



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

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The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

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

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Principal Clerk — Kathy Burianyak

Clerk Assistant — Robert Park

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — I would just like to welcome all the guests, but just want to remind you not to engage in debate, and that means no talking or yelling or clapping, so please respect that.

I would like to table a report from the Legislative Librarian pursuant to section 80(3) of *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007* and in accordance with the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. The Legislative Librarian has submitted to the Legislative Library annual report for the period of April 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2022.

I would also like to table the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan's 2022 report volume 2 with the Assembly.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Joining us today in the Speaker's gallery are very special guests who are here to acknowledge Mr. Greg Putz, the Clerk, on the occasion of his retirement from the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. I would like to introduce Greg's spouse, Pam Scott; Holly Fay, sister, University of Saskatchewan professor; Brent Pylot, Holly's partner, graphic designer; Abby Wagman, daughter, registered nurse; and Adilyn, granddaughter. Abby is celebrating her birthday today — happy birthday, Abby. Emily Putz, daughter, ecologist; and Evan Kanak, Emily's partner, engineer; Laura Schmeling, daughter, engineer; Keith Putz, nephew, web streaming talent manager.

Please join me in welcoming Greg's family to the Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the Justice minister.

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, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery, it's my sincere pleasure to introduce April Phillips, widow of the late Kevin Phillips and former member from Melfort. April is a city councillor in Melfort. She was first elected in 2012, re-elected in 2016. She's also Chair of community services in Melfort, member of the Melfort public library board, Chair of the city beautification committee, along with many other things, Mr. Speaker.

And April, Kevin is still very much in our hearts. He was such a life force, so much fun, so full of life. In my office I still have the

last Christmas card that he sent out, a beautiful photo of the two of you.

Kevin was also a very strong advocate, an eloquent speaker on the issue of interpersonal violence, also a regular participant in and leader of the Walk a Mile in Their Shoes initiative. He regularly wore bright red heels. In May 2017, Mr. Speaker, he stood in this House during Sexual Assault Awareness Week and said, "our government has invested in supports for those who have been victimized, including funding for a 24 hour crisis telephone line, crisis counselling, and support for medical, legal, and social services appointments." He was particularly proud, Mr. Speaker, in 2017 of the North East Outreach and Support Services domestic violence shelter in Melfort, the first transition shelter that had been built in the province since 1989.

We miss him, April, and we are honoured to have you with us today. Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming April Phillips — re-welcoming her — to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to join with the Minister of Justice in welcoming April Phillips to her Legislative Assembly. As the Minister of Justice said, we all were rocked, I think, by the sudden passing of Kevin. And to think that it's been five years since he's left us is shocking, frankly. But I cannot imagine what you and your family have been through over these years.

As the minister mentioned, April is a community leader in her own right, having served as city councillor for Melfort for many, many years. And I'm very happy to see her here to recognize the work that her husband, Kevin, had done within the community and within the province at large in promoting those services and supports that are needed to help those who struggle through situations of interpersonal violence.

It's so lovely to see April here again today. I'm sure it's bittersweet for her to be here, but I'd like to thank her for taking the time to come down today. And I'd ask again all members to join me in welcoming April to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join in with the minister and the member opposite in welcoming April to our chambers, her chambers. April and I have been friends for many, many years. April and Kevin were business partners of ours for many years. And friends — and most importantly we've been friends for a long time.

And it's hard still for me to talk about Kevin because he was such a dear friend, be it here or in Melfort. But anyway he did great, great work for the city of Melfort and the surrounding area and the province. You know, he gave to the province.

And April has followed suit. April does great work in the city of Melfort. We still own a business there and we get a chance to see April. We hear about the great work that she does there. I'm very

proud of her, very proud of how strong she has been and how she still continues to live her life. And I'm very proud that she can do that. I know Kevin would be very happy. I'm very happy for her. And I just want everybody to welcome her to her legislative chambers. Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the members in welcoming April to her Legislative Assembly. Five years — it seems very difficult to believe that it has been that long. I remember standing in a similar place five years ago and talking about how Kevin and I had opportunity to speak on many occasions, shared concern and interest in reducing interpersonal violence, talked a lot about education. But mostly, Mr. Speaker, we talked about family, and we talked about how important April was to Kevin, and how important his family was.

So I would like to join all the previous speakers and invite all members to welcome April to her Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, if I may beg indulgence for a couple of other introductions. Seated in the east gallery today I see a couple of folks who are no stranger to this Assembly, but it is always nice to see their faces up in the gallery. I see Taylor Apperley, the education and project coordinator with the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour. Oh, I see Jessica Boyer there as well, and Lori Johb, Mr. Speaker. It is always great to welcome these guests to their Legislative Assembly. But I think especially today, when I wake up on December 6th, there are a few people and advocates in the fight against interpersonal violence that I think of, and certainly Lori, you are one of them. So I'd invite all members to join me in welcoming these guests to their Assembly.

And I have one more introduction, Mr. Speaker. When I think of fierce advocates and strong voices in the fight for improved working conditions for working people in this province, I certainly count Tracy Sauer, who is here today with us. The second-term president of SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union]; former mayor of Kelvington, Mr. Speaker; long-time health care worker, as is Lori; and also — and I learned this today — Tracy operates a family business in Kelvington called Dam Good Garlic which sounds like it is a must-try, Mr. Speaker.

Tracy is joined today by a number of people who she represents and including, Mr. Speaker, a number of people who learned on Throne Speech day that their jobs are being cut at the public liquor stores in this province. It's sombre in here today, Mr. Speaker, for a number of reasons, but it's very, very difficult to stand with people right before Christmas and know the very serious blow that was dealt to them on Throne Speech day. We're thinking of them. And I invite all members to see them in this gallery, and welcome all of these people to their Legislative Assembly.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, members, for the leave. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, seated in your gallery, I am pleased to stand and introduce Lenita Knudsen, Megan Torrie, Kendi Young, and Tanya Hornung. Mr. Speaker, these women are here to represent the Federated Co-operatives Ltd., which myself and some members in this Assembly had the pleasure of touring.

Mr. Speaker, FCL [Federated Co-operatives Ltd.] has been supporting local co-ops across Western Canada for more than 90 years. They process 130,000 barrels of crude oil per day, and are committed to producing the highest quality transportation energy with help from their carbon capture utilization and storage unit.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada recently selected Co-op's carbon capture project as part of its strategic innovation fund's net zero accelerator initiative.

Mr. Speaker, last January, Co-op, in consultation with Indigenous leaders and communities across Western Canada, developed the Western Nations gas bar brand. The brand and supporting gas bar program are unique in their focus on reinvesting in Indigenous communities where Western Nations bars are based.

Mr. Speaker, you can find women in leadership positions directing one of Saskatchewan's largest companies. In fact 47 per cent of FCL board members are women, including President and Chair Sharon Alford and CEO [chief executive officer] Heather Ryan. Heather is the first woman to serve as CEO in the company's history.

It is with tremendous honour that I thank the women present here today representing Co-op for creating very real and meaningful opportunities, from small communities to large urban centres, and for their commitment to fuelling Western Canada with clean, renewable transportation fuels for generations to come.

I ask all members to join me in thanking the Federated Co-operatives Ltd. on their historic legacy which benefits the economic wellness and long-term sustainability of Saskatchewan, and welcome the members to this, their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — 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. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery is Darrell Kalthoff. He is originally from Fulda, Saskatchewan. He grew up in Humboldt. He has worked for SaskPower for the last 24 years and is a journeyman power line technician. He is the longest serving transmission line crew in Saskatchewan, and as one of the longest serving MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], I can relate to people who have been around for a while.

He is here today at our invitation because he recently received Electricity Canada's 2022 Lifesaving Award for going above and beyond to help someone in need. Mr. Speaker, while winter activities usually mean fun like ice fishing, snowmobile, and old-fashioned hockey, getting caught in the frigid temperatures can be outright dangerous.

This past January Darrell was driving home from his work site near Nipawin one night when he spotted something in the ditch. As he turned his truck around, Darrell found a 65-year-old man hiking his way along Highway 9 in minus 30 conditions. The man had left his home that morning to hunt moose before his vehicle got stuck in the bush. The hunter was then forced to walk for hours to get back to the highway. Mr. Speaker, Darrell immediately helped the hunter warm up in his truck and provided first aid. Finally, Darrell spent the next two hours driving the hunter back to his home in The Pas. His actions that day were nothing short of life-saving.

Mr. Speaker, people like Darrell embody what is truly great about our province, that we lend a helping hand to those in need. Today we thank Darrell for what he's done, but we also want to thank all SaskPower and all Crown workers for what they do each and every day to make our province the great place that it is.

I would ask that all members of this Assembly join me in thanking Darrell for his heroic actions and welcome him to his Assembly today, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to first of all join with the minister in welcoming Darrell to his Assembly. You know, as a lineman, you do incredibly difficult, incredibly critical work — in thankless conditions, I might add — for the province on a . . . I was going to say daily, but perhaps a wintery basis, although I know summer can be rough out there as well.

So for your everyday work, I want to, on behalf of the official opposition, thank you for your long service to SaskPower, to our Crown corporations, as well as to all people in the province, and especially recognize the heroism and the award, Electricity Canada's Lifesaving Award, that brings you here today. And I would ask all members on behalf of the official opposition to join me in welcoming Darrell to his gallery and thanking him for his service.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker — I should have asked leave for an extended introduction — but I'd also like to welcome the delegation here from Federated Co-op Ltd. and the refinery. Thank you so much for the work that you do in powering this province economically, the impact that you're going to make

economically. And it is of course, as was noted by the member opposite, just a real pleasure, especially today of all days, to welcome you here as a truly female-led, empowered organization and economic powerhouse here in the province.

And lastly, while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, a tremendous welcome to the 48 grade 12 students seated in . . . oh God, the east gallery from Campbell Collegiate, and their teacher, Mr. Harlos. Welcome to your Assembly. Pardon me, Ms. Harlos. I'm staring at you, and now I'm just really doubling down on my ramblings. So Ms. Harlos and grade 12 students from Campbell Collegiate, welcome to your Assembly. I hope you have a tremendous experience here in question period, and I look forward to meeting with you after and answering any and all questions that you may have.

So on behalf of myself and the team over here, welcome to your Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to join briefly with the member opposite in welcoming the grade 12 group from Campbell Collegiate, specifically, Mr. Speaker, Brittin Ferguson whose mom, Kristen, works in my office. So I hope I didn't bring her any public shout-out, Mr. Speaker.

From my understanding, the group is visiting the Assembly as part of a history. And I could suggest, Mr. Speaker, they may want to have a meeting with the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation as a true historian who has probably been here since day one, Mr. Speaker.

So I hope you learn a lot here today and I just want to welcome all the class here from Campbell Collegiate, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce in your west gallery, Angie Kells. Angie is here in her capacity as an abortion doula with the Saskatoon Abortion Support Network today. She's here specifically for some petitions that she has been collecting throughout the summer. Later in the proceedings, I will formally table a stack of about 800 signatures from people across Saskatchewan who are looking to support legislation for protected access zones around Saskatchewan abortion-providing facilities.

Just to say a little bit about the network and what Angie and about 50 volunteers do with the Abortion Support Network, the network was established in 2019. This network is a registered

non-profit and it is entirely volunteer run and community funded. The network provides free services to those who are seeking abortion services in Saskatoon and surrounding areas, sometimes up to 2.5 hours away from Saskatoon. So it's quite a wide area that's being covered by these folks.

Services that are provided by the network include providing information on how to access an abortion in Saskatchewan. Contrary to some folks' belief, there are many barriers in our province to accessing an abortion and knowing how to go about that.

What's also provided by the network is transportation as well as accommodations for people who are having to travel outside of their home communities to access abortion services, something that is extremely costly and certainly a barrier for a number of folks across the province. They also provide peer-to-peer support for folks who are looking to talk through their decision to access an abortion, either before or after or during the procedure itself, or access.

And I want to just say, this is a service that has been identified as a need in our province because of something that is lacking. We had called earlier in this session for improved access to abortion services, including a central administrative intake line for all people in Saskatchewan to access so that they don't have to be looking up on Google how they can get this medical service provided, and so that folks like Angie do not have to, you know, in addition to their full-time day jobs, fill that gap in the community and provide services that should be readily accessible for anyone seeking abortion services in Saskatchewan.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members thank Angie for her dedicated work in this capacity, for her incredible and fierce organizing work in gathering this amount of petitions, and to please welcome her to her legislature.

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

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not be doing an extended introduction. To you and through you, I would like to introduce four nursing students situated in your gallery: Macey Menzies — just give a wave there — Cameron Stepp, Shannara, and Janna. These students are from Sask Poly, the licensed practical nursing program; and the registered nurse program at the University of Saskatchewan.

We met with the ministers of Health and had a great conversation, and there is a very exciting announcement today that affects these nursing students and hundreds of other nursing students across the province. And I'm looking forward to providing more information in an upcoming member's statement. So please join me in welcoming these students to this, 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 member opposite in welcoming these LPN [licensed practical nurse] students to their gallery.

Speaking of health care, Mr. Speaker, we have another fierce advocate for workers, in particular those in the health care sector, here today. Barb Cape is here, president of SEIU-West [Service Employees International Union-West]. I'm sure she's here to show solidarity with her colleagues at SGEU, colleagues with SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority]. She is, like I said, a very fierce advocate for all workers in this province. She is a force not to be reckoned with, Mr. Speaker.

And I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming her to her Legislative Assembly.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with my colleagues, the Leader of the Official Opposition and my colleague from Regina Douglas Park, in welcoming a number of folks here in our galleries today, primarily in our west gallery. They're all fierce advocates for the workers that they advocate for.

A few introductions I'd like to make, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce Bob Stadnichuk today, vice-president of SGEU's retail regulatory sector which includes SLGA, a member of the SLGA bargaining committee, and a long-time employee of an SLGA store in Saskatoon. I'd also like to introduce Diane Ralph, SGEU's first vice-president. Diane is the second in command to the president. Diane is from Melfort, and she's a long-time health care worker.

I'd also like to introduce Ralph Rathgeber, Chair of the SLGA bargaining committee and a long-time employee at an SLGA store in Fort Qu'Appelle. I'd also like to introduce Courtney Topping, a member of the SLGA bargaining committee and an employee at an SLGA store in Prince Albert.

One last introduction, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce Darcy Thiessen, who is the brother-in-law of our very own MLA from Saskatoon Fairview. I know she wanted to introduce you, but I also just wanted to give you a special shout-out.

I want to say thank you all so much for coming here today. Thank you all so much for the hard work you do advocating for your colleagues, for your workers. Mr. Speaker, a number of folks here today drove as far as Prince Albert to be here today to sit in the galleries, and I want to thank them for that.

I hope all members can join me today in providing a very warm welcome to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's been a lot of important introductions today, so I'm not on my feet to introduce my good friend Erin Harlos here today. She's already been welcomed, Mr. Speaker.

But I am on my feet to introduce one of the fastest paddlers in Canada, Mr. Speaker. He's ducking up there right now because he's shy and he's humble, but he's my nephew, Nic LaHaye, here with the Campbell grade 12s here today. He's competed for Saskatchewan; he's competed in nationals; he's competed in the Summer Games. He's a tremendous athlete. He's a proud athlete from the Wascana Racing Canoe Club, Mr. Speaker.

I was at the start, at the genesis for his love of paddling, getting up on the Churchill River and joining my friends and family for some of those early paddles. Now he's too busy competing and training to join us, Mr. Speaker.

He's a tremendous athlete. He can pop out 30 wide-grip pull-ups, Mr. Speaker, if you can imagine. And he's leading the way in academics, Mr. Speaker. He's registered for engineering, Mr. Speaker.

And to my nephew, who's probably really unhappy I'm on my feet introducing him, I just want to let him know I am so very proud of him for being such a thoughtful, rock-solid, caring guy who's going to accomplish so much in his life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief in welcoming somebody who needs no introduction because he's here every day. But today is his birthday, so I'd like to wish Fred Hill a happy birthday and thank him for his chaplaincy work here in the Assembly, for his open-door policy of friendship and guidance to all members and staff here and in our constituency offices. Thank you and happy birthday.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

[14:00]

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to implement Saskatchewan-first policies

and legislation that will support the development of Saskatchewan as a global supplier of food, fuel, and fertilizer without federal infringement on Saskatchewan's constitutional authority.

Those who have signed this petition reside in Tuffnell, Wadena, Theodore, and Foam Lake. I so present.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present the following petition. The folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention the following: traplines in the North are disappearing; users of these lands are not being consulted by industry and this government; the Sask Party government have 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 First Nation and Métis communities to develop a new duty-to-consult policy framework.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Yellow Quill, Cupar, Punnichy. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition calling for a committee on mental health and addictions crisis. The people who have signed this petition want the government to know. I think about the individual that organized, Jude Ratt, who's organized this petition and had got hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of signatures on this petition, and the loss of his daughter. On December 9th of this year will be one year that he lost his daughter to suicide, who had four children. He's asked that we present this petition on behalf of all those people he is lobbying for to this government and asking.

So with that: that Saskatchewan has the highest suicide rate in the country; that the suicide rate for Indigenous people in Saskatchewan is four times higher than non-Indigenous people; that one in four youth in Saskatchewan have engaged in self-harm.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately create a

bipartisan legislative committee on the mental health and addiction crisis in the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by hundreds of people of our good province. It's right through the province. Everywhere. We're getting more and more recognition. I want to so present on their behalf.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, I'm on my feet again as I have been nearly every day of this session so far to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis.

Those who signed the petition would like us to know that it's both recruitment and retention of health care professionals that are creating problems in Saskatchewan, especially in rural health care facilities that have experienced shutdowns and disruptions in everything from emergency room care, acute care, to lab and X-ray services.

They'd like us to know that health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan's home towns and in our local economies.

I'll read the prayer:

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

Today's petition is signed by folks from Landis, Scott, and Cando. I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present our petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to stop the closure of the remaining 34 public liquor stores. Mr. Speaker, closing the public liquor stores during a generational affordability crisis is bad for jobs, bad for competition, and bad for affordability. It's a terrible jobs plan.

The decision to shutter the 34 remaining public stores across Saskatchewan will see the loss of up to 400 good-paying, stable, unionized jobs. Mr. Speaker, these remaining public stores have remained profitable, self-sufficient, and competitive while providing good-paying, stable jobs. These stores generate hundreds of thousands in revenue that fund crucial public services such as health care, education, and highways. Instead this government has decided to send much of this revenue into the pockets of huge corporations outside of Saskatchewan.

So I stand today to present hundreds of signatures from concerned residents across Saskatchewan, calling on the government to cancel its attack on public Crowns and services and jobs. They are joined by over 1,300 letters sent to the minister's office. These stores are owned by the people of Saskatchewan and they should have the final say.

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 Saskatoon, Regina Walsh Acres, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Melville, Fort Qu'Appelle, Goodeve, Yorkton, Ebenezer, Theodore, Ituna, Saltcoats, Rhein, Springside, Churchbridge, Canora, Broadview . . .

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the Legislative Assembly to fund in vitro fertilization treatments here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, one in six couples in Canada will experience infertility, and this, Mr. Speaker, is a health condition. This is no one's fault. This is nothing that anyone asks for.

IVF [in vitro fertilization] treatments are prohibitively expensive, with each cycle costing upwards of \$10,000, let alone the drugs, as well as the emotional and physical toll that goes along with that. Despite public health care being a right here in Canada, there is no government financial support in Saskatchewan for people seeking to grow their families right here at home, despite other provinces offering this support. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people's ability to conceive should not depend on their socio-economic status and it makes economic sense to invest in families right here at home.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately move to cover the financial burden of two rounds of IVF treatment for Saskatchewan people experiencing infertility.

The signatories of this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from North Battleford. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition with over 800 signatures calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to finally establish safe access zones for Saskatchewan abortion facilities.

The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: that safe access zones around facilities that provide abortion services in Saskatchewan will ensure that patients and staff are safe and free from discrimination and harassment; that currently in Canada, six provinces have already passed bubble-zone legislation, including British Columbia in 1995 and that legislation has been upheld as constitutional; that BC's [British Columbia] legislation has successfully deterred protesters and protected people working in and accessing reproductive care facilities for 25 years; that two private members' bills have been introduced in the Saskatchewan legislature by myself, Mr.

Speaker, and so far no action has been taken; that the Sask Party government has had sufficient time to understand the necessity of this legislation in protecting the health and safety of staff and patients accessing care.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately pass legislation to establish safe access zones for Saskatchewan abortion facilities.

Mr. Speaker, this petition has been signed by over 800 residents of Saskatchewan from across the province. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Ms. Sarauer: — Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault, Annie Turcotte, and Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz. Mr. Speaker, these are the names of the 14 women lost to a senseless act of violent misogyny on December 6th, 1989 at École Polytechnique in Montreal.

Today is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This day provides an opportunity to remember these women as well as many others who've been victims of gender-based violence. Even though it has been 33 years since this tragic demonstration of misogyny, gender-based violence continues to impact women across the country. Almost half of Canadian women will face gender-based violence in their lives. This reflects a deeply rooted pattern of violence against women, Mr. Speaker.

But we are also aware that much of this is rooted in patterns of racialized violence. The number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in our country and in this province is absolutely staggering. Mr. Speaker, we owe it to those 14 women to use this day to reflect on today's realities and fight to end violence against women. It is important to not only mourn and reflect but use this as a springboard for action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to recognize those lost at École Polytechnique and remember the lessons learned as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Today we wear white ribbons to show our collective promise to not remain silent about violence against women, and we affirm our commitment to stand up against violence and support those impacted.

On this day in 1989, the tragic massacre at École Polytechnique in Montreal occurred. Today we remember and honour the 14 women who lost their lives in a horrendous act of violence based on their gender: Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault, and Annie Turcotte. These women will not be forgotten.

Recently at the 40th annual meeting of the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for the status of women, Saskatchewan proudly endorsed the national action plan to end gender-based violence. I encourage everyone to learn more about the resources and services available in our province by visiting facetheissue.ca, and anyone experiencing or impacted by violence to call or text 211 for support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Access to Abortion Services in Saskatchewan

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, if a woman in Regina in her 10th week of pregnancy requires an abortion, she can go to the Women's Health Centre and ask for one. She has four weeks to do so. Yet if a woman in Saskatoon needs one, she has to visit her doctor to get a referral first, and only then can she go to a clinic. She'd better hurry. She has only two weeks, Mr. Speaker.

If this woman is in La Loche, she better pray she has a car and a long weekend. She's going to have to drive 600 kilometres to Saskatoon because not one community in northern Saskatchewan is equipped to perform surgical abortions. I don't think I need to speak to the desperate measures this woman will take if she misses the cut-off date and can't afford to leave the province to get treatment elsewhere.

Even if she can access the needed treatment on time, barriers still exist. Those accessing abortion in Saskatchewan have no assurance that it will be without intimidation. To date, the government has refused to pass legislation to ensure safe access zones around places providing abortion services in Saskatchewan.

Later today, I will be introducing *The Protecting a Woman's Right to Access Abortion Services Act*. More than 29,000 people have signed their names to a petition online calling for better protections and as we saw, over 800 residents of Saskatchewan have signed that physical petition. Today of all days, women deserve better. The government must finally commit to the safe, equitable abortion access that women deserve.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosetown-Elrose.

Remembering Reg Schellenberg

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of the sudden passing of Reg Schellenberg, president of the Canadian Cattle Association. Reg was known personally to many members of this Assembly, including the Minister of Agriculture and myself.

[14:15]

Report on Saskatchewan's Economy

A rancher from Beechy, Saskatchewan, Reg has long contributed to this province and to the livestock industry. He started as a director on the Canadian Cattle Association in 2010, followed by Co-Chair of the foreign trade committee, Co-Chair of the animal health care committee, and then president, the position that he held at the time of his passing.

He was a strong advocate for the industry, both nationally and internationally, in his roles on the CCA [Canadian Cattle Association], and was also a trusted source of advice for the province on livestock issues. Like many producers, Reg believed in building public trust by increasing awareness of stewardship and conservation efforts made in the beef industry. He's often described by his colleagues as being a kind person with a gentle demeanour and strong character. Those qualities were endearing to anyone who met him and especially to those in the industry. His family will carry on their multi-generational ranch with pride.

Reg is survived by his wife, Shannon, two sons, a daughter, and nine grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by the community of Beechy and by the entire livestock industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in offering our deepest condolences to the Schellenberg family. Reg was truly a gentleman.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Redvers Farmer Shares Life-Changing Gift

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with pride at the remarkable generosity the people of our province exhibit. A local retired farmer from Redvers, Merle Malin is a notable example of Saskatchewan people's generosity and fellowship.

Mr. Malin suffered paraplegia in an accident 30 years ago. At the time, doctors gave him a low chance of survival. Mr. Speaker, fast-forward a few short years after his accident, Merle had not only survived but was actively farming. He had found a lift at the Farm Progress Show and bought it to help himself in and out of his farm equipment.

Recently Mr. Malin came across a news article in the *Moosomin World-Spectator* with a picture of 16-year-old Levi Jamieson from Moosomin. Levi had lost the use of his legs in an accident and still had the passion to farm. Merle, in proper Saskatchewan form, went the extra mile. He felt compelled to make this young farmer's life easier, so he offered Levi his hydraulic chairlift. Mr. Speaker, this act of generosity has made life easier for Levi and allowed him to be more independent while continuing to farm.

I am proud to live in a province filled with great people like Merle Malin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our merchandise export numbers for October have been released, and they're telling the same story that we've been telling all session — Saskatchewan is on track.

Month over month, merchandise exports increased by 22.1 per cent in October 2022, compared to September. Saskatchewan ranked second in terms of percentage change among provinces. Year over year, merchandise exports in Saskatchewan increased by 47.5 per cent in October, compared to October of 2021. Saskatchewan ranked first in percentage change among the provinces. In the first 10 months of 2022, Mr. Speaker, merchandise exports in Saskatchewan increased by 43.2 per cent compared to the same period in 2021, Saskatchewan ranking second among the provinces in percentage change.

And according to The Conference Board of Canada, Saskatchewan's real GDP [gross domestic product] growth will rebound by 6.8 per cent and lead the nation in 2022, and sustain that growth in 2023 at 3.6 per cent, ranking first among all the provinces.

The Fraser Institute also recognized Saskatchewan as the sixth-best place for oil and gas investment in North America, the only Canadian province in the top 10. Mr. Speaker, our crop production is recovering from the severe drought we experienced last year and will be critical to boosting our GDP and export growth in 2023.

Mr. Speaker, two canola crush plants, an integrated canola processing and biodiesel facility, a pulp mill, ongoing investments — all of this is growth that works for everyone, Mr. Speaker.

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

Expansion of Recruitment Incentive for Health Care Workers

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recruiting health care professionals is a challenge that communities across Canada and the rest of the world are facing. The difference is that Saskatchewan has an aggressive four-point action plan to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain over 1,000 more health care workers to communities across our province.

Today I am very pleased to announce expanded eligibility for the recruitment incentive of up to \$50,000 for hard-to-recruit positions. This incentive was put in place to target nine priority health care professions, including nurses, lab technicians, and other positions required to stabilize services that people living in rural and northern communities rely on.

Eligibility for the incentive has been expanded to include individuals who have completed an education program for one of the nine health care professions while working for the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] or for an affiliate in the health care system, just like the nurses present here today, Mr. Speaker.

Our government remains committed to restoring health care

services in communities across the province, and the expanded eligibility for this recruitment incentive reflects our commitment. Thank you to the Health ministers and all their staff for all the hard work in this file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Affordability and Establishment of a Provincial Revenue Agency

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it's more clear than ever that this is a government that has clearly given up on helping people. They're tired, they're out of touch, they're sowing division, and they're making Saskatchewan people pay the price. Just yesterday this government introduced a bill to create a new tax agency but admitted that they have no idea — no idea at all, Mr. Speaker — how much it's going to cost the people of Saskatchewan.

Now Saskatchewan people don't want more bureaucracy and red tape. They want to be able to pay their bills. Does the Premier honestly, does he honestly not understand how difficult it is out there for Saskatchewan families? And what kind of government hikes taxes in a generational affordability crisis?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, as I explained yesterday, the legislation that was introduced, in this year quite frankly doesn't cost anything. It is very high level. It establishes a framework to do the exploration work. It is to model what Alberta does. And in fact Quebec administers all of their taxes. So we need to explore that. We need to work with the stakeholders involved, Mr. Speaker.

And when we have had preliminary conversations with Alberta, that do collect and administer their own corporate income tax, they find it revenue-neutral or indeed make a small amount of revenue because of the change in what goes to Ottawa through the Canada Revenue Agency and what they themselves generate within the province. There is advantages to corporations for certain changes that Ottawa has made that we perhaps could do differently or better here in Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, out-of-touch on display. Literally no one is asking for this. Yesterday Angus Reid received a new poll, asking Saskatchewan people how they're doing. Mr. Speaker, the Premier should try that sometime. Here's what he would've learned had he asked:

Despite the province cutting residents a \$500 affordability cheque in the fall, three-in-five (59%) in Saskatchewan say they are in worse financial shape than they were a year ago, the highest proportion in the country.

Mr. Speaker, the by-election cheques have come and gone and still Saskatchewan people describe being worse off than anywhere else in Canada. The question is, is that Premier listening, and what's he going to do about it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's not surprising. In that poll every single province other than Quebec, there was more people that said they're worse off today than they were last year. We are in inflationary times as well as a high interest. However a study done by finance specialist David Bico that was in the newspaper a few days ago said, and I quote, "Saskatchewan is one of the most affordable provinces for living and raising a family," Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this government, along with a billion dollar writedown of our debt and spending \$450 million on an affordability tax credit that each and every adult will receive within this province that filed income tax, Mr. Speaker, we also in this budget and in last year's budget and in the budget that I'm working on now, provide over \$2.2 billion worth of affordability measures.

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

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority Retail Outlets

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, perhaps the 60 per cent of people who describe themselves as being worse off didn't read the report. They were too busy trying to pay their bills.

Now it's clear you couldn't find a government more out of touch with the realities of Saskatchewan people. And they're not just hiking taxes, fees, and utility rates in a generational affordability crisis, but they're also killing hundreds of jobs. It's devastating for those who are impacted. It's bad for the economy. And it pulls revenue that should help pay for health care, for highways, and for schools.

Will the Premier commit today to scrapping his heartless Crown-sell-off plan in front of these people who are most impacted?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SLGA.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We understand that this will be a difficult time for these employees in their time of transition. But I'm actually not so sure that the members opposite truly feel the same way. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to note that it has taken the opposition till the second-last day of session to actually ask a direct question on this in the House.

And I think this is because we all know that many on the other side actually support this policy, including the opposition SLGA critic. We saw further evidence of this last Monday night when the NDP held a fundraiser at one of our excellent private retailers. It seems the opposition, when they were voting in the House with us, were also voting with their wallets that night.

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

Mr. Teed: — Mr. Speaker, that's a pretty classy response in front of all these folks. This is a callous, short-sighted decision that will impact almost 400 employees, many of whom have joined us in the gallery today.

And they are so much more than numbers, Mr. Speaker. These

are our friends, they're our neighbours, and they're family. The folks in your community who coach your kids — the kids that play hockey, soccer, or dance — who attend a church with you, who volunteer at community fundraisers. These aren't just individuals. They're families, families with mortgages, car loans, families with grocery bills and utility bills, both of which this government is refusing to help with.

This decision is a mistake. Will the minister change course and scrap this plan today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SLGA.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do thank the member opposite for the question, but the NDP have absolutely no credibility on this issue. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to remind the members of what the SLGA critic had to say on this, and not that long ago. He said, and I quote:

I believe the Saskatchewan government . . . phase out running any government liquor stores. The Sask Party has been in power for 14 years and has been slowly winding this retail system down. I honestly believe it's time to rip the band-aid off. I see the benefits of having private corporations run these stores. These privately run stores are doing an excellent job servicing the Saskatchewan community.

Mr. Speaker, the new NDP member is clearly a supporter of exiting out of government-run liquor stores.

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

Mr. Teed: — Mr. Speaker, I think I was the only one who could look these people in the eye. But it continues to show that this government is really out of touch. These workers were blindsided by this decision, a decision they heard about through the media or rumour on the day of the Throne Speech. Some have had to reverse decisions to purchase homes or vehicles. In short, they are devastated.

But this isn't just devastating. It's also devastating for our provincial economy. SLGA stores provided good-paying jobs, and those wages were reinvested in their communities. They also gave back to taxpayers by generating revenue to pay for public services that we all rely on.

To the minister: will she change course and scrap this short-sighted sell-off today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for SLGA.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the 34 stores that comprise SLGA retail has seen their net income decline by nearly 96 per cent since 2018. This is expected to continue to decline, and at SLGA retail we will begin to lose money in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, independent business has proven that they can safely and effectively handle the business, as the large majority of liquor retail in the province is already private.

[14:30]

We know where the members opposite stand when it comes to our job creators in this province. The member from Regina Rosemont, in his comments on October 27th, tell the whole story. He said private business, primarily small businesses, have put the economy on ice, weakened our economy, and has sold out Saskatchewan workers. That's what the NDP think of our economy, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Teed: — Mr. Speaker, last week the minister stood in this House and thanked SLGA workers for the work they did last Christmas in mitigating the cyberattack that hit SLGA stores, a cyberattack that nearly crippled the company and saw 40,000 people's data breached. Those same SLGA employees are here in the galleries today. Last Christmas it was thanks; this Christmas, a pink slip.

What does this minister have to say to these hard-working people and their families as they prepare to head into the holiday season with the anxiety of looking for a new way to support their families, make a living during a generational affordability crisis?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SLGA.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the top of my remarks I said that I do understand that this is a difficult time for these employees and that this time of transition will not be easy. Right now we're working on a workforce transition plan for these employees, and those negotiations are still taking place, Mr. Speaker.

But as I already quoted earlier, the profits of these stores have been decreasing. We expect to go into negative territory. Mr. Speaker, those dollars can be spent — as the members opposite already have said — the negative dollars that these stores are going to be going into in the near future can be spent on health. They can be spent on education. They can be spent on highways. That is the reality, Mr. Speaker.

So while the transition is taking place, we are going to watch what happens next. And as permits come for sale, the new stores will become available and options will be open at that point in time for everyone. Thank you.

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

Establishment of a Provincial Revenue Agency

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, what a pile of condescension and spin, for workers who deserve answers and deserve a livelihood in Saskatchewan. Local businesses are facing significant challenges — labour force shortage, supply chain issues, inflation, and new taxes and big power and energy hikes brought to you by that Sask Party government. Yet we see that out-of-touch government's priority yesterday.

To the minister: what local business wants a more cumbersome, less efficient, more complex tax system, not to mention more red

tape, that forces them to file two sets of taxes?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — My goodness. You know what, Mr. Speaker? For folks who don't watch question period every day, I think today is a pretty good example — as was yesterday — of the NDP coming in here day after day after day running down the economy, running down our private businesses, running down our job creators, attacking the industries that create jobs, that create opportunity, that create employment.

Today we have now the member standing up and saying, well there's a labour force shortage. Meanwhile you have the member for Regina — I forget where — saying the exact opposite of that day after day after day, Mr. Speaker. This is precisely why the NDP have no credibility on the economy.

Today we made a very, very exciting announcement, Mr. Speaker, creating pathways for newcomers to have their credentials and skills recognized, something of genuine significance for tens of thousands of people here in this province and those to come. Not one single question on that, Mr. Speaker. Instead they stand up and spread doom and gloom and attack the economy day after day.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Wild, Mr. Speaker. Didn't even touch the question. I think we have to remind members opposite that they're here to run a government, not a clown show, Mr. Speaker, full of spin and condescension for the people of Saskatchewan.

There's a lot of need in Saskatchewan — need for affordability relief, investments in ERs [emergency room] and to address the doctor shortage — yet this government's priority is to spend more money, if you can imagine, to spend tens of millions of dollars to hire hundreds of tax collectors and tax experts, Mr. Speaker, to deliver a less efficient, more cumbersome, more complex tax system for Saskatchewan businesses for something that's currently paid for entirely by the federal government right now.

Will this government see the error in their way and shelve this costly, virtue-signalling project that's completely without merit and proves just how utterly out of touch this government has fallen?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You want to talk about a clown show? Look at those members opposite. This is the same crew that earlier this week, stands up, votes for the government on second reading for *The Saskatchewan First Act*, then claim that they don't actually support *The Saskatchewan First Act*; they just vote for everything on second reading, Mr. Speaker.

That is a clown show of an opposition that is entirely lost, and that is a party that is entirely lost under that leader. Even under

the previous leader, at least you knew where they were going, Mr. Speaker. It was in the completely wrong direction, but at least you knew they had a direction. What you're seeing day after day in here is an example of a party opposite that is a clown show that has no idea where they are going and that is completely lost.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Two questions, not a single answer. And I can understand why. Because it's indefensible how this government's acting on this front. Here is the bottom line — it's wasteful. It makes our tax system more complex, more cumbersome, more costly. They're adding costs, government, and red tape, and of course less efficient for local businesses.

No one was calling for this, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the minister couldn't explain the program, how much it would cost, certainly couldn't defend the bogus revenue-neutral claims, Mr. Speaker. And this, you know, really should be no surprise from a government that's mismanaged project after project and our public finances year after year. With this sort of reckless approach, it's easier to understand how the folks over there have tripled our debt.

To the minister: why don't they simply do the right thing and scrap this costly, backwards vanity project?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the member opposite didn't hear anyone calling for this because corporations know what the NDP think of corporations, even though they're the job creators. So I'm sure they didn't dial them up and say they're interested in this.

But, Mr. Speaker, where were those members opposite when the federal government made changes to the passive income, that was going to be harmful, particularly . . . not just all corporations but to companies that were run by professional women? Where were they when those professional women came forward and said, you know what, this way we have the passive income structured, that is what helped us to keep our clinics open when we took a maternity leave?

A party that say that they defend women and women's rights. When this was harmful to those very, very professional women, where were they? Silent yet again. They will never stand up to the federal government. They just say they will in the House, but in reality they have never stood up to the federal government. They support them time and time and time again, and that's why they're down to 12 seats.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Northern Highways

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our northern leaders who advocate so much. Whether they're Métis, First Nation leaders, municipal leaders, I want to thank them for advocating for our northern highways and talking about safety.

Last week the Minister of Highways bragged about his

government's record on highways in the North. If the minister is so proud of the job he is doing, then why are the northern highways so bad, like Highway No. 994, Kinoosao?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Cockrill: — Mr. Speaker, thank you very much and thank the member opposite for the question. I love rising in this House to speak about the investments that this government has made in our highways, in the South but also in the North, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since 2008 we've invested eleven and a half billion dollars in highways all across the province. And in the North, well that member should know that we've spent nearly \$800 million in northern highways, Mr. Speaker. We know we have more work to do, and we're going to continue making those investments where needed. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Last week the minister talked about \$67 million budget for the North. That's not new money, investment this year. Those dollars cover maintenance, airport maintenance. They're not new construction, Mr. Speaker.

Instead of the spin, when will this government deliver supports we need in the North to fix the roads and keep people safe?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Cockrill: — Mr. Speaker, that member gets up and has no credibility on any issues relating to investment in northern highways. When I talk about the investment in the North, yes, there's absolutely maintenance dollars. But, Mr. Speaker, there's new projects going on every single year.

Even last week, Mr. Speaker, I referenced one major project that we did — Highway 155, Highway 908, 14 kilometres of improvements on those two stretches. We are investing in the North, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to do so. Thank you.

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

Health Care Staffing

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The auditor's report was released today and it paints a grim picture of the state of health care in Saskatchewan. It should be clear to this government that there is no health care without health care workers. And the auditor's report shows that the situation is far worse than this government would like to admit.

The report details that the SHA anticipates 2,000 staff shortages in the next five years. Last year alone, 600 more SHA staff left the job than those that were hired. All of this under the failed leadership of that Health minister. Does he think that this is good enough for Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank

the auditor for the report. Mr. Speaker, that report was done before we announced our four-point plan early in September. And the auditor did recognize that we have made some improvements, as identified by the Minister of Rural and Remote Health. We have opened up facilities, Mr. Speaker.

But on top of that, just last week I was able to travel to the Philippines, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to say that we had over 1,200 people come to those events to be able to look at Saskatchewan for an opportunity.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, I was able to meet with two federal ministers to streamline our curriculum to make sure that when the Filipino nurses come from the Philippines to Saskatchewan, they can integrate and we can reduce our bridging time.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, we were able to offer 129 positions. These are OR [operating room], ER, ICU [intensive care unit] nurses that are going to come to Saskatchewan in the coming months and help out the front-line health care workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, that minister's plan is years late and it's half-baked. The auditor points out that internal SHA documents show projected staff shortages in critical roles are set to explode in the next five years. The RN [registered nurse] and RPN [registered practical nurse] shortage is expected to more than double in the next five years. The staff gap for continuing care aides is expected to increase 13 times by 2027, when the auditor projects, according to SHA documents, that they'll be short-staffed by 841 staff. These are the staff who are there to care for the people who built this province.

Why does it take an audit to show how bad the state of health care is? Why did the Sask Party government let the staffing crisis get so bad?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, I'll recite exactly what we're doing with our four-point plan. We have more nurses going into our post-secondary education. We're hiring from across Canada, 130 doctors in the last 13 months that we brought into this province.

And I'll remind the members opposite that they had 173 doctors actually go out of the province in five years, Mr. Speaker. They were losing a doctor every 10 days in this province when they were in government. We're getting a doctor every three days in this province, Mr. Speaker, in the last year.

They also lost 450 nurses out the door, Mr. Speaker. We're hiring nurses, not just from the Philippines. We're hiring them from Saskatchewan. We're hiring them from across Canada. And I want to thank the nurses that are here in the gallery that that member over there is talking about, Mr. Speaker, that are very excited about what's going on. They're very excited about the incentives, and are extremely excited about working in rural Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — This auditor report is clear that that minister is only counting those . . . [inaudible] . . . He's not counting all those hundreds who are leaving this province. The auditor found that the SHA doesn't know which regions are most at risk. She found that Prince Albert, Meadow Lake, and La Ronge together need more than 700 new staff in the coming years. This shouldn't be a surprise because online posts from the SHA say the same thing: in a place like Meadow Lake you can't deliver a baby on weekends; no epidurals; no C-sections. Why isn't the minister on top of this?

[14:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, do they even acknowledge the 130 doctors that we've got in this province? Do they acknowledge the 129 Filipinos that want to choose Saskatchewan, that are absolutely excited, Mr. Speaker. They were coming up to me in the Philippines, in Manila, saying, "Where's Strasbourg? I want to work in Strasbourg. I want to work in Rosthern. I want to work in Swift Current. Please tell me where these opportunities are where we can make money."

Mr. Speaker, this is a huge opportunity for individuals from the Philippines to be able to come over to Saskatchewan. They're making about 10 to 12,000 Canadian dollars . . . Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the member opposite would like to listen to some of the answers that he asks a question to.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again these are opportunities from the Filipinos, from Saskatchewan, from across Canada that want to call Saskatchewan home, want to work in our rural and remote communities, just like the four individuals that are up in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Now the incentives are in place. They've expanded those out as what I identified earlier in a member statement. We've expanded those out to be able to fill those positions to secure the health care system. Thank you.

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

Gender-Based Violence

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, this Chamber is dripping with arrogance from that government today.

Thirty-three years ago, a lone gunman murdered 14 young women. He did it out of a hatred of women and desire to do violence to them. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is no stranger to violence. This province suffers year after year from intimate partner violence at twice the national average. This province also suffers from having a government that invited a convicted wife killer to this legislature, that had to be internationally shamed into apologizing for doing so.

Mr. Speaker, this government still remains one of the only provinces in Canada that does not provide operational funding to second-stage shelters. Why does this government continue to be satisfied with having this distinction? Why do they think

Saskatchewan women shouldn't have the same supports that women in other provinces have?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, it's a sad day of remembrance, and it's something that each and every one of us is really feeling so deeply in the House today.

Now last month I was pleased to endorse the national action plan to end gender-based violence. And, Mr. Speaker, these are real steps to ensure that we change how people act towards each other.

Mr. Speaker, it troubles me greatly that we have an opposition that in fact would try and play on the grave aspect of gender-based violence. Saskatchewan is not proud of our record but, Mr. Speaker, we are working hard to change that record. Thank you very much.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — For ministerial statements, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Proceed.

Reduced Credential Barriers for Internationally Trained Professionals

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to inform the House that the Government of Saskatchewan is ensuring certainty for newcomers entering our job market. *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Regulations* will introduce maximum timelines for assessment and registration decisions and reduce the requirements associated with the credential recognition process to ensure newcomers can begin working sooner in the professions for which they have been trained.

Mr. Speaker, these new regulations will ensure Saskatchewan will have the shortest legislated timelines for labour mobility and foreign credential assessments in the entire country. Professionals in health care, engineering, law, education, the trades, and all other regulated sectors will see reduced credential barriers, reducing costs and the time associated with entering professional fields.

Mr. Speaker, regulatory bodies will have 50 days to provide internationally trained applicants with a decision on if they are qualified to work in Saskatchewan, the fastest decision time for internationally trained individuals in Canada. In fact only two other jurisdictions in Canada even have legislated timelines and both of those are six months.

Domestically, Mr. Speaker, there will be 20 days to provide applicants with a decision on their application. These steps will significantly improve qualification recognition times.

The Government of Saskatchewan is also introducing the international credential recognition grant, which will help address the costs associated with any required training, examinations, or assessments for those seeking recognition to work in the health care field. The ICRG [international credential recognition grant] will work in conjunction with these regulatory changes by providing up to \$6,000 for internationally educated health professional for costs related to obtaining licensure in Saskatchewan.

Our government believed this funding, combined with aggressive timelines for recognition, will assist Saskatchewan in becoming a destination of choice for skilled immigrants. With the changes mentioned today, we are addressing employer challenges due to the labour shortage. We are not lowering our standards, but we are giving newcomers certainty to have their credentials promptly recognized or be given a fair path to upgrade their skills to meet our standards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And my thanks to the minister for providing a copy of his remarks in advance. Mr. Speaker, the labour shortage is real and impacting all sectors of Saskatchewan's economy. And here in Saskatchewan we compete not just with other provinces, Mr. Speaker, but with the world.

All members in this House are familiar with some of the challenges and barriers that exist for newcomers, for internationally trained experts. And you know, I know we're all frustrated — everyone is frustrated — by the loss of that potential, that knowledge, and that expertise.

You know, and Bill 81 was introduced in the spring. There's significant work done, and I know there's a number of organizations who've been waiting with bated breath for the regulations to be released, of course, because there are regulatory bodies and professional credentialing organizations here in the province, Mr. Speaker, which are impacted by these changes and, as I understand, have been undertaking good work, you know, to adapt and to ensure that their processes are as efficient while rigorous as possible.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, any legislation, any regulations will have to balance that real imperative to ensure fair access to labour markets for internationally trained experts. And of course also the independence and obligation of these professional regulatory bodies and credentialing organizations also needs to be considered and respected, especially those with national certification processes and recognition.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I know these professional and regulatory bodies and organizations, as well as those countless internationally trained experts and workers in the province have been waiting for this. And this will mean good work, a lot of work to be done on behalf of consulting with those stakeholder organizations to ensure that all these regulations and all of this process is in the best interest of Saskatchewan's economy today and in the future. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 125 — *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2022*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SLGA.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 125, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2022* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 125 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 126 — *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2022*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 126, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2022* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 126 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 611 — *The Public Participation Act*

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 611, *The Public Participation Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill

No. 611 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 612 — *The Protecting a Woman's Right to Access Abortion Services Act*

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

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 612, *The Protecting a Woman's Right to Access Abortion Services Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 612 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its fifth report. I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies 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 Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Ms. C. Young: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report that it has considered certain supplementary estimates and to present its fourth report. I move:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy 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 Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Meyers: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain supplementary estimates and to present its fourth report. I move:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Human 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. Before orders of the day, I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to move a motion for the retirement of the Clerk, Greg Putz.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Premier has asked for leave to move a motion for the retirement of the Clerk, Greg Putz. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Leave has been granted. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

MOTIONS

Recognizing the Service of the Clerk

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At the close of my remarks I would like to move a formal motion of appreciation, which will be seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, the casual observer looking in on the proceedings of this House might be tempted to think it isn't very complicated. You have a group on one side, another group on the other side, and we argue about things. But we know there's a lot more to it than that. The Legislative Assembly is an institution steeped in tradition and governed by rules and procedures that are detailed and complex. And presiding over the administration of what you might call the workings of our democracy is the Clerk of the Assembly.

[15:00]

The Clerk is the senior executive officer in the Legislative Assembly Service and has significant procedural and leadership responsibilities. Mr. Speaker, it is a critical job in our democracy, and you need the right person to take on this responsibility. Greg Putz has been that person for as long as most of us have been in this House. And, Mr. Speaker, nothing is forever. Today it is with mixed emotions that we congratulate Greg on his much-deserved retirement and thank him for his exemplary service to this Assembly and to the entire province.

Mr. Speaker, Greg has worked a total of 36 years in this Assembly, including 16 years as Clerk. That is a long, long time. When Greg started here, Ronald Reagan was the president. The Canadiens were hoisting the Stanley Cup, and the biggest movie in the box office was *Top Gun*. And shockingly, this year, the year Greg is retiring, the biggest movie is once again *Top Gun*.

And now, Mr. Speaker, someone in the House will have to explain those references to the Minister of Highways because he wasn't even born when Greg began his career in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Greg has worked alongside five premiers, 10 Speakers — I repeat, 10 Speakers — and too many MLAs to count. And he has served diligently and professionally in the best tradition of Saskatchewan's public service.

Mr. Speaker, it should also be said that Greg has served this

Assembly impartially. As Clerk, he's been witness to history. He's had a front-row seat for the best and the worst, moments of high drama, and no doubt long stretches of tedium as well. Through it all, Greg has been an impassive observer, conscientiously tending to his duties on behalf of the Assembly and the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, Greg has provided leadership at a time of constant change for this institution. Many years ago, he played an important role ensuring that the debates of this Assembly and committees were made available online to the people of Saskatchewan, along with annual reports from the Provincial Auditor and the Ombudsman. More recently, he was instrumental in ensuring the House could adapt to the restrictions made necessary by a pandemic.

And there were other projects. Mr. Speaker, Greg oversaw the tradition from red to green carpets in the Assembly. At the time, the member from Martensville said she thought red was an angry colour, and green carpets might calm everyone down. Well, Greg could give us an unbiased opinion on whether the colour change has actually improved the decorum in this House.

Mr. Speaker, it's been said, democracy can be sustained and developed only by people who understand its essence. There are few people in this province that understand the essence of our democracy better than Greg Putz. There are few people who have done more in their lifetime to sustain our democracy than Greg Putz. Every member in this Assembly has benefited from Greg's wisdom and guidance at one time or another, and we are grateful for his advice and support. We are grateful for everything Greg Putz has done for this institution and for the province of Saskatchewan. Greg, we wish you the very best in your retirement.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me make a formal motion. And I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition:

That the members of this House, desiring to record their respectful appreciation for the distinguished service of almost 36 years rendered by Mr. Gregory Putz to this legislature including 16 years as Clerk, and acknowledging the dedication and dignity he brought to that office, designates him as Honorary Officer of this Legislative Assembly, with an entree to the Chamber and a seat at the Table on all ceremonial occasions.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Premier has moved:

That the members of this House, desiring to record their respectful appreciation for almost 36 years of distinguished service rendered by Mr. Gregory Putz to this legislature including 16 years as Clerk, and acknowledging the dedication and dignity he brought to that office, designates him as Honorary Officer of this Legislative Assembly, with an entree to the Chamber and a seat at the Table on all ceremonial occasions.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to rise this afternoon and second this motion put forward by the Deputy Premier. And it is an honour to deliver these remarks in front of my colleagues, but especially in front of you, Greg, and your family who are here with us today.

I think all of us will have fond memories of Greg and conversations that we've had, but I think of one in particular where Greg and I got to talking about families, and I recall the pride and obvious affection that you expressed about your family. And I do hope, as much as we are very sad to lose to you, that this retirement affords you some well-earned time with your beautiful family.

Thirty-six years, Mr. Speaker. Sixteen years as Clerk. The Deputy Premier noted how many premiers. I'm not sure how many leaders of the official opposition — I suspect it's perhaps a higher number than that. That is a truly remarkable service to the people of Saskatchewan and to each of the members who have been through this Assembly over the last 36 years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you google Greg's name on your Google device you won't find very much there. To get to know Greg, you need to spend some time with him or in this Assembly to see how very well served we have been by him and how humble a servant he is to the people of this province.

Born in Moose Jaw, graduated with a B.A. [Bachelor of Arts] honours from the University of Regina in '82 and an M.A. [Master of Arts] in history from the University of Ontario in 1984. Mr. Speaker, we are very lucky indeed that Greg chose to spend the bulk of his career here with us in this Assembly. Professional, discreet, honest, trustworthy — those are all attributes that we all know Greg to have and we're very thankful for.

On behalf of the official opposition, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank you, Greg, for your decades of service to this Assembly, to the people of our province, and wish you health and happiness in your well-deserved retirement. And with that, Mr. Speaker, it is my honour again to second the motion put forth by the Deputy Premier.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to the motion. And I know just by way of observance right at the very start of my brief remarks, the Deputy Premier moved the motion. The Leader of the Opposition seconded. I know Greg was probably thinking, this motion doesn't actually need a seconder. Greg has explained this to me before. Only two motions actually need seconds, and they're only for special order debates, Mr. Speaker, in the Chamber. And we only have two special order debates, and that is to do with the Speech from the Throne or reply to the Speech from the Throne and the budget debate.

So these are the kind of really interesting discussions Greg and I have had the chance to have — many, many, many over the past 15 years in this Chamber. But it's also what makes him so incredibly good in the job that he has done with such distinction, Mr. Speaker.

And as I said, I don't have lengthy remarks. But the Deputy Premier explained what the role of the Clerk is in a technical and formal way. The Clerk really is responsible for a whole number of official duties: the printing of the *Orders of the Day*, the *Votes and Proceedings*, the custodian of records, custody of proposed legislation through all stages and proceedings, and an obligation to treat members equally. But it goes far beyond just those technical duties, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk really is at the very centre of everything that happens in this Chamber and in this building.

The Clerk is the leader of the team that sits at this Table right here in front of us, the individual who has a great deal of input into the law under which we operate which really is the record of decisions, whether that be through points of order raised by members or whether that be through privilege decisions which are very significant and important in how this place operates, and even in how this place deliberates and goes back and forth every day. It really is central.

It's not always apparent, but all of those things are incredibly significant to how this place operates and, by extension, to how the province of Saskatchewan operates and how the public's voice is heard and how that is translated from public will into legislation and ultimately law.

So Greg has played just an incredibly important role in that and I think for many of us has really served as a mentor, as a friend, somebody who we've been able to go to and say, you know, here are a number of options that are in front of us, whether in government or opposition side, completely confident in the knowledge that that would not be shared with any other party in the Chamber, but get candid feedback and advice about what you're thinking or what you wish to do and how to get there at the end of the day in the way that is most respectful and appropriate to the institution.

And that's the other thing that I wanted to talk about, Greg's incredible commitment and dedication and love for this place, for this institution, and how that has manifested itself in how all of us really have developed over the years. And I think, you know, the fact that we have in my opinion the legislature that is most true to what the Westminster model of parliaments are in the entire country is a testament to the fact that Greg has an incredible dedication to this place and, I think through him, has really worked with those of us on both sides of the House to impart that love for the institution.

So we are going to be very sad to lose Greg here. I can say with great honesty, we are going to be very sorry to lose you here, sir. But we know that you are going to be able to spend much more time with your family. We know that there are a number of pursuits that you just have not had an opportunity to pursue when you're spending the hours you do here, which, on occasion, are 14, 16 hours a day that we're putting in here, and you're here for virtually all of it.

So I just want to say thank you so much for your service, thank you for your commitment, and best of luck in your retirement.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour. I wish

I wasn't joining in on this debate. I always say it's an honour to join in on this debate. I wish we weren't saying goodbye to Greg today, but it is an honour to have the opportunity to speak about the impact that Greg Putz has had in this building, in this province, and to us as legislators. I think that's a really important thing that we're pausing to do today.

But I will say it again: I wish you were sticking around for a little bit longer, although I'm sure it's a bittersweet moment for you, Greg. Know that you will be very much missed here. I'm sure you're very excited, as has been said, to spend more time with family, spend more time doing the other things that you love other than your work, other than legislative procedure.

And that reminds me to both thank your family for being here today, but also thank them for giving us so much of Greg over the years. Truly we know . . . And we've said this before. We say this as legislators, that we all do this with the support of our families. And that goes for everybody that works in this Chamber, including the folks sitting at the middle desk. So thank you. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for the sacrifices you made to allow us to be able to have Greg here, to be able to lean on his wisdom and his guidance.

And with the Government House Leader, on behalf of all House leaders who've preceded the two of us, let us both say, thank you so much. Your brilliance, your steady, thoughtful advice, your . . . As an example for today, your ability to not necessarily show maybe what you're thinking when we make minor procedural errors. At least you're not expressing them to us and we're very grateful for that, allowing us to fumble our way through our legislative duties.

Greg, just thank you so much. I know I've personally benefited from your thoughtful, steady guidance and wisdom. And I know that all of those here who are sitting here in the Chamber, and all of those who came before us during your very long time here in the Assembly, have benefited from that.

[15:15]

Like I said, I'm sure you have mixed emotions about your retirement. I'm sure there's a level of excitement, and I hope there's a bit of a level of sadness as well not being able to be here anymore. But I'm so excited for you and your family and this next chapter in your life. As has been said, you're not a stranger in this building. You never will be. And I'm grateful to that.

Please know that we very much appreciate your service, and thank you for all that you've done both in furthering democracy, preserving and loving the Westminster system, as was said by the Government House Leader, and for giving so much of your time and your wisdom and your guidance to this province. Thank you so much.

The Speaker: — I'd like to join the Deputy Premier and Leader of the Opposition and the House leaders in their best wishes to Greg on his retirement. Greg . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No one else asked for it.

Greg, congratulations on your 35 years plus of excellent service to the Legislative Assembly. You are a true professional who has always led by example that excellence is something to strive for

daily. Your passion and dedication to democracy and the institution is truly appreciated. It has been a privilege working with you.

Congratulations. Best wishes. And I would like to invite all members to a come-and-go reception in my office from 3 to 5 in the honour of Greg's retirement.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Whip.

Ms. A. Ross: — I wish to order questions 70 to 76.

The Speaker: — Questions 70 to 76 have been ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

The Speaker: — Committee of Finance. I do now leave the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Motions for Supply

The Chair: — The business before the committee is an appropriation resolution. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move the following resolution no. 1:

Resolved that toward making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2023, the sum of \$713,732,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — The Minister of Finance has moved resolution no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2023, the sum of \$713,732,000 to be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I would invite the Minister of Finance to move that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to a resolution, and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to a

resolution, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to a resolution, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Committees.

Mr. Hargrave: — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to a resolution and has instructed me to report the same, and to ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the resolution be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move that the resolution be now read the first and second time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First and second reading of the resolution.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. Pursuant to rule 32(1)(d), the Minister of Finance shall move first reading of the appropriation bill. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 127 — *The Appropriation Act, 2022 (No. 2)*

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move that Bill No. 127, *The Appropriation Act, 2022 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 127, *The Appropriation Act, 2022 (No. 2)* 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.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — With leave, and pursuant to rule 32(1)(e), I request that Bill No. 127, *The Appropriation Act, 2022 (No. 2)* be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has asked for leave to move second and third reading of Bill No. 127, *The Appropriation Act, 2022 (No. 2)*. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 127, *The Appropriation Act, 2022 (No. 2)* be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 127, *The Appropriation Act, 2022 (No. 2)* be now read a second and third time. 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.

Deputy Clerk: — Second and third reading of this bill.

SECOND READINGS

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'm here today to move second reading of Bill No. 122, *The Saskatchewan Revenue Agency Act*. The Speech from the Throne outlined steps our government will take to protect and defend Saskatchewan's economic autonomy, its industries, and jobs from federal intrusion and constitutional overreach.

One of such steps is exploring greater autonomy in tax collection. As part of demonstrating our government's commitment to exercising greater autonomy, I am recommending that the Saskatchewan Revenue Agency, SRA, be established. This new legislation creates the framework for a treasury board Crown corporation responsible for administering taxes and related programs in Saskatchewan. This Crown is intended to take over the provincial portion of the corporate income tax system.

Mr. Speaker, the bill is basic in its design, as it contains the standard provisions required to establish a new government agency, including its purpose, powers, overreaching governance structure, accountabilities, and regulation-making authority.

Work will now begin on designing the structure of a new provincial corporate income tax system, transforming the province's income tax legislation and establishing strategies that maximize the value for taxpayers and address Saskatchewan's needs. This bill is the first step of a multi-year undertaking which demonstrates that our government will take the necessary steps to stand up for Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill No. 122, *The Saskatchewan Revenue Agency Act*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 122 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise in debate today to enter into the discussion around Bill No. 122, *The Saskatchewan Revenue Agency Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the minister opposite just said that the underlying basis for this bill is to protect and defend economic autonomy. Mr. Speaker, the critic for this bill has said it very well, and I can't think of a better way to say that this is clearly nothing more than this government virtue-signalling in a way that frankly nobody has asked for. I can tell you that businesses, that people of this province have not asked this government for more bureaucracy, for more red tape, Mr. Speaker, wanting to file two sets of income taxes, Mr. Speaker.

This is a government that, including in question period today, can't explain why they are doing this other than this virtue-signalling statement about defending economic autonomy and federal government overreach. Can't say how much it will cost, can't defend this bill, Mr. Speaker.

It's a classic Sask Party government move to table legislation and then talk about reaching out and consulting, Mr. Speaker. Any government worth its salt would do some consultations prior to taking a fairly major first step in terms of introducing legislation.

I know I have several colleagues who are going to be very keen to enter into this debate, so in order to allow that discussion, I am prepared now to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 122.

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. 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 SLGA.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to rise and give second reading to Bill No. 124, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2022*. This bill will reduce red tape in the liquor sector by providing local authorities discretion to designate public areas for consumption of alcohol, streamlining processes that will benefit current and new

businesses, and increasing flexibility to businesses. There are minor amendments in this bill to update outdated language and references, however I will highlight the more substantive amendments today.

Public consumption: through amendments to this Act we will be providing municipalities; regional park authorities; provincial parks; and the governing bodies of Wascana Park, Meewasin Valley, and Wakamow Valley discretionary authority to designate outdoor public spaces for the consumption of alcohol.

[15:30]

Mr. Speaker, we can see communities across Canada and the world allowing alcohol consumption in public places. For example, it's been allowed in places like Helsinki and Montreal for years. This change will give communities a chance to create spaces for their citizens to gather outside and visit with friends and family over a drink. It is important to stress that this amendment will provide discretionary authority. In making this authority discretionary, we are recognizing that local authorities know their communities best and are in the best position to make those decisions. However, we recognize that in some cases, parks, such as Wascana here in Regina, are located within a municipality. Knowing that issues impact those municipalities, the Act will require co-operation efforts between the parks and the municipalities.

On red tape reduction, other amendments focus on streamlining the application process for liquor permits. Applicants for liquor permits will no longer be required to publish their application in a local newspaper. The purpose of publishing notice is to give the public an opportunity to make submissions to the Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commission about the business seeking a permit. A similar process is undertaken by most municipalities when they seek public input into their zoning processes. We believe that local municipality process is more appropriate for discussions related to locating liquor-permitted premises. Removing this requirement will reduce the time of the application process and reduce costs to applicants and remove a duplicate of process.

Although rarely used, the Act does allow for SLGA to issue an immediate suspension of a licence, permit, or a registration. This authority is used in only the rarest of circumstances where public safety or integrity of an industry is at risk. When the immediate suspension is invoked, the commission must hold a hearing within seven days under the current legislation. The bill will change that provision to require the hearing within 15 days of the affected party requesting it.

Mr. Speaker, requests of a rehearing by the commission will now have an end date. Individuals requesting a rehearing must do so within 180 days of the original decision and be able to demonstrate that they have new evidence relevant to the matter in question. A clear time limit will ensure issues are resolved in a timely manner while allowing applicants to have the opportunity to have the issue reheard.

Other amendments related to red tape reduction include requirement for shareholders and directors of corporations and partnerships to be subject to good character. As we see more outside investment in our province, we need to adapt our

processes to ensure the focus of good character assessment is on the individuals who have control over the operations of liquor-permitted establishments.

Shareholders or directors of parent companies located in other provinces have little to do with the operations, and conducting good character assessments is time-consuming and costly. The proposed amendment will remove the prescriptive element of the good character assessment for corporations while ensuring SLGA retains the necessary authority, ensuring companies and individuals involved in the regulated liquor market are of good character assessments.

Some of the amendments will increase flexibility to permit holders and consumers. For example, the requirement that permittees recork wine or specialty beer for customers is being extended to manufacturers' hospitality suites. Further, the recorking will be extended to include cider, and permittees will be given broader discretion in how they choose to reseal the product. Permittees will be required to seal the product in a manner that makes it apparent if the seal has been opened or tampered with, but prescriptive requirements around recorking are being removed.

As well individuals will have the ability to serve homemade beer, wine, and cider at family events subject to special occasion permits. In this situation homemade will include wine, beer, or cider created at a U-Vin or U-Brew. Examples of family events where this change will apply include weddings or anniversary parties. The product can only be served and cannot be sold.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, amendments will increase SLGA's responsibility around providing notice to municipalities and First Nations that have not had a retail store or permitted premises in operation for 12 months or more. Manufacturing facilities can present the same concerns for a community as a retail liquor store, restaurant, or tavern. Aligning manufacturing with processes in place provides the opportunity for community input where there is currently no liquor store. These changes have been put forward after consultation with stakeholders and industry.

I was also pleased to hear of the support from the critic opposite, who seems to support much of our SLGA reform agenda. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks and move second reading of the Bill 124, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2022*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 124 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise into the debate on Bill No. 124, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act*. I'm going to slide past the minister's end comments that she made at the end — just the conclusion of several pretty classless comments that she's made today in remarks to the critic opposite.

I know the critic opposite is going to be doing . . . My colleague, the good member, MLA from Meewasin is going to be doing a lot of outreach and consultation with respect to this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister doesn't like to talk to members from SLGA, to the broader community. I know that

the critic opposite is going to be doing that good work.

And in order to facilitate that work and the comments from colleagues that I know are going to want to enter in this debate, I'm prepared at this stage to move to adjourn debate on this bill.

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. 123 — *The Election Amendment Act, 2022*

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Election Amendment Act, 2022*.

On October 17, 2022, Mr. Speaker, the Chief Electoral Officer released volume IV of *A Report on the Twenty-Ninth General Election*. That report contained recommendations to update and modernize *The Election Act, 1996*. This bill is based on those recommendations and has been developed through the input of both sides of the legislature, Mr. Speaker.

The proposed changes will allow the Chief Electoral Officer to modernize the election process through a number of directives. These would allow the use of electronic poll books; voting during an election week period rather than a single polling day with advanced voting; and flexible, vote anywhere polling. Additionally the changes will implement administrative updates to the Act that were identified in the Chief Electoral Officer's report.

I would like to thank the opposition and Elections Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, for their efforts to bring this bill forward. And with that I am pleased to move second reading of *The Election Amendment Act, 2022*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 123, *The Election Amendment Act, 2022* be now read a second time. 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.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 123 be committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills, and the said bill be considered immediately.

The Speaker: — This bill is committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills.

Deputy Clerk: — Committee of the Whole on Bills.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair for the Assembly to go to the Committee of the Whole on Bills.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

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

Clause 1

The Chair: — The item of business before the committee is Bill No. 123, *The Election Amendment Act, 2022*. Clause 1, short title, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clause 1 agreed to.]

[Clauses 2 to 39 inclusive agreed to.]

[Schedule agreed to.]

The Chair: — Carried. His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 123, *The Election Amendment Act, 2022*.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

The Chair: — It has been moved that the committee report Bill No. 123, *The Election Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[15:45]

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Committees.

Mr. Hargrave: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 123, *The Election Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read the third time? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to move third reading for Bill No. 123, *The Election Amendment Act, 2022* immediately.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to move third reading of Bill No. 123 immediately. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave is not granted.

I'm advised that His Honour the Administrator is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

[At 15:48 His Honour the Administrator entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Honour then gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

ROYAL ASSENT

His Honour: — Pray be seated.

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

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

Bill No. 119 - *The Representation Act, 2022*

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

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supply required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour:

Bill No. 127 - *The Appropriation Act, 2022 (No. 2)*

to which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

His Honour: — In His Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept its benevolence, and assent to this bill.

The Speaker: — Please rise for the departure of His Honour.

[At 15:50 His Honour retired from the Chamber.]

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to enter my comments on Bill No. 101, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act*. This is a bill that raises the coverage for children from 16 years old to 18 years old. And it's giving 16- and 17-year-olds an opportunity to agree to funding to live alone. And it also is a bill that is prioritizing familial and cultural continuity for decisions about Indigenous children.

And it also is an Act that is giving individuals having that right to request information about kids in custody, though the ministry has the right to refuse it if the ministry sees there's a pose to danger. It's important to recognize that 16- and 17-year-olds be offered independence. You know, they still need that support and they deserve to be protected and they also deserve that they have their rights. So the transition period for 18-year-olds is not clear. And it shouldn't be. They shouldn't be cut off on their 18th birthday.

You know, I think about this bill and I think about any time . . . Well first of all I think about those that have been impacted by the Sixties Scoop and especially those that have become permanent wards that have been removed from their communities and not exposed . . . And I talk about Indigenous children that haven't had the opportunity to keep that connection to their cultural . . . who they are as cultural people. And I think about many young people — I guess they're adults today and grandparents today — who are part of that Sixties Scoop that didn't have that opportunity to have a connection to who they were as a people, and also that cultural continuity.

You know, I think as a residential school survivor myself — and I was very privileged and honoured to still see my family and still be very much a part of my cultural ceremonies — and when I think of those Indigenous children that were in care during that time, and I have nieces and nephews that were in the custody, that didn't have that opportunity that I had. And I think about them all the time, of some of the things that we take for granted.

And this bill, it's important that . . . A few years ago I had the opportunity to speak to — this was a number of years ago — on bridging between, aging out of the system. And one of the things that was very interesting is how we often fail those that have been a ward of the state for a long time and not that opportunity to give a transitioning, you know, aging out and not . . .

And I think about those that have been permanent wards of the state, that are Indigenous, that have never had that connection with their culture, their identity. And when they age out, who do they go to? You know, and I think it's important when we're

creating safeguards, to think about those. How are we creating supports for those that are going to be aging out of a system?

And another thing that I think about is, it's important, you know, considering what happened with the Sixties Scoop, how it's important to ensure that Indigenous children have their connection to their culture and their community, and how that communication between agencies and those children in care to the communities, how crucial that is.

Because as Indigenous people, we still are connected, you know, and while our children may be in care, we still want community. People still want to know how those children are, how they're doing. So it's important that that communication is consistent and it's also . . . It's not always the case to always only go to the leadership. There's programming. There's extended relatives that need to be connected. And it would take a considerable amount of time and effort for institutions to reach out.

The other thing I wanted to . . . And I just had this today on Twitter, pop up on my Twitter feed. The FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], they posted just this afternoon here, probably about an hour and a half ago, they posted a tweet that, "First Nation child welfare matters must remain in the hands of First Nations. They are our children and we must be the ones to raise them." So that is in support of the First Nation jurisdiction of C-92 bill.

So when I think about that, I think that it is important to always think about those intergovernmental issues, and in particular, intergovernmental jurisdictional issues and that communication is seamless, and that First Nation and Métis organizations like FSIN and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan be consulted and also tribal councils, as many of them do have child welfare.

I'm also very aware of how many First Nation communities have created their own child welfare Acts and how it's important that when legislation is being created, that that communication happen and that those organizations are consulted and have input because we want to get this right when it comes to our children. We want to make sure that we are protecting children.

And it's also important to know that, like, when I think about myself, when I left home I was 15 years old and how, you know, I was fortunate enough to, you know, to like . . . I was a strong-willed young girl. Still very much strong-willed today. But how important that, when I think of young people, especially those that are still children, but also going into adulthood, that the supports that they need . . . And it's imperative that we create those supports so that their transition into adulthood, that there is supports in place for them to be as successful as they can be.

[16:00]

And I think about my friend who shared, actually this was quite timely, probably a couple months ago, when she was 16 years old — and this was back in, you know, we were in the '80s — where she left home. But she had a job. But she was apprehended and placed in foster care and she had a situation that happened to her that was . . . she was put in an unsafe place. And she shared with me she could not understand why she was not allowed, at 16 years old, to live on her own. She was paying rent in her little one-room place, but somebody told her that she couldn't do that.

So it's really important that, when we're thinking about looking at protecting children, that we also look at other jurisdictions and what they're doing and what is working in other areas. And certainly it's imperative that we consult with those that also have interest in these areas. And in particular, when we're talking about Indigenous children that — whether it's FSIN, Métis Nation, tribal councils — they be engaged from the onset and that to ensure that all parties are looking at what's in the best interests of those young people. I'm pleased that there's discussion and also looking at ways to improve our systems that often fail Indigenous people.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I'm going to do now, I'm sure the critic for this area will have a lot to add to this and a lot more questions to ask regarding this Act. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 101, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022*. miigwech.

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. Why is the Government Whip on his feet?

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Deputy Chair, to introduce guests.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The Government Whip is asking for request to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Leave granted. I recognize the Government Whip.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. It's an honour to introduce two guests in the Assembly this afternoon, Mr. Deputy Chair. On the floor behind me is one of the longest serving members of the Legislative Assembly in, I think, Saskatchewan's history, the former member for Moosomin, the former Speaker of this Assembly, Mr. Don Toth. So I ask all members to welcome Don to his Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, I would also be remiss if I didn't introduce my friend and the legislative chaplain of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, Fred Hill, the chaplain from Leading Influence Ministries who serves this Assembly daily while we're in session and even prays for us, I know, when we're not in session, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. So I'd ask all members to not only welcome Fred to his Legislative Assembly but welcome him and wish him a happy 59th birthday.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 103

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

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My pleasure to rise today and speak to Bill No. 103, *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*, which has been well canvassed already by a number of my colleagues.

You know, I'm looking at this legislation, looking at the impacts that this can potentially have for those in Saskatchewan who are impacted by disability or mobility challenges. It is encouraging to see specifically the creation of the Accessibility Office. And certainly on this side, I think, a hope and an understanding that this will also be given opportunity for, you know, that consultation work which has happened to continue, as well as giving some real teeth to that group to allow them to be empowered to continue to make positive changes to those impacted by disability and their families here in Saskatchewan.

You know, Mr. Speaker, ensuring that all of these things — whether it's standards, advisory committees, or penalties for non-compliance with standards — are important to actually ensuring that this legislation is effective and, you know, meets the needs and the goals of those advocates across Saskatchewan who've been working so hard to ensure that legislation like this is in place to make this province a great and truly equitable place to live for folks impacted by disability.

In particular, I wanted to give a shout-out to the inclusion of ASL [American Sign Language] and Indigenous sign languages being acknowledged as primary languages for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, Mr. Speaker. Over the course of the pandemic we saw the inclusion of ASL, in particular, with broadcasts as being so important for ensuring accessible information for folks in the province.

And the interpreters who did such good work on behalf of the community, often deeply impacted and more impacted by a lack of accessibility or economic uncertainty, is really important. And I want to take this opportunity while I'm on my feet to recognize the good works of those folks and celebrate its inclusion in this piece of legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I have the utmost confidence in my colleague from Elphinstone-Centre to continue her excellent outreach and to rely on those relationships, strong relationships that she has with advocates and those in the community, and look forward to her comments on this bill and its eventual work. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 103, *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 104

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 104 — *The Local Improvements Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Legitimately delighted to be on my feet to talk about *The Local Improvements Amendment Act, 2022*, which may feel strange to some members in the House. But you know, I've been told by members opposite that I'm grumpy and I'm crabby sometimes and I don't give them the compliments that they deserve. So I want to give a special shout-out to the member from Melville-Saltcoats, who I met with years ago to talk about the fact that schools should be exempt from local improvement levies and that it made no darn sense for one level of government to be taxing each other.

And, Mr. Speaker, I've met with a number of elected officials in my time before tragically becoming one myself, and that was probably the best meeting that I've ever had. The minister was well prepared. His staff were excellent. He knew the file and he was supportive.

I know this has been a huge undertaking on behalf of stakeholders in the education sector, something near and dear to my heart, but I wanted to give a shout-out to that member for a great meeting years past. And obviously delighted here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to see that included in this piece of legislation because, yeah, it makes no sense for one level of government in Saskatchewan to be taxing another.

So with that, I think I will conclude my irrationally glowing comments on Bill No. 104. I know it will continue to be well canvassed by the critic, and with that, I move to adjourn debate.

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 Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Back up on my feet again to address Bill No. 105, really important piece of legislation, local government election

amendment Act.

I think these changes are really important. I know members on both sides of the House, first of all, you know, support and acknowledge the need for electoral agencies to be modernizing to be ensuring accessibility of voting, awareness of voting, as well as some of the necessary changes as we see a real impact on what voting, what running elections looks like, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

My first job in this province was actually working for electoral agency. By no means an expert — this is a real science and an art form — but it gave me a huge appreciation for the work that does go on, on behalf of the local bodies and individuals that run elections both provincially, nationally, and locally across this province, as well as a deep respect for the election workers who come out election after election after election and, I think, are some of the under-appreciated people in the province who really keep our democracy going.

You know, Mr. Speaker, these changes will impact everything from, you know, powers of returning officers to frameworks for voter registration data as well as its use for vision protection and, of course, privacy concerns. One of the things I think is really important is the same-day registration to be possible for unregistered voters. I think all members in this Assembly really believe in enfranchising as many people eager to participate in the democratic process in our institutions as possible.

As well, I think some of the changes to modernize, you know, are about keeping with the times and keeping with some updates to other jurisdictions that we've already seen in place across Canada and other places in the Commonwealth, while also appreciating the unique nature of Saskatchewan and our local government system, which I really just think is an absolute jewel of this province, Mr. Speaker.

We've well passed Local Government Week, but recognizing the hundreds of locally elected officials. Whether they're reeves, they're in RMs [rural municipality], they're in local councils, municipal councils, school boards, up north, Mr. Speaker, these are people truly at the grassroots of our province, closest to the community. And the impact that those local voices make on their communities, on true, genuine decision making, is part of what makes this province great.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 105, *The Local Government Election 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. 106

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

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm on my feet again to enter my remarks on the Bill No. 106, *The Police Amendment Act* of 2022.

This Act is giving the minister the power to create whatever police service and decide its jurisdiction, duties, and regulations. And also the minister can send special constables or another police service to any municipality they think isn't doing a good enough job in policing. And also the municipality is going to be paying for this. Another thing that this bill is going to do is give the minister the authority to request any information on police service provisions from police boards or chiefs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill is paving the way for the marshals bill. This bill is offensive to the municipal police, that when the minister feels they aren't doing their job, instead of retraining or providing guidance, they just get new officers in the area to take over, and on their own dime. So one of the things that I think about again here is, I guess a concern is there's been a lot of media around this and concerns raised by the police regarding this.

[16:15]

And it's interesting how sometimes, how amendments or bills come forward without first of all engaging those that are going to be impacted the most at the onset. And we're seeing more and more of these bills being presented without that meaningful consultation to those service providers that are going to be impacted.

Where was the consultation to the municipalities, you know, the current police force that we have? And many folks, like, are asking, why would we be paying for new rival officers when we could invest in the ones we have instead? We should be working with RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and the municipal governments. And people are saying we want resources allocated to them, not diverting away from them.

You know, when I think about what's happened everywhere when it comes to services, those that are providing those services are stretched. And there have been issues and concerns raised by the police regarding this. And also kind of, the rationale, like it didn't make sense. Like, why create a new service when departments today are already struggling to offer those same services out in the community? And to be not consulting with the municipalities, that is very concerning.

And we all know that there are issues that people in this province have raised when this government is not consulting them in a way that is meaningful for them. So with this bill that's being presented and being kind of shoved down our throats, it's really, I guess it would be an opportunity for this government to pause and to ask themselves, hey, how are we serving the people that elected us? Those that are going to be impacted, how are we consulting them? And how can we work together to create a safe place for all citizens? Those are the questions that, as legislators, we need to be asking, not shoving down bills and saying, this is the way it's going to be, because it's a sexy thing to do. It's not a sexy thing to do, especially when you're going to be asking

already strapped municipalities to be footing a bill that they had no say in creating.

I would hope that the minister and the ministry and the officials would ask themselves and pause and say, we should pause here. Let's think about this some more. Is this something that we need to go to the municipalities with and have a two-way dialogue, a meaningful two-way dialogue rather than just instructed?

So my colleagues here will have more questions regarding this bill and will be able to enter their remarks on this. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 106, *The Police Amendment Act*, 2022.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 107

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

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Honoured to be on my feet in response to Bill 107, *The Provincial Protective Services Act*. I think that we've heard a lot of debate in here and interested to hear more from my colleagues who will weigh in on this, including our critic.

In a nutshell, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, we didn't oppose changes brought forward in the spring that were streamlining conservation, highway, safety, and others. But what's in this Act before us today, specifically changes to the Saskatchewan marshals, to me is just more Sask Party government waste. We're looking at \$20 million year-to-year costs, including the start-up costs that haven't been accounted for by this government or that minister. It's irresponsible. I have no interest in supporting this bill, but I will continue to listen to my colleagues as this bill is debated.

At this time, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 107, *The Provincial Protective Services Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This bill, Bill No. 108, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act of 2022*, I don't have very much to add to this bill here. However what I will say is that stakeholders are going to be asked about their thoughts on this bill, and also more engagement will happen by the critic for this area to solicit that input from the impacted folks with this bill.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to move to 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 Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, in sum, Bill 109, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act* updates the last Act to, you know, make crystal clear that the feds can't trespass on private land, which of course, Mr. Speaker, you know, we're in full agreement on this side of the House. Trespassing is bad, regardless of who you work for. And you know, Mr. Speaker, provincial authorities already follow this legislation. The rights of landowners in this province are deeply important to us, as is the security of all people and property, Mr. Speaker.

So I don't really have much more to say on this piece of, interesting piece of legislation. So with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 109.

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 Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This Bill 110, *The Wills Amendment Act* is pretty straightforward. It's modernizing *The Wills Act* to include electronic wills. And also it's always important to modernize; however, it is also important to think about how this is going to impact those seniors that are not . . . and also those in the remote areas that don't have access to the technology that we all enjoy today.

So it would be, I think the folks that . . . My colleagues are going to be asking more questions on this and also entering into the discussion with this. However, with that, I don't have much to say on this, that I'm in favour of this. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 110, *The Wills 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. 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 Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Genuinely great to be able to rise and enter some brief comments on the record on this really important piece of legislation. You know, Mr. Speaker, some of the changes that are really encouraging to see, and certainly to those impacted by them, are specifically the change to definition of a child, as well as the change that will ensure that people other than the child's parent can apply for child support, including the child himself if over 18. Recognizing people in need of special support as well as, you know, not the changing nature of families, but the real nature of families here in Saskatchewan — sometimes that does involve the child himself; sometimes that involves caregivers other than the primary parent — is incredibly important.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I think especially in this affordability crisis where far too often it's single parents who are the most vulnerable, the most impacted by economic uncertainty, is really critical. And we should do everything that we can to support children in this province, far too many of whom, as we know, live in absolute, gut-wrenching, abject poverty despite this government's, you know, continued plea that this is growth that works for everyone, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I think I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 111, *The Family Maintenance 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. 112

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 112 — *The King's Printer Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a little bit sad, still a little bit sad, to recognize these changes to legislation, switching things from, you know, the Queen to the King. We sit here in this Assembly with a picture of Her Late Majesty staring down at us. And now when I was out at Agribition I saw the good folks from the Queen's Printer out. And they had, you know, very respectfully informally, had a little sign taped over updating it to King's. And it still was a reminder of a change in the passage of time.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I don't think there's a whole lot to canvass in this bill. But let us all take a moment to celebrate all of Saskatchewan's fine local printers. And with that, I move to adjourn debate.

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. 113

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 113 — *The King's Printer Consequential Amendments Act, 2022/Loi de 2022 corrélative de la loi intitulée The King's Printer Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This bill, *The King's Printer Consequential Amendments Act*, is literally just a list of laws where the Queen's Printer is now changed to the King's Printer. It's an end of an era to Queen Elizabeth, and of course it's going to be several generations before we see a Queen again. So with this, I'm in favour of always, you know, updating, changing what we need to do to make things easier for us today.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 113.

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.

[16:30]

Bill No. 114

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 114 — *The King's Bench Act/Loi sur la Cour du Banc du Roi*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back on my feet again for *The King's Bench Act*. Again, updates to the former — or I guess still current — Queen's Bench Act to update for references to the King, as well as references to all of the subsequent laws affected by this change.

I'd also note, Mr. Speaker, as I think has been recorded by my colleagues, the number of judges on the bench up from 33 to 36. And what great reminder it is of the proud legal tradition that we have here in Saskatchewan, as well as all of the excellent lawyers and legal professionals that we have working for us here, Mr. Speaker. They do great work, and now more than ever their services are more important than ever.

Especially I want to give great notice to my colleagues with backgrounds in the legal traditions, specifically the member from Regina Douglas Park, the finest lawyer that I know. She does point out I don't know a ton of lawyers, but I do know some.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 114, *The King's Bench 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. 115

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 115 — *The King's Counsel Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Bill No. 115, *The King's Counsel Act* is updating references to "Her Majesty's Counsel" in the repealed Queen's Counsel Act to "His Majesty's Counsel."

It also is updating some outdated language. However this does not update the fine or disbarred members failing to forward their letters patent. It's still \$50 like it was in 1954.

So, like, I'm sure the critic for this area would also have more to say on this. I don't have much to say. With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 115.

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. 116

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marit that **Bill No. 116 — *The Plant Health Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Rising today on Bill No. 116, *The Plant Health Act*, and recognizing, you know, what an important time it is globally to — and especially as an agricultural province — to ensure the protection and prevention of anything, any pest that could potentially threaten crops and food security, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Saskatchewan has such a critical, critical role to play, whether it's in the production of fertilizer or production of grain and food to help feed the world during this incredibly challenging time of global uncertainty and insecurity, Mr. Speaker. You know, blights and pests and other things like that can tremendously damage and impact our agricultural industry, our farming industry. And the last thing that we need is any further food insecurity or scarcity, especially with the rising cost of food here in Saskatchewan outstripping other provinces in the country, Mr. Speaker.

I know we're talking about exports, but I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the real crippling cost-of-living crisis gripping so many households. I hope all members in this Assembly do their own grocery shopping and it's, you know, even for us who are privileged to earn a good wage, it is really shocking every week to go to the grocery store, Mr. Speaker, and just see how little your money gets you compared to what it did a year ago.

So with *The Plant Health Act*, Mr. Speaker, you know, making some of the necessary changes for the appointments of pest control officers, what they are and are not empowered to do and the orders that they can make for prevention or destruction with ministerial approval, I think are all important clarifications. But by no means am I the expert on pest control as it relates to plants and crops in this province, Mr. Speaker.

I know that good work will be done by the experts as well as the critic in consultation with the many folks and stakeholders impacted by this. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 116, *The Plant Health 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. 117

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 117 — *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Piece of legislation I also am not an expert on, but I know a bit more about this than I do *The Plant Health Act*, Mr. Speaker.

And I think it, you know, goes without saying — for the record, as we too often have to do in this Chamber in opposition, to clarify — that of course we stand against the federal government's intrusion into the rights of law-abiding legal gun owners in this province, Mr. Speaker. And we've stood and stand in opposition to the federal firearms ban, Mr. Speaker, and how much more powerful it is for the province when we can do things that are united, Mr. Speaker. And you know, that's important, but of course, you know, it's not *carte blanche* because we do have some concerns about this bill as a provincial response to that overreach, Mr. Speaker.

You know, again it comes back to consultation, which many of my colleagues have talked about. It does not appear that there was actually any consultation done with Indigenous and Métis hunters in this province, who are a huge, important, historic, modern, contemporary, and active group of law-abiding gun owners and hunters in this province, Mr. Speaker.

We'd like to see, you know, similar funding — especially today on the anniversary of the l'École Polytechnique massacre — we'd like to see funding and initiative given to social supports and mental health to decrease gun violence, Mr. Speaker. It is too frequent a crime. It too frequently impacts and rips apart families here in Saskatchewan.

I also know it absolutely guts and enrages law-abiding gun owners when they see and when they hear about other firearms owners not respecting laws, not respecting gun safety, not treating those firearms with the respect that any good, legal, law-abiding gun owner does. And I know that's a sentiment shared by members on both sides of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not the critic on this bill. I know that there is going to be conversation that happens with stakeholders, because this isn't an issue that should be politicked. And I direct those comments to the federal government and I also, you know, would look to this legislation to ensure that that is not happening, because issues around firearms are too important to the livelihoods, the security and protection of livestock, as well as way of life for hunters and trappers in this province as well as the many legal gun owners and collectors and other folks in this

province who, you know, have a right to their firearms, Mr. Speaker. So it's important to keep that all above the boards.

So with that, I think I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 117, *The Saskatchewan Firearms 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. 118

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 118 — *The Warrant Compliance Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to be speaking to this bill. I haven't had much time to review it extensively or talk to impacted stakeholders on this, but I was just kind of looking at what this bill intends to do is to order benefits be cut from violent offenders with an outstanding warrant.

And also, like, it's really good to address issues when it comes to violent offenders in the wake of what happened at James Smith. However what I am concerned with is when bills are being proposed that we often make assumptions. We make assumptions. And this one I just thought about was what about those that are not receiving any government benefits and that are maybe working, or doing whatever they are doing. Like this doesn't address those individuals that are not receiving government benefits. So that is important to look into.

Yes, this is great we're looking at ways to stop individuals that are violent offenders. However we're missing . . . Often when governments are making . . . we sometimes make blanket . . . We look at all people that are, that have outstanding warrants, or in trouble with the law, or violent offenders in this case. We assume that they're getting government benefits, but I wonder how many of them are, if they're out there running and have an outstanding warrant, actually are receiving government benefits.

So with that, like I think though it's important to take a look at that and just not make the assumption that all violent offenders are actually receiving government benefits, and to . . . because sometimes people don't do that. So I just want to move that we adjourn debate on Bill 118.

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. 120

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 120 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Health Professions) Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Bill No. 120, the miscellaneous statutes (health professionals) amendment Act actually covers a lot of ground here. My understanding is its intent is to provide health professionals, pardon me, health professional organizations with the tools and powers necessary to fulfill their legislated mandate of public protection, you know, not limited to things like addressing fitness to practise, additional mechanisms to formal discipline, you know God forbid, suspending or restricting members during complaint investigations, as well as a variety of tools which can assist investigative processes, and you know, other tools like non-disciplinary measures.

In addition, you know, it's my understanding that there's some changes for regulatory bodies' names from "associations," "societies" to "college" to reflect that role of public protection. You know, Mr. Speaker, the role of regulators, especially in health care, is important, and it is promising to see changes that do reflect that. And you know, it is good to see that the bill is responsive to some of those name changes desired by the regulatory bodies, providing that clarity to their membership.

You know, we'll be talking a lot about regulatory bodies over the coming months. And that important piece of regulatory consistency and independence is a small but key part in empowering health care professionals especially during, you know, what we've learned today is truly a staggering, ongoing staffing crisis across this province, one in which, you know, we need to be truly thoughtful and ambitious as well as pragmatic about the challenges and the solutions that are available to us and that we can pursue.

Because again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're not just competing with other provinces. We're competing globally. And ensuring that this regulatory consistency is there is a small but critical part of ensuring that our health care professionals are happy and empowered in their profession here.

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, we do have a need to ensure that, you know, related to this legislation, relevant statutes are in line with the needs of the sector because it's clear, Mr. Speaker, even from the auditor's incredibly concerning report today, that we need to do anything we can to train, retain, and recruit as many health care workers as we can, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

We've been talking about these staffing challenges since, oh God, since I think I was in middle school. Even with the retirement of the boomers and now adding on to that a global pandemic, health care workers who feel mistreated and neglected, burnout, ongoing challenges that we have, Mr. Speaker, as a province with a small and often remote population,

everything that we can do to keep health care services accessible to where people are and open is a good thing for all members to turn their attention to.

With that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 120, the miscellaneous statutes (health professionals) 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. 121

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. J. Harrison that **Bill No. 121 — *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What a way to finish off the day: Bill No. 121, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker. You know, my colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has put some laudatory comments on the record about this. And I'm certainly not going to hold up the House, but I would be remiss if I didn't just recognize what a true joy this program has been to participate in on behalf of, you know, helping recognize the service of Her Late Majesty.

But even beyond that, Mr. Speaker, the contributions of so many people across our province to our communities in ways that are, you know, traditional — I think of some of the great people who we represent, some of the astonishing artists and community leaders — to, as well, those people who may contribute to just the vibrancy of our province in less traditional ways. And what a wonderful opportunity this program has been to recognize those people.

And it really has been a true joy to read through some of those submissions coming in from so many organizations and groups across the province.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also be remiss if I didn't recognize what I imagine has been an absolutely gargantuan task for the plucky team over at protocol who do such good work to support this legislature as well as, you know, the LG [Lieutenant Governor] and his office as well as just all of those great traditions and events that we celebrate. And knowing how hard my own CA [constituency assistant] has worked on this, I cannot imagine the work undertaken by protocol to celebrate this, you know, Mr. Speaker.

And it really is just wonderful to have this opportunity, especially this time of year — especially this year, which is tough, coming out of two really tough years before that — to be able to take that pause and celebrate the absolutely magnificent people who contribute to our province.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 121, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours 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. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:49.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

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

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

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services

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

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

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Health

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

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Energy and Resources

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

Hon. Dana Skoropad
Minister of Environment

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

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Advanced Education