



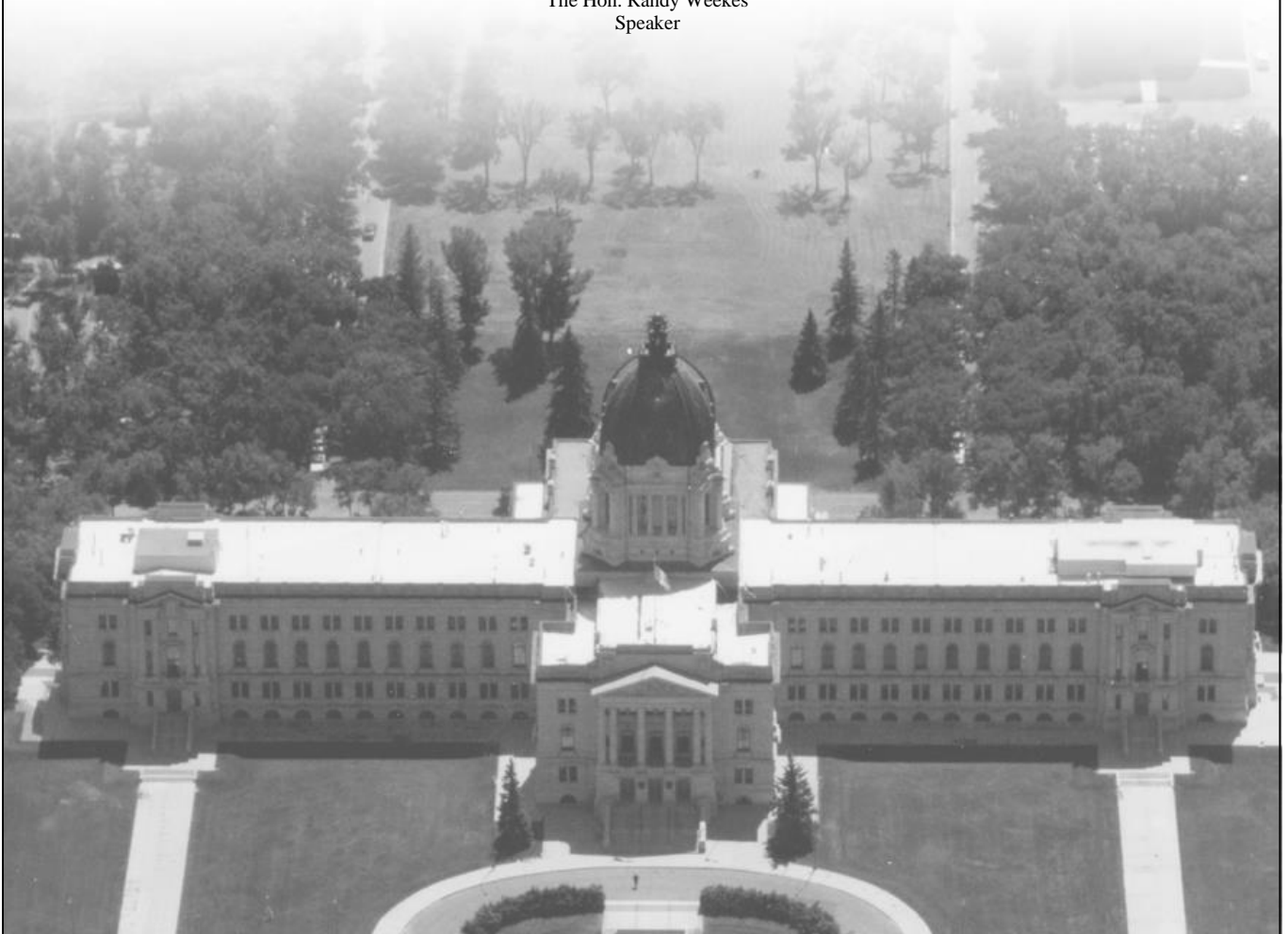
THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

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

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Principal Clerk — Kathy Buriaynk

Clerk Assistant — Robert Park

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

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

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

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wyant.....	3075
Bowes	3075
Ottenbreit	3075
Kaeding	3076
Beck.....	3076
The Speaker.....	3077

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Lawrence	3076
Love.....	3077
Teed.....	3077
Bowes	3077

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Saskatoon Business Launches TransCare Fund	
Mowat	3077
Funding for Mitacs Supports Research and Development	
Meyers	3078
Drag Storytime at Culture Days in Saskatoon	
Teed.....	3078
New Dental Health Centre at Saskatchewan Polytechnic	
Fiaz.....	3078
Recognition of Prince Albert's West Flat Citizens Group	
Ross, A.	3079
Mid-Year Forecast Show Surplus	
Francis	3079
Reopening of Cameco Mine and Mill in Northern Saskatchewan	
Lemaigre.....	3079

QUESTION PERIOD

Affordability and Government's Fiscal Management	
Beck.....	3079
Moe.....	3079
Wotherspoon	3080
Harpauer	3080
Morgan	3081
Food Pricing in Saskatchewan	
Wotherspoon	3081
Marit	3082
Support for the Health Care System	
Mowat	3082
Hindley.....	3082
Housing Supports	
Conway	3083
Makowsky.....	3083
Request for Coroner's Inquest	
Sarauer	3083
Hindley.....	3084

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 112 — <i>The King's Printer Act</i>	
Eyre.....	3084
Bill No. 113 — <i>The King's Printer Consequential Amendments Act, 2022</i>	
<i>Loi de 2022 corrélative de la loi intitulée The King's Printer Act</i>	
Eyre.....	3084
Bill No. 114 — <i>The King's Bench Act/Loi sur la Cour du Banc du Roi</i>	
Eyre.....	3084
Bill No. 115 — <i>The King's Counsel Act</i>	
Eyre.....	3084
Bill No. 116 — <i>The Plant Health Act</i>	
Marit	3084

ORDERS OF THE DAY

TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Harpauer	3085
----------------	------

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 109 — <i>The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2)</i>	
Eyre	3085
Conway	3085
Bill No. 110 — <i>The Wills Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur les testaments</i>	
Eyre	3086
Conway	3086
Bill No. 111 — <i>The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
<i>Loi modificative de 2022 sur les prestations alimentaires familiales</i>	
Eyre	3087
Conway	3087

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 94 — <i>The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act</i>	
Mowat	3088
Bill No. 97 — <i>The Architects Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Vermette	3088
Bill No. 98 — <i>The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Nippi-Albright	3089
Bill No. 99 — <i>The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Mowat	3089
Bill No. 101 — <i>The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Bowes	3090
Bill No. 103 — <i>The Accessible Saskatchewan Act</i>	
Vermette	3092
Bill No. 104 — <i>The Local Improvements Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Love	3093
Bill No. 105 — <i>The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Mowat	3093
Bill No. 106 — <i>The Police Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Teed	3094
Bill No. 107 — <i>The Provincial Protective Services Act</i>	
Nippi-Albright	3095
Bill No. 108 — <i>The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Bowes	3096

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the opportunity to announce \$1.15 million funding for Mitacs, a non-profit organization that builds research and development partnerships between the private and post-secondary sectors. Mr. Speaker, this funding will support 265 internships for undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to work in Saskatchewan, bringing industry and research together.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to stand today and introduce a number of people who are part of that announcement. Mr. Speaker, sitting in your gallery, Dr. Tash Ismail. Dr. Ismail is the chief business development officer for Mitacs, Mr. Speaker. She has been building expertise in the innovation ecosystem with a special focus on inclusive and impactful innovation for economic development for the past 15 years, Mr. Speaker. This is Tash's first visit to our province, Mr. Speaker, but she promises that she'll be back again so we'll look forward to that.

Mr. Speaker, she's joined today by her team: Leah Nelson Guay. Leah is the senior advisor of national partnerships. Eric Loo, regional director from the Prairies, business development; and Fatima Dargah, senior advisor for business development.

Mr. Speaker, most of the colleagues in the legislature will recognize my next guest, Dr. Jeff Keshen, president of the University of Regina. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Keshen has been with the university since July of 2021. He's dedicated his career to serving students advancing the post-secondary sector, and contributing to academic discourse as a historian and the author of five books. Mr. Speaker, I personally want to thank him for his leadership at the University of Regina.

Mr. Speaker, next we have Dr. Chris Yost, vice-president of research at the University of Regina. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Yost has held a Tier II Canada Research Chair; he's a full professor within the university's biology department; has served as a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Lacombe Research Centre, and has worked internationally as a research associate at the University of Aarhus in Denmark.

Mr. Speaker, we also have Dr. Hussam Ibrahim, director of the Clean Energy Technologies Research centre, or CETRI [Clean Energy Technologies Research Institute]. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ibrahim is a professor of industrial and process systems engineering and the director of the clean energy technologies. He brings leadership and vision, a financial oversight to CETRI, with a broad body of knowledge in clean energy research technologies, hydrogen production, organic waste valorization, and emissions management. Mr. Speaker, we saw first-hand the outstanding research that's being done at CETRI this morning.

Mr. Speaker, we also have several interns from the program joining us today: Kaitlin McCallum, Patit Pradoo, Dr. Abdinoor Jelle, Anastasiia Sheichuk, Dr. Sadanandam Gullapelli

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming all these individuals to their Legislative Assembly and thanking them for all the work that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to take a moment on behalf of the official opposition as our Advanced Education critic, to welcome these guests to their legislature, especially Dr. Keshen. It's been wonderful to get to know you a little bit over these last two years in my role and to see the wonderful work that you have begun to lead at the U of R [University of Regina], and will continue to. Welcome to your guests as well. It's nice to meet with you. I hope afterwards we'll get a chance.

And I just wanted to mention we had a really, really productive and engaging meeting with Dr. Keshen and his senior leadership team — myself, the Leader of the Opposition, and a number of our colleagues recently. And we look forward to collaborating with you to make sure that we are putting forward the best advanced education sector that we can here in Saskatchewan. And we're here to collaborate as always with you any time that you come, or we will approach you as well. Thank you for being here.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great honour and a pleasure for me to once again introduce a great group of grade 12 students from the Yorkton Regional High School — my old high school, grad '81 — and their teacher, Mr. Perry Ostapowich, who comes to us through Melville. He taught in Melville for a number of years and has since been in Yorkton.

Mr. Speaker, Perry and I were talking ahead of time. I think this

is the 26th group of students he's brought to this Legislative Assembly in his teaching career, totalling around 800 students, Mr. Speaker. So it's just a great honour to have them all here today.

Mr. Speaker, not only is Perry a great teacher and a football coach, a community leader, but he's very involved in our local Legion, a very instrumental member there. So we're just so happy that he's so involved, not only in these kids' lives, these students' lives, but also in the community, Mr. Speaker.

And along with Perry, accompanying him is teacher Daniel Mandziuk, who is a . . . I don't know Daniel that well but I know his parents and his grandparents very well, very respected members of the Yorkton community and history. So it's great to have Daniel here as well.

As is historic with this group, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ostapowich asked them to engage their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] personally. And through various sources, Twitter and Facebook and whatever else, they'll get a hold of me. So these are the students that were mentioned or contacted me for the honourable mentions today, Mr. Speaker.

We have Max Penner — give us a wave when we call to you guys — Adam Mason, Tayah Yanke, Jarren Reaney, Paul Spence-Gains, EJ Gimena, Drew Cote. And honourable mention, Mr. Speaker — he never came in but a great member — that person that I want to mention is their bus driver, Ray Sass.

Ray's a friend of mine for many years, a community leader in his own right. He didn't feel he was dressed properly today. But, Mr. Speaker, not only is Ray a great community member, he was in SaskAbilities for a number of decades; he's worked there. He's now the Sarcan southeast regional manager. He's been on their local school board. He is with our college board right now, the Parkland-Cumberland College board, as well as he is our provincial rep for Canadian Civil Air Search and Rescue, Mr. Speaker, just an instrumental member in that as well.

So I'd ask all members to welcome these people, these students and teachers, to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And always in competition with the member from Yorkton, I too have a school here today from Esterhazy. They're seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and we have the Esterhazy High School, 11 grade 11 students.

They are accompanied by their teacher Shayna Zubko. Now I understand they were in Provincial Court proceedings this morning. They will be in a different Provincial Court this afternoon, I understand, Mr. Speaker, but just want to give a little shout-out to their teacher.

Now Shayna also moonlights as a reporter for the *Moosomin World-Spectator*, but she is also an attendee and has been on the steering committee of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy, Mr. Speaker.

So I'd like all members to welcome Esterhazy High School to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to join the minister and the member from Saskatoon University in welcoming the guests to your gallery. I want to provide special welcome to Dr. Jeff Keshen and his team, to Dr. Ismail, to Dr. Yost, and Dr. Ibrahim, as well as the interns here today, Mr. Speaker.

We look forward to learning more about this internship program. I think any time that we can encourage young people to study and promote their knowledge and work here in Saskatchewan, I think that is a very good thing indeed.

I wanted to spend one moment giving special recognition to someone I have had the honour of getting to know over the last year or so, and that is Anastasiia Sheichuk, Mr. Speaker. I got to know her when she was reaching out around her interest with local governance.

And, Mr. Speaker, she's exactly the kind of person you want to have in your community, someone who is always bringing people together, raising issues. And, Mr. Speaker, I know that as much as she's invested in this community, her thoughts are often home with her loved ones in Ukraine.

I want to let you know that we are thinking of you and of them, and I invite all members here to join me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

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

The undersigned people are from Ituna. I so present.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet again to present the petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. Folks from Saskatchewan would like the Assembly to know that recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's rural health care facilities. We've seen disruptions around this province in areas of emergency room care, acute care, access to lab and X-ray services. In many cases, folks don't find out that they're closed until they show up and there's a notice on the front door telling them to go elsewhere.

The folks who signed this petition would like us to know that health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan communities and local economies. These are good jobs for Saskatchewan folks who served their communities well throughout the pandemic and they continue to do so, and they need our support.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis.

Today's petition is signed by folks from Wilkie, North Battleford, and Landis. I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present our petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to prohibit conversion therapy.

We the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: conversion therapy uses discredited and abusive practices which attempt to actively change sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* names sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as one of the prohibited grounds for discrimination; the practice of conversion therapy, or reparative therapy, is seriously harmful to individuals and is opposed by the Canadian Psychological Association, the World Health Organization, and the American Psychological Association; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child indicates that children should not be discriminated against based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

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 ban the practice of conversion therapy and prohibit transporting of youth and adults outside Saskatchewan for such purposes.

The undersigned residents reside in the city of Saskatoon. I do so present.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise once again today to present our petition calling on the government to provide universal access to birth control in Saskatchewan. The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan has some of the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy in the country — that's ages 12 to 20 years old; that cost is one of the biggest barriers to accessing contraceptive birth control in Saskatchewan, especially among adolescents; that having consistent and affordable access to contraceptive options is essential for promoting bodily autonomy, preventing unwanted pregnancy, and saving money on sexual and reproductive health care; and finally that sexual and reproductive health and rights are human rights, 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 adopt a policy making no-cost prescription contraceptive available to all Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, today the folks who have signed our petition reside in Dalmeny and Saskatoon. I do so present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I would also like to introduce Shayna Zubko as the past steering committee member for the Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute, SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy]. She has contributed a great deal to the program, most recently as team leader and representative for Social Studies Saskatchewan. Thank you, Shayna. And please join me in welcoming Shayna and her class to their Legislative Assembly.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatoon Business Launches TransCare Fund

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, Pretty Young Things Studios, or PYT Studios for short, is a local beauty service run in Saskatoon by sisters Tash and Anna Fulcher Gagnon.

PYT is a gender-affirming space that works to make every individual who comes there look and feel their best. They don't distinguish services based on gender, and work to provide a unique and exciting experience. Since opening PYT Studios in August of 2021, they've set an example in the community, running three clothing drives to date for community members in need.

In June of this year, Anna and Tash launched the PYT TransCare Fund. In Saskatchewan the cost of transitioning — including medication, surgeries, and aesthetic services — is not fully covered by the health care system. This is where the TransCare Fund comes in. Folks can donate so that members of the trans community can access PYT's beauty services at a reduced cost.

Tash and Anna were named ambassadors to WESK's [Women Entrepreneurs Saskatchewan] official women-owned business program. They have also been nominated for a Women of Distinction Award for entrepreneurship. These young and established women are the best of what Saskatchewan has to offer, and I am proud of the work that they are doing in our community.

Further, I am pleased to have been a faithful client to Tash through all my own hair journeys over the years. Please join me in celebrating the work of PYT Studios and their commitment to our community.

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

Funding for Mitacs Supports Research and Development

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today our government announced a \$1.15 million in funding for Mitacs. This not-for-profit organization builds research and development partnerships between the private and post-secondary sectors. The organization supports up to 265 internships for undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows working in Saskatchewan.

By adding 127 more internships, we are supporting several new programs, including the Indigenous pathways program which helps Indigenous organizations achieve innovation goals by connecting them to interns and resources.

Mr. Speaker, Mitacs programming in the province started with the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan, and has expanded to Saskatchewan Polytechnic and Parkland College. These programs enable businesses to access the talent they need to solve challenges, seize opportunities, and stimulate growth.

Mitacs supports Saskatchewan's Growth Plan by helping develop a skilled workforce, enhancing productivity and innovation for our businesses. Business and post-secondary students gain more opportunities to grow their research and innovation skills here in our province. Saskatchewan's businesses and industries gain talent in research and development, which helps to drive innovation and growth.

Mr. Speaker, our government looks forward to continuing our partnership with Mitacs and see the innovative ideas that will contribute to Saskatchewan's growth that works for everyone. Thank you.

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

Drag Storytime at Culture Days in Saskatoon

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this time to recognize the vibrancy and successes of the drag scene in my city in Saskatoon. As part of Culture Days this October, Nutrien Wonderhub partnered with the YXE Drag Collective to host Reading with Royalty, an event for drag queens and kings to read stories to children and their families.

Over 240 people attended the event that day. Stony Mac, a drag king from Saskatoon, explained the event. Children were read books about being yourself, loving who you are, and expressing yourself for all that you are without fear.

Mr. Speaker, drag is not just an artistic expression. It has always been philanthropic. The YXE Drag Collective hosts monthly shows that raise money for community-based charities and support our local 2SLGBTQIA+ [two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual plus] community and allied organizations like SCAT Street Cat Rescue and Size Small Dog Rescue.

Saskatoon is also proud to be home base for Chelazon Leroux, our province's first, very first competitor on the Canada's Drag Race earlier this year. Chelazon is a Dene performer best known for her Auntie persona and using her massive TikTok audience to bring her two-spirit perspective to drag, comedy, and art.

Mr. Speaker, I can't say enough about Saskatoon's drag scene and the impact it's making here at home and on the national stage. Please join me in sending them our very best.

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

New Dental Health Centre at Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan Polytechnic's dental health care program students receive high-quality training and education, thanks to the newly renovated dental health care centre on Regina campus.

Last week I attended the grand opening of a new dental clinic which was a collaborative renovation project between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Polytechnic. A combined investment of over 2.3 million into the project provides students and their clients with a safe and modernized environment.

Mr. Speaker, the renovated clinic meets the new infection control protocol set by College of Dental Surgeons and Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists Association in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes the new enclosed suite to prevent the spread of harmful pathogens and give patients privacy when sharing sensitive information.

By improving the clinic and equipping it with the latest dental technologies, Saskatchewan Polytechnic is preparing students to succeed in an evolving profession. Through the Sask Polytech's curriculum, students integrate real-world practice and provide services to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all the members to join me in congratulating Saskatchewan Polytechnic on their commitment to ensuring students have the best opportunities to study and build rewarding careers here in province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Prince Albert's West Flat Citizens Group

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A group of determined citizens started the West Flat Citizens Group in Prince Albert. They believe they are more successful if they work with social services to address violence in their community. Part of their vision is to have a community with reduced crime, improved housing, less poverty and hunger, better recreational opportunities, and constructive youth activities.

They provide daycare, education, housing programs, and family and youth programs for West Flat families, along with back-to-school events, bread days, community barbecues, and a fall supper.

I participated in their annual community barbecue and fun day this past August. It was great fun for the kids and their families. They enjoyed over 700 hot dogs, freezies, watermelon, music, arts and crafts, draws for prizes, and lots of water. West Flat families, neighbours, and friends spent time visiting and listening to music while the kids enjoyed the water park, the fire truck, and art tent. I also had the opportunity to meet many of my constituents and listen to their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking the West Flat Citizens Group for their vision and dedication that is helping to create positive changes for their community, our city and province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Mid-Year Forecast Show Surplus

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan is on track. The province's mid-year forecast shows a surplus of \$1.1 billion for 2022-23. Our provincial revenue is estimated to be a total of \$19.5 billion. That's \$337 million higher than the first quarter forecast and a \$2.4 billion improvement from budget.

Thanks to the strength and innovation shown by our resource sectors, this government can put cash directly back into the pockets of our citizens while keeping our provincial debt under control. Our government announced \$500 affordability cheques to every adult resident in the province, an additional billion dollars in debt retired, saving the taxpayers over 50 million a year in interest.

Employment in the first 10 months of 2022 increased jobs by 20,400, and our GDP [gross domestic product] is expected to grow by 5.3 per cent in 2022 and a further 1.9 per cent in 2023, the highest of all provinces in both years. Public debt is also forecast to be \$2.1 billion lower than projected at budget. We will continue to have the second-lowest net debt-to-GDP ratio in the country and the second-highest credit rating among the provinces.

Saskatchewan people are working hard and are seeing the benefits. Despite what we hear from the members opposite, that is growth that works for everyone.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Reopening of Cameco Mine and Mill in Northern Saskatchewan

Mr. Lemaigre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and I had the privilege of attending the milestone reopening of the Cameco McArthur River mine and Key Lake mill. Having this mine and mill in operation further positions Saskatchewan as a critical and sustainable supplier of fuel and resources that Canada and the world needs.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when the mine closed and the mill stopped running. At the time, nuclear hadn't been considered a potential energy source for Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, with the potential development of SMRs [small modular reactor] in the province, there is more need for this mine to diversify our baseload power grid.

While I was there I spoke to many residents and stakeholders about how significant this investment is to the North. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Cameco on behalf of northern residents for investing in families and community, for providing over 700 jobs to the North and showing that we are open for business. Northern Saskatchewan plays a vital role in the future of our global energy security, and northern residents are more than ready to take their part.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Cameco and northern Saskatchewan on this essential investment into our future. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Affordability and Government's Fiscal Management

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this morning we learned that this government is sitting on \$2.4 billion of additional revenue since budget time, that as a result of the illegal invasion of Ukraine, our province continues to benefit from windfall revenue from the sale of our natural resources. Now, Mr. Speaker, I may have missed the fine print, but in that news release I didn't see a single new measure going out the door to help Saskatchewan people. Why not?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the new revenue that the Leader of the Opposition references, Mr. Speaker, most certainly isn't new. It was reported out at Q1 [first quarter] when the Minister of Finance, our Deputy Premier, also went out and put forward a number of initiatives, affordability initiatives for the people of Saskatchewan, for businesses in Saskatchewan to ensure that they are able to manage through some inflationary pressures that we have, Mr. Speaker.

It's through the strength of our resource-based economy that we are able to put forward things like the Saskatchewan tax affordability cheque to every resident over the age of 18, Mr. Speaker, and those cheques are on their way. We were able to extend the small-business tax reduction in this province. And it's through the strength of our resource-based economy and through the innovation of Saskatchewan people that we are able this year

to pay down a billion dollars in debt, Mr. Speaker, thereby forgoing \$50 million in interest for years into the future.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, he doesn't get to have it both ways, on one hand bragging about how great things are and the other hand pleading poverty when it comes to providing relief to people in this province. Now those cheques that he keeps talking about are out the door and they're on the books, and revenues are up \$2.4 billion since budget.

There is absolutely the capacity to help Saskatchewan people, people who are going without. They're behind on their bills and even living on the streets. Why, why, Mr. Speaker, wouldn't this government use windfall revenues to scrap their tax, fee, and utility rate hikes and give Saskatchewan people the break that they need and deserve?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, those revenues make up part of the affordability tax credit cheques that are on their way to Saskatchewan residents. Those revenues make up the billion dollars in debt that we are repaying. All of this was announced in August at the Q1 update, Mr. Speaker.

And quite frankly, speaking of not being able to have it both ways, day after day we see the opposition members get up and criticize the affordability plan that we've put forward to Saskatchewan residents, and then when it comes time to support that plan, they vote for it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we see criticism from the opposition members on *The Saskatchewan First Act*. When it comes time, they vote for it. We see them complaining about police measures and community safety in this province, about the policing measures that this government is putting forward. A gun bill comes to the legislature, they vote for it, Mr. Speaker. I'm not so sure that next election they're going to criticize the Saskatchewan Party, but on election day they're likely going to vote for us, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — What else has been announced? What else has been announced since budget? We've learned that more Saskatchewan people have started using the food bank in the last year than any other place in Canada, that five times the number of Saskatchewan people are behind on being able to pay their mortgage than anywhere else in the country. We've also learned, Mr. Speaker, that people are dying on the streets in our province.

Does that Premier honestly think that people are not in need of more support? And why, why would that Premier not introduce a single additional affordability measure to help the people who are hurting in this province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — We did, Mr. Speaker. We introduced the Saskatchewan tax affordability cheques that are on their way to

Saskatchewan residents age 18 and over. It's a \$500 cheque, only possible through the strength of our resource-based economy, Mr. Speaker. We've referenced . . . Oh yeah, and as the Deputy Premier points out, it's more than the \$105 that the NDP had said should go out to Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. I almost forgot about that particular point.

That again is in addition to the over \$2 billion that is baked into each and every budget, invested in Saskatchewan families, Mr. Speaker. Investments that have removed 112,000 low-income residents from the provincial tax roll completely in this province. We have a low-income tax credit. It's been enhanced by \$100 per adult, \$40 per child. We have one of the lowest utility bundle rates in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker, acknowledged by the Leader of the Opposition.

We have a graduate retention plan. Didn't have that under the NDP. We have the children's drug plan. Didn't have that under the NDP. We have the active family benefit. Didn't have that under the NDP. We have supports in this province for children with autism. Didn't have that under the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

Most certainly, most certainly we are going to continue to bring forward measures, Mr. Speaker — day in, day out; year in, year out — that are going to support Saskatchewan families.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, more tired spin from a tired government that's fallen so out of touch with Saskatchewan people. Today's mid-year report confirms what we already know: windfall revenues from a strong natural resource sector and a government flush with cash and able to help, but no new supports. No relief for Saskatchewan people.

How can this Sask Party government plow ahead with new taxes and new fees when they're sitting on windfall revenues that should be offering relief to Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Honestly, Mr. Speaker, there has been no questions from the NDP that display their lack of credibility than these questions. It wasn't a new budget that was introduced. It was a report on the existing budget saying that we are on track . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Excuse me, sir. Saying that they were on track of what we had said where our finances were at in the first quarter, Mr. Speaker. There's not a second windfall. It's the same windfall projected for the entire year.

Mr. Speaker, there is affordability measures in all what we introduced in the first quarter. That is the affordability tax credit. And to say we did nothing as people are receiving \$500 cheques, the people of Saskatchewan are not going to believe the opposition.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Finance minister wants to reference the budget, a failed budget that denied the economic and financial reality this province was facing and that delayed the

needed relief that Saskatchewan people deserve. That tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government is doing nothing to help families struggling with the bills.

Families are breaking the bank just to fill the tank. And despite months of pressure for affordability relief, there's still no relief at the pumps for families, just more and more provincial taxes. Today's report shows that this government has the revenues it needs to provide relief, to provide a needed break.

Why is there no relief for families at the pumps coming out of this mid-year report and this windfall of revenues?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, there is more relief in this budget than there would have been had the NDP had their policy and their idea brought forward of \$105 per person, quite frankly.

And again the NDP have no credit in the area of finances because they think there's a second windfall when there's not. We're saying that we're on track with what we predicted in the first quarter.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I know the member's heard it before but he's going to hear it again. Under this government we are paying lower personal income tax. We are paying lower educational property tax. We have a higher low-income tax credit. We have a higher seniors' income plan. We're paying lower PST [provincial sales tax] rates. We have a higher disability tax credit. We have a higher caregiver tax credit.

And I could go on. I know I'm running out of time, Mr. Speaker, but there is \$2.2 billion in this budget to keep things affordable for Saskatchewan residents.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the minister referenced PST and suggested it's smaller. It's \$2.6 billion, more than twice what it was before that government imposed the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history. Those are the facts. Government coffers are high, Mr. Speaker, but nothing there for regular people. Regular people can't get ahead and are falling further behind.

Those with the power to help are sitting right there in those Sask Party government front benches, Mr. Speaker, and they have the windfall revenues to help and to scrap the power hike that they're imposing on Saskatchewan people. Why won't they scrap the power hike increase that they're imposing on Saskatchewan people, to offer just a little bit of relief for people today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, it is indeed true. We did change the PST base, but the largest increase to PST intake in this province is because we have more people paying PST. The reason why our corporate income tax is higher is not because we upped the rate. It's because we have more business activity in this province. The more you have paying taxes, the larger your revenue. You need to encourage that. You need to encourage population growth, something the NDP did not understand when

they were government, Mr. Speaker, as we saw people leave this province in droves.

Mr. Speaker, the more people you have paying taxes — PST, personal income tax — the more tax money you will take. And you can keep the rates low, lower than they were under the NDP. And yes, our revenues are higher because there's more people here enjoying this wonderful province.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, more tired spin that defies common sense and the financial reality this province faces and the reality that Saskatchewan people are facing. And of course it's not just power bills, Mr. Speaker, that that government are hiking. The Sask Party government is hiking energy bills in a giant way over the next few years.

First they raided \$50 million in equity from SaskEnergy, then they turned around grabbing \$43 million in a 23 per cent rate increase. Shuffling money around to help their bottom line at the expense of everyday people. People just can't get an iota of respect from that out-of-touch, out-of-touch and tired government over there, Mr. Speaker. And you know, I guess they're just looking to their government now to get with the program and to scrap the SaskEnergy hikes that they're imposing on Saskatchewan people.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, what we're hearing from is a group of people that have no credibility on this issue whatsoever. They're dealing with the carbon tax. They have a problem with the carbon tax. Because out of one side of their mouth they want to support it, and the other side of their mouth they want to take some credit for not supporting it. Mr. Speaker, we'll wait and see how they vote on some of those issues.

Mr. Speaker, SaskEnergy's residential customers — and that's what I perceived his question to be was on SaskEnergy — residential customers continue to benefit from the lowest natural gas bills in Canada.

SaskEnergy's commodity rate is a pass-through of market costs with no profit or loss earned by SaskEnergy. Following the sharp rise in natural gas prices, some utilities hadn't hedged, hadn't done good planning forward, have implemented commodity rates of more than \$8 a gigajoule, which is almost double the proposal that's here of \$4.20 per gigajoule. The average residential customer pays 271 a year in carbon taxes.

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

Food Pricing in Saskatchewan

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Front after front, that Sask Party government's making life more expensive for Saskatchewan people. Grocery prices are rising faster in Saskatchewan than the rest of the country. We've called for an investigation and action to get to the bottom of what's going in the grocery aisles, to deliver for people, to study supply chains and anticompetitive

practices. But that was blocked by that Sask Party government.

All it would cost us is to roll up our sleeves as MLAs, a bit of hard work, basically what we've been elected to do, Mr. Speaker. What does that Sask Party government have against that hard work to deliver for Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've said it over and over again, and I'll say it once again. If we look at the impact on food prices across this country, all we have to look at is the carbon tax and the impact that the carbon tax has on everything we do, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what a committee would even do. We wouldn't even have the jurisdiction to look at meat processing that is not even in the province of Saskatchewan. I've worked with the stock growers. I've met as recently as yesterday with the stock growers to talk about this very issue, Mr. Speaker. And we both have come to an agreement — we did before — that the Competition Bureau of Canada is the right place for this entity to go. And if the stock growers take it there, we will support them in that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Saskatchewan has a whole lot at stake when it comes to livestock producers and grocery prices, and it's pretty weak for that government to say, just leave it to the feds, Mr. Speaker. An investigation into food prices would have looked into not only fairness for consumers but of course for livestock producers.

Yesterday the Ag minister said this, I quote: "Every penny comes right back to the farm gate, to the farmers and ranchers in this province who do everything they can to grow strong, healthy food for the world."

Nothing could be further from the truth. Livestock producers in Saskatchewan are getting a raw deal from the out-of-province meat packers, Mr. Speaker, and they want an investigation. Why is that minister standing up for the out-of-province corporate meat packers instead of for the producers he's supposed to represent?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Well once again, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite are totally out of touch with reality. They really are. I have always been engaged with the farmers and ranchers in this province, always have been. As I've said in my previous answer to the same question, is we've met with the stock growers; we had this discussion. We even helped fund the stock growers to look at the feasibility of a meat processing plant in the province, Mr. Speaker. Those plans show that it is doable. Is the interest for the private sector to come and invest in that? We hope it is.

We think . . . As a government, we put the value-added tax incentive program in place to attract that investment. It's obviously evident in what just happened in the canola crush industry here in this province, Mr. Speaker, in the oat-processing

industry in this province. We are attracting international companies because of our tax incentive policies to attract those companies here, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for the Health Care System

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, today was a missed opportunity, a chance to invest in the health system and get it back on track. Let's be clear — the health system is in crisis. Doctors, nurses, the College of Family Physicians, those on the front lines have all said that more needs to be done. Mr. Speaker, why did this government not provide any new funding for our struggling health system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite has this confused with budget day, which it is not today. If you want to talk about health care investments, we've made significant investments in this area since we've had the honour of forming government back in 2007, Mr. Speaker. We've increased health system funding by \$3 billion, nearly an 87 per cent increase; \$2.1 billion just in infrastructure alone; \$340 million in 15 new long-term care facilities across this province.

We've built or are in the process of building a number of facilities in Saskatchewan, such as the Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford; the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon; the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital expansion; a new hospital in Moose Jaw; Humboldt, where the members opposite never got around to building that particular facility.

Mr. Speaker, we've added more health care professionals. And on that note, the members opposite will know that back on September 7th, this government announced an additional \$60 million for a four-point health human resources action plan which is already starting to see some results, Mr. Speaker. More to come in the days ahead.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the system is in crisis and their plan is not working, despite that minister's spin otherwise. Mr. Speaker, a four-year-old cancer patient recently waited a full day for a bed in a hospital. People are spending days in hallways in our emergency rooms waiting for care. Today there are 59 people in Saskatoon emergency departments who've been admitted to the hospital, but there's no bed available to them. So like Jream, they wait.

Does the minister honestly not see a single issue with our health system worth carving some of the 2.4 billion in windfall revenues out to address?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote

Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government does recognize that there are challenges. There are pressures on the health care system in some of our facilities. And this government, as I've said before and the Minister of Health has said before, is committed to addressing those challenges.

It's why we've made a number of significant investments, as I've spoken to previously, Mr. Speaker. It's why we're working on some of the patient-flow issues we have in our major centres in Regina and Saskatoon and other areas of the province, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that the patients and the residents of this province get the right care at the right place at the right time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to say that the plan isn't working, I think is not necessarily correct or accurate. We've seen investments, as I've spoken to before, new CLXTs [combined laboratory and X-ray technologist] in Kamsack that are starting this month; three new CLXTs working in Esterhazy; more registered nurses that have allowed us to reopen beds in Kamsack, the Radville Marian Health Centre.

Weyburn hospital has recruited four more RNs [registered nurse] and an LPN [licensed practical nurse] which allows them to reopen nine acute care beds in the city of Weyburn, Mr. Speaker, where we're also going to be building a new hospital as well. We're going to continue to make these investments, Mr. Speaker.

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

Housing Supports

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Things look good for the government's books, yet for so many Saskatchewan people, things are getting worse. And while they're hosting wife murderers for tea and taking \$8,000 flights up the road and hooting and hollering about how great they are, people out there are struggling.

More people are facing homelessness. Mortgage defaults are up. And many families are now facing eviction, families like Larissa's who joined us yesterday, a working mom who's willing to live just about anywhere as long as she can secure a safe and modest home for her family. Inexplicably she's been denied one of those vacant Sask Housing units.

The money is rolling in, Mr. Speaker, yet so many are facing eviction, some even death through another Saskatchewan winter. Is this really growth that works for everyone?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, a lot of subjects covered there by the member opposite. In terms of the homelessness side, Mr. Speaker, not in the budget but in this year, with in-year, over \$10 million to help support homelessness.

That includes Saskatoon Tribal Council, a new building for them, as well as increased funding for that particular place; as well as for the Salvation Army in Saskatoon to deliver expanded supports, Mr. Speaker; as well as Regina treaty services here in

Regina, in-year supports; as well as, just recently announced, \$1.7 million to help shelters in the province of Saskatchewan. There was 388 last year. We added another 60 to help that situation in our major centres, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to continue to invest. And if there's another question, I'll get to the other matter the member raised.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, the minister is recycling old announcements, and this crisis is calling out for further action. And we know that they have the money to do it. It's said that the measure of a society's greatness is how we treat the most vulnerable. On that metric, this Sask Party government is absolutely failing, Mr. Speaker.

As it stands, landlords, tenants, mayors, and housing advocates agree that minister and the Sask Party government are failing to adequately support those with the highest need. And the affordability crisis is hitting the working class hard, Mr. Speaker. With tax and utility increases, families are struggling to keep a roof over their heads. Yet public housing units are literally sitting empty, allowed to fall into disrepair thanks to this government's neglect.

When will our government choose to govern? When will our leaders choose to lead?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, in terms of vacancies here in Regina, as the member alluded to, but around the province, Mr. Speaker, in certain areas there's not as much need for social housing as there are in different areas. I am concerned about those vacancies though, Mr. Speaker. We have them. There's chances to use them. I know some folks are able to live independently.

The case that was brought here yesterday has me very concerned, Mr. Speaker. So again, as I mentioned yesterday, I've asked Sask Housing Corporation to come up with some options, how we can reduce barriers, get more people in those buildings, and support those that need it within the province of Saskatchewan. And that's something we want to do, we want to continue to work on, Mr. Speaker. And that work is under way. Thank you.

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

Request for Coroner's Inquest

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, when Shayne Turner was admitted to Regina General last year following an overdose, he wanted help. He wanted to get clean. He wanted a bed in Regina detox. Instead he got a cab voucher and two pamphlets. He didn't even get the naloxone kit that is the mandated bare minimum for an overdose patient.

Now his family wants a coroner's inquest into his death. They want something public facing, not a behind-closed-door conversation. Is the minister going to call an inquest into Shayne

Turner's death? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I've said previously, I've had the opportunity to meet with Shayne's family and to discuss the situation around his tragic passing. I've asked the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] to investigate and provide me with some answers as to what happened in this particular case. And to the best of my knowledge, the Chief Coroner is still doing a preliminary review as to determine whether or not he will conduct a further review into this case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 112 — *The King's Printer Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 112, *The King's Printer Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 112 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 113 — *The King's Printer Consequential Amendments Act, 2022/Loi de 2022 corrélative de la loi intitulée The King's Printer Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 113, *The King's Printer Consequential Amendments Act, 2022* be introduced now and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 113 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

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

Bill No. 114 — *The King's Bench Act* *Loi sur la Cour du Banc du Roi*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 114, *The King's Bench Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 114 be now introduced and read a first time. Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 115 — *The King's Counsel Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 115, *The King's Counsel Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 115 be now introduced and read a first time. Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 116 — *The Plant Health Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 116, *The Plant Health Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 116 be now introduced and read a first time. Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I recognize the Minister of Finance.

TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to submit the supplementary estimates accompanied by the message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

The Speaker: — Would you please rise for the message from the Lieutenant Governor. The message is as follows:

The Lieutenant Governor transmits supplementary estimates — no. 1 of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31, 2023, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Honourable Russell B. Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 109 — *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2)*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2)*. This bill is part of the ongoing work of this government to stand up for Saskatchewan residents. As members of this Assembly are aware, this summer agricultural producers raised concerns that employees of the federal government were conducting water testing on private land without the consent of landowners.

Under section 7, Mr. Speaker, of the federal *Canada Water Act*, federal employees have the right to go onto private land to test for water, but only with the permission of the landowner. When we raised the issue, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada at first downplayed, discredited, and dismissed our concerns and the concerns of private landowners, Mr. Speaker, calling reports “misinformed rhetoric.”

The federal minister denied that federal workers were testing for either nitrates or pesticides, despite the fact that when asked, that's what federal workers had actually told landowners. Then, Mr. Speaker, Health Canada went on to publicly admit that they

were in fact testing for pesticides. Saskatchewan people are still waiting for the federal minister's apology for dismissing serious concerns by private landowners as misinformed rhetoric.

Initially the Government of Saskatchewan made amendments to the trespass to property regulations to ensure the federal government complies with legislation when accessing private property. Mr. Speaker, this bill will continue the work done in the regulations by codifying these requirements in *The Trespass to Property Act*.

This codification is not redundant, as at least one member opposite has stated. This formalizes and reinforces the changes to trespass regulations made earlier this year and means employees of the Government of Canada must obtain consent or have legal authorization before they access private land.

[14:30]

At the very least, Mr. Speaker, seeking the consent of landowners prior to access is simply best practice and common courtesy, and we see no reason for federal government employees to not meet this standard.

Existing exemptions in the Act such as those for emergency services personnel, utility providers, and inspectors remain unchanged. The Government of Saskatchewan is already required to comply with the Act.

Mr. Speaker, if federal employees are found in violation of the Act, the Government of Canada may be subject to fines of up to \$200,000. Mr. Speaker, this bill holds the Government of Canada accountable for its employees and sends the message that the rules apply to everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2)*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 109 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to be on my feet to offer initial comments on this piece of legislation on behalf of the official opposition. And I know that the critic, the overlapping critics on this bill will have a lot to say about it, Mr. Speaker.

There is one thing that I feel compelled to speak to with respect to this bill, as the minister opposite did reference the events back in, I believe it was August, late August when this order of council was signed and under quite, quite unique and unheard-of circumstances really, Mr. Speaker.

What really disturbed me about the way that the Sask Party approached that situation and the way that they politicized it for their own benefit was the way that they absolutely threw Saskatchewan residents that work for the federal government under the bus, including the hosting of violent and hateful comments on their social media, many of which were left up for days. Days and days, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm going to read some of them into the record because I think

it's relevant. It's directly with respect to the incidents that led to the introduction of this legislation. And this is the Premier's social media, Mr. Speaker. This is one commentator, Mr. Speaker, "As old sleepy Joe says, fire two shotgun blasts into the air. That'll get them vacating the trespassed land."

Next commentator: "Don't forget the three S's," referring here to shoot, shovel, shut up, no doubt, Mr. Speaker. Another commentator: "Good for you. Feds are overreaching once again. Could the farmer shoot them? Asking for a friend." "Shoot first, ask questions later." "What happens if a firearm is accidentally discharged in the general direction of said trespass? Hypothetical scenario of course."

It wasn't just the Premier that hosted comments like these, and there were many, Mr. Speaker. And days were given for them to remove these comments, and they simply didn't because it serves their political agenda. And I want to repeat, these are federal employees, but these are Saskatchewan residents. These are our friends and our neighbours that live in these communities. It is not okay to host hateful and violent comments on your social media about citizens of this province, particularly from the Premier, Mr. Speaker.

Here's the minister's page, Mr. Speaker: "Don't we have a shoot-first, ask-questions-later trespass law in Saskatchewan?" "I like your style, especially if it is loser federal A-hole that are trespassing." "Time to make an example." "If we don't, we should."

And there are many like this, Mr. Speaker. It was not an accident. It was not one or two comments that were left up. This was obviously a concerted effort to fan the flames around this issue, Mr. Speaker. And we find it very concerning. Very concerning indeed . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I can't believe what? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

The truth is, is that we have heard from people who live in rural communities, many Indigenous people who do not feel safe, who say that these kinds of sentiments are being enforced, reinforced for political gain, Mr. Speaker.

So notwithstanding the particularities of any legislation here today, I want to challenge this government to put their political agenda aside for a moment and think about the harmony of communities in this province — communities that have historically had disagreement, communities who have historically been disadvantaged — and ask yourselves what you're doing to improve harmony in those relationships, Mr. Speaker.

So with that I look forward to hear from my colleagues on this bill, and I move to adjourn debate on Bill 109, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 110 — *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022* *Loi modificative de 2022 sur les testaments*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022*. The ability to undertake transactions and transmissions electronically, Mr. Speaker, has certainly increased over the last two decades and even more so over the last couple of years. While other legal documents have transitioned to allow for electronic forms, wills continue to be signed in ink to this point, Mr. Speaker, and the existing Act does not allow for the creation of an electronic will with an electronic signature.

Mr. Speaker, an electronic will, once stored, is a reliable document that can be retrieved for future use. Additionally, unlike a physical will, an electronic will's custody and control can be tracked. The bill follows recommendations by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and provisions in British Columbia's *Will, Estates and Succession Act*. This bill sets out the criteria that must be met for an electronic will to be valid in Saskatchewan, including provisions for revocation of the will.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments do not replace a paper will or require an individual to create an electronic will. However, they will provide another tool for creating a will if the client wants it and is appropriate in the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 110 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to be on my feet and enter in initial comments on Bill 110, *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022* on behalf of the official opposition. My understanding is that this bill proposes a number of modernizing elements to provide for electronic means of creating and changing wills, Mr. Speaker.

I don't have a lot to say about this legislation at this time. Obviously on face value it makes good sense to make these changes. Anyway it makes good sense to make changes that would make wills more accessible, more available to folks.

I know that I personally come across a lot of folks that don't have an opportunity to put their intentions and their wishes into a legal format, and it leaves family members with a lot of difficulties and challenges and heartache after the fact. So I know with the lack of access to justice, this can be very difficult for folks to pay for a lawyer and to get something like this done. So really any means that makes this more available to folks, we would support, Mr. Speaker.

I look forward to hearing from my colleagues on this bill, of course. And with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill 110, *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 111 — *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur les prestations alimentaires familiales*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022*. The child support service, formerly the child support recalculation service, has been in operation since 2018 and provides an administrative option for the review of child support amounts. Where there's an existing support order or agreement and the eligibility requirements are met, the service may recalculate the amount of support payable without requiring the parties to return to court or enter into a new agreement.

Currently these provisions exist only in *The Family Maintenance Regulations*, Mr. Speaker. This bill will move the framework for recalculation from the regulations to *The Family Maintenance Act, 1997*.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also expands the scope of this work and allows parents to go straight to the child support service to determine initial child support amounts. Previously the service could only recalculate existing child support orders or agreements. This option, known as administrative calculation, allows parents to obtain child support orders without hiring a lawyer or going to court. These orders can then be filed with the court and enforced like a court order.

This legislation also allows a caregiver or other person to apply for child support for a child over the age of 18 and allows an adult child to apply for child support on their own behalf. Decisions on whether support is appropriate will be determined by the court, dependent on the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 111 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's certainly a pleasure to enter initial comments on Bill No. 111, *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022* on behalf of the official opposition.

Mr. Speaker, this is an area about which I know a little bit about, having practised family law for a few years as a Legal Aid lawyer here in Saskatchewan. And I know that it was definitely a needed change to see this child support recalculation framework. This was something that was called out for by, you know, stakeholders as well as the bar as well as, I'm sure, the courts, given that it was extremely difficult and onerous to change a child support order when the reality is that, you know, folks' employment situations can be very malleable and changing.

And so often what you saw is that folks would have to apply to

court, would have to hire a lawyer to have these changes made, Mr. Speaker, or accumulate at times a significant debt if you were the payor, or go without, you know, child support that you're entitled to if you're the payee. It was really a barrier that served no one very well on either side of that situation, Mr. Speaker.

I'm glad to see that it's codified into law under this bill. I would like to have a closer look at the bill and provide additional commentary, particularly around the change that would allow other parties, beside the other parent, to bring an application for support. I look forward to delving into that particular change a little deeper, and I know that the lead critic on this, the Justice critic, will as well.

I will put one sort of comment on the record though, Mr. Speaker. You know, Saskatchewan has very, very dire child poverty rates. More than one in four children in Saskatchewan live in poverty. Of course that number is much, much higher if you're talking on-reserve or amongst urban Indigenous populations, Mr. Speaker. I read a statistic just this morning that more than 40 per cent of food bank-related requests have to do with children.

And I know that there's actually something that we could do that's actually quite . . . something we could do today. You know, this could be an amendment to this bill, and that is to waive child support payments from clawbacks to social services amounts. In Saskatchewan, if you're a single mom with four kids and you're on social assistance and you are able to get a child support order against someone, every dollar that you get from the other parent is clawed back dollar for dollar from your social assistance, even though that money in theory is for support of the child.

And a lot of the calculations under SIS [Saskatchewan income support] actually don't take into consideration the fact that you are a family household with several children because this Sask Party government has decided to, you know, give with one hand and take from the other, given the child tax benefit. They use that as an opportunity to take . . . like, to support children less, Mr. Speaker.

This is actually something that other jurisdictions have done. They've done it with success. I would note that British Columbia brought this change. They were pushed to do this when the NDP was in opposition, and now it's something that's been done. And I can tell you that it makes a world of difference because when you think about who is living in the highest poverty, it is children, but particularly children in single-parent homes.

So it would be extremely beneficial to parents who are living, like, with the highest need with children, parents living on assistance with children, to be able to benefit from a little extra if they successfully obtain a child support order with the courts.

Just one small, you know, policy change that this Sask Party government could make today. It wouldn't have a huge impact — certainly they have the money for it as we've learned today — if they just had a bit of will and creativity and motivation to really address this issue. Right, Mr. Speaker?

[14:45]

So with that I look forward to hearing from my colleagues on this bill. And I will at this time move to adjourn debate on Bill

No. 111, *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 94

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

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And despite the little bits of laughter I heard around the Assembly, this is a very important piece of legislation as we're talking about what governs our pensions here. And not just ours, of course, but everyone within the municipal and public sector, Mr. Speaker.

Happy to enter into debate on Bill No. 94, *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act*. This bill sets out to create a non-profit, non-Crown corporation that would administer these public and municipal employee pension funds. So the goal here is to replace what some individuals know as PEPP [public employees pension plan] or MEPP [municipal employees' pension plan] with the above, which would be PEBA [Public Employees Benefits Agency]. I think PEPP has a better ring to it, Mr. Speaker, but I probably shouldn't base my remarks on that.

The one thing I really want to get across here is that we have to get this right. We have to make sure that we're looking at this, going through this with a fine-tooth comb. We're talking about people's livelihoods here, Mr. Speaker.

And I know that, you know, we all come from different walks of life in this Chamber. I've had several jobs over the years where I did not have access to a pension, where I worked in precarious work. And it is frightening to be doing the work full-time and to not know how you're going to look after yourself later on in life. You know, we rely on the government to provide some of these social safety nets but increasingly hear about the struggles of aging and living in poverty as a result of these poverty levels, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it is imperative that we make sure that we are closely looking at how these funds are looked after, and that includes the structure of the organizations that govern them. Although the minister says that nothing will really change in terms of how the funds will be provided, administered, there are concerns around what powers will exist with the new corporation, the structure of the corporation itself, the bylaws that will exist within the corporation. I think all of these pieces remain to be seen and will

be some good questions for committee, but I'm cautiously optimistic.

We did hear about some of the challenges that exist within the current system, Mr. Speaker, so we know that there is work to do. We know that we need to make sure that these funds have longevity and stability, and we'll be keeping a close eye on this to ensure that that is the case and none of that is interfered with because of this Act, Mr. Speaker.

The critic will have a lot more questions, as will my colleagues, but with that I would move to adjourn debate today 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. 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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 97, *The Architects Amendment Act, 2022*. When you go around Saskatchewan, I don't know what cities, bigger cities mainly, but you can go right throughout our beautiful province and we can see architects, the work that have been amazing, the buildings we've seen with great design, and they put so much into them. And I think to have that talent in this province is amazing that we do have and architects, whether they come from out of the province or in the province, but just to see some of that great work.

I was talking to my colleague, the critic, and I'm saying, are you going to be reaching out and talking about — because a lot of these bills we're unsure where they want to go — and have they talked with, you know, the stakeholders, those that are going to be impacted, those that are going to have any challenges, and if they have any concerns or challenge with, you know, legislation.

Especially when it comes to the province and it comes to the Assembly, we want to make sure Saskatchewan people have their say, and they should have their say. So we want to make sure the government gets it right. And when we're making amendments and changes or introducing new legislation, like we always say, on this side we're always telling the government, make sure you consult and make sure you talk with people.

So really at this point where I'm at, I don't have many more comments, questions to put on the record, because I know the critic is going to do the work and, once that's done, find out. And again, anyone who has concerns or issues can reach out to the critic. And definitely he'd be willing to call back, take any information, and make suggestions that they can to the government to make sure we get this right when it goes through the due process that it's supposed to go through.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill 97, *The Architects Amendment Act, 2022*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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 Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. It's great to be speaking to this bill here and enter my remarks on record on Bill No. 98, *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Amendment Act*.

So this bill is making persons and municipalities, at fault for an emergency, liable for costs incurred by the SPSA's [Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency] response. And it's also allowing the minister to calculate or waive the person or municipality's debt to the Crown. These are notable changes around private persons covering emergency response costs of a wildfire.

You know, while I'm a little bit cautiously optimistic that this balances fairness with individual and municipal obligations, hopefully the regulations fairly outline the power of the minister pardoning costs and avoids a minister picking winners and losers when it comes to cost recovery.

You know, I think back about, you know, the wildfire that happened on Whitecap First Nation a number of years ago and how many folks in that community . . . Something was happening at the Dundurn base and a fire . . . They were doing their training and a fire broke out, went to the grass, and had a wildfire. And how scary that was for the citizens that lived on Whitecap, and how far that grass fire went to their homes. And when we think of . . . And I think of several communities, in particular our First Nation communities.

Fortunately Whitecap is in a good position in terms of capacity to do what they need to do, and close proximity of the city to have other departments come out and help, and volunteers. Other First Nation communities don't have that luxury of that kind of capacity, and many First Nations are a number of miles away from the nearest municipality.

And I think about my own First Nation a number of years ago. Every band member in that community was called out to put out a grass fire, and it was going toward our traditional burial grounds. And that was of great concern to my Nation, my members. And fortunately they had lots of folks come out and help from the First Nation community as well as the neighbouring municipality. And of course the First Nation paid for those services.

So when I think about this . . . And I think about climate change,

you know. I was, a number of years ago, at one of the campsites out in Ministikwan, and I had some friends who had cabins out there and also had their fifth wheels and trailers out on sites, seasonal sites. And this one particular evening, probably a couple weeks after I'd come from that camping trip, there was a storm and lightning hit a tree, and it was 2 feet from my friend's trailer. And we were so relieved that they were okay and that fire did not spread to that campsite because there was a lot of rain that particular year, a lot of rainfall that happened.

So I can imagine how expensive it would be for municipalities, for individuals when these kinds of grass fires, wildfires get out of hand. And I'm just hoping that more consultation with impacted stakeholders . . . And perhaps if there's a database somewhere that kind of tracks how many of these wildfires happened within municipalities and surrounding municipalities, and to see if there is a way to work with them. And also consult in what are the best practices and what would be the best way to ensure fairness across the board for all of those that are going to be impacted by this.

And of course with climate change, there's a lot of things that happen, you know, more fires that are happening within communities, and more resources are needed to combat and put out those wildfires.

So I don't have much more to say here. I'm sure the critic for this area will have a little bit more as well to say and questions to ask and also suggestions and also to put comments here on record. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 98, the Saskatchewan public safety amendment Act, 2022. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate again today, this time on Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022*. The goal of this bill is to modernize 911 to be able to accept texts, photos, and video calls; to make the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, not SaskTel, responsible for collecting Sask911 fees from all telecom companies; and to allow the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to make improvements to the Sask911 system.

I certainly hope that SaskTel was consulted in this and collaborated with for this change. It certainly, at surface value, seems like a good thing when you hear about modernization. But we have seen this government try to slip in changes before, using this language. So we will be looking at this closely to make sure that this is in fact

beneficial to the people of the province. If it does impact affordability, I think that would be a concern. We know that 911 fees were doubled in 2021. We need to make sure that these fees are reasonable and recognize that we are in a generational affordability crisis.

And we know that this all sort of hinges on the expectation that when you call 911, an emergency service will be available to meet you. And I can't talk about this without also thinking about the lack of ambulance services or the fact that ambulance services are tied up in emergency rooms waiting for patients to be seen by a doctor, admitted into the emergency room for hours on end, in hallways with patients as they are in some very concerning emergency situations, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

That's if an ambulance comes at all. I've spoken before in this Assembly about a Warman man waiting nine hours for an ambulance. You know, it's unacceptable no matter where you are, but I think the fact that Warman is so close to our largest centre in Saskatoon really highlights the urgency of this situation.

We know that there are these offload delays that exist when paramedics get tied up waiting for patients to be admitted to hospital or tied up when they are transferring patients between facilities. It is a very large concern for people of this province. I have spoken to a grieving widow who insists that her husband would have stayed alive had he gotten the ambulance care he needed.

These are life-and-death matters, Mr. Speaker. This government promised ambulance reform when it formed government. We have not seen ambulance reform in this province despite the fact that there are reports that exist. We still have a patchwork of systems of incredible variety in terms of what our services look like across the province, Mr. Speaker.

So we need to make sure we're getting all pieces of this right. And I do hope that the Minister of Health is listening to this, and that all of the members opposite are listening to this and are willing to advocate for access to ambulances within their own ridings.

With that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 99, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to enter into adjourned debate on Bill 105, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022*.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does bring forward some important amendments to the Act, particularly when it comes to raising coverage of children from 16 to 18 years old in our province. This is crucial, and actually, you know, this is a bill that I can speak to from some personal experience of my own.

Just a couple of months ago, my husband and I, we took in a 16-year-old girl under a section 10 agreement. And just for those that might not be aware of what that entails, a section 10 is a voluntary agreement where a child that is 16 or 17 years old and a responsible adult or adults can enter into a voluntary agreement where those adults will agree to provide care for the child.

So I have to admit that, prior to the last couple of months, I wasn't aware of how this program worked. In fact, I had an assumption that all children under the age of 18 in our province would be eligible to participate in the foster system which, as I've learned, is not the case. Under a section 10 agreement, there's a separate program for 16- and 17-year-olds specifically. And I've chatted with a number of people just in my own personal experience these last few months about this program and how it came to be that this program is something that we are having in Saskatchewan.

And so I think, you know, understanding some of the intent around it and some of the intent around 16- and 17-year-olds who were in situations where they wanted to and were able to live independently, more or less, in a room-and-board-type situation, I think there will be situations like that. And I do believe that that's still recognized in this bill and the amendments made to the bill.

However there are cases, and I would imagine quite a good number of cases, where we have 16- and 17-year-old kids in this province who aren't in a position to live independently, who should not be treated as, essentially, as adults, which is more or less how kids are being treated under the 16-, 17-year-old program.

Just for a little bit more context, under this program I do not have, as a caregiver, not a lot of rights, Mr. Speaker. Certainly no rights to legal guardianship, which can be complicated when you have kids that need important decisions made for them and there's no one that's there to legally make those decisions.

So how my husband and I are classified under the 16-, 17-year-old program is as room-and-board providers. That's what we're called. And I have to say, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that's appropriate. We are not landlords; we are caregivers for this girl that we've taken in, and we take our responsibilities seriously, as do, I'm sure, many other adults in this province who would like to have the supports in place for them to be able to take care of kids who otherwise don't have a home.

So I am happy to see some of these considerations being made. I think one other concern I've had with this program in my personal experience is I had asked initially if there would be any training provided for my husband and I. I understood, looking at the Foster Families Association website, that there is

standardized training for foster parents, which of course you would expect when you've got people who are taking in, in many cases, you know, vulnerable minors. And I was told there's no training. There was no training available for my husband and I, whatsoever.

And you know, full disclosure, we don't have kids of our own. This is really brand new to us and I think, you know, it's been a new setting for not just the girl that we've taken in, but also for us to learn as we go, and we want to do the best job we can. And that's, I'm going to be honest, that's been hard to do under this program, Mr. Speaker. And I do want to be clear that that's not to say anything disparaging about the workers in this program. These are compassionate, hard-working people who are doing the best that they can under the constraints of this limited program.

But I hope that, you know, it will be the exception, where 16- and 17-year-olds will be essentially slotted into this program if it's warranted that they are able and want that independence, because I think a lot of kids — a lot of kids — they need caregivers. They need people who are going to be treating them as what they are, and they are still children. They still need the supports available to them that any other kid in this province needs and deserves and is entitled to.

So a few other things I did want to say. I notice as well with the bill that there will be a prioritization of familial and cultural continuity for decisions about Indigenous children. This is extremely important. I don't want to get too much into the details of my own situation to respect the privacy of the child that's with us, but I can tell you that these considerations have not been in place for the child that's been in my care. And I think it's a situation where now we are doing whatever we can, with our limited capacity, under this program to reconnect this girl with her cultural background, to reconnect her with her family, you know, who have been withheld from her for . . . She's just turned 17. So for 17 years of her life, she has had no connection to that side of her family, and I think in large part that's been a failing of our system here. And so I'm glad to see this will be prioritized.

We know, Mr. Speaker, just last year we saw the historic agreement with Cowessess First Nation and Cowessess taking charge of child and family services and saying, we have a right to determine what services are provided for our kids. And we don't want the same legacy that we've seen, not just in Saskatchewan but across Canada, to continue of our shameful legacy of residential schools, our shameful legacy of the Sixties Scoop.

And I hope we're all aware that this is not history. This is not confined to history. We have more children, more Indigenous children in care across Canada than ever before, even at the height of residential schools. So I hope that when we are talking about reconciliation and when we as legislators are making decisions around what reconciliation should look like, I hope that we are acutely aware of our continued colonization of Indigenous peoples in this country and in this province.

And I do think from what I've seen from this bill, I do think that there are steps being taken, it would appear, to address some of those ongoing issues and some of that ongoing institutionalized and systemic discrimination that we see still against Indigenous

peoples in our province and our country. So I'm encouraged to see this.

Another point for the bill, we see that individuals have the right to request information about kids in custody though the ministry has the right to refuse if it can pose a danger. I would be interested in a little more detail around this section.

We also do see though a stipulation that police must notify Indigenous kids' band or a chief of decisions about custody, arrests, or hearing, and again coming back to what we've seen advanced by Cowessess First Nation and, you know, that very clear assertion that Indigenous people and First Nations need to be treated as nations. And we need to be respecting the decisions that they make in terms of child and family services and doing whatever we can to facilitate that transfer of jurisdiction as it should be.

I think I might leave it at there for now, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I think I'm encouraged to see this happening, from what I can see in the minister's remarks and what I can see on the face of it with the legislation. I hope at the same time, while this is happening, I hope there will be some re-evaluation of the 16-, 17-year-old program. Even in cases where kids are assessed as being able to live a bit more independently, for instance in a room-and-board situation, that there will be training provided to caregivers, and there will be due diligence taken to make sure that these kids are in safe environments, to make sure that their caregivers are well-supported and have the tools that they need to best support the kids of our province.

I forgot to mention earlier, Mr. Speaker, and I did just want to note as well with the 16-, 17-year-old program, and I don't want to be too critical, but it was a concern to me. Because when we approached the ministry when we were trying to help this girl find housing and trying to get her out of a very desperate situation, and we went to Social Services and asked about options for housing, we were given no information about housing options.

We called around to the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association]. They were full. They had no beds. We called around to Egadz, weren't able to get . . . I mean, we were told that the wait-lists are consistently at such, you know, a state of affairs that there simply aren't spaces for these kids to go. And so another problem that I see with this program is that, to my understanding, there isn't a list of caregivers that are willing to provide housing and a home for kids under the 16-, 17-year-old program, as there is with foster families.

And so you're leaving kids in very desperate situations where you're essentially expecting 16- and 17-year-olds who are homeless to find their own accommodations and to find their own homes. And that's simply not reasonable in many cases.

So I think there's a big gap there. I do worry about the impact that that may be having on youth homelessness in our province. And I hope to see some work being done there to make sure that the ministry under the 16-, 17-year-old program is able to provide housing for these kids, and that you don't have to have, you know, people, kids finding their own homes and really left with no options here.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to see some of these changes being brought forward. I hope we'll see more of this and, you know, a fulsome review. And of course I hope as always that there will be the necessary consultations taken, and especially in this case, given our rates of Indigenous kids in care in province, which are extremely high and extremely concerning.

I hope there will be further measures to look at those appropriate collaborations with our First Nations and Métis leaders across the province, and to really be taking our guidance from them and not having a paternalistic attitude that we know best and we know how to fix the problems that are of our own doing.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think I'll wrap up my remarks on this bill at this point. And I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 101, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022*. Thank you.

[15:15]

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. 103

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Makowsky that **Bill No. 103** — *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Bill No. 103, *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*, I guess initially it's talking about, I guess, a committee. They're looking at the creation of a Sask abilities office will advise the minister — I'm just looking at this — a committee that will advise the minister. And I don't know if that's volunteers, individuals. And I know there was a group of individuals came in here when this was introduced.

And I know, just talking about people with disabilities back home, the Gary Tinker Federation has done many great things in northern Saskatchewan when it comes to people with disabilities. And I think about the organization and the great work that Gary Tinker Federation has done to bring awareness for northern Saskatchewan with people with disabilities and making sure they have access to services, buildings. So they've done some different awareness, you know, that they want to do, training for people with disabilities.

You know, it is a struggle when you have a disability, and for myself, who has a disability and struggles really hard. I'm dyslexic and severely bad. But I've been, you know, fortunate to sit on Gary Tinker Federation for many years and help out where I could and do what I can to raise awareness and telling people.

You know, I've talked to young people who have a disability, struggle in school, and I encourage them. You know what? —

you know, never give up. I always felt like this from my grandfather. You know, he always gave you that support, you know, when you have a disability to say, hey, you know what? Creator will give you other way. There's other ways you're going to be stronger. And that's amazing how it happens, and Creator does give us the strength. So when I say that, I just want to talk a little bit of my own experiences like I said with, you know, a disability and knowing the struggles sometimes people have.

But having said that, I think we have legislation. I know my colleague, the critic for disabilities, is going to do some great work. And I know she's reaching out to . . . right across the province. She's going to reach out, and she's going to talk to people with disabilities, different organizations, finding out is this right, is this exactly what they're needing. And that's what we need her to find out. Let's make sure, you know, if there is good suggestions, recommendations that can come forward to even improve on the legislation, that's what we would want, you know, when you talk about people with disabilities, making sure.

And you know, like we always say, sometimes government comes up with good legislation. You know, it's not always bad. There's some times we work together. And I've said that before. And sometimes there's no way we will work together on certain things, and that's okay. You know, that's life, how it is.

But at the end of the day we have a role to do as, you know, His Majesty's Loyal Opposition. We have a role to do, you know, and it's to hold government accountable and to take situations where we want to make sure we're reaching out to, you know, the constituents of this great province, those that will be impacted, to make sure the government's getting it right and if there's ways we can move forward in a positive way to say, here are some good suggestions.

Now I know the government can take it upon itself and reach out, and that's great. But I know the opposition reaches out. And some people feel maybe more comfortable or, you know, the critic may reach out in a different way and have certain contacts that maybe government doesn't have. So that's a good thing, and I would encourage those individuals to reach out to our critic for disabilities and reach out and let her know if there's anything changes, if this is right.

So like I said, she's going to be reaching out throughout the whole province, going out and having meetings. And I'm glad that she's doing that, and that is nice to see that she's going to be spending time talking with individuals and getting out there. So having said that, I don't know that I have more. I know there's going to be . . . More of my colleagues will have a chance to talk. But again I just want to thank the critic for their commitment, for going out and meeting with people right throughout the province.

And again, you know, the government's always saying we're negative, negative, negative. You know, sometimes legislation comes in here where it's good legislation and makes sense. And we're supposed to take care of all Saskatchewan people. We're supposed to do that. And this is good legislation that I can see, what I'm seeing initially. Is it going to be right? I don't know. We're going to have time to question the minister and officials and make sure we're getting it as best we can for those people that would utilize this, you know.

So on that point, I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 103, the accessibility Saskatchewan Act.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 104

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 104 — *The Local Improvements 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. Happy to put a few comments on the record about Bill 104, *The Local Improvements Amendment Act*. I took some time to review the legislation, some of the changes, and the minister's comments. I note that this is kind of the first significant amendment since the year 2000, I believe. So certainly any time that we're updating legislation that hasn't kept pace with our changing province and the world, I think that that is a good thing.

I note that there's a few changes here in the name of efficiency and making things easier as far as making it easier for municipalities to plan for projects and local improvements, that this specifically targets local improvements to things like sidewalks, alleys, parks, and lights, I think were the ones that the minister pointed out.

I guess that, you know, it was good to see and hear from the minister a little bit about consultation that took place, talking to municipalities as well as school divisions who were impacted by this change, I think in a positive way. And I guess that I would hope that that consultation and the feedback aligned with the changes here, in particular in taking away perhaps some of the oversight from the Saskatchewan Municipal Board in instances when that oversight is being provided by local municipalities and their own boards and councils. So I hope that that was the feedback that came about through this consultation. But I know that our critic will ask questions as this bill proceeds.

I will note just shortly before I close here that I am happy to see the exemption for school boards when it comes to levies for local improvements. School boards already had exemptions from property tax and I think it is important to also provide this exemption for levies for local improvements.

And I will put on the record how important it is that we invest every dollar that we can into publicly funded and publicly delivered education. Our boards and the folks who are elected as trustees around the province in our 27 public and Catholic school divisions, they have been forced for years, due to chronic underfunding from the Sask Party government, to make very difficult decisions when it comes to providing the best education

that we can to our young people, for the present and the future of this province.

And so even if this is a small amount in this bill that may be saved through the exemption from levies, I think that's significant to school boards because they're often . . . They described in this budget year, they described as cutting everything down to the bone and that they've already been there for a few years, cutting further and further into supports, into the classrooms, the things that affect student experiences and the caring adults who are there to support them in our classrooms.

So I think anything that we can do to save money for school boards and to invest with sustainable, adequate, and predictable funding is a good move for publicly funded and publicly delivered education in our province. With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will conclude my remarks and I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 104.

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. 105

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 105 — *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my pleasure to enter into debate again today on Bill No. 105, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2022*. As far as we can tell here, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is just being updated because we are between elections and we take the opportunity to update it as appropriate here.

I was very interested when I was an early young university student taking political studies classes, and I learned that local governments aren't really governments, and that they exist under the authority of the provincial government because of *The Municipalities Act* and all of the subsequent Acts that exist to give them power to do everything they get to do. In this case, Mr. Speaker, it is how they govern their local elections and their school board elections, which is something we have to closely guard, is our democracy and all instruments of our democracy.

We see how quickly democracies slip into tyranny, and it's something we have to protect and we should hold close and dear as one of the foundational principles of our society. So we have to make sure when we're looking at this legislation that the importance of that is not lost.

The purpose of this legislation is to enable efficient and transparent elections for municipalities and school boards. As I said, this is the typical period where amendments are made.

There are a number of amendments being proposed here, Mr. Speaker, including changing the powers and responsibilities, so giving power to the returning officer to determine the polling places and not have school boards or municipalities making those decisions, as it could be the person who's actually elected that would be making those decisions. So this is sort of creating an additional level of oversight over that, or independence, I guess is the word I'm looking for.

And it's also proposing that the returning officer should have the powers to have emergency powers to change poll hours, dates, and locations. So in the event of a local emergency, we saw this during the last municipal election where there was a massive snowstorm that existed in Saskatoon.

It was a harrowing journey to get out to the polls. And I had a close polling location, but you know, I was bundled up like I was in the Robert Munsch book *Fifty Below Zero* and was trudging out to vote and do my civic duty. And we ran into our neighbour who said they're not open, because they couldn't open because the staff couldn't actually make it to the returning office. So you know, these types of situations do happen. We live in Saskatchewan, but we have to allow some flexibility to the returning officers in those situations because extending those polling hours is sometimes necessary.

And we did end up getting out and voting but that was after making several attempts, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So if folks are less dedicated to democracy than I, they would have maybe thrown in the towel a little bit earlier. And we should be making it as accessible as possible for people to vote and exercise their democracy.

Also included in this, that the RO [returning officer] must advise someone of deletion from a voters list, only if they're removed after the list is published, so allows it to be freely updated between elections. We know that people move. We do a lot of door knocking. We know that people move. And this will allow for it to be more accurate. They can also decide the form and manner of a poll book. They have the authority over voting in hospitals and care homes plus home-bound voting. So those are a bunch of the powers that are included here.

It also creates a framework for voter registry data use, revision, protection, and information requests. Municipalities with 20,000 people have the option to increase candidate nomination deposits up to \$500. And if a by-election doesn't fill all vacancies, the council or board has to keep trying to fill them. And anyone who shows up to the poll before closing time is eligible to vote, even if it closes before they get their turn, which if I'm not mistaken is also the rule in the provincial elections as well.

[15:30]

We know that these will be important steps, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so we will closely look at this and talk to stakeholders, chat with municipalities to make sure that this is serving their needs as well, and look forward to hearing from them. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 105 for today, Mr. Speaker.

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. 106

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 106 — *The Police Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to put some remarks on the record for Bill No. 106, *The Police Amendment Act, 2022*.

Mr. Speaker, in review of this legislation it seems like it's basically some legislation that involves the government kind of consolidating its ability to create police forces, whatever police services that it likes. It gives the government jurisdiction to decide those police services' duties, jurisdictions, regulations.

We see this legislation go into some details wherein the minister can send special constables or another police service to any municipality that they think isn't doing a good enough policing job. And of course we see, in this legislation, we see that the municipalities will have to pay for this of course. You know, when they deem on their whim, they believe that police aren't doing, you know, this good enough policing job, they'll send the bill on to that municipality of course. Currently we have in place a very effective system in response to municipal police misbehaviour in a special inquiry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, quite an efficient system there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also see this legislation giving the minister and the government essentially powers to request any information they deem that they need on police service provisions from police boards to police chiefs.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is basically legislation that just gives the government carte blanche over policing services in Saskatchewan. And so it's an honour to stand in His Majesty's Official Opposition today to put some remarks on the record in oversight to a government that seems to think they can pretty much do whatever they'd like. I know that our critic will also be doing a lot of work engaging with stakeholders. And of course we've seen some stakeholders already raise objections to this, but I'll get into that in a bit.

But, Mr. Speaker, you know, my biggest concern here is just the lack of consultation that this minister and this government has put into place in creating, you know, and bringing out this police amendment Act.

I also just want to first, as well, say a huge thank you to all the folks in our province who work in protective services. They do amazing work. We are very, very proud of the work that the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] . . . We are very proud of the work all of our municipal police services do in their day-to-day. Certainly the last two years we've seen, you know, a

stress environment with the pandemic. But folks have continued to do their job with great honour, and for that we thank them.

Mr. Speaker, essentially this seems to be legislation that's paving a way for the government's planned \$20 million marshal costed bill. Mr. Speaker, we really just see this as quite an offensive, just a very offensive to, you know, municipal police, that the minister feels like if they aren't doing their jobs, you know, instead of offering retraining or guidance, they just get new officers to come into these areas and take over.

And of course again, you're just sending in new police on the dime of the municipality, you know. And at the end of the day why would we be paying, why are we spending \$20 million on a group of rival police officers when we could simply just invest in the great work that our municipal and RCMP police forces are already doing, Mr. Speaker? You know, they can't even seem to get support from the very stakeholders that are invested in this.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'll quickly add into the record, you know, we have Casey Ward, the president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers saying, "We keep . . . asking like is this the nexus to go to a provincial police force?"

You know, you also have Rhonda Blackmore of the Saskatchewan RCMP questioning the value of marshals, saying that the money really could have been better spent investing in the RCMP. You know, these are police forces that are already in action. They have already been asking the government for additional resources. But instead we have a government thinking that it's time to create a new marshal, Mr. Speaker. And I really wonder, is this a marshal police force that's going to run around the province making sure that there are no water sampling happening in the province? You know, you wonder what the intentions are behind a police force under the minister's control.

I just thought, you know, there was a few questions. You know, this is a government that continues to consolidate police power under their thumb. You know, why does the government need to be bringing more and more power under their control? And why can't this funding simply be diverted to existing police forces?

You know, Mr. Speaker, I will say again, we have so much respect for the work that the RCMP and municipal police services are doing in our province. They do a tremendous job. We want to see resources allocated to them, not diverted away, Mr. Speaker.

I think I've said everything that I'd had to say. I think that we will continue to provide a critical oversight of this bill. We'll continue to engage with stakeholders. We'll continue to have our critic work in that area. And I hope that we'll continue to see fulsome debate and important questions brought forward, potentially some amendments at our committee phase.

At this time though, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 106. Thank you.

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. 107

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 107 — *The Provincial Protective Services Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to enter my remarks regarding Bill No. 107, *The Provincial Protective Services Act*.

You know, this Act is putting together the conservation officers, the traffic officers, the safer community officers, deputy sheriffs, and the community safety officers, again under one umbrella, you know, and it gives them all duties as cops, plus the ability to assist the police.

So this minister has the power to create policies, provide financial, admin, tech support, and coordinate research, creating public education programs, setting standards, stuff like that. One of the things that I'm very curious about is we have conservation officers that are given the ability to be police officers. Well in First Nation communities and Métis communities conservation officers are not really welcomed in those communities.

You know, I remember going to a cultural camp a number of years ago, and conservation officers were invited to come and speak and to be guests of those Nations that were conducting their cultural camp. And this is years ago. Many of those Nations were quite irate with the conservation officers infringing on their inherent treaty rights.

And now that they're going to be given police officer authority, many of these conservation officers are now going through deep-freezes to see what's in season and what's not in season and charging First Nation and Métis people. This is huge.

If anybody has ever paid attention, besides the opposition, to the concerns of the people that we serve when it comes to being tough on crime, conservation officers do not have a good reputation in those First Nation and Métis communities because they continue to infringe on our rights. It's shoot and ask questions later.

A number of years ago my husband and I were out fishing in Jans Bay, and we had a mother and her little bear cubs coming into the camp. Conservation officers were dispatched. They shot those bears dead. They didn't stop to just put them down; they shot them dead. And when we're giving those kind of rights, how many Colten Boushie incidents are we going to see in this province, where we'll have conservation officers shooting Indigenous people?

This bill is giving these officers a lot of the same duties that a police officer would have, yet I wonder about the training. And the research. There's going to be coordinating research. Is that . . . And I say this on behalf of First Nations and Métis people that have concerns around their hunting rights. Is this going to be set up to coordinate research so that more Indigenous peoples

will be fined and jailed for practising their hunting rights to feed their families?

All one needs to do is go and speak to the communities. We all saw and witnessed what happened in James Smith. Now this government is going to be spending an additional 20 million when the police are asking for additional resources to do their job. But this government is now going to find \$20 million to do a special police, police force .

I want to go back to conservation officers. I'm reading in here they're now going to be appointed. These conservation officers are going to be appointed as environment officers. Does that mean when there is oil spills that they will be doing the utmost to protect the citizens that are going to be impacted by that?

There needs to be more consultation and talking to those individuals that are tasked to do these protective services. We've heard the head of police saying, hey, there's something wrong here. Yet this government is going to go ahead and push this through. That's not right.

Who is this serving? Is it serving the citizens of this province? Is it serving those folks that need the protection?

[15:45]

We talk about tough on crime. This government talks about being tough on crime, yet on Throne Speech day a convicted wife murderer was allowed to sit in here. And yet Indigenous people don't even feel comfortable entering this building. Yet we're okay having a convicted wife killer sitting in this very House. And this government defends that position. Something's wrong with that. Something is wrong with that.

Twenty million dollars could be used so people, those that are intentionally ignored, do not die from exposure. People that have to rely on food banks, that have two or three jobs to make ends meet, that money can go towards that. Hospitals. Our children are waiting 20 hours to get a bed. So when we think about \$20 million, that's a lot of money. For what? This government's pet projects?

Consultation. We talk a lot about consultation yet it doesn't happen. Maybe a few hand-picked people get asked, what do you think? But do the grassroots people that is going to be impacted by this legislation? They haven't been consulted. Where was the consultation with FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], with the Métis Nation when they have issues around conservation officers pulling people, their members, off in their communities and charging them and confiscating their guns.

It is so disappointing. You know, this government keeps touting itself on the back for all the good work they're doing, yet they're failing in consultation. They're not talking to the people that are most impacted. Instead they're saying, here, you go and do this duty now.

You know, at what point do we start thinking about being accountable to the taxpayers of this province? This is their tax dollars. How many of us actually go and consult our constituents and those that are going to be impacted by these laws that are being created, to say, how is this going to impact you? Because

I'll tell you, when I was doing that duty-to-consult, two years of asking people, two years of going to communities, two years of Zoom meetings, telephone calls — that was consultation. It was exhausting. It wasn't easy.

So when we look at bringing in new legislation, please be accountable to your constituents. And those that don't have cabinet seats, talk to your members. Think about these things that we're presenting and ask yourselves . . . Many, many MLAs here that are MLAs in the rural communities, I ask you, go and ask those First Nation communities, those Métis communities what they think about this. And I'm certain they won't be all saying, right on; what a great job.

If anybody has ever paid attention to the newspaper when it comes — and I talk about the conservation officers — leaders have spoken out against this. And yet we keep doing the same thing over and over again and taking for granted the people that elected us.

I'm not going to say anymore. I think I've had a lot, and a lot for people to think on and give thought to. And I'm sure the critic for this area will have more questions. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 107, *The Provincial Protective Services Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 108

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 108 — *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to enter into adjourned debate with respect to Bill 108, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2022*.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague, the member for Regina Douglas Park, has already noted, the amendments to this bill are very technical in nature, largely technical in nature, and are reflective of federal changes to the *Income Tax Act*. And so I probably am not going to go into any great detail here. I do not consider myself to be an expert on the technicalities of pensions.

But I will say we've noted with these amendments that we see pension investigators being permitted . . . having, you know, widely expanded jurisdiction, being permitted to go anywhere, ask anything, demand any records, require any person to present themselves, and to enter any premises with a warrant, and in some cases without a warrant if there are grounds. We are also seeing with pension courts under this bill that a superintendent has the same power as civil courts to summon and compel witnesses and demand evidence, and further that a superintendent

can also handle penalties for late filing, issue compliance orders or petition the court for compliance orders, and order defendants to pay court costs.

So I will say, you know, at this time early on with the bill, it's going to be important for us to speak with stakeholders about their thoughts on the impacts around this bill. At first glance, the proposed powers for the superintendent do appear to be a bit extreme. So we'll have more to say on this as we hear from more and more folks who will be impacted, Mr. Speaker.

But I do want to also point out, as I did with Bill 94 which also concerned pensions, that when we're looking at making legislative changes to pensions, we need to be also prioritizing how we as legislators can support all Saskatchewan people to have access to pensions that will allow them to have a dignified retirement. We know that there are many Saskatchewan residents who do not have the benefit of an employer pension plan, Mr. Speaker. Only about 230,000 people have access and are enrolled in some form of a registered pension plan as of last year, according to Stats Canada. And so many people in Saskatchewan are increasingly worried about their own retirement, especially during this affordability crisis that we find ourselves in.

Only, you know, fewer and fewer people, I think, are able to really set aside any disposable income for retirement. It's a luxury that does not exist for many people, especially in a province where we see a government here, the Sask Party government, continue to legislate the lowest poverty minimum wages in all of Canada, where we had last year the second-lowest wage growth in all of Canada.

This is especially problematic and it makes it nearly impossible for the Saskatchewan people to save for a retirement so that they don't have to rely on food banks, as we see more and more often in this province. And that is what's happening even before retirement. Working people in this province, we're seeing more and more, are having to resort to feeding themselves and their families through food banks and with very little help whatsoever from this government, Mr. Speaker.

So you know, with that, I think I will say with the specific bill at hand, Mr. Speaker, coming back to this specific bill, again our critic will diligently engage with stakeholders to make sure that the impacts of the bill will be acceptable. And so at this time I will now move that we adjourn debate on Bill 108, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2022*. Thank you.

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 moves to adjourn this House. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:56.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

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

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

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

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

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Health

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

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Energy and Resources

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

Hon. Dana Skoropad
Minister of Environment

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

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Advanced Education