealing with sick kids, which is a serious public health issue. We know that 811 nurses are referring multiple toddlers each shift to emergency rooms because parents can't get high fevers under

control. The time parents spend in ERs, searching pharmacies, and staying home from work is only adding to the economic stress most families are facing.

[14:15]

We think it's only fair that the province publicly report on children's medication shortages, provide timelines on the expected emergency shipments, and meaningfully collaborate with the federal government on supply distribution. Can we get those promises today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I outlined, we are writing a letter. We are going to reach out to the federal minister to see if we can get a supply here that has just the English only. Not ideal, Mr. Speaker, but we'll take what we can get right now, and we would appreciate anything that the federal government . . . could be able to do that. I'd ask the members opposite if they could reach out to their federal counterparts and support this to be able to get that important medication on the ground.

But what I can also inform the House of, Mr. Speaker, is just the other day, Mr. Fougere, the president of the pharmacy association, said this on John Gormley, said:

Just to repeat that parents should not be worried. They can find what they need from a pharmacist. And don't stockpile the medication. Leave those for other people that have the same problem that you have, and we'll get through this together.

That's some very sage advice, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage people to go in, talk to their pharmacist to see if there are other options to be able to knock those fevers down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Assignment of Long-Term Care Spaces

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, does the minister think it's okay to force seniors in their 90s to move out of their homes because of his government's failure to plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Seniors.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume that the member opposite is referring to the move of residents from Emmanuel Villa, Mr. Speaker. We recognize that it's always difficult for seniors and older adults when a move is required from a facility to another facility. Mr. Speaker, in this particular instance, Emmanuel Villa was contracted by the SHA to provide long-term care spaces on a temporary basis to meet the immediate need for long-term care beds in the city of Regina, back in about 2019, 2020 as a result of the closure of a significant portion of the beds at Regina Pioneer Village.

Mr. Speaker, this was done on a temporary basis, and we're trying to make sure that the residents, and their families, that are

being needed to be moved, that we're making that as easy and seamless as possible for those residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — I assure you, Mr. Speaker, it has not been easy and it has not been seamless. This government sat on their hands for years as Pioneer Village crumbled. This government's solution pilot project placed seniors in both Emmanuel Villa and Brightwater. These seniors have settled in. They've spent years in their new home, but they're now being displaced from Emmanuel Villa because this government is changing course and creating chaos for families. One senior was put in a taxicab and sent to Lumsden.

The people who built this province deserve better. Will the minister commit to grandfathering all seniors currently living at Emmanuel Villa? Will he do the right thing and allow these seniors to stay in their home?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Seniors.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, we're trying to make this as easy as possible for the residents and their families. Now, Mr. Speaker, when the RFP [request for proposal] was posted in 2019, it said very clearly, and I quote:

The SHA is interested in implementation of a short-term, two-year field test for community-based long-term care services, with an option to extend for one additional year, for up to 100 beds in personal care home environments.

Now since that point in time, in the summer of 2021 the Government of Saskatchewan announced the initiative to add 600 more long-term care beds in the city of Regina. A number of those are specialized beds, will be delivered by the SHA, and the remainder of the beds will be the standard long-term care beds.

Mr. Speaker, we're adding more long-term bed capacity in the city of Regina, and we're well under way with that particular project. The RFP for that project closed earlier this fall. Submissions are being reviewed, and there will be decisions made in fairly short order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, if that minister wants evidence of his failed leadership, I suggest he look up in the gallery at the nearly 40 individuals who are here today. These are nurses, these are doctors, these are caregivers, and these are family members. They're here today because they've been waiting to meet with that minister for weeks. They had a meeting set, and he cancelled it just hours before.

Top to bottom, this minister has created a complete mess. People are confused, people are frustrated, and people are afraid. They're here today requesting a meeting with that minister to resolve the situation. Will he follow through on his commitment and meet with them today?

The Speaker: — I'd like to remind the person in the gallery not to shout out. It's just not acceptable.

I recognize the Minister Responsible for Seniors.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I welcome the guests to the gallery today. I'd be pleased to meet with the residents and their families after question period and the proceedings are done here today to discuss this further.

Mr. Speaker, the contract with Emmanuel Villa is between the SHA and Emmanuel Villa. I will ask that officials from the SHA also attempt to be present here today as well to answer perhaps some of the more specific questions around the contract between Emmanuel Villa and the SHA.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we're doing everything we can to try to make sure that we're making this as easy as possible for residents, offering a bed for each and every one of those residents. And if there is a bed open at a facility of their choice, we're working to try to accommodate that as well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you once again.

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

Affordability Measures

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, those families up there, those workers have been begging and asking for a meeting for weeks. It should not take coming to this Assembly to finally be granted that meeting.

Mr. Speaker, inflation numbers are out and they confirm what we already know: life is getting more and more expensive for Saskatchewan people. Year over year, Saskatchewan's inflation rate is up 8 per cent, higher than the national average. And month over month, the increase was the largest among all provinces.

But instead of making life more affordable, that Sask Party government is actually making life more expensive, making things worse through their new taxes, fee and tax hikes, and jacking up power and heat bills as we head into winter. How on earth can that tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government keep making life more expensive during a cost-of-living crisis?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is well aware there is a number of measures — over \$2 billion of measures — within this budget and each and every budget as we go forward to make life more affordable for individuals and families within our province. He also is aware that we have the lowest utility bundle within the country to make life more affordable for individuals and families within our province, Mr. Speaker.

What he is in denial of is quite frankly what's making life far more expensive for individuals and families within our province is the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, because it puts the price up on everything. It puts the price up on food. It puts the price up on fuel. It puts the price up on construction. It puts the price up on absolutely everything. And those members opposite are silent on

what that is doing to affect individuals and families within our province.

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

Food Pricing in Saskatchewan

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that minister knows full well that we've been clear with our concerns around the carbon tax. We've been pushing for real solutions to make life more affordable. Scrapping power and energy rates and hiking up taxes, imposing new taxes at this time. We've been calling as well here, Mr. Speaker, for relief at the pumps and as well including the cost of kids in the affordability rebate.

And yesterday we called for an investigation into the sky-high and unfair food prices in grocery stores. Yet again the Sask Party government chose inaction instead of working to make life more affordable. Why did that government — that's fallen just so out of touch with Saskatchewan people — block a committee to get to the bottom of these high prices in groceries and to tackle this issue for Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I said yesterday and I will repeat for the member opposite again, when we look at the cost of production of food, it's really related to the carbon tax. Every farmer, every rancher is paying carbon tax on every piece of product that not only comes onto his farm but also goes out of his farm, Mr. Speaker.

He delivers his grain to a terminal. That terminal is paying carbon tax on all their energy use that they use in that facility as well. It's loaded onto a train. It's transported. That rail company is paying carbon tax on the fuel that . . . they deliver it to. It's delivered to a mill. That mill is paying carbon tax on all the power utilities they're using. That mill delivers the flour to a bakery. That local bakery is paying carbon tax on every utility they're using as well. If you want to talk about the cost of food and the increase of it, let's talk about the carbon tax, which they support, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Nonsense again from the minister, who knows that we've stood up on this issue, Mr. Speaker.

You know, we've been door knocking as teams of MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], Mr. Speaker. We were out again last night. Door after door, family after family, the top concern is the cost of living and the fact that that government is making things worse with their fee and tax hikes, their new taxes, and by jacking up power and heat bills during an affordability crisis, all to pay for their mismanagement over the years — the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], the bypass, and so much more, Mr. Speaker.

And now they won't even lift a finger to address the unfair food and meat pricing here in Saskatchewan. It's a matter of fairness for consumers and for livestock producers. Why won't this government actually stand up for Saskatchewan people and

producers and investigate what's going on with groceries and unfair meat pricing?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I guess I have to repeat that last answer because it's the same thing. This government has done a lot of good things in the agriculture sector. We have. And we've done a lot for the livestock sector as well.

Last year you look at what we paid out on the AgriRecovery at \$200 a head for the cow-calf producers here in the province of Saskatchewan; what we did in the farm and ranch water infrastructure program, specifically for the cattle ranchers here in raising the grants to 150,000 for them to get long-term water sustainability, Mr. Speaker.

It goes right back to the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, and everything that we're paying on. If they would start to realize that the food producers are paying carbon tax on everything we do, in and out, and it ends up that the buyer, the customer in the grocery store is paying carbon tax after carbon tax after carbon tax after carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. And until those members opposite realize that and come out and say no to the carbon tax, to Justin Trudeau and Jagmeet's policies . . . And same as with the fertilizer emissions as well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, while rejecting our call yesterday and that of the stock growers of Saskatchewan, that Agriculture minister asked for a pat on the back. You can't make this stuff up. You know, he's the Agriculture minister and he rolls over for the consolidated meat-packing industry — JBS, Cargill — instead of standing up for Saskatchewan producers and consumers, Mr. Speaker.

People are paying 10, 20, and 30 per cent more for meat at the grocery store. But between the consolidated meat packers and the big grocery chains, those dollars aren't making their way back to Saskatchewan producers in a fair way.

The Agriculture minister should want to know what's going on and what he can do to help, instead of blocking action on this front. Honestly, why did he block the investigation into meat pricing in the meat-packing and meat-processing industry yesterday, an investigation that the stock growers themselves have called for?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite, if you listened to question period yesterday, I answered that question well, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture co-funded, along with the stock growers of this province, to look at alternative uses, if there's an opportunity to expand the meat-packing industry here in the province of Saskatchewan. We helped fund that, Mr. Speaker.

We also have a great incentive package for value-added processing here in the province of Saskatchewan. We've given

every opportunity for the private sector to come in and look at the investment side, and look at the business model that makes sense, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have to realize how much carbon tax the farmers and ranchers in this province are actually paying. And until they realize that and accept it and come out and flat out say, flat out say they do not support the carbon tax set out and supported by their federal leader, Jagmeet Singh, and Justin Trudeau, Mr. Speaker, they're not speaking for farmers and ranchers in this province. We are.

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

Interpersonal Violence Rates and Support for Second-Stage Shelters

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, year after year Saskatchewan leads the nation in intimate partner violence. Too many women in the province are forced to flee their homes with their children in tow. And when they do — when they risk everything to start their lives over — they find a glaring lack of support from this Sask Party government who offer no operational funding to second-stage shelters.

Will the Sask Party government finally commit to funding, operational funding for second-stage shelters today?

[14:30]

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to quote from the member of Regina Lakeview, only because I thought it was a very interesting point. She said in 2016:

... what I suggest is funding shelters is very, very important, but [only] if we ... try to address this issue by funding shelters, we will never be able to build enough shelters. We will never be able to build enough shelters.

We need to address root causes.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to those root causes, we announced yesterday the funding for Hope Restored, which addresses human trafficking, and our announcement there will offer crucial supports, work with them to support victims of trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, keep in mind on this issue of second-stage housing, I mean, typically second-stage housing in that 12- to 18-month time frame isn't independent of emergency shelter services, so the key is finding those connections.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — The ask is for operational funding to help address these root causes. The ask is not for capital funding. You'd think the minister would understand this file at this point. We've asked this question so many times.

You'd also think that since this government invited a convicted wife killer, Colin Thatcher, to the legislature and defended that decision for five days, Mr. Speaker, that they would want to save a little face and do something good.

So let me ask this question one more time. Will this government, will the Sask Party government provide operational funding for second-stage shelters today?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the member opposite referenced second-stage housing and the funding we do do. Of course the government does fund second-stage housing. There are currently five second-stage houses in Saskatchewan, two YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] long-term stay shelters. Mr. Speaker, this isn't a silos conversation. These services are interconnected.

And again I reference the members opposite. They have made thoughtful points. The member for Regina Elphinstone said, unblinded briefly perhaps by partisanship, "I think many of the resources that we are pouring into the system could actually just be rerouted. It wouldn't even be a question of putting more dollars on the table."

And we appreciate this acknowledgement, Mr. Speaker, of the investments this government has made — \$25 million. We have tried to invest wisely. These are always taxpayers' dollars. We've worked with organizations that are committed and have proven track records at delivering these services, Hope Restored most recently, Mr. Speaker. And we are committed and that commitment continues.

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — State your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Health was giving a response, the SaskAlert went off. At that point the member from Rosemont said clearly, lie detector. It could be heard by all in the House, Mr. Speaker. This is obviously unparliamentary language. The member should stand in his place and apologize for a second time today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Withdraw and apologize again.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order

question no. 43.

The Speaker: — Question 43 is ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 103 — *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise today to move second reading of *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*. This bill represents an important step in creating a more inclusive and accessible province for all people in Saskatchewan. This bill, if passed, will prevent and remove barriers for people in Saskatchewan who identify as having disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017 the Canadian Survey on Disability indicated that persons with disabilities make up approximately 24.3 per cent of our population. Seven years ago our government introduced Saskatchewan's disability strategy, a 10-year plan to create an inclusive province for persons with disabilities. One of the recommendations was to create accessible communities for all. In the 2019 Throne Speech we committed to consulting with Saskatchewan residents on accessibility legislation. Later that same year we committed to introducing this new legislation in Saskatchewan's growth plan because we understand that accessibility and inclusivity are key to growing our province's future for everyone.

In February of 2021 we engaged with the public and the disability community on what the Act should look like. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to provide some of the highlights in this proposed legislation. The Government of Saskatchewan will take the lead. The proposed legislation will apply to government first, including rolling out an accessibility plan for how government will remove and prevent barriers that persons with disabilities experience when they interact with government. As we proceed on this journey, we will remain committed to the principle of "nothing about us without us," and we will continue to engage with persons with disabilities on this important work.

The bill provides for an accessibility advisory committee to be appointed with at least half of the members being persons with disabilities or from organizations that represent persons with disabilities. This committee will advise the government on the development of accessibility standards. A Saskatchewan accessibility office will be established to administer this new legislation. One of the office's primary responsibilities will be to increase public awareness and understanding of the new legislation and its aim to remove barriers for Saskatchewan people.

In this bill we propose to formally recognize sign languages as the main form of communication for persons who are deaf. This recognition promotes the inclusion of the deaf community and recognizes their unique culture. We understand that it's critical to show accountability on this important work. Annual reports will be published on the actions taken to implement the new legislation.

Mr. Speaker, *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act* will allow government to create accessible standards through regulations in the following areas in the future: the built environment, information and communications, employment, transportation, service animals, procurement, and service delivery. This will take time but it's important we do this work properly.

The Accessible Saskatchewan Act will be enabling legislation that will complement and fill gaps in existing legislation. It's not intended to duplicate any existing pieces of legislation, and it will build on the requirements in *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*. Our government will continue to engage with the public, persons with disabilities, and the private sector to develop these standards.

Mr. Speaker, we're working to create a Saskatchewan where persons with disabilities can fully participate because a strong province is one where everyone's included. So, Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 103 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to join into the debate on Bill No. 103, *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*. I'd like to join with members on both sides in welcoming all of the folks who are here in the gallery today, who I know have worked closely with government on getting this legislation introduced in the fashion that it is. We all know that it's very important to have an accessible and inclusive province, and there's so much work that needs to be done to make that the case in Saskatchewan.

I particularly wanted to note and thank the committees and the groups for all of the work they've been doing in this area over the past several years. And I particularly wanted to note that when the minister mentioned recognizing sign language as an official language, I noticed how moving that was to those in the gallery and how important that is to those in the community. We're very happy to see that happen.

I know that our critic, the member for Regina Elphinstone, will be doing work reaching out to the community to get their feedback on the bill, hear their thoughts about the legislation. I encourage anyone who has thoughts on the bill to reach out to our critic, the member for Regina Elphinstone. To allow her to continue to do that good work and allow others to join in on the debate on later days, I am prepared now to move to adjourn debate on Bill 103. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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 Meewasin.

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to join in debate, rise and speak on Bill 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act*.

The Saskatchewan First Act is essentially the product of the Premier's summer separation tour, a separation tour that 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.

The Sask first Act is essentially the legislative arm of the extensively panned white paper released at the end of that tour. I need not to read into the record any more quotes about child's highchairs and spaghetti dinners, Mr. Speaker, but after a summer on the doorstep I can safely say that the idea of provincial autonomy was on no one's minds.

Mr. Speaker, folks saw through this autonomy tour. And now they're watching a government in its senior years present a grandstanding piece of legislation designed to largely distract from its failures in so many areas: the chaos in our health care system, the inability to create good jobs, and their failure to meaningfully address the affordability crisis. These are real concerns of Saskatchewan voters.

In short, this bill has three main parts for consideration. This bill essentially reasserts that Saskatchewan has exclusive jurisdiction over exploration, development, and management of natural resources — over forestry, power generation, and fertilizer use. By the minister's own account, this bill does not change the Constitution. Instead it's an expensive message to the federal government with clarifying words in our Constitution, all assertions that already exist in that Constitution.

The bill goes on with amendments to the *Saskatchewan Act* and the *Constitution Act* of 1867 to add such provisions — reasserting legislative jurisdiction over natural resources, forestry, and power generation — and stresses the importance of these sectors to Saskatchewan. Again, all already exist in the Constitution.

Where this bill adds something new, it is in establishing an economic impact assessment tribunal which will examine and report on the impacts of federal policies on Saskatchewan. While new, this is likely something any government can and should already be doing. In a nutshell, this bill does nothing new to help Saskatchewan people as we continue to move forward in an increasingly changing world.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan New Democrats will always stand up for Saskatchewan. We always have. But introducing redundant legislation doesn't do anything new to improve the lives of Saskatchewan people. Right now the people of Saskatchewan are living through a generational affordability crisis. They are frustrated by the government's lack of action on

this front. This tired, out-of-touch government thinks that reasserting our already constitutionally protected resource rights will be the silver bullet on an affordability problem. In fact when the opposition leader asked how they would address this, the Premier and his government explained that *The Saskatchewan First Act* would solve all problems on affordability. When asked how the government plans to address skyrocketing use of food banks by children, they fall back to Saskatchewan-first. Saskatchewan-first does nothing new for Saskatchewan people struggling through this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I would propose that if the government truly wanted to make a difference for Saskatchewan people, the first step this government could take would be to relieve the affordability pressure by cancelling the 31 tax fees and hikes they brought in in the last budget, the PST [provincial sales tax] they've added on so many items. They could also cancel the rate hikes that have made power more expensive for everyone as we head into the winter months. They could renege on the disastrous changes to the SIS [Saskatchewan income support] and SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] programs, and they could house homeless folks in the thousands of empty Sask Housing authority homes that sit vacant today. These would have tangible effects for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I will echo my colleagues. Saskatchewan New Democrats have always stood up for the rights to resources in Saskatchewan. I will again remind the House that it was an NDP premier who secured these very rights being reasserted in this legislation by being at the table. We will continue to stand up for Saskatchewan because, quite frankly, we need to be the adults in the room, at the table, making a case for this amazing province. And let's be very clear. Saskatchewan New Democrats will always stand up for Saskatchewan, no matter who is in power in Ottawa. But we will also get to work, be at the table, and get the best deal for the people of Saskatchewan.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, another way this government could make real change, could really stand up for Saskatchewan, is by renewing the equalization lawsuit that the governing Saskatchewan Party dropped once their Conservative leader came into power.

Mr. Speaker, where many of my questions land on this legislation are around the tribunal that, in my first reading of this legislation, will do very little for the average Saskatchewan family struggling to make ends meet. It will do nothing to help parents buy medicine for their kids. It will do nothing to delve into the issue of price gouging for consumers. Instead it will likely be another cost expenditure for this tax-and-spend government. The biggest burning question is how much this tribunal will cost Saskatchewan residents, and they have a right to know.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I will end my remarks by saying that Saskatchewan needs to take an all-of-the-above approach to energy development in our province. We live in a world that changes minute by minute, technology moving at breakneck speeds. Mr. Speaker, this government needs an energy plan for the 21st century that includes renewables alongside our plans for natural resource development. The people of Saskatchewan deserve a government that is working for them and working for their futures.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to consult with constitutional experts and impacted stakeholders on this legislation. I move to adjourn debate on Bill 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise and join in the debate on Bill No. 94, a very important piece of legislation. I know there's a lot of work that's gone on behind the scenes with respect to these changes. I know our critic is reaching out and speaking with stakeholders about this bill and gathering feedback about the legislation. In order to facilitate the work that he's doing and allow others to enter into the debate on the bill, I'm prepared now to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 94.

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 Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 95, *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act*. It's my understanding that this bill hasn't been updated since maybe the '60s, Mr. Speaker. It governs the relationship between oil companies and landowners. There are a lot of issues that have come up since the last time this legislation came forward.

I know that this government almost brought forward some legislation at one point and then didn't put it forward. So we know that these changes are badly needed to make sure that landowners are fairly compensated and that this bill will amend the surface rights Act to allow for the board of arbitration to hear cases involving delinquent payments. So this will allow them to issue an order for payment on oil and gas companies that owe them money. Currently neither the ministry nor the surface rights board can

assist landowners in recovering these payments, so we know this is something of great importance to property owners. We will have a great deal to say and look at this, Mr. Speaker, but with that I would move to adjourn debate on this bill 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. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 96, *The Leafcutting Beekeepers Registration Repeal Act*. Just looking at some of the comments that minister made. He's repealing an Act, obviously to make sure that, I guess, individuals out there who are looking at keeping bees and stuff have the opportunity to do that.

And from my understanding, I talked to my colleague who's the critic and asking, like, what exactly does this mean? And then looking through some of the comments the minister made, it actually doesn't sound like there's much going to change. It's still supporting the beekeepers the way they normally do. It's repealing an Act that actually is no longer needed as they feel. But the minister said that he's consulted with the beekeepers and those individuals who are in this industry. And we all know that we love the bees and the honey that's out there.

And you know, my colleagues have talked about some of the challenges beekeepers have had with many bees. But really for me, I don't want to have much more conversation other than what the minister put on the record. My colleague will, as a critic, will reach out, and if there's any concerns, they can reach out to the critic. At this point I think it's simple. It's being repealed. And on that note, I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 96.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 97

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy to put some comments on the record about Bill No. 97, *The Architects*

Amendment Act. I understand that this Act is permanently focused on looking at the issuing of architect licences to persons or corporations engaged in trade agreements and that it gives the Government of Saskatchewan the ability to identify the agreements that are relevant to this Act.

So whenever there's that amount of trust, you know, certainly with a government that has lately, you know, made a number of missteps — and absolutely downgrading our reputation and done a number of things to embarrass our province — and the trust that they will carry out acts like this in a way that increases our reputation is somewhat at risk, but that is the state that this leadership has led us to.

As far as this legislation goes, you know, I don't think that I will put a lot on the record today as while I have an interest in houses and architecture, I don't think that that necessarily qualifies me to bring expertise. But we'll continue to see this bill go through the process and ensure that consultation is taking place, so that all the consequences, intended and unintended, have been explored and that we get this right.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my comments and move that we adjourn debate on Bill 97.

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. 98

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 98 — *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency 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 on the debate on Bill No. 96, *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Amendment Act, 2022*.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I know that sometimes my colleagues have made certain comments about wildfires. And I know, coming from the Cumberland constituency and been living in La Ronge area, we have many wildfires, and over the years it's been pretty bad. And we see our environment changing, and global warming causing more and more concerns, and people are seeing that some of the challenges that we are faced when it comes to global warming, when it comes to fires. We've gone through a lot in northern Saskatchewan.

Our leaders, I give them credit. Front-line workers, those people who go out and fight the fires and make sure that we're safe, you know, first responders — there's many of them work in our municipalities, work within our fire departments — they do some great work as they protect our communities, and try to save lives. And I give them credit, Mr. Speaker, for all the good work that is being done to make sure northern people, and the rest of the province, when we have wildfires, whoever responds to them

does the good job that needs to be done, and tries to protect our property and our lives.

But having said that, this is being changed here, and I know I'm going to kind of think a little bit about, okay, if somebody is the cause of a fire . . . And I was trying to understand this. So if you're a citizen or a municipality or if there's somebody who causes a fire, the government has the ability with legislation to, I guess, find you in . . . that you're responsible for the cost of a fire, a wildfire or whatever.

I guess what I'm looking at — and I know my colleagues will be asking questions — it sounds like it's giving powers to the minister, that the minister will have the ability to say, yes, no, we're going to collect, the Crown needs to collect this money from you. Or the minister can write it off, saying, there's no way we can collect this money.

And I've had some questions — and I know I'm going to ask my colleague, the critic — exactly how is this going to roll out? And I know that the critic will reach out to people, individuals, finding out exactly how is this going to be. And I know that, as we go through adjourned debates and we ask for clarification and some of the questions, there is committee work that gets done, and there will be a lot of questions where they'll get to ask that.

When we're done with talking and adjourned debates, it will go to the next process where in committee we can ask some questions of the minister and officials, and the critic can get some of the answers if it's needed. And it gives the critic and all of us the ability to reach out to our leaders, those communities that are impacted when it comes to legislation.

And when you're giving certain powers to ministers, you want to make sure, you know that, is this the right legislation? Have they consulted with the people that it's going to impact and those individuals? And that's what we're going to try to hope that this is what's happened and that this piece of legislation, amendments coming forward, is being done because it is something that is needed and it is the right changes.

Because we don't want to not get it right. We want to make sure we make changes to legislation instead of it coming back. So let's just make sure everyone's done the work. We'll do our side as opposition. We'll do what we need to do, allowing people to reach out to us, and if they have any concerns or questions, we will do what we can as opposition. And my colleague will do what they can do in committee and asking the questions that were needed.

Now having said that, I don't think I have a lot more that I want to talk about on this bill, and I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 98.

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. 99

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 99 — *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022*. Initially I was looking at this bill and some of the changes, and it's going from SaskTel used to collect the fees for 911 on your phone bills. I guess your mobile phones or your house phones, your business phone, there's a fee being charged for that service.

And my understanding with that is it's being changed, proposed to be changed, that SaskTel will no longer collect those fees, and it will be . . . I guess another way, if my understanding, you know, that there'll be another way, the Public Safety Agency, somebody. And I guess we're going to have to find out and get some of those questions. Who will be collecting that, if that is what I'm understanding.

And sometimes, you know, you look at some of the legislation, and you know, you're not sure exactly how it is till you actually end up talking to the minister in committee and you work out those situations. And you can look at some of the comments that the minister will make in the second reading, and you can try to get a good understanding of that.

But what I did notice in some of the second reading speeches, in 2021 the 911 fees, I think, was just about doubled, if I remember correctly. I'm going to check that to be sure in 2021 that the fees were increased for 911 by quite a bit of amount. And I was a little concerned. Like what's the purpose for that? And I guess we're going to find out. We'll have an opportunity to ask some questions. But that was just one thing I noticed in some of the comments, so I was like, wow, I thought we were paying pretty good.

And you know, 911 does a great service. I want to be very clear on that. And that's nothing to do with the 911 service that I've called if I've never needed to call. And I know others have used it, 911. My grandkids have used it. And it is. It's a valuable tool when you're into safety.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, I love legislation like this because it gives us opportunities to come back and reflect. And we have a highway, Highway 106, and you know, it's Highway 106 to the North. You know, it's interesting. That highway, if you drive on the Hanson Lake Road, we call it, you cannot dial and get 911 because there's no cell service. And I just want to say, I wish this government would maybe find ways to put up towers for the residents that are in the Creighton area, Deschambault, Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows, Denare Beach, Creighton, as I mentioned.

[15:00]

I wish they would make sure that 911 . . . Because this is a good service. It is. It truly is. I wish that they would provide cell service for those residents up in the North that can't dial 911 because you

don't have cell service. I wish that's something they would focus on. And maybe if they did generate a little bit of more money, they could take some of that money and help out with towers, you know.

So having said that, I was going to go on a little bit about that and give another areas where we could do that, but I don't think I'm going to do that. I just wanted to make the point: 911 does a good service. People need it in an emergency, and I know families I've talked to before, families having serious accidents on the Hanson Lake Road and have stayed there for hours, injured, severely injured, and we've seen that happen.

I've talked about other emergencies that have happened where people will call 911. And I think about Kinoosao and when we've had an accident there and an ambulance gone in. And I could use that. You want to have that service — and it does provide a good service — but sometimes we hope that it would be opened up to more of an area where people have access in an emergency, like the Hanson Lake Road, and there are other areas.

And I know that, you know, we're going to be asking for supports, and we'll continue to put the pressure on behalf of the leadership in those areas and the residents have raised out of concern. When their family and loved ones have been injured, they've asked this government to please help them. Help them up there and do the right thing, and that's provide cell service for emergencies for families who need to call 911 when they have to.

So at this point I'm actually prepared to conclude my remarks, and I'll move adjournment on Bill No. 99.

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. 100

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marit that **Bill No. 100 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accretion) Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll put just a few brief comments on the record in relation to Bill 100, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accretion) Amendment Act*. You know, I had to look up this word, and I think it's one that most of us were unfamiliar with although it's getting tossed around the Assembly a lot lately. So accretion is the opposite of erosion. It's the increase or gradual accumulation of sediment.

And I understand in this bill it's particularly looking at a couple of things that I want to flag in my short comments. Number one, this bill recognizes that extreme weather events will occur to increase accretion. And while I am caught off guard a little bit by this

government acknowledging that climate change has an impact on our planet, on our province here in Saskatchewan, I'm really quite caught off guard to see that they're acknowledging this scientific fact.

On this side we do believe in science. And I appreciate seeing it enter into our discussion here, although with recent discussions on the Loch Ness monster and the like, plesiosaurs still existing today, it's one of the sad states that we have here that's become a bit of an embarrassment to our province, that we have to debate scientific facts. But here we are talking about accretion.

The other thing I wanted to flag was that this Act, that this bill requires me to trust that this government will respect its duty-to-consult when it comes to talking to Indigenous leaders. Certainly their recent track record with their white paper and *The Saskatchewan First Act* has called that into question, as First Nation and Métis leaders have been very vocal that they were not consulted, that they've not had a seat at the table in these discussions. And certainly that brings a lot of concern to me that they will respect their duty-to-consult and include discussions with those Indigenous leaders in Saskatchewan.

So those are my concerns, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But for now I'll look to see this proceed through adjourned debates and listen to my colleagues and our critic. But at this time I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 100.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 101

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Makowsky that **Bill No. 101 — *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 101, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand this bill does several things. One of the things it does is raise coverage of children from 16 to 18 years old, which will expand the options that are available to children who are older. I guess one of the changes will allow 16- to 17-year-olds to agree to be provided funding while living alone. I understand that the bill will also prioritize familial-cultural continuity for decisions about Indigenous children.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the bill requires police to notify the band of any Indigenous child who's apprehended of the decisions of custody or arrest hearings so that they can participate if they wish to. Further the individuals have the right to request information about children who are in custody, though the ministry has the right to refuse it if it could pose a danger, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

It's important, particularly with the change that expands the ability for 16-, 17-year-olds to be offered independence if they want it, but ultimately we need to ensure that those children are provided with the rights and protections that they deserve.

I know my colleague, the member for Regina Elphinstone, is doing a lot of work reaching out to stakeholders and speaking to them about this piece of legislation. I encourage anyone who has interest in this bill to reach out to my colleague, the member for Regina Elphinstone, and reach out to her to provide feedback on this bill. In order to facilitate that work, I am prepared now to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 101.

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. 102

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 102 — *The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur les questions constitutionnelles*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, due to the heckling from way back in the benches of the Sask Party over there . . . And I know what that squeak is, Mr. Speaker. It's not a mouse in the back corner there. That's the member for Walsh Acres, Mr. Speaker.

But it's good to see him in here, Mr. Speaker. And I like that member, Mr. Speaker, as a person. I could get along fine with him every day. But it's sure clear that he's sure offside with his constituents, Mr. Speaker, and the good people of this province that we're all supposed to be representing. But it's good to hear from him, Mr. Speaker.

And I'd urge him to use that voice, Mr. Speaker, at that caucus table in the interests of his constituents and in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Otherwise, you know, it's so rare that we hear him in here that, you know, the Walsh Acres times will say, "he speaks" if he has a member's statement or something, Mr. Speaker, as a headline.

But our duties go beyond delivering a member's statement here and there, Mr. Speaker. It calls on all of us to rise above the political fray and represent the best interests of those that we serve, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to Bill No. 102, I'll be brief here today, Mr. Speaker. I know our Justice critic is our lead on this front, and she's engaged with stakeholders. And we would invite impacted stakeholders to share their perspective and their insight directly with her, of course also with the Minister of Justice.

We know that this makes an addition here that the Attorney General must be served notice of challenge to any law pertaining to *The Sask Human Rights Code*, not just the Constitution, Mr. Speaker. We'll see exactly how that plays out and how that will improve human rights for the people in our province, Mr. Speaker.

Sadly we've been dealing with a situation and a government that's been evading accountability and failing to ensure human rights are being upheld in schools and colleges within our province, Mr. Speaker. The human rights code is supposed to apply everywhere, everywhere in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and it should apply everywhere. It certainly should be applying to any publicly . . . any institution, organization that's receiving public funds. We hope that changes like this will allow this government to be in a better position to respond to human rights concerns, Mr. Speaker.

But as I say, our critic will be leading the way for us on this front, and we'll be looking for any opportunity to improve this legislation, make sure it represents the best interests of Saskatchewan and make sure that human rights are paramount everywhere in Saskatchewan. With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 102.

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 Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:11.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister of Immigration and Career Training
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. Everett Hindley
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,
Seniors and Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services

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Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

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Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the
Provincial Capital Commission

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Minister of Health

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Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for
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Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Power Corporation
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Saskatchewan Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for the
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

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Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dana Skoropad
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Minister Responsible for the Firearms Secretariat

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