



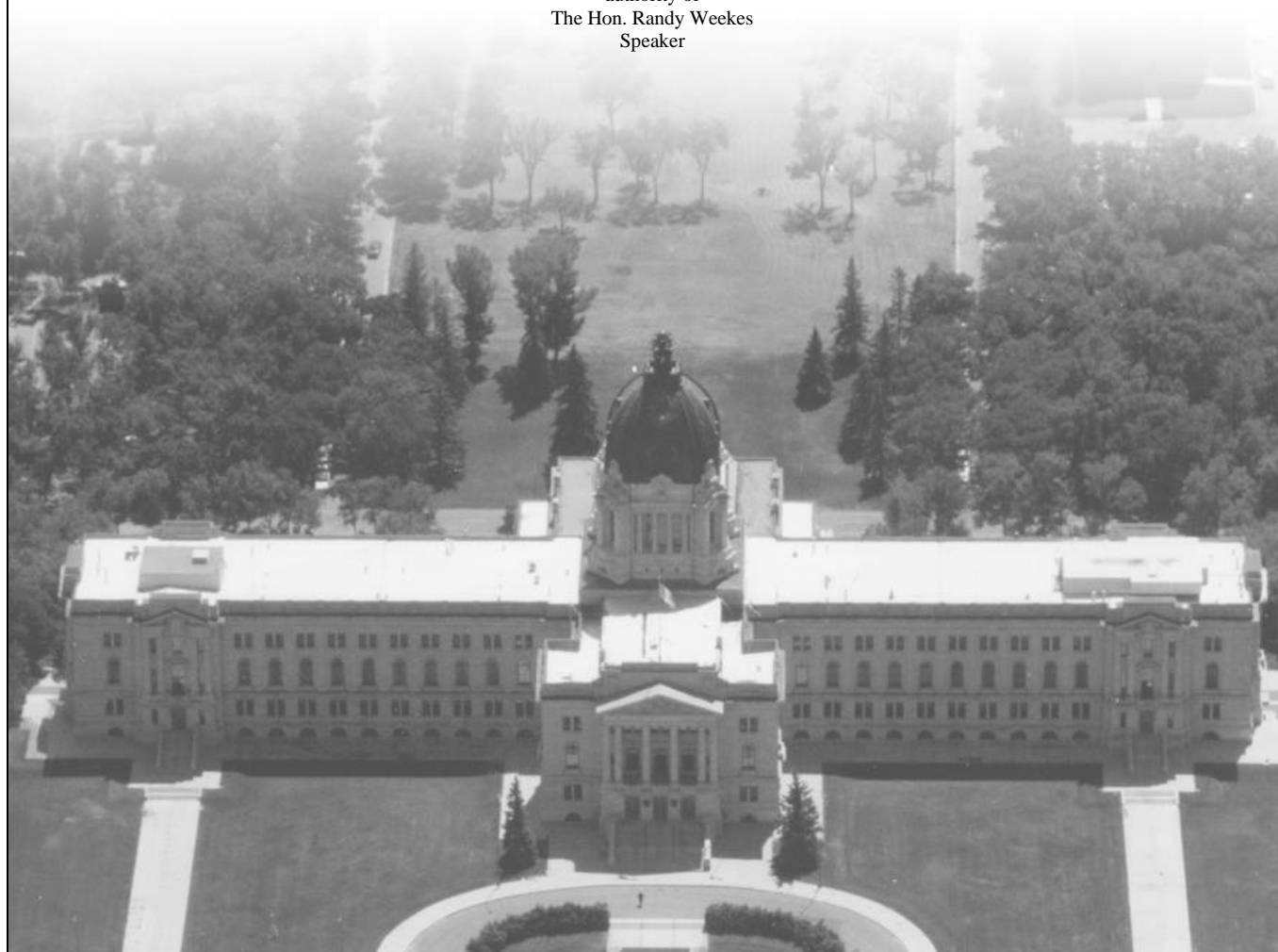
THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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

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

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Clerk Assistant — Robert Park

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce . . . We have 19 grade 10 students from Melville Comprehensive School in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. They're accompanied by teachers Don Coleman and Andy Rondeau who are regular guests to our Legislative Assembly. And I will be sharing a member statement about some great things happening with Melville Comprehensive School a little later. So I'd like all members to welcome Melville Comprehensive School to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce, in your gallery — the west gallery; I apologize — some very committed people from FIRST [family intervention rapid support team] community-based organizations.

Mr. Speaker, FIRST, which stands for family intervention rapid support teams, aims to bring services to people and their families. Outreach workers take direct referrals from municipal police, RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], social services, health, and education. And they support families where there are risk factors for violence by intervening early with an intensive outreach approach.

Mr. Speaker, in '21-22, community safety and well-being, through the Ministry of Justice, provided West Central Crisis & Family Support Centre \$128,000 to deliver FIRST in the town of Kindersley and surrounding area as part of \$1 million in overall funding to FIRST since it started, Mr. Speaker.

The 2020-21 budget also expanded FIRST in three additional regions: Moose Jaw, Nipawin, and Weyburn-Estevan-Carlyle. Executive director, Mr. Speaker, Lynda Rideout is here — please give a wave — Laura Melle, executive director; Jolene Roberts and Renee Borhot, both FIRST counsellors from Envision Counselling and Support Centre in Estevan, Weyburn, Carlyle, and Oxbow.

Michelle Weber is here, Mr. Speaker, executive director at West

Central Crisis & Family Support in Kindersley and area; Ruth Howes, assistant executive director; Ashley Schwanke, manager; Becky Pickering and Chelsea Wandler, both FIRST intervention advocates from North East Outreach and Support Services in Nipawin and area; and as well, Linden Wilkins, assistant director; Roseanne Tkachuk, community program manager from community safety and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to meeting with everyone later today, along with the Minister of Corrections and Policing, Minister of Social Services, and the Minister of the Status of Women to discuss the very important, meaningful work these fine folks are doing. Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in welcoming our guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming all of these individuals involved in FIRST — staff, executive directors, community leaders — to their legislative gallery. As we all know, early intervention and intensive intervention within the community is so important. We thank them so much for their hard work and their service, and again I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I am pleased to introduce to you and through you, to all members of the Legislative Assembly, seated in the west gallery we have 19 students between the grades of 3 and grade 9, Mr. Speaker, that are part of the southeast Saskatchewan home-schooling families, Mr. Speaker. They are here to tour the legislature. I'll have an opportunity to meet with them after question period. I'm looking forward to that, Mr. Speaker, and so I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming these 19 students to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you, I would like to talk about . . . We have four people here from the great town of Tisdale. We have Reeve Ian Allan; Councillor Darren Ukrainetz; Chris Hudyma, the economic officer; and Rhonda Ekstrom from C-Merak.

Mr. Speaker, C-Merak is working on getting some stuff done in Tisdale, and Tisdale and the town of Tisdale are working on getting a commercial unit set up there. And they're going to be meeting with the Minister of Government Relations after question period today, Mr. Speaker. And I want everybody to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan].

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce two people that are seated in your gallery. One of them is Shawn Moen, who is one of the co-founders and CEO [chief

executive officer] of Saskatoon's 9 Mile Legacy Brewing. Shawn has left, sadly, the profession of law and has gone into the brewing business. Mr. Speaker, I don't have much I can say about that.

He is joined today by Jason Aebig, who is president and CEO of Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. Jason is actually one of my neighbours, and we've done work together to try to get more trees on the berm behind our respective homes. But great citizens, and would ask all members welcome them to their legislature today.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to join with the minister opposite and welcome Jason and Shawn to this, their Assembly. Genuinely truly, truly great to see their faces. Jason I've gotten to know a little bit in the past couple of years, and Shawn as well.

And you know, Jason, I'd just like to thank you for all the great work that you do for your community as well as for the entire province of Saskatchewan representing, you know, the entrepreneurial spirit and know-how that all of us in this Assembly appreciate is a true part of our province's great history and future.

And Shawn, you're somebody who I am very personally really glad to know and to have gotten to know over the past two years. You are one of the bright lights in this province, not just for your background in law, but certainly . . . you're present with 9 Mile — a quick, hurried discussion on this side has proved a golden ticket as the favoured beverage of those folks from our Saskatoon caucus — as well as your work in agriculture and your recent trip down to Australia with a couple toddlers in tow, which is a truly remarkable feat.

On behalf of the opposition, it's truly fantastic to have you here today, and I'm so pleased to be able to join in welcoming you.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also join in welcoming Shawn from 9 Mile to your legislature here. I've had the opportunity to tour the expanded facility at 9 Mile in my constituency. So it's always wonderful when we have businesses from Saskatoon Centre come to the House. And I just want to say welcome, gichi-miigwech for showing up here, and welcome to your legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I just want to present this following petition. The folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention: the traplines in the North are disappearing; users of these lands are not being consulted by industry and this government; the Sask Party government has been over-allocating timber rights; this government has been auctioning off Crown land and leases to the highest bidder — we

only have 10 per cent of Crown land left; this government is continuing to breach the constitutionally protected treaties; treaty rights holders are being restricted access to their traditional hunting, fishing, trapping, and medicine-picking territories; taxpayers in this province are footing the bills for this government's mistakes and losses in courts.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately stop the sell-off of Crown land, and work with the First Nation and Métis communities to develop a new duty-to-consult framework.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Regina and Punnichy. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring your attention to the following: the Liberal-NDP [New Democratic Party] federal government continues to infringe on the rights of law-abiding Saskatchewan firearm owners, including hunters, trappers, sport shooters, and others by introducing the amendment to Bill C-21; the new amendment to Bill C-21 represents an act of bad faith by the federal government banning certain legal acquired firearms; the amendments to Bill 21 will not impede the criminal activities or the firearms smuggled nor the acquisition of illegal firearms by the criminal element; and that the Chief Firearms Officer of Saskatchewan estimates the amendment will instantly criminalize approximately 75,000 law-abiding Saskatchewan residents.

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 explore all options to protect the rights of law-abiding firearm owners and denounce amendments to Bill C-21.

The below undersigned are residents of Carlyle, Torquay, and Alameda. Thank you.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to petition the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to immediately recruit and retain family doctors in Martensville and Warman. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that together the cities of Warman and Martensville are home to roughly 25,000 people; that cities of similar population size have nearly doubled the amount of family doctors, and at least one publicly funded health care centre which both Warman and Martensville are still without regardless of their population; and that Martensville and Warman are considered excluded communities for all return-of-service agreements.

Seven months ago a large delegation from Martensville and Warman joined us in the Assembly to express their concerns. Today Warman continues to make the news for all the wrong

reasons, Mr. Speaker. The city is losing another family doctor. Doctors are struggling to provide care and this government needs to work with current providers to develop a plan to provide access to primary care as soon as possible.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately recruit and retain family doctors in Martensville and Warman, and immediately remove the two communities from the list of excluded communities for all return-of-service agreements.

This is signed by individuals from Regina today, Mr. Speaker. I do 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 a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. Those who signed the petition would like to bring to our attention the recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's rural health care facilities. Many have experienced shutdowns over the last couple years, limiting access to emergency room care, acute care, lab services, and X-ray services.

Mr. Speaker, the ongoing pandemic has created burnout and led to early retirements for many health care professionals. When I meet with health care workers I hear about this burnout, and they're feeling unsupported and often disrespected by this government that puts far too much weight on their shoulders to carry our province through without quality leadership coming from the other side, Mr. Speaker. Health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan communities and local economies, and they need to be treated so.

[13:45]

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.

This petition is again signed by folks from Wilkie. I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I arise today again to present our petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to stop the closure of public liquor stores. Thus the undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: that the recent decision to shutter the 34 remaining public liquor stores across Saskatchewan will see a job loss of up to 300 or 400 good-paying, stable, unionized jobs; that public liquor stores have remained profitable and self-sufficient while providing

good-paying, stable employment for 350 Saskatchewan residents despite the competition of private, for-profit liquor stores; that hundreds of thousands of generated revenue by public liquor stores helps fund crucial public services such as health care, education, and highways.

Mr. Speaker, in short, closing public liquor stores is a bad idea. It's bad for jobs, bad for competition, bad for affordability, and losing good, mortgage-paying jobs during a generational affordability crisis is a terrible jobs plan. These petitions show that there are little support for this plan among Saskatchewan people, and they want to know where the government will backfill this revenue.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately reverse the decision to close the remaining 34 public liquor stores.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories today reside in Preeceville, Canora, and Lanigan. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland.

Remembering Doreen Hamilton and Joceline Prefontaine Schriemer

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in remembrance of former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Joceline Schriemer, née Prefontaine, and Doreen Hamilton.

Doreen was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in Saskatchewan in 1991 and served until 2000, holding several ministerial roles in her time. I didn't know Doreen personally, but I thank her for her work in this Assembly as well as her service to the province.

Mr. Speaker, I did know Joceline Prefontaine, as she served in my former constituency of Saskatoon Sutherland, helping the Saskatchewan Party form government in 2007, serving until 2011 in the constituency of Saskatoon Sutherland.

Joceline was born in Regina and grew up in Montmartre, Saskatchewan. Her life was dedicated to helping people. In health care she worked as an EMS [emergency medical services] in Prince Albert until 1983, then located to her forever home in Saskatoon, continuing to work as an EMS. She was a groundbreaker as well, as she became the first female firefighter for the Saskatoon airport and achieved her dream career as one of the first 10 female police officers in the city of Saskatoon.

I thank Joceline for all her work and dedication to the province of Saskatchewan in her role as police officer, EMS, firefighter, and politician, as well as being an advisor and a friend. She is remembered by her husband Gary; her children Elise and Jarrod; her stepchildren Amanda, Luke, Matthew; and her many grandchildren.

I ask all members to join me in remembering Joceline Prefontaine and Doreen Hamilton. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Indigenous Studies Student Recognized for Performance Art

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share exciting news of Cheyenna Sapp, a fourth-year Indigenous studies and wicêhtowin theatre program student at the University of Saskatchewan.

She was cast in the CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] comedy *Acting Good*, a groundbreaking Indigenous sitcom which debuted this fall. Cheyenna plays the main character's girlfriend named Rose.

Cheyenna is originally from Little Pine First Nation and started stand-up comedy in 2019, where she found her love for performance art. She spent this past spring and summer filming *Acting Good* and resumed her full-time studies at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] this fall. Cheyenna told *Eagle Feather News*, "I believe in Indigenous representation in TV that's authentic. That's one of the things I'm working towards."

Currently Cheyenna is starring in the play *Sir John A* by Drew Hayden Taylor at the Greystone Theatre at the U of S. It will be the first all-Indigenous female cast at the Greystone Theatre. I had a chance to see the show this past weekend and I must say, Mr. Speaker, it did not disappoint. It's inspiring to see a bright, young Indigenous woman from the Little Pine First Nation reach such success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all in this Chamber to join me in congratulating Cheyenna on her wonderful successes, and hope you all tune in to watch her shine. Thank you.

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

Melville Students Bring Awareness to Dangers of Driving Impaired

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Melville Comprehensive School SADD [Students Against Drinking and Driving] chapter led by teacher Sharon Roach, was awarded the Nicole Nakonechny Memorial Award and the Evans Twins Memorial Grant during the 35th annual provincial SADD conference held in Saskatoon this October.

The Melville SADD group is made up of approximately 20 student leaders dedicated to stopping impaired driving through education and innovative messaging. The Nicole Nakonechny Memorial Award is presented to the most active SADD chapter in the province and comes with a \$1,000 prize.

The award established in 1989, honours Nicole, a Meath Park high school student. Nicole is one of six students who started SADD at Meath Park high school in 1987. She designed the chapter logo that SADD Saskatchewan later adopted as their provincial logo. Tragically, an automobile accident, not

involving alcohol, took Nicole's life in late 1987. To qualify for the award, the Melville SADD chapter compiled a scrapbook documenting the many activities through the '21-22 school year.

The Evans Twins Memorial Grant is presented annually to five SADD chapters in honour of Jenilee and Jillian Evans, who at 21 were tragically killed in a collision involving impaired driving in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, we must all do our part to keep Saskatchewan roads safer for our families, friends, and community members. From all members of this Assembly, thank you Melville students. And stay safe out there. Thank you.

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

Government's Economic Record

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government has no interest in defending their own record because, simply put, they're failing regular Saskatchewan people.

So let's look at the numbers that matter most to regular people in this province. Over the last five years, Saskatchewan was the slowest growing province west of Labrador at 3.1 per cent. And that's census data, Mr. Speaker. Since 2017, Saskatchewan has had 10,000 fewer young people. And that's from this government's own bureau of statistics. In that five-year period between censuses, Canadian household income increased over 10 per cent, or \$8,000. But here, zero per cent. Not a penny more.

Now it's no wonder that every other province has created more full-time jobs in the last month where we were in last place, or last year where we were in ninth, and the last decade where we also sit in ninth. And it's no wonder that since that Premier took office, we have had the highest rate of mortgage arrears in Canada for 20 consecutive quarters. And it's no wonder that we have had the largest increase in people relying on charity to put food on the table, a 37 per cent increase year over year.

Manufacturing, exports, industry investment — truly great news, Mr. Speaker, but they don't tell the whole story, and it's not trickling down to regular families. People are increasingly jaded by a government that refuses to care about them instead of their own spin.

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

Saskatchewan Population and Job Growth

Mr. Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan continues to set population and job growth records. Stats Canada job numbers show that Saskatchewan is one of the national leaders in economic development: 11,800 jobs added in November, a 2.1 per cent increase in 2021; 464,900 new full-time jobs; 271,000 women working; 61,300 Indigenous people working off-reserve. Mr. Speaker, the off-reserve Indigenous unemployment rate decreased to 6.6 per cent, an all-time low. The provincial unemployment rate decreased further to 4.2 per cent. And, Mr. Speaker, to top it all off, this job growth, it's

population growth. Saskatchewan officially hit 1.2 million people, something that the opposition, university professors, and others said would be impossible.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this government is used to beating expectations. We're expected to lead the nation for the next two years in economic performance. With *The Saskatchewan First Act* receiving unanimous support in this House at second reading, we'll be able to continue that success well into the future.

While the rest of Canada struggles from slow economic growth thanks to the federal government's anti-energy policies and rampant spending, our province will continue to be leaders in job growth and prosperity. This government is putting Saskatchewan first, and with the lowest unemployment rate in the nation that's growth that works for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

New Company Offers Plant-Based Protein Alternative

Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. This October I had the opportunity to attend the grand opening of C-Merak, located in Tisdale. C-Merak is committed to introducing locally grown, protein-rich ingredients as fuel for a healthier future.

Their journey began with faba beans and has expanded to include exploring unique protein formulas and plant-based alternatives from regional crops and pulses. Their unique dry-mill process has no chemical additives or waste and operates with a low carbon footprint.

C-Merak currently produces protein concentrate, high-protein flour, all-natural starch, dietary fibre, oat flour, oat flakes, and oat groats. C-Merak will play a role in strengthening the rural community today and into the future. They have 92 full-time employees working with an economist. And using available federal and provincial statistics, they plan to create an annual economic impact of \$106 million. That's a significant financial impact on the Carrot River Valley constituency and Saskatchewan. More than that, it's growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Brett Casavant for his innovation in this sector. I'd like to also ask all members to welcome C-Merak's innovation and wish them success in all of their endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Association of Conservation Officers Responds to Member's Comments

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I brought the House's attention to statements made by the member from Saskatoon Centre regarding our conservation officers. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read from a letter I received from the Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers. It says:

The Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers would like to thank you for responding to the disrespectful

allegations made by the MLA for Saskatoon Centre during the Legislative Assembly on November 29th, 2022. Saskatchewan conservation officers pride themselves in conducting their role in a respectful and professional manner throughout the many challenging situations officers are faced with daily. The remarks made by the MLA for Saskatoon Centre were troubling and do not represent the positive relationships Saskatchewan conservation officers have established and maintained for decades with the many stakeholders of this province.

Mr. Speaker, this was in response to the member for Saskatoon Centre's appalling and unfounded accusations that conservation officers around the province are shooting Indigenous people.

Will this member apologize and withdraw these statements? And if not, will the Leader of the Opposition take responsibility, show some leadership, and apologize on her behalf? Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Affordability and the Provincial Economy

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the highest rate of mortgage arrears in the country, four times the national average, which means that in the dead of winter more Saskatchewan families on the brink of losing their homes. When asked about this, that out-of-touch Finance minister talked about the '90s. Mr. Speaker, talking about decades past after 15 years in government. Talking about the '90s when people are struggling today.

Maybe the Premier can do better. Does he honestly think that having the highest rate of folks behind on their bills is growth that works for everyone?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would say that we got some more excellent economic news here on Friday through the jobs report. Twelve thousand more people are working in this province than a year ago. We know that wholesale trade is up nearly 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker, over the course of the last year. Manufacturing sales up nearly 24 per cent.

And perhaps most significant, population growth that we have not seen in this province since the 1930s. The population going over, on the weekend, 1.2 million people, something I think that everybody in this province can be very, very proud of. And, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to that population growth continuing as we move forward despite the challenges that we're seeing from federal economic policy.

[14:00]

We in this province are going to continue to work with our stakeholders, with those who create jobs, with those who are building the economy, to make sure that that growth that works for everyone continues.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, that minister can stand up and gleefully deliver those lines, but the reality is that Saskatchewan people are defaulting on their mortgages at four times the national average. And I wonder what he has to say to them.

If people were doing okay in this province, Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't have the biggest spike in food bank use in the country, we wouldn't have people freezing in the streets while 3,000 housing units sit vacant, and we wouldn't be leading the nation when it comes to the rate of people at risk of losing their homes. Why is the Premier continuing to make life more expensive while people are struggling just to get by?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, we don't deny that people are under inflationary pressures here in Saskatchewan, as well as across the nation and globally. There is a global inflation happening. But as such, we have in this budget, and in previous budgets, \$2.2 billion of affordability measures that are in each and every budget, Mr. Speaker.

As well, we have the lowest PST [provincial sales tax] of all the provinces that have a PST. We have among the lowest personal income tax. We have reduced significantly the education property tax. We have among the highest low-income tax credit. We have the highest seniors' income plan, Mr. Speaker, and we have the highest disability tax credit and the caregiver tax credit. All of that is what we have done since the NDP were government, when all of those levels were more expensive, Mr. Speaker. We have also introduced an affordability tax credit of \$500.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, things may be tough across the country, but here in Saskatchewan people are facing the biggest pressures because of decisions made by that government and that Finance minister. Now these worst-in-the-nation statistics are more than just numbers. When people are squeezed on all sides, when they can't pay their mortgages, it has real-life consequences for people today.

We're joined today, Mr. Speaker, by Jenn Fuller. After finally finding an affordable home here in Regina, her landlord defaulted on her mortgage. Like so many others, her landlord fell behind, and Jenn and her partner paid the price. Now she was lucky to find another home, but she realizes that too many people across this province are not so fortunate.

And I want to know, Mr. Speaker, does the Premier understand that we are in a housing crisis, and what is his plan to fix it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Yet again, I will continue my previous answer on the affordability in Saskatchewan. And it's actually in the budget document where we are most affordable, or second, in the nation if you look at comparators of utilities and taxes across the entire country. We have among the lowest utility bundle — which that leader has recognized, Mr. Speaker — as well as the lowest taxes.

That included in the decision that we made because we do have increased revenues from resource revenues and taxation . . . of the \$500 affordability tax credit, Mr. Speaker. We are taking action. We are taking measures to address affordability. We cannot unfortunately address all of inflationary pressures, and nor can any country or province.

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

Housing Supports

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, from top to bottom this government is failing to house people, from a SIS [Saskatchewan income support] program that sentences people to ongoing poverty, to social housing clients living amongst rats and mice while thousands of units sit empty across the province, to landlords who can't pay their bills and force young couples like Jenn Fuller, who is just getting a start on life, out of their homes.

Why does this government treat the need to have a home as an afterthought? When will we see a comprehensive provincial housing strategy from this government?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, in our 15 years in government we have several programs that we have worked with the private sector, as well as with third-party CBOs [community-based organization]. I can think of, just recently being in the news, Saskatoon Tribal Council, RT/SIS [Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services Inc.], Sanctum, Egadz, all and on down the list, Mr. Speaker. We've partnered with those third-party entities to be able to provide housing to people in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

We've also worked with the private sector. We've partnered with the private sector to be able to repair 5,800 homes, Mr. Speaker, invested 800 million to develop 18,000 housing units, many of which are affordable. We have an agreement with the federal government to be able, over the next 10 years, to be able to have \$585 million go towards that bilateral agreement. We'll continue to work with all levels of government, third-party providers, Mr. Speaker, to increase the amount of stock available here in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, Jenn is a business student grad who works for a living here in Regina. The point is these issues are not just impacting low-income people; these are issues being felt by people across the board due to this government's lack of a plan.

This government loves to talk about population growth — despite we have the slowest growing province west of Labrador — but they have no plan to actually have a roof over their heads, Mr. Speaker. In the next eight years, Saskatchewan will need 100,000 more homes, and still no housing plan from this government to get there, Mr. Speaker.

City mayors are calling for a review of their failed social

programs. Landlords are sounding the alarm on spikes in evictions heading into winter. Housing is the key indicator of a strong economy, Mr. Speaker, and on this the government is failing.

Again will the minister get to the drawing board and create a comprehensive housing strategy today?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, a measure of the affordability out there is the number of units that we've increased here in the province of Saskatchewan. You don't have to ask me; the Leader of the Opposition recently expressed her praise for this government's record on the economy. On September 13th in SaskToday she said:

I think we have one hell of a story to tell in this province about the quality of life, about the opportunity that's here. We need to be telling this story. In an affordability crisis, we have some of the best rates as a province, the most affordable housing in the country.

Mr. Speaker, so that's work that's been ongoing for the last 15 years, on the private side but also agreements with our municipal partners and federal partners to deliver these types of programs.

The rental development program, we've partnered with the private sector to help with the initial cost of a . . . on the capital of a building, Mr. Speaker. Several different homeowner programs, the social housing rental program. If there's another question, I'll get to the rest of the list.

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

Food Pricing and Management of the Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Pretty clear there that that government's drinking their own bathwater, Mr. Speaker. Completely out of touch with the reality Saskatchewan people are facing.

Families are struggling to pay their bills, and they're paying more for everything in the grocery store. The latest *Canada's Food Price Report* for 2023 forecasts that families will be paying more than \$1,000 more next year, Mr. Speaker. That's on top of the higher taxes, the higher fees, the higher power bills, the higher energy bills brought to you by that Sask Party government next year. And that's on top of the more than \$1,000 that each and every family is paying every year because of the PST that they hiked just a few years ago, doubling the take.

Where are families supposed to find an extra thousand bucks next year to pay for the price of food?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have to address something in the preamble to that member's question, one of the previous questions — the NDP approach on housing. The member opposite says there's going to be the need for 100,000 additional housing units. I can tell you,

Mr. Speaker, that was an issue that never existed under the NDP. And why did that issue never exist, the need for more housing? Because they chased everybody out of here. Their approach? Chase everybody out; keep population under a million people. Then you never have to actually worry about any of the challenges associated with growth.

We do not deny there are associated challenges with growth. Those are good challenges to have though, Mr. Speaker, and those are challenges we look forward to addressing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, he didn't even touch the question about groceries. Mr. Speaker, out of touch over there. The cost of everything is going up, and this tired, out-of-touch Sask Party government's making all those pressures so much worse. That's why we've called on them to scrap their nonsensical tax hikes and utility fee hikes. And that's why we called for a food price investigation, one that would look into supply chains, and anticompetitive practices that are driving up prices in the grocery aisles. That investigation was blocked by that Sask Party government.

With families set to pay more than \$1,000 more next year on groceries, Mr. Speaker, why doesn't that Sask Party government want to get a fair deal for producers and for families in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite complains that we're not answering the question. Well his questions have got so much preamble, so much bluff, so much bluster, you can say anything and you're answering his question, Mr. Speaker. Because there often is no question; it's just a general rant.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite and their predecessors used to say that it would be impossible for our province to reach a million people. Well, Mr. Speaker, on the weekend I watched when it rolled over 1.2 million . . . dollars. And I'd like to hear the members opposite stand up and say oh, that's bluff and bluster as well.

Mr. Speaker, these are people that have no credibility when it comes to affordability, no credibility whatsoever when it comes to dealing with the carbon tax. Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite wants to talk more about it, I've got a lot of things to say about what utilities cost and what their members opposite have to say about utilities and about costs in this province. Because, Mr. Speaker, the members on this side of the House are going to continue to work for the citizens in this province.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, of course it's not just us that are calling for a food and meat pricing investigation in Saskatchewan. Last week former Premier Brad Wall said this

about an investigation:

I think you'll see provincial governments, especially in the West, line up in favour of having a look at this.

Something in the system ain't working. If you're paying what you're paying for a pound of ground beef at Sobeys and the ranch gate's not seeing much of it, why is that?

And when asked specifically about our call for a provincial investigation:

I don't think anything should be ruled out.

More talking about it can't hurt.

On this front that government hasn't listened to the stock growers. They haven't listened to us. But why won't they listen to former Premier Brad Wall?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — You know what? I was waiting for them to finally recognize the merit and the wisdom of the former premier, Brad Wall. The former premier, Brad Wall, had this to say years ago before there was a carbon tax. He said:

A carbon tax will be detrimental to the economy. It will be detrimental to the citizens of Saskatchewan because it will mean that absolutely everything will cost more.

Mr. Speaker, a carbon tax that those members opposite have supported . . . They will not stand up for Saskatchewan. They had a leader just a few months ago who said that there should be a price on carbon.

It was former Premier Brad Wall who said that this is what was going to happen. Food was going to go up. The cost of everything, fuel was going to go up, was going to go up. So if they think that we should listen to former Premier Brad Wall, this side of the House did and still will.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, as we've been clear, an investigation into meat pricing and grocery pricing would include a review of the carbon price within it as well. But what that government won't do is dig into the hard work to deliver for producers and for consumers in Saskatchewan.

The question back . . . Well I'll send it over to the Ag minister, who's been selling out producers day in, day out by failing to . . .

The Speaker: — Member, withdraw and apologize. That's . . .

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I withdraw and apologize for that comment.

The Speaker: — Yes.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Yes, I withdraw and apologize for that comment.

[14:15]

Why won't that Agriculture minister do the right thing, finally listen to the stock growers, listen to this call, and finally listen to the call now from Premier Brad Wall?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Well first and foremost, Mr. Speaker, let's say this: the NDP have no credibility in the ag sector in this province at all. They have no respect within the agriculture community that . . . give no respect.

He asked what we've done for the producers of this province. Let me give a few just items that we have done for the livestock producers here in this province, Mr. Speaker: multi-peril forage insurance program, 46.8 million in indemnity since 2007; forage rainfall insurance, over \$113 million since 2007; corn heat unit program since 2007, over \$459,000; the farm and ranch water infrastructure program, over \$103 million since 2007 to producers in this province; the AgriRecovery, \$119 million to the livestock producers in 2021, Mr. Speaker.

You want to talk what we've done for the farmers and ranchers of this province? I've got a long list, Mr. Speaker. I've got a long list of what they haven't done for them as well, Mr. Speaker.

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

Utility Rates and Crown Corporations

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if it's the bathwater or the desperation, but you can smell it in here today. Because these members opposite won't come close to touching the question of affordability. And, Mr. Speaker, in politics the perennial question is, are you doing better than you were a year ago? Is your life more or less expensive? And for people in this province, the answer is no.

We have this government doing everything they can to make life more expensive, hiking power rates by 8 per cent during a generational affordability crisis, Mr. Speaker. It's backdoor taxation. It's making life more affordable. So to the hon. minister, you know, champion of the common man: why won't you scrap the rate hikes that are making life this much more affordable for Saskatchewan people?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to start off by commending the member opposite for at least being focused enough that we could figure out who might take the question, which is something that's been a challenge on this side of the House because of the spraying method of some of the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, the people opposite have absolutely no credibility when it comes to affordability — none whatsoever — as long as they are standing with their federal cousin, Jagmeet, and . . . [inaudible] . . . who plan to triple the carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about affordability the members opposite want to quote Brad Wall, and good for them for doing it. They should read a lot of the speeches that Brad Wall made in the House. He had a lot to say.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote somebody a little bit more recent than Brad Wall. The current member of the opposition, the current Leader of the Opposition, as recently as September 13th of this year, had this to say: "In an affordability crisis, we have some of the best rates as a province." Mr. Speaker, we agree with that member opposite on that.

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

Ms. A. Young: — You know, Mr. Speaker, working families, small businesses, farms, they know the impact of these rate hikes even if the member opposite doesn't. But people in Saskatchewan also know how this government likes to treat our Crown corporations. And, Mr. Speaker, our Crown corporation SaskPower could be used and should be used to make life more affordable and decrease our emissions.

Mr. Speaker, these Crowns are remarkable assets, but we know that the Sask Party government has tried to sell them off before. We know the play; Saskatchewan people do too. Mismanage them into disaster and sell them off.

So, Mr. Speaker, a simple, direct question to that minister: will the minister commit today that SaskPower will remain a publicly owned, publicly administered Crown corporation into the future?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we have a Crown protection Act in place. We value the work that's done by the workers in the Crown corporations. The members opposite may not value those people; they may not respect them, but these are some of the hardest-working people in the province.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to affordability, the members opposite should look at a few things. Mr. Speaker, as a province we have the second-lowest cost utility bundle in the country, the lowest auto insurance rates, the lowest natural gas rates. For the total utility bundle the average Saskatchewan family pays \$1,200 less than a family in NDP British Columbia; \$4,600 less than a family in Alberta, which includes \$450 less in natural gas, \$400 less in electricity per year; and \$7,500 less than a family in Ontario. Mr. Speaker, if they want to ask more questions, I've got more information for them.

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

Oversight of Qualified Independent Schools

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I asked the minister about the dangerous lack of oversight in qualified independent schools. He went on and on about changes in 2012, but he totally dodged the questions about what's in those regulations today.

The government's own website still says, and I quote, "Churches, denominations, and religious societies can operate schools not always in complete accordance with public education practices." So, Mr. Speaker, I'll ask again, what is the benefit of schools that are not in accordance with public education practices?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly there are a number of categories, including registered independent schools. Those are not qualified independent schools. Those are largely made up of Mennonite and Hutterian colonies, Mr. Speaker, that choose an education for their children.

In terms of qualified independent schools, we did make changes in 2012 that brought a number of those schools that were registered into a qualified status, Mr. Speaker, that did provide funding, but in exchange for that funding did provide for additional oversight. We've increased that oversight and we are currently working with these qualified independent schools to see what more could be done in terms of increasing the amount of regulations and supervision, Mr. Speaker.

As well the child advocate is also looking at schools in the province, Mr. Speaker, and we await the work of her office.

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

Support for Second-Stage Shelters and Prevention of Interpersonal Violence

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, last week, like I asked so many times before, I asked the Minister of Justice if her government would provide operational funding for second-stage shelters. Instead of committing to those dollars, she gave a very cryptic response last week: "watch this space."

Mr. Speaker, enough with the games. Enough with politics. The lives of vulnerable women are at risk. Second-stage shelters don't need cryptic responses. They need answers. And they need funding, operational dollars funding. Will the government finally step up and provide operational funding for second-stage shelters? Yes or no?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I introduced some very committed people from FIRST, family intervention rapid support teams, who support families where there are risk factors for violence by intervening early with an intensive outreach approach. One million dollars in total investment in FIRST by this government. Four centres in Kindersley, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, and Weyburn-Estevan-Carlyle, Mr. Speaker. Part of the \$25 million in investment that we have spent this year on personal violence prevention and intervention. Mr. Speaker, those services go hand in hand, that emergency prevention side of things with second-stage funding. And we are looking at all options in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, the Women's Shelters Canada report recently

identified that across Canada, affordable housing is hard to find 85 per cent of the time. In Saskatchewan it's as low as 8 per cent. We have to build on that, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 122 — *The Saskatchewan Revenue Agency Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 122, *The Saskatchewan Revenue Agency Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 122 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 123 — *The Election Amendment Act, 2022*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 123, *The Election Amendment Act, 2022* be introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 123 be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 124 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 124, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2022* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 124 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on House Services.

Standing Committee on House Services

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I have been instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to present its 10th report, which summarizes the committee's consideration of supplementary estimates no. 1. I move that the 10th report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Deputy Chair that the 10th report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on House Services.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to present its 11th report. The report outlines proposed revisions to rule 12 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. I move that the 11th report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Deputy Chair that the 11th report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the

motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a motion to move for implementation of the recommendation contained in the Standing Committee on House Services 11th report.

I move:

That the proposed revisions to rule 12 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* as presented by this report be adopted and brought into force effective December 5th, 2022, and further,

That upon adoption of this motion, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall ensure the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* are revised as printed and republished in English and French.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That the proposed revisions to rule 12 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* as presented by this report be adopted and brought into force effective December 5th, 2022, and further,

That upon the adoption of this motion, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall ensure the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* as revised are printed and republished in English and French.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The King's Printer Act*. This Act will repeal and replace *The Queen's Printer's Act* in light of the succession of King Charles III to the throne.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues are very excited by this content in this speech. Mr. Speaker, the substantive content of *The Queen's Printer's Act* remains the same in *The King's Printer Act* with one exception. The requirement for the Clerk of this Assembly to provide the King's Printer with a manuscript following the close of session has been removed as it is no longer deemed necessary.

Mr. Speaker, the only other changes to the Act are housekeeping in nature and include removing repealed provisions, removing a reference to a historical coming-into-force date, and phrasing changes to improve readability.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The King's Printer Act*.

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

[14:30]

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to weigh in and provide initial comments on this Bill 112, *The King's Printer Act*. The member opposite's excitement was palpable. I believe she's the only member in this House I've ever heard refer to the plotline of *The Crown*.

I understand that this is just a housekeeping bill, and obviously a change to recognize the succession of King Charles III after Queen Elizabeth II's reign of 70 years. Quite an amazing thing, Mr. Speaker.

So with that I'm pleased to adjourn debate on Bill 112, *The King's Printer Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 rise today to move second reading of *The King's Printer Consequential Amendments Act, 2022*. This is a companion bill to *The King's Printer Act* that will make housekeeping amendments to bilingual statutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The King's Printer Consequential Amendments Act, 2022*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 113 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill 113, a companion bill to the previously referenced bill, which of course is a housekeeping bill and one

that has been introduced to ensure that . . . to recognize the succession of King Charles III to the throne, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, it's a pleasure to move to adjourn debate on Bill 113.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The King's Bench Act*. This Act will repeal and replace *The Queen's Bench Act, 1998* in light of the succession of King Charles III to the throne.

Mr. Speaker, the substantive content of *The Queen's Bench Act, 1998* remains the same under *The King's Bench Act*. The Act will continue to set out the jurisdiction and composition of the court, as well as provide authority for the court to make its own procedures.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to changing references from "Queen" to "King," this bill will make housekeeping updates which include an updated numbering scheme, the removal of repealed provisions, and modernized language to improve readability of certain provisions. The bill will also make consequential amendments to bilingual statutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The King's Bench Act*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill 114 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to provide additional comments on behalf of the official opposition on Bill 114, *The King's Bench Act*.

Of course this is an Act that will replace the repealed Queen's Bench Act. I understand there are no substantive changes to the bill other than that, Mr. Speaker. I for one am struggling to get used to saying the King's court rather than Queen's court, Mr. Speaker, but I know it will just take time.

With that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill 114.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate.

Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The King's Counsel Act*. The bill will repeal and replace *The Queen's Counsel Act* in light of the succession of King Charles III to the throne. The substantive content of *The Queen's Counsel Act* remains the same.

Under *The King's Counsel Act*, the Act will continue to authorize the appointment of members of the Saskatchewan Bar to be named His Majesty's counsel learned in the law for the province of Saskatchewan. The Act also sets out rules for the revocation of an appointment as well as the precedence of officials in the court.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to changing references from "Queen" to "King" the bill will also make housekeeping updates which include phrasing changes to improve readability and consistency.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The King's Counsel Act*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 115 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 enter into debate on Bill 115, *The King's Counsel Act* on second reading. I understand that this bill, again similar to the previous bills being debated here today, involve no substantive changes but rather are just being updated to recognize the succession of King Charles III to the throne.

I also understand that individuals who have previously been bestowed the honour of Q.C. [Queen's Counsel] will now be referred to as K.C. [King's Counsel], another change we'll all have to get used to. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't quite have the same ring to it, but obviously these updates are important and uncontroversial on this side.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill 115.

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. 116 — *The Plant Health Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will move second reading of *The Plant Health Act*. The current pest control Act is outdated. The Act was drafted in the 1950s and has not received a full review since 1978. The proposed changes to this Act align with the plant and animal health strategy for Canada which is focused on biosecurity priorities.

These changes will allow the ministry to assure that the access to land to conduct pest surveillance is only conducted with the producer's permission, while ensuring that we can still respond to emergency pest situations, gather data in response to pest-based trade disruptions, and make informed and science-based policies and regulations. The ministry conducted formal consultations with stakeholders throughout the summer of 2022 and no criticisms were raised.

Mr. Speaker, I move *The Plant Health Act* repeal and replace *The Pest Control Act*, to be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 116 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 enter initial comments on behalf of the official opposition on this Bill No. 116, *The Plant Health Act*. I understand that under this bill, Mr. Speaker, the minister can declare any animal, insect, or disease dangerous to plants or crops and appoint a pest control officer to address it as well as order the destruction of any at-risk plants and/or declare a state of emergency.

This bill stipulates that the ministry must pay for any crops that are destroyed under this Act, and I understand that this bill provides authority to municipalities to appoint pest control officers and order compliance. However these regulations enacted by the ministry will supersede any local municipal bylaws.

I understand that under this bill, pest control officers can go anywhere except dwelling houses, however they must ask permission unless a state of emergency has been declared. Pest control officers can make orders for prevention or destruction so long as it's approved by the minister, Mr. Speaker. Under this Act, failure to comply with an order by a pest control officer or the ministry can come with hefty fines.

Yeah, with that, Mr. Speaker, we will be looking more closely at this bill. I heard from the minister opposite that consultations were undertaken in 2022. We're interested to hear a bit more about that in addition to ensuring that we do some consultation on this side of our own. Obviously biosecurity is an important goal as well as biodiversity.

And it's good . . . You know, I was a bit concerned to hear that this framework hasn't been updated in a substantive way since the '70s and maybe even before that, Mr. Speaker. So with that, I look forward to hearing from our critics on this bill, and I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 116.

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. 117 — *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*. The Throne Speech contained a commitment to take significant action to crack down on the illegal and violent use of firearms. This government also committed to defending the rights of lawful and responsible firearms owners. Mr. Speaker, this bill maintains those commitments by implementing provincial firearms legislation.

Parts 1 and 2 of the Act contain general administrative provisions. These provisions clarify the minister's responsibilities and duties for the provincial firearms program and establish a Saskatchewan firearms commissioner to administer the Act.

Part 3 of the Act creates a provincial firearms regulatory system. This regulatory system consists of a new Saskatchewan firearms licence and various provincial firearms offences. Individuals who commit provincial offences face provincial tickets or provincial charges. Additionally prosecutors and the courts may use alternative measures and sentencing to deal with provincial offenders. For example, offenders could be required to receive training or adopt improved safety measures. Individuals who commit criminal firearms offences will face suspension or cancellation of their provincial licence along with any other appropriate criminal charges.

Part 4 implements a licensing requirement for persons who conduct the seizure and destruction of firearms on behalf of a government. These individuals are referred to as seizure agents. Mr. Speaker, this government is concerned the federal government's plan to conduct broad firearms seizures creates significant risks and concern to the safety of the public. The licensing requirement for seizure agents ensures that agents follow appropriate rules and guidelines. This will help protect the public against risks such as large-scale firearm theft and the disclosure of sensitive personal information.

The federal government has stated that it will continue to roll out and expand the expropriation of lawfully owned firearms. Under part 5, any person who seizes a firearm under the new federal rules is required to pay fair market value to the owner. This ensures lawful firearms owners are properly reimbursed when their firearms are expropriated.

The federal government further plans to destroy any seized firearms. Our government is concerned this approach could result in the premature destruction of evidence in certain cases. In response to this concern, part 5 also requires seized firearms to be sent for forensic and ballistic testing, prior to the destruction, to the Saskatchewan ballistics lab. This approach will identify firearms that were potentially used in the commission of a criminal offence. In these cases the Attorney General will be notified, and destruction of the firearm will be delayed so that the evidence can assist in the prosecution of said offence.

Mr. Speaker, the compensation and testing requirements do not apply to officers who seize firearms in connection with criminal offences. In those cases, officers will continue to carry out seizures through their regular standard operating procedures.

Finally, part 6 contains general administrative and enforcement matters. This part also requires the approval of the provincial Minister Responsible for the Firearms Secretariat before a

municipal police service can accept federal funding to conduct firearms seizures. This approach ensures funding for police services is not misdirected away from core policing duties.

This Act will enhance public safety in Saskatchewan, and at the same time it ensures that lawful firearms owners receive fair treatment when their property is expropriated by the federal government. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*. Thank you.

[14:45]

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 117 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill 117, *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act* and provide some initial comments on behalf of the official opposition.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that outlines licensed seizing agents are responsible for seizing guns that are prohibited, Mr. Speaker. However they cannot in any way suggest that they are police officers. The bill also indicates that gun owners must be paid fair market value for any guns seized and that that fair market value will be determined by a committee.

The bill stipulates that seized guns must get forensic and ballistic testing to check if the guns were used in any crime on record. And my understanding is that the firearms office, under this bill, Mr. Speaker, can hand down alternative measures instead of legal punishment for offences, and that firearms licences would be immediately suspended for firearms involved in any major crime.

I know that our critic on this, the member for Douglas Park, is engaged in and will continue to be engaged in extensive consultation on this Act. You know, it's important in any discussion about firearms, Mr. Speaker, that we're very clear that we don't support amendments that are over-broad or capture, you know, firearms that are used, relied on by hunters and producers for legitimate reasons, Mr. Speaker, and legitimate uses.

But we also recognize the need for greater mental health supports. Of course it's no secret that a lot of changes to gun-related legislation are often motivated or spurred by mass shootings, Mr. Speaker. And of course this opposition has been clear about our call for increased supports for mental health, and this is something we continue to feel that the government opposite has not been taking seriously enough, Mr. Speaker.

The other thing that I'd always want to bring attention to in any discussion around firearms in this province, Mr. Speaker, is the impact of firearms in intimate partner violence. Of course we know that we have some of the worst rates of intimate partner violence in the country. We really just haven't seen action from this government on that front. That is most notable on their continued refusal to fund second-stage shelters despite the fact that we're really an outlier in this jurisdiction on that front.

On this side, we had hoped that the controversy and condemnation around the Sask Party government's decision to invite a convicted wife-murderer to the Throne Speech, Colin

Thatcher, would prompt more action from this government after that apology, to really show that they're serious about addressing that issue. Because you know, overall one in four female victims of firearm-related violent crime were victimized by a former or current partner, Mr. Speaker. In contrast, only 2 per cent of male victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were similarly victims of intimate partner violence.

So the other interesting — not interesting so much as concerning — trend, Mr. Speaker, is that while most victims of firearm-related offences are male, female victims account for a much higher proportion of victims in rural settings. Again of note, one in four — so that's 25 per cent — of women who are victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were victimized by a current or former spouse, as compared to just 2 per cent of men.

So I really don't think that we can have a discussion around firearms without pointing to the need to tackle that issue in this province, Mr. Speaker, particularly in Saskatchewan where we have seen an increase in firearm-related violent crime. And so that is of significant concern to me and I know all members on this side, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I do look forward to hearing from the critic. I know, as I said, she's engaged in active consultation. We have to make sure we don't leave anyone out from those consultations, including First Nations and Métis stakeholders, the general public, law enforcement as well, Mr. Speaker. And I have no doubt that the consultation will involve those folks and many others, Mr. Speaker. So with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill 117.

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. 118 — *The Warrant Compliance Act*

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — I rise today to move second reading of *The Warrant Compliance Act*. The legislation seeks to improve warrant enforcement for prolific violent offenders in Saskatchewan.

The safety of Saskatchewan people is of utmost importance to this government and we take this responsibility seriously. We want to ensure our communities are safe for everyone, and that includes individuals who pose a significant threat to members of the public, to ensure that they are held accountable. Our government is working to help police more proactively identify and apprehend prolific violent offenders with active Criminal Code warrants before they can cause harm to the public. Furthermore this government is addressing the issue that, in some instances, these very same offenders are receiving provincial government benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would serve two important functions. First, this bill would authorize an investigation unit in the Ministry of

Corrections, Policing and Public Safety to recommend the suspension of benefits for a prolific violent offender with an outstanding Criminal Code warrant for arrest. This unit would be responsible for compiling and distributing a list of prolific violent offenders to government institutions for the purposes of having an individual's benefits reduced, suspended, or terminated. Benefits would include income assistance payments. The administrators of these benefits will retain discretion as to how the stop-payment notice is executed, which includes the ability to continue benefits if terminating them would cause significant hardship to an offender's dependent spouse or children.

Secondly, this bill will authorize the investigation unit to request information from government institutions to help police services locate and apprehend prolific violent offenders with outstanding Criminal Code warrants. Mr. Speaker, the recent horrific events on James Smith Cree Nation and in Weldon have highlighted that more needs to be done to hold prolific violent offenders accountable. This bill will help police apprehend offenders and ensure Saskatchewan taxpayers are not subsidizing criminal lifestyles and activities.

Mr. Speaker, in support of the safety of Saskatchewan citizens, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Warrant Compliance Act*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 118 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill 118, *The Warrant Compliance Act*. Mr. Speaker, I'll just preface my comments by saying that of course we all agree that, you know, violent offenders on outstanding warrants are a concern and there needs to be effective mechanisms in place to address that. But I do have some initial concerns with this bill, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, this term "prolific violent offender," I've never seen this term of art before. Practised in criminal law for several years — never seen this, Mr. Speaker. And of course it's not defined anywhere in the Act. And as well as this, the term, the commitment under this bill that "significant hardship" would exempt someone from the cuts that the minister opposite was just talking about, again it's not defined anywhere.

I did read a story where the Minister of Corrections and Policing provided comments to the media that these would be determined on a case-by-case basis, which immediately raised some red flags for me, Mr. Speaker. And I became immediately concerned that this government and this minister are sort of improvising, Mr. Speaker.

I think we need to take a closer look at jurisdictions that have tried something similar, and see what that legislation looks like as well as, more importantly, whether they've done this with any success, whether it's actually had an impact on this issue, Mr. Speaker.

And I have some initial constitutional concerns around the bill. Obviously it's important, I hope it goes without saying, that when we pass legislation we get it right from a constitutional perspective. Otherwise we invite costly litigation and we risk

spending a bunch of public resources on passing laws that are of no application. They actually can't be relied on to address the issue that the minister is setting out to address.

So you know, there's a question around information sharing between agencies short of obtaining a warrant I think, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to explore that a bit more as well as a lack of clarity, as I stated before, around this term "prolific violent offender" and "significant hardship." And it's a concern of mine that these terms don't actually exist in the legislation.

Obviously when you pass a bill or amend a piece of legislation, there's a robust democratic process in place. You know, we can ask questions. We can refer to experts. We can really ensure that we get it right, whereas you don't have the same process with regulations, Mr. Speaker.

Of course there are two important principles of legality, of lawful legislation, Mr. Speaker: it has to be sufficiently clear and it has to be sufficiently precise. And if a law is too vague or over-broad, it is not a valid law, Mr. Speaker. So I'm really worried about that aspect of this legislation. They seem to really kind of be winging it a bit here, Mr. Speaker.

Given that these cuts would go to folks' security of person, under section 7 — so there is a counteracting right here, Mr. Speaker — through basic sustenance like housing or basic income assistance, these questions will really go to the constitutionality of the bill, Mr. Speaker.

Also if this law is over-broad or the limitation on someone's rights — so this limitation on their right to kind of housing or basic sustenance — go beyond what is necessary to accomplish the government's objective, that is addressing violent offenders out on warrants, these measures will actually not be considered valid. So it's another way of saying, for this to be justifiable, Mr. Speaker, these measures actually have to work. And I haven't really seen the minister speak very effectively or in any great detail as to why she thinks that these measures will work.

The Sask Party government is tying the need for this legislation very explicitly to the tragedies at James Smith Cree Nation and Weldon, Mr. Speaker, and I do wonder who has been consulted. For example, was the James Smith Cree Nation consulted on this, Mr. Speaker? Because of course in the wake of those tragedies they were very clear about what they wanted and what they needed, Mr. Speaker.

They were clear that they needed and wanted Indigenous-led supports around drug treatment centres, addiction and mental health support, Indigenous-led justice and policing — no doubt in recognition of the fact that 80 per cent of folks in the penal system are Indigenous despite only representing about 16 per cent of the Saskatchewan population. So we haven't seen action on those things that were explicitly requested by the James Smith Cree Nation. We're actually seeing other measures that weren't, as far as I know, asked for, Mr. Speaker.

But the other question I have is I see . . . And this is something I think that will be of concern to people that have worked in the penal system on the ground. There's a lot of reasons that a warrant could be issued, Mr. Speaker. A bench warrant could be issued, for example, because someone didn't come to court on an

administrative charge, you know, maybe a failure to comply with their conditions. Maybe they had a condition to live in a certain home or, you know, not imbibe alcohol, and they were found to be in breach of those conditions, or there is a charge that they were in breach of them and then maybe they don't show up to court.

[15:00]

There's lots of reasons people don't show up to court, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes transportation issues, sometimes they're just living extremely marginalized lives. And I'm wondering how is this going to work? Is it just that any individual that's been convicted of a violent offence, for all future time, if they are subject to an outstanding warrant, will be cut off of housing and social assistance? This is going to have incredible impacts that I don't know that this government is really thinking about.

Outstanding warrants, so is that ... The minister for Saskatchewan Builds just said outstanding warrants. So is that an outstanding warrant for an underlying substantive violent offence, or is that an outstanding warrant for failing to comply with one of their fairly minor administrative conditions on their bail conditions? These are real live questions, and they will have incredible impacts for people's lives.

So this is actually how the justice system works. And we need to make sure that we're very specific about this because denying people a home and basic social assistance is a fairly significant step. And so I really want to look at what are the situations where this is going to be relied on, Mr. Speaker. And we're not seeing a lot of details, and we're not seeing a lot of information on that.

As the critic noted in her comments on this bill, we're particularly concerned that this could have an impact on families, on children that are being supported, on spouses who may stand to lose what little support and housing they have. And the impact may be to just make desperate people more desperate, Mr. Speaker.

I know that there has been a few stakeholders that have weighed in in the media and have asked questions around whether this is going to be an effective mechanism to address the issue. I note that the public legal counsellor for the John Howard Society of Saskatchewan has some initial concerns with the legislation, indicated that, you know, he, for his part, has trouble seeing how this legislation could have prevented the tragedy in question, Mr. Speaker, and whether cutting folks off supports could cause more problems. He also notes that, you know, this could, if it's not done properly, actually be bad for public safety in the long run, Mr. Speaker.

And I know that Peter Gilmer, who is an anti-poverty advocate based here in Regina with the Anti-Poverty Ministry, he just questioned this link between prolific violent offenders and social assistance to begin with, and wondered around some of the stigma around that.

So these are just some of the initial stakeholders that have weighed in in a public way on this, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's important to read those into the record because they've been vocal about their concerns. There are obviously many other stakeholders that have to be consulted and will be, Mr. Speaker.

But it just goes to show that (a), you know, when you're introducing legislation to go after something of such great importance as this legislation, Mr. Speaker, it's important to make sure it's effective. And when you're talking about limitations on people's constitutional rights in the criminal justice context, it's important to be very clear, it's important to be very precise, and it's important to be narrow in the way that you pursue your goals. Otherwise these laws risk not being applicable in any way, shape, or form, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I'm pleased to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 118, *The Warrant Compliance Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 120 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Health Professions) Amendment Act, 2022*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to move second reading of Bill 120, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Health Professions) Amendment Act, 2022*. Mr. Speaker, I'll begin by thanking the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health for introducing this bill in my absence.

We are committed to supporting governance improvements to maintain public confidence in the self-regulation of health care professionals in Saskatchewan. The current legislative framework governing the 27 regulatory bodies that oversees health professionals and social workers is outdated — at least three decades old.

Several Canadian jurisdictions have made substantive changes to address a public and growing demand for more accountability and transparency from regulatory bodies. The network of interprofessional regulatory organizations, or NIRO, represents all 27 regulated health-related professional bodies in Saskatchewan, including the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, which is under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Social Services.

NIRO has proposed a number of amendments to the miscellaneous statutes health professionals amendment Act, 2022 to bring our province in line with other Canadian jurisdictions. The intent of the health regulatory reforms proposal are to provide regulators with the tools they need to fulfill their legal mandate of public protection.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that these proposed amendments should have no impact on health care services delivery. They are intended to strengthen regulatory transparency and accountability and improve regulatory governance.

The amendments to the self-regulating health professional statutes includes: addressing a practitioner's fitness to practise through an appropriate mechanism rather than formal discipline;

authorizing the use of non-disciplinary measures to address concerns about behaviour that do not warrant formal discipline; providing regulators with the authority to suspend and restrict a member's ability to practise on an interim basis while investigating a complaint if the member's continued practice would pose a serious risk or harm to the public.

It gives the investigation committee the authority to properly investigate complaints; authorize regulators to continue with the investigation where the member's conduct is potentially criminal in nature; provide investigation committees the authority that they need to properly investigate complaints; ensure each statute's governing health regulatory bodies contains a duties and objects clause; enables the council of health regulatory bodies to adopt bylaws without membership approving, further clarifying that health regulatory bodies are regulators not membership advocacy associations; allows councils to adopt bylaws and establish panels of their investigation and discipline committees to address hearings or investigations; and authorizes regulatory bodies to establish process for selecting members of council and bylaw rather than legislation.

On a related note, Mr. Speaker, additional amendments are also proposed to the medical radiation technology Act, 2006 to regulate medical diagnostic sonographers under the Saskatchewan Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, SAMRT, regulatory body. The demand of the sonographer service in Saskatchewan continues to rise; however these services are currently being provided without legislative regulatory framework. This will provide effective and cost-efficient governance of sonographers as they currently regulate four other related professions, including medical radiation, magnetic resonance imaging, and medical radiation and nuclear medicine.

To reflect on the addition of sonographers as a fifth category of licence under the current regulatory framework, the title of the medical radiation technology Act, 2006 will be changed to *The Medical Radiation and Imaging Professionals Act*. And the regulatory bodies organization name will also be changed to the College of Medicine medical radiation and imaging professionals of Saskatchewan.

Self-regulation of sonographers will provide a better quality of patient care, reduce risks of physical harm, sexual misconduct, missed pathology, and inaccurate examination results. It will also ensure the integrity and accountability of the professionals by requiring practitioners to have processes in place so that practitioners meet standards of professional conduct, competency, and proficiency; comply with appropriate standards of practice and code of ethics; and comply with continuing competence requirements.

Across Canada, Mr. Speaker, sonographers are regulated in Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Alberta. These amendments, along with the other previously stated, will strengthen regulatory transparency and accountability as well as provide regulators with the tools they need to fulfill their legal mandate of public protection and maintain public confidence in self-regulation.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of Bill 120, the miscellaneous statutes health professionals amendment Act, 2022. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 120 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter initial comments on Bill No. 120, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Health Professions) Amendment Act, 2022* on behalf of the official opposition. I listened to the minister opposite's comments with great interest. I understand that this is a framework that applies to 27 regulatory bodies overseeing public health care workers, social workers, etc., Mr. Speaker, and I couldn't agree more with the sentiment, Mr. Speaker, that it's important to have accountability and transparency in these professions. Of course the devil will be in the detail, Mr. Speaker, and we'll want to ensure on this side that significant consultation was done with these professions to ensure that this legislation strikes the right balance and gets it right.

Of course with any self-regulated profession, it's important that they be subject to robust oversight, Mr. Speaker, with a focus obviously on quality for the individuals they serve, Mr. Speaker. You know, this kind of oversight will reduce risks. It will improve public confidence in these professions, Mr. Speaker, and does a service to the profession really because the credibility of the profession increases when these kinds of complaints or concerns are dealt with in the right way, Mr. Speaker.

So I look forward to hearing from the lead critic on this bill, the Health critic. Although, you know, perhaps in my role as critic of the Ministry of Social Services, there may be some coordination that we can do, Mr. Speaker, on this.

But I would just like to take a moment to thank the health care workers across this province, who are doing absolutely essential work under very challenging circumstances. And I know that it's been tough. I know that COVID was just so hard on them. And there was a hope that things would slow down a bit, and that's really not what I'm seeing. That's not what I'm hearing on the ground with, of course, the health care closures, and the strain across the province tells a story of that, Mr. Speaker.

But of course behind those stories and that knowledge is of course many, many health care workers that continue to try to give it their all under very difficult circumstances. And they often don't get a lot of thanks. They often don't get a lot of acknowledgement. And I know from personal experience that the strains that they're under, you know, have repercussions for their mental health, for their family life, for their physical health, Mr. Speaker. And I wouldn't want to, at this historical moment and at this time in this province, speak to a bill that addresses the health profession without making it very clear that the official opposition is very thankful for the work that they do each and every day.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 120, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Health Professions) 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. 121 — *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2022*

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the conclusion of my remarks I will be moving second reading of Bill 121, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2022*.

We were all saddened by the loss of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II earlier this fall. It was particularly difficult, coming as it did during her Platinum Jubilee year. I think all members would agree that Her Late Majesty's 70 years on the throne were an occasion to celebrate and to commemorate.

Her legacy, perhaps most importantly, was one of unwavering service. This service, both in time and in commitment, will never be seen again in our lifetimes. This service is why the Government of Saskatchewan created the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for Saskatchewan. Royal anniversaries, such as coronations and jubilee years, have historically been commemorated at the federal level with a medal.

When it became apparent that no federal jubilee medal would be created to mark Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, the government joined with five other provincial jurisdictions in creating a provincial medal. This is the first time that a provincial medal marks a royal anniversary. The design of the medal was approved by Her Late Majesty in May of this year, and we are honoured to know that she saw herself the medal, the colours of the ribbon from which the medal hangs, and our provincial emblems on the reverse side.

Seven thousand Saskatchewan residents will be presented with the medal. This is Saskatchewan's largest medal program, and the largest one amongst the jurisdictions that opted to create a medal to commemorate Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. This medal, which amends *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act*, adds the Platinum Jubilee Medal to the four other provincial honours: the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal, and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

[15:15]

This bill formalizes and codifies the program and provides for its future administration. These amendments will simplify the province's creation of further honours by allowing the Lieutenant Governor in Council to approve honours that may be considered in the future.

The province has already recognized thousands of deserving recipients with the medal since the first 70 were awarded in August 30th of this year. There are so many impressive stories being told across our province. This medal is perhaps the most accessible medal in our history, meaning thousands of residents of all ages, from all walks of life, from every corner of the province will be recognized as a tribute to Her Late Majesty for their own service and commitment to our province.

For example, our youngest recipient so far is 10-year-old Mady Adamson, a young agriculture advocate who shares her stories on social media. Our oldest is 108-year-old Sophie Foster, who has lived through the reigns of five of Canada's monarchs and who was born when Walter Scott was premier of Saskatchewan. We have recognized, well-known residents like George Reed and Yann Martel, but also small-town heroes like Christine Lang, the 81-year-old mayor of Tramping Lake, population 50; and 11-year-old Laryn Constant, who received her medal in Prince Albert in November, and who promotes reconciliation through leading ceremonies at sun dances and speaking about residential schools.

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to thank the many partners we have on this program: uniformed organizations, municipalities, and other organizations who have or will be sending us names of great Saskatchewan residents to receive this medal. It's our honour to not only recognize them, but to do so in the name of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

With this, I move second reading of Bill No. 121, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2022*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No 121 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter comments into the record on Bill No. 121, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2022* on behalf of the official opposition.

Of course, this bill provides for the recently announced Platinum Jubilee Medals that will be awarded to, I understand, approximately 7,000 citizens across the province, a commemorative medal of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II and her 70 years on the throne. She was of course the longest reigning British monarch and, I believe, was the longest verified reign of any female monarch in history, Mr. Speaker.

So I know I speak for my colleagues when I say it was an honour that our offices were the recipients of nominees for local constituents or organizations that had some connection to our constituency. And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that many of us agonized over who to nominate at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, given that we didn't have a limitless number of people we could nominate.

And that really speaks to the incredible people that we have in our community, Mr. Speaker, and the broad scope of areas in which they serve, Mr. Speaker: in the arts, in volunteer services, in public service, in — you know, I know in my riding — in poverty advocacy, in business, in all kinds of areas, Mr. Speaker. I know that there was some difficult decisions.

But I heard the minister opposite speak about the accessibility of this medal. And I think that is one of the really wonderful things about this medal is that it will be available to actually quite a few people. And I think that's important when we're acknowledging the work in our communities, that it's not just, you know, the elite kind of traditional heads of things that we provide medals to, but really the people that slog away day after day, sometimes without any recognition or acknowledgement. And this is a

moment to really shine a light on them, Mr. Speaker, as well as individuals and groups that maybe haven't historically been recognized the way that they should have.

And I certainly would note many of the Indigenous, First Nation, and Métis recipients that I've seen to date, and it's wonderful to see that, Mr. Speaker. We are a province and people known for our humility, for our grace, for our generosity. And so it's been really, really interesting and wonderful to see a lot of that work recognized.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 121, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours 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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief here today with respect to Bill No. 94, *The Public Pension and Benefits Administration Corporation Act*, Mr. Speaker.

I won't be brief as a reflection of the importance of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, because I really couldn't overstate how impactful this legislation could be or how important, I should say, our pensions are to Saskatchewan people, to municipal employees, and to public employees, Mr. Speaker, both those that are working today in the public service for municipalities across Saskatchewan and those pensioners, those retirees as well, Mr. Speaker, who deserve a rock-solid guarantee.

I'm going to reference just how well served Saskatchewan public servants — both through MEPP [municipal employees' pension plan] and through PEPP [public employees pension plan] — have been served by both those respective pensions. Those have been incredibly well managed, Mr. Speaker, with strong returns for Saskatchewan people with something that people can plan towards for that eventual day, that hopeful day for many, of retirement.

And we need to, you know, make sure we're focused on longevity and stability and strength of those plans as the official opposition. That's exactly what we're looking for with this legislation. We'll be working to make sure that any changes are in the best interests of workers today, pensioners today and

tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, that any change has been considered with those with a vested interest, Mr. Speaker — the workers of today, the pensioners, Mr. Speaker, their respective organizations and unions, Mr. Speaker — and making sure that we're constructive throughout this process.

We've been, as I say, so well served by both PEPP and MEPP and the way they've been administered and the way they've delivered for Saskatchewan public servants. And our only interest is to make sure that we're putting them in an even better position with any changes.

We've heard the motivation for these changes and the genesis of those changes, Mr. Speaker. It's been described that these changes haven't been brought about by that cabinet, Mr. Speaker, but by the MEPP and PEPP boards themselves under the direction of their members. That's heartening, Mr. Speaker, if that's in fact the case. They need to be driving this process.

We really need to make sure, if anything, when we look at our pensions and these assurances that Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan workers and retirees need and deserve, that we ensure there isn't political intervention, Mr. Speaker. We've seen across Canada in different parts where, you know, political intervention into, or control into pension plans have been to the detriment of members, Mr. Speaker. So I appreciate the work that's been done by the MEPP board and the PEPP board and by the report that they've shared.

I urge any of the employee groups, pensioner groups, unions that are involved in this conversation, anyone with concerns or with ideas about how to make sure that this legislation is strengthened, Mr. Speaker, to reach out directly, of course to the government but also to the opposition, because we'll be dealing with this in the months ahead, in the spring sitting, Mr. Speaker. So we're all ears and are ready to work to make sure that we've got the kind of rock-solid pension and guarantee that the workers of today and pensioners of tomorrow and pensioners of today, that they deserve, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll be following up at the committee process and getting a full sense of the consultation and other details, Mr. Speaker. And as I say, anyone directly impacted, anyone who cares about this legislation, anyone with direct expertise about how to strengthen pensions in Saskatchewan or this piece of legislation or with any concerns, we urge them to engage with us and with government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 94 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — To the Standing Committee on Crown

and Central Agencies.

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

Bill No. 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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll weigh in real briefly here today with respect to Bill No. 97, *The Architects Amendment Act, 2022*.

I've already spoken briefly to this legislation. Importantly, we want to get to the committee stage in the spring, Mr. Speaker, to really have a full understanding of the consultation on this front, Mr. Speaker, and making sure that any change that's brought forward here is in the interests of architects in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and the very important role they play in design and in the integrity of infrastructure within our province, the key role within the economy, and that we're positioning those architects to share their skills and expertise with the world as well, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll continue to consult directly with the architects and those impacted by this legislation, Mr. Speaker, make sure that their best interests are heard. We'll look for every opportunity to strengthen this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. So I would invite at this time anyone impacted, certainly the architects, to share their perspective both with government and with the opposition. I know I have meetings with some of the architects following the sitting, Mr. Speaker, and we'll incorporate that work into the committee process, Mr. Speaker.

I know I identified in the last, the last time I spoke to this bill, Mr. Speaker, that it's really key for a government to ensure those that are directly impacted are involved in all aspects of the legislation that they're deriving, Mr. Speaker. We've seen all too often a government that wants to drive ahead with its own agenda in sort of a government-knows-best approach, Mr. Speaker, that fails to understand some of the consequences in what they're bringing about, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, I would be remiss not to mention again, Mr. Speaker, that we'll keep pushing for the talent and the skills of Saskatchewan professionals like our architects, like our engineers, like all those in design and construction, Mr. Speaker, to be respected by our government. All too often, as I've said time and time in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we see a government that pushes projects to companies and to professionals outside of Saskatchewan, often outside of Canada, Mr. Speaker. The public dollars flow outside this province.

It's a loss, Mr. Speaker, when you think of the professional capacity and the businesses we have in this province that should be directly involved in that work, to shut them out, Mr. Speaker, to outsource that work in such a relentless way. And it doesn't represent, Mr. Speaker, the best value that we should be deriving

out of procurement with the hard-earned dollars of Saskatchewan people. They're our public dollars, Mr. Speaker, and it doesn't maximize the kind of economic return that Saskatchewan people and these professionals need and deserve, Mr. Speaker. That being said, Mr. Speaker, we'll be following up with lots of questions and perspectives at committee, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 97 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

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

Bill No. 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 Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 98, *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this carries on some of the work the Minister of Corrections has been doing for a while in terms of moving several different policing and quasi-policing bodies under one umbrella. I have many questions of officials about this work and where it is going moving forward. In order to facilitate those conversations, I'm prepared now to allow this bill to move on to its next stage.

[15:30]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 98 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today in the debate on Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes several changes that the minister outlined in her second reading speech, largely around fee structures for 911. I know this was a fee increase that we saw a year or two ago, and now we're looking at some more in line with some of the work that the emergency systems are working on in terms of modernization.

We have some questions about sustainability, municipal impacts, consultation and the like. And in order to facilitate those conversations with officials that I'm looking forward to having, I'm now prepared to allow this bill to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 99 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — The Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter into debate today on Bill No. 101, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022*.

There are some important changes taking place in this legislation here. Of course whenever we talk about children in care, I think it is prudent for us to be as responsible as possible. We are talking about the next generation in our province, and we have a significant duty to ensure that these children are looked after. There is a number of changes that could make that a more positive experience for children here, but it has to be executed properly, Mr. Speaker.

This bill raises the coverage of children from 16 to 18 years old, and allows 16- to 17-year-olds to agree to live alone with funding. It prioritizes familial and cultural continuity for decisions about Indigenous children, ensuring that police need to notify the children's band or chief about decisions around custody, arrests, and hearings. So ensuring that that important communication takes place as well and that those ties to community exist, and that it ensures that individuals have the right to request information about kids in custody, though the ministry has the right to refuse if it could pose a risk or a danger to the child. So it's important to recognize that although 16- and 17-year-olds can be offered independence, ultimately they're still children who deserve rights and protections.

The transition period for 18-year-olds is quite unclear. They shouldn't just be cut off on their 18th birthday. There should be a process that is followed here to make sure that, you know, a child wouldn't be cut off in the middle of their grade 12 year, allowing them to finish school, as we know that often the academic year structures our lives in a number of ways, Mr. Speaker.

It is valuable to have a system that's going to codify the duty to maintain a culture and community for Indigenous children, especially since that legal principle's under attack in the US [United States] with the *Indian Child Welfare Act* being threatened, Mr. Speaker.

We'll make sure that we do a lot of consultations around this and that we are getting it right with this legislation, Mr. Speaker. And I know my colleagues and the critic will have a lot more to say, but with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 101 for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be speaking to this new bill, Bill 103, *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*.

This bill is welcome for those that have issues with accessibility. So it's a good bill to have, to be able to be accessible for those that otherwise wouldn't be able to participate fully within this society. Like, when it comes to . . . I actually have a lot of experience with this, disability, having family members with physical disabilities and kind of navigating the systems that we have, whether it's employment, school, even streets, getting their wheelchairs on . . . being able to utilize the sidewalks.

So this is very welcoming. I remember my own issues with accessibility around getting parking passes for people that have visual disabilities, and some of the criteria that were in place wasn't very accessible or very flexible when it came to who can issue a disability. And in this case it was parking services in the place that we were at, was willing to give out, issue a parking placard.

However optometrists and ophthalmologists were not part of the individual's . . . the health services, health care providers that were able to issue that or issue that letter stating that the individual had a disability. And the criteria was that the person needed to be 70 per cent blind to have access to a placard.

So this is very welcoming to have legislation created for those that are accessing buildings, comms, employment, transportation, service animals, even procurement and service delivery. And you know, when I think about those that have had, this is welcoming.

And I just want to also applaud those advocates. You know, sometimes in order to get change there's a lot of advocacy, lobbying governments, that need to take place, that need to happen. And it's those volunteers, those organizations that work very hard for the people that they represent to have something meaningful for them, and in this case being able to access services and buildings, etc. So I really want to say thank you to all those folks that fight very hard for those that have a disability.

I had the honour of watching a video this past Saturday about those that have disabilities and often were ignored, and this is going to be something that will be coming out in the near future for the rest of the public to watch. But it's always good when we're looking at creating legislation, not just policies, around access.

And our own convention, we also support accessibility. At our most recent convention we proposed improving accessibility at our own offices, and that is something that is very important to the general public. And we're also looking forward to having more discussions with stakeholders about whether this Act meets their needs, and we'll be talking to constituents who've needed accessibility support as well.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 103, the accessibility Saskatchewan Act.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to put some comments on the record for the adjourned debate around Bill 104, *The Local Improvements Act*. This is important legislation that we're updating. It looks like the last time we updated this legislation was over 20 years ago.

Local improvements are an important option that municipalities have to fund infrastructure programs, including sidewalks, alleys, lights, parks. This Act goes over work and services and approval processes, special assessments, and how the property owner can petition for or against improvements proposed by those municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, we heard from the minister that they had done a lot of stakeholder engagement on this legislation, and he quoted 67 responses to a survey — fair response from municipalities. I know that, you know, you can get a lot more by talking to folks. And I know that our critic, my colleague the critic for municipalities has been doing just that, speaking with those municipalities, those engaged stakeholders to ensure that this legislation gets it right. I want to thank her for her work on that front.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is an Act that outlines four amendments that we're seeing. So firstly the Act gives exemption to school properties from these local investment levies. This is a very welcome change. As the government certainly knows, it has put school boards in a really tight spot budget-wise with years and years of chronic underfunding. So this seems to be a small olive branch, welcome amendment. I will echo my colleague who said that we must continue to put every dollar we can into our publicly funded and publicly delivered education. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a tiny condolence prize for our school boards that will lighten up those budgets.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the second amendment we're seeing is we're seeing a streamlining in approval processes. Efficiency is always good. And when it comes to bureaucracy, this amendment removes powers from the Sask Municipal Board and gives that power to the municipalities themselves to make these improvements through bylaw process. Welcome improvement, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Third area delves into requiring public consultation when municipalities make requests for local improvements. And this is where there is no option for a petition from the property owners. You know, we've seen this very welcomed by property owners, who have requested more say in those areas when municipalities go to use these local improvements.

[15:45]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we continue to see cost after cost after cost

compounded on Saskatchewan families. And Saskatchewan homeowners need mechanisms to engage with their municipalities when these costs come up, even more crucial when we're seeing the highest rates of foreclosures in the country. So this is very welcome, welcome amendment to *The Local Improvements Act* that gives those property owners the opportunity to petition and to say yea or nay on these improvements.

Lastly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the bill makes welcome amendments to better align with the communications around these petitions, allowing email and other communications to be used to ensure that folks have the opportunity to respond. A really welcome modernization, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This will just give property owners more advance notice, more ability to communicate with municipalities.

So on that note, Mr. Deputy Speaker, thank you so much for the opportunity to speak to Bill 104. I will now move to adjourn debate on this bill.

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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill 105, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2022*.

Before I initially talk about it, by-elections are important. Elections are important. Whether it's municipal, provincial, federal, we know how important it is. And I think sometimes making sure . . . And I know that it's talking about different processes here and giving the returning officers certain powers, the ability to make sure that we can have individuals who are helping the returning officer run an election, because it's important.

We want our municipal leaders to have . . . We want a good turnout. When we have elections or by-elections, we want to have a good turnout. We want to make sure the people's voice is being heard and representing. And unfortunately sometimes, for whatever reasons, when you have certain elections, you don't have a good turnout. And I want to talk a little bit about that, and I think it's important we talk about that. And I think about a number of elections, not only local, you know, mayor . . .

And I know that La Ronge just recently had a by-election filling, after one of the aldermen that won became the mayor, so his seat on council became vacant, triggered another by-election for a

town councillor, and that job's been done and filled. The good people got to have their say and elected.

But having said that, and I thank those municipalities out there and our leaders, our local leaders, who do run for office and who do put in the good work. I want to thank them. I want to thank them for the good work they do because many of them do some great work. And you know, sometimes I think they even do better work than the provincial government on some of the issues facing their municipalities. We see how things that they have to do because the government has not done what they need to do when they get elected in to be the government.

But having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to go back to thinking a little bit about by-elections. And I know we had a by-election and we elected, you know, a member from Saskatoon Meewasin in a by-election. And I welcome him aboard. And again it was a good turnout, you know. I think 40 per cent of people came out, and that's good.

And they're talking about by-elections here also in the local, in Bill 105. They talk about, you know, that making sure that the process is in place to try to encourage people when it's a by-election. But talking about by-elections and Bill 105 has in local, I want to talk about another by-election that happened. We had a by-election in the Athabasca because we had a member leave, so you had to have that election. And I just want to show the example sometimes. If we do all we can to encourage residents to get out and vote, that's important. And we may not think, well may not be happy with who gets elected, those people.

But of those people that come out and vote — and that's the way it is — and I think in the Athabasca it was 23 per cent of the people only came out and voted, so a very small margin got to decide who's going to rep them. But I know this, that when there's a general election in the Athabasca, you're going to see a turnout like you've never seen. I know that. I've heard that from people saying, you're going to see a good turnout. People are going to be coming to the polls. So that's interesting.

But I want to go back to how encouraging local government elections, by-elections, there's many different ones where you have, like I said, whether they're federal, provincial, municipal, it's good to make sure that we have legislation that allows a returning officer to make sure as many people get out to vote as can. That's so important. That's so important that we make sure. Whether you're Indigenous, whether you're in the North, the rural, urban — it doesn't matter where you live — we want to encourage people to get out and vote, and we want to make sure it's good.

But using some of the stuff I'm using as by-elections pass once, where things worked and where things didn't work, I think it's good if you have 40 per cent of people turning out in a by-election versus 23 per cent like we did in Meewasin and Athabasca. But I'm just trying to show those comparisons, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how when you make sure . . . And we want to encourage people to get out and vote, and I'm happy to say Meewasin had a good turnout. And if there's other by-elections going on, if this legislation here makes it easier for the returning officer to make sure people get out to vote and encourage them and they find ways to do that, then that's a good thing.

We're going to spend time talking with different leaders. I know the critic will be doing that, reaching out and finding out. Is this the right legislation? Will this help? And I think sometimes we have to make sure that we talk to the returning officers, and sometimes the returning officers are the ones that are left.

And some communities, you know, you have municipalities where you actually have returning officers that are doing it for a number of elections, in local elections. They've done it. They're the same returning officer for years. They do it and they do it. Let's make sure that we're giving them the tools. And let's consult with them, because I know the government has a problem with consulting with many people. They just like doing this up.

So I'm hoping they've got it right this time, and I hope our critic will say if anybody out . . . Returning officers, anybody who's out there in the municipalities for local elections, if you have any issues about the way the process is, reach out to the critic. Reach out to the official opposition. State your case.

And reach out to the government if you want; hopefully they'll return your calls. But make sure you reach out, and try to make sure that they're hearing your concerns so that this legislation is right and we're doing the justice to the legislation, to making sure that the good people of our province get out to vote, encourage them to vote. But making sure that the majority of the people came out to vote and they have spoken very clearly who they want to represent them. Like I said, not 23 per cent and you think, you pat yourself on the back and think you did a great job. That's not . . . to me. You need to make sure.

So I think some of those where we've had elections where there's been a very poor turnout . . . We need to encourage that and make sure people get out and have their voice heard and have their elected representative serve them in this House, as a mayor and council, or in federal politics, wherever they are. We've got to encourage that. And I think Saskatchewan people deserve that. And they need to be talked to, and I think we need to make sure this legislation is right and we need to consult, we need to find out that we have it right.

So I'd encourage anyone, again like I say, who wants to reach out to our critic, we're willing to hear you. If we can make, you know, opportunities in a committee when it gets there . . . Because sometimes we see the way some people will spin stuff, eh? And, you know, you can vote on things and make it spin. You know, people spin things and they'll say, oh, no they're supporting that. Or, no, they're not.

But in this legislation here, if it's good legislation, you want it to go to the next process and go into committee and do the good work and be able to ask questions of the minister and officials. But you want to allow that process to happen. But some people will spin that, saying, you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, oh, they voted for that. They voted for that. And that's the sad reality that some people will spin it.

But having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, like in this legislation here, like I said, we want to make sure we get it right. We want to make sure that our returning officers have the tools that they need to run good elections to make sure the people get out to vote, and we would encourage people to get out to vote.

So on that, you know, I know I could say more but I think I've said quite a bit that I wanted to say, because this is important legislation. I think it's important. So you know, 105 local government elected . . . to this amendment.

So Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that I could add more, you know, to the record but I think I've made my point. And I thank the Minister of Education for allowing me to make my point, and thank you for that. And I do, I appreciate it. I'd like to thank the Minister of Education for doing that. You know, if you want to heckle anything else, go ahead. I mean, you know, have at 'er. It's your ability, you can say what you want.

But for me, all I have to say is I've made my point. I'm happy and I think we have to encourage people to get out and vote, whether it's a by-election or a general election, whether it's municipal, federal, or provincial.

So on that note, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill 105, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2022*.

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 106 — *The Police Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll be brief, much more brief than my colleague previous who put some powerful comments on the record. Just so we know where he stands, he left no doubt. I appreciated that time.

But I am on my feet to speak to Bill 106, *The Police Amendment Act, 2022*. And make no mistake, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a wildly unpopular and misguided piece of legislation that quite frankly, I think, really puts on display this Sask Party government's desire to control policing in this province. It's another attempt to create a partisan force to carry out the will of the government which is absolutely arcane way of doing business.

And it's another example of a failure to consult with folks in this province, especially those already serving our communities with their municipal police forces and RCMP. These folks have put several comments on the record and media lately really denouncing this government's direction and their ways to insert their Sask Party politics into policing in this province. On this side we think that's wrong. We think that's absolutely the wrong direction and in no means do I plan to support this piece of legislation.

What this legislation does is of particular concern, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is it creates, it legislates the ability for this marshals bill to come into effect. And it gives power to the minister to send special constables into other places where they have policing already being done by municipal police forces and RCMP.

So if the minister doesn't think that they're doing a good enough job, they can send in their own force to do things and then send the bill to the municipality to pay for it. I mean I can't even begin to speculate, can't even begin to speculate what on earth this government is thinking that Saskatchewan people would ask or support this kind of legislation. It's mind-boggling business by an out-of-touch and entitled government, and in no way do I plan to support this piece of legislation.

I absolutely support our RCMP and municipal police forces who serve this province each and every day. We'd like to see funds directed at these new forces, you know, put in place to support forces that already exist that are doing a fantastic job. With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'll conclude my remarks, and I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 106.

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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, Mr. Speaker. And you look fine in that chair. It reminds me as well that we haven't had our squash battle yet that we need to have. We'll make those plans another time, Mr. Deputy Chair, not on the floor here during these remarks.

But I want to speak directly to Bill No. 107, *The Provincial Protective Services Act*, Mr. Speaker, another piece of legislation by a government that really is failing when it comes to community safety, Mr. Speaker. A government that is failing of course to make the investments in a common-sense way in the community, Mr. Speaker, around mental health, around addictions, around anti-gang efforts and about the actual supports that police need in our province, Mr. Speaker. And we've got fine police in this province to better support and to work with, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about deploying dollars.

[16:00]

Instead we see a Sask Party government, with no consultation, Mr. Speaker, ram forward with its \$20 million — just to start — provincial police force, Mr. Speaker. No consultation with the municipal police forces; no consultation with the RCMP and Assistant Commissioner Blackmore; no consultation with the

police chiefs of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker; no consultation with the police officers of Saskatchewan. And of course, a government now that wants to spend money in a wasteful way, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to bringing those dollars directly to bear in a more efficient way, a more effective way, to work with the RCMP and to work with our municipal police forces, and importantly, to invest in the community to address challenges like mental health, addictions, and gangs in our communities, Mr. Speaker.

It's, you know, a government that are costly from a fiscal perspective, Mr. Speaker, when they choose these sorts of paths, Mr. Speaker. And they're costly from the perspective of failing to make the difference that they should with those dollars around crime, Mr. Speaker, around community safety, around supporting police, Mr. Speaker.

And again we see a government really relentlessly trying to take control of policing, Mr. Speaker. And there's a reason why it's very important that police are independent from politicians, Mr. Speaker, and it's beyond troubling to see another power grab by this government of policing, of police in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Of course we've seen the legislation, of course, that now enables the cabinet there, the Premier, the minister to intervene with their own assessment as to whether a municipal force, for example, is handling a policing matter in an appropriate way. They get to decide, Mr. Speaker, and they get to choose to then deploy their provincial police force, Mr. Speaker, into that situation with direction from that government, Mr. Speaker.

That's wrong. It begs for all sorts of trouble in communities, Mr. Speaker, and it's as I say a more costly way to go about it. This is a government that's been, you know, disrespectful to the good people who serve on the front lines of policing across Saskatchewan with their approach on this front, Mr. Speaker, and they're disrespectful of taxpayers and community members who should expect value for their money when they're deploying another \$20 million, Mr. Speaker.

But that's not what we're seeing from this government. It's sort of a command-and-control approach, partisan takeover of control. We've seen that on so many fronts, from things like Wascana Park through to attempts with the school boards, Mr. Speaker, through to health care, where the government takes all control into the Premier's office, if you will, Mr. Speaker, and failing to get those services delivered in communities across Saskatchewan.

Now we see the takeover of policing as well and the wasteful approach of this government, Mr. Speaker. We see it, of course, with the corporate tax changes that were announced here today that are backwards, that are more costly, that defy common sense, that make a less efficient process with two sets of filing for businesses, for example, Mr. Speaker.

So we really see a government that's sure lost their way, Mr. Speaker, that have fallen out of touch with the best interests and realities of Saskatchewan people, and that, when it comes to policing, want all the control, Mr. Speaker, and are unwilling to support in a common-sense way the police forces across Saskatchewan that are involved in delivering that work and the

people on the ground and making those investments in the community, Mr. Speaker.

You know, again we're the proud home here in Saskatchewan of the RCMP depot, the training division for all of Canada, Mr. Speaker. It's been the home since 1885, Mr. Speaker. But all we see from this government is a slap in the face to the good people who protect and serve each and every day across Saskatchewan with legislation like this, the bill that we were just speaking to, and the \$20 million partisan provincial police force that we see this government pushing forward, instead of supporting the police forces in Saskatchewan — municipal and the RCMP and the officers that are on the ground — and making those investments in community.

With that being said, I'll move to adjourn debate of this bill.

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 Meewasin.

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again a pleasure to rise and speak adjourned debate on Bill 108, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2022*. My colleagues and the critic in this area have left some great comments on the record so I'm going to be brief today, Mr. Speaker.

This is quite a technical bill as it regards to pensions. There are a lot of parts to this bill. We certainly will be engaging. Our critic will be engaging the stakeholders. We'll be certainly reviewing this bill closer in committee when we have the opportunity to ask the minister direct questions.

But in short, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're seeing a bill that's creating a new system. It's got a pension cops element, you know, a pension investigator to go anywhere, ask anything, demand any records, require any person to present themselves, can enter premises without a warrant. Again, you know, we're seeing again just an overreach, a thumb on everything these days. It seems like the invitation of a wife-killer to the Throne Speech will slip out, but we'll make sure that policing stays under the thumb. You know, there's a lot of things that we could be investigating, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'll continue as I promised I'd be brief. You know, we also see a piece of legislation that's going to introduce a pension court, giving a superintendent the same power as civil courts to summon and compel witnesses and demand evidence. We see a superintendent now that can hand out penalties for later filing, issue compliance orders or petition a court for compliance orders,

or order defendants to pay court costs.

Mr. Speaker, again, a technical bill. We're going to make sure that our critic is working on this. We're going to be talking to stakeholders about their thoughts on this bill. We really feel like these proposed powers of this superintendent, this wholesale investigative power plus the power of civil court seems like quite extreme, quite an overreach at first glance.

We're seeing some fiscal changes that seem reasonable, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, employers having the flexibility to issue letters of credit. But you know, we need to see some language in here to protect the employee when that money comes due.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's important as my colleague from Saskatoon University mentioned in her remarks. Every time we talk about pensions, we really have to think what we are doing as legislators in this building to ensure that all the people of Saskatchewan have access to pension and retirement savings.

You know, it's a constant worry for most people how they can save, how they're going to pay for life when they retire if they can, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's becoming a question mark for a lot of people. We need to ensure that everything that we're doing in this legislature is ensuring that we're making the quality of life for residents in Saskatchewan better.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I promised I'd be brief. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. And I will move adjourn debate on Bill 108, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2022*.

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. 109

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 109 — *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll be incredibly brief on this one because there's not just that much to talk about. Bill 109, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act*, you know, really making a very simple change that feds can't trespass on private land. And you know, I think that we could spend a lot of time in here discussing the strange and sometimes petty ways that this Sask Party government represents Saskatchewan to the rest of Canada.

But at the end of day, you know, I think that we're in agreement that folks shouldn't be . . . No one is above the law when it comes to entering private land. We expect all employees to follow the law no matter who they work for. But you know, again this might

not be the time or the place to drag up the ways in which this Sask Party government chooses to pick fights.

But for now I'll continue to listen to my colleagues as they raise concerns or questions on the process of this bill, including all consequences that may come out of it, intended and unintended. But I know also our critic will have more to say and questions to ask on this bill at a later stage. But for now, I'll move that we adjourn debate on Bill 109, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 110

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 110 — *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur les testaments*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join on Bill No. 110, *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022*. It's modernizing wills so that they can be electronic. There's different things, of course witnesses when you have your signature. They talk about a process they're going through.

Initially, I guess with times changing, this is, I guess, hopefully from the . . . We've reached out to lawyers, to those individuals. Maybe it's seniors that, you know, can only be in their home and they can't get out, so this would give that provision for them to, you know . . . If you're housebound as a senior or someone, you can have a lawyer come there. You could have witnesses sign electronic if you need to.

And I know that on our side, we'll have our critic have some questions about this. And obviously being the critic, the experience she would have with probably that process, you know, she'll be able to clarify. And the critic will clarify if there are any challenges and reach out to, you know, some of her past colleagues or those that are lawyers finding out, is this getting it right? We want to make sure that this is right, you know, that the legislation where we're making amendments, allowing electronic, is going to work.

Like everything else, sometimes there's some things that are good and others may be concerning. And we'll make sure we ask those questions, and she'll ask those questions. She'll reach out. She'll consult with individuals and finding out, is this the best way to do it? Is there other jurisdictions we could look at are doing it differently?

But I think overall, just to talk about modernizing the way wills are and doing it electronic, I think at this point I'll allow that to the critic to ask the questions and, you know, consult. And if

anybody out there wants to consult with our critic, by all means do that. Hopefully they've reached out to the government. But like I've said, the government doesn't like to consult with people. They just like doing bills and coming them forward, then oh, oh yeah, we should have done that. So I've seen that on different bills that we've seen, and then they spin it the way they want it.

So really I don't have much more to say on this. And I'll let the critic do the good work that the critic needs to do on this bill and reach out, consult, and talk to . . . And so I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 110, *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022*, Mr. Deputy 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. 111

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 111 — *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur les prestations alimentaires familiales*** 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's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 111, *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act* of 2022. There are a number of changes that this bill is making. The last bill that I spoke about also involved children and our responsibility to look after them, Mr. Speaker. This bill takes a bit of a different approach when we talk about child support payments.

[16:15]

And I didn't know what the word "maintenance" meant until I was elected, and then I really understood it after a while because there are so many different disputes over how much child support is provided and reassessments that take place. And when child support isn't provided, it can be tremendously devastating for a family. So any time we look at changes here, we need to make sure that we're making these changes in the best interest of the child.

According to the minister's second reading remarks, this bill talks about the support order or eligibility requirements being met, and then the service may recalculate an amount of support that's payable. Currently these provisions exist only in *The Family Maintenance Regulations*, but this bill will set to move this framework for recalculation from those regulations into *The Family Maintenance Act*.

It expands the scope of this work and allows parents to go straight to the child support service to determine initial child support amounts. So this is a change, as normally that would only take place for recalculations. So I think the intent here is to streamline

the process, make it a bit faster for families. And in line with some of the other provisions that have been changed for families and family law over the past number of years, I think the intent is to get these done expeditiously and keep them out of a courtroom as much as possible, Mr. Speaker. So I believe this follows the same approach, as previously the recalculation could only exist in these agreements. Now it's the initial calculation.

This legislation also allows an adult child to apply for child support on their own behalf. So it creates the framework that empowers young people over 18 who may be in a variety of different experiences, circumstances, who rely on their parents and need to advocate for themselves, Mr. Speaker.

We need to make sure that the well-being of children is being put first and foremost, and I know the critic is doing a lot of consultations on these bills — not calculations, consultations on these bills; I've said that word so many times in the past two minutes — consultations on these bills to make sure that they are in the best interest of children in our province. We have a tremendous responsibility here and we have to make sure that we get it right.

I know many of my colleagues will have a lot more comments. And with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 111 for today.

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. In order to facilitate the work of committees this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — This Assembly now adjourns until tomorrow, 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:19.]

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