



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

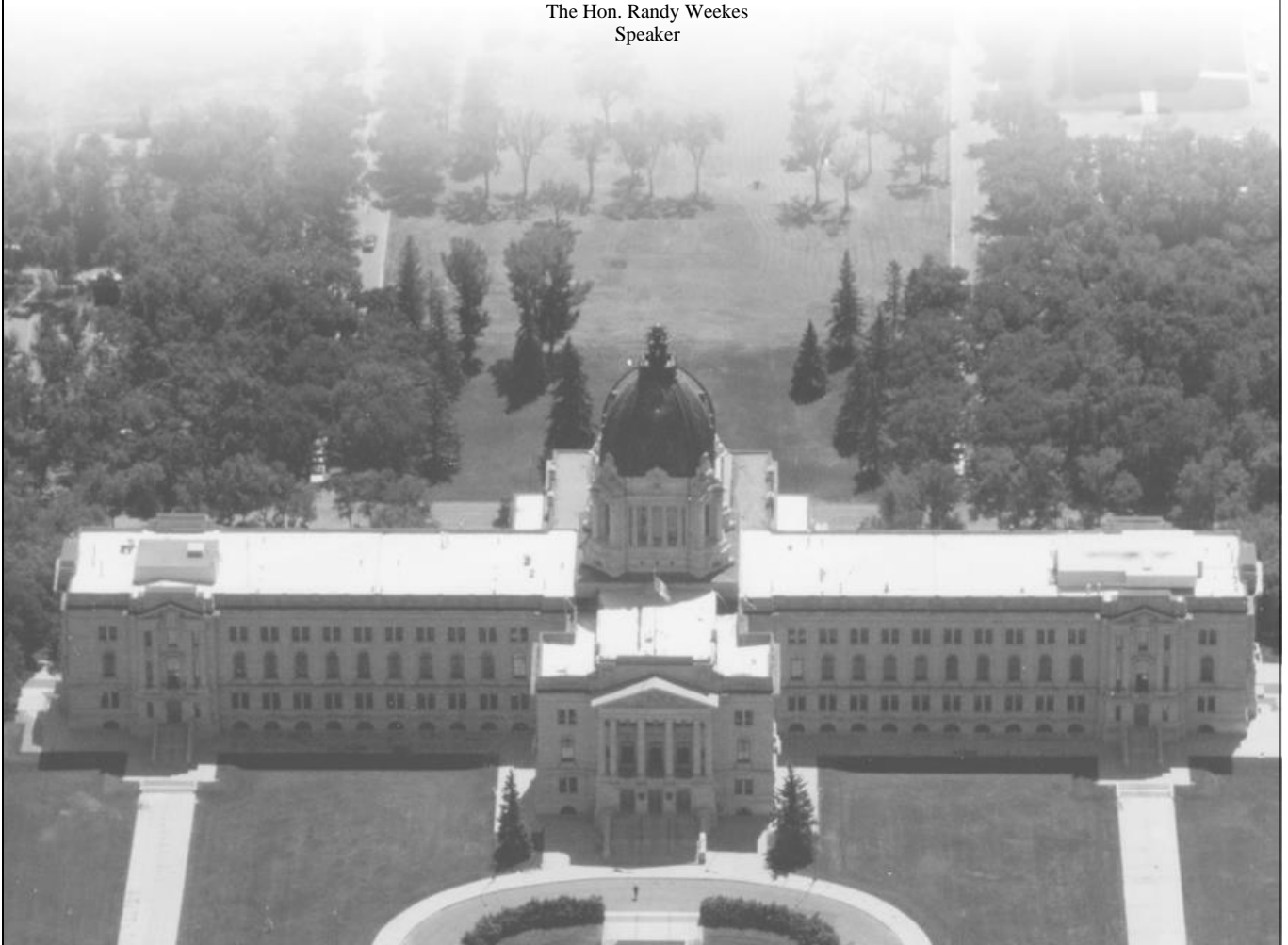
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 29th Legislature

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

Speaker — Hon. Randy Weekes

Premier — Hon. Scott Moe

Leader of the Opposition — Carla Beck

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)

Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)

Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)

Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)

Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)

Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)

Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)

Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)

Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)

Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)

Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)

Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)

Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)

Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)

Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)

Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

McLeod, Hon. Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)

McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)

Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)

Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)

Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)

Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)

Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)

Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

Skoropad, Hon. Dana — Arm River (SP)

Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

Stewart, Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)

Teed, Nathaniel — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)

Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)

Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Coronation Park

Standings

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 47; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12;

Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 1

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Iris Lang

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

Deputy Clerk — Kathy Burianyk

Principal Clerk — Robert Park

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

Hansard on the internet

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Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lumsden-Morse.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave for a personal statement, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested for a personal statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Resignation

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Premier, colleagues, all good things have to come to an end, so they say. And I've been coming to work in this place — and what a place it is — for twenty-three and a half years. It's been a great privilege and the greatest honour of my life to be elected to this place six times. I'm very proud of the things I've been able to achieve as MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], as minister of Enterprise and Innovation, as minister of Agriculture, as Legislative Secretary to the Premier responsible for the irrigation file, as provincial secretary, as Legislative Secretary to the Premier responsible for Saskatchewan autonomy, and in several economic committee roles.

I'm grateful for the opportunity that has been provided me by two of the best premiers this country has known. It was my intention to finish out this term, at which time I would have put in 25 years of service as an MLA. Due to my health concerns, it appears that I will not be able to serve my constituents and my province in the way that I have in the past. And as I said, they have sent me here six times, Mr. Speaker, and they deserve my best.

Accordingly, I stand in my place today to resign my seat as of end of business on Friday. I need to spend more of the time that I have left with my grandchildren and my dear friend Juanita.

Many of the members who sit in these seats are among my best and most trusted friends. I hope to keep up these relationships. So goodbye for now and God bless. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vacancy in Regina Coronation Park Constituency

The Speaker: — It is my duty to inform the Assembly of the following vacancy in the constituency of Regina Coronation Park due to the resignation of Mr. Mark Docherty.

Appointment of Sergeant-at-Arms

The Speaker: — Also I would like officially announce the appointment of Mr. Lyall Frederiksen as the Sergeant-at-Arms for the Legislative Assembly. Today is his first day in the

Chamber in that role. Please join me in welcoming him to the floor of this Assembly.

Clerk's First Sitting Day

The Speaker: — I would also like to welcome Iris Lang, who is today assuming her first sitting day as Clerk in this Assembly. She officially began her role on January 1st. Ms. Lang enjoys the confidence of the House as indicated by all the members agreeing to her appointment in this House last fall. I look forward to working with Ms. Lang and would like to welcome her officially to her new position.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I would like to make an introduction first. In the Speaker's gallery, I would like to introduce Orville and Theresa Bilous. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with you today in welcoming Orville and Theresa Bilous to their legislature here in Regina. It's always a pleasure when folks from The Battlefords make the trip down here.

Orville and Theresa have been two people who have been so involved in our community for a number of years, and I've gotten to know them a little bit, first as customers and now as friends. And it's great to see you guys here today. Thank you for your service to our community and our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce some members of the community that are struggling with endometriosis that are seated in the east gallery today. They're here to have their petition read and to raise some of their concerns and their advocacy that they've been doing in the community.

So we have Tina Dolcetti, Christina Attard, and Sarah Cleniuk with little Max there. I want to thank them for taking what would be a very personal experience and working on behalf of all women who are afflicted with endometriosis, dealing with debilitating pain that often, you know, takes them out of the workforce, doesn't allow them to fully participate in society, to show up for their families — you know, all of these very day-to-day things that we take for granted. So I want to thank them for their work and their advocacy and ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly today.

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery, I'd like to introduce a few folks from Inclusion Saskatchewan who I had an opportunity to meet today and I've had the opportunity to meet several times in my role, Mr. Speaker. With us today is Bluesette Campbell, the board

Chair. And Megan Wells is the assistant executive director, and Dylan Morin is advocate and has been in this Chamber several times. So I would ask all members to please help me introduce them here this afternoon.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Inclusion Saskatchewan, particularly a very good friend of mine, Bluesette Campbell, joining us from just outside of Dorintosh. Not often do we get visitors to the gallery from northwest Saskatchewan, so it's great to see Bluesette here.

Bluesette and her family and her husband, Mark ranch just outside of Dorintosh, as I said, and Bluesette's been a lifelong friend of mine. Also would note that I recently had the honour of nominating Bluesette for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, and she received that medal not too long ago. So I want to welcome Bluesette Campbell to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Minister of Social Services in welcoming Bluesette and Megan and Dylan to this, their Legislative Assembly. The work that they do with Inclusion Saskatchewan is absolutely incredible. Mr. Speaker, they're a tireless voice for people with disability across this province, and I want to commend the good work that they do each and every day, Mr. Speaker.

While I'm on my feet, I also want to welcome Kaitlyn and Aiden, seated in the — oh, help me out here — in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker. Kaitlyn and Aiden have joined our office as practicum students from the University of Regina. They're human justice students, and they both have a wealth of experience assisting in their communities, working with the most vulnerable. Kaitlyn has worked with the John Howard Society, helping with the successful reintegration of folks that are coming out of incarceration, Mr. Speaker. Aiden works with Ranch Ehrlo, with Phoenix Residential Society. Just naming those three organizations, you can see that their interests run deep, particularly insofar as the issues that impact the constituents of Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Having them around the office has been incredible, Mr. Speaker. They have brought an outstanding level of commitment at work. And I would note for the record that they are both NOD [north of Dewdney], which has connected them even more with our community. So, Mr. Speaker, two very accomplished individuals.

They are looking forward to a forthcoming publication, both on decolonization issues with their professor, Muhammad Asadullah. So I want to commend them on that work. And I really look forward to having them present here during the session, and I want to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be on my feet today to present the following petition. The folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention that Saskatchewan is a growing province and the unoccupied Crown land that we still have needs to be protected in order for First Nation and Métis people to exercise their hunting, fishing, and gathering rights; the traplines in the North are disappearing; users of these lands are not being consulted by industry and this government; and this government has been auctioning off Crown land and leases to the highest bidder without meaningful consultation to those that are being impacted. We only have 10 per cent of Crown land left.

This government is continuing to breach the constitutionally protected treaties. Treaty right holders are being restricted access to their traditional hunting, fishing, trapping, and medicine-picking territories, and 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 leases and work with First Nation and Métis communities in this province.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Whitewood and Spiritwood. I do so present.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're joined today by community members with endometriosis to present the petition calling for the creation of Endometriosis Awareness Month in Saskatchewan. These individuals wish to bring to our attention that endometriosis is a debilitatingly painful chronic disease that affects between 10 and 20 per cent of women; that the average length of time it takes to diagnose the condition is 5.4 years, which is completely unacceptable; that insufficient awareness of endometriosis among health care professionals and the public contributes to delays in diagnosis and treatment; that adults with endometriosis lose on average 11 hours of work per week; and that increased awareness of the disease will lead to reduced suffering for patients and a more productive economy.

I want to thank the minister for declaring March Endometriosis Awareness Month. And education is important, but advocates also want to see action to improve diagnosis and treatment wait times. Waiting five years or more in debilitating pain is completely unacceptable. Next steps will include an endometriosis action plan for our jurisdiction.

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 proclaim March as Endometriosis Awareness Month in Saskatchewan and take steps to improve access to diagnosis and treatment.

This is signed by individuals from Moose Jaw, Regina,

Kelvington, Saskatoon, Langham, White City, Martensville, Humboldt, and Warman, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Ms. C. Young: — 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 commitment 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 in the world market.

[13:45]

I'll read the prayer:

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

The residents come from places such as Marshall, Lloydminster, Paradise Hill, and St. Walburg. I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition calling on the government to introduce legislation to prohibit conversion therapy. Thus the undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* names sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination; conversion therapy is a discredited and abusive practice which attempts to actively change the sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to ban the practice of conversion therapy and prohibit transportation of youth and adults outside Saskatchewan for such purposes.

Mr. Speaker, signatories today reside in Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatoon Volunteer Receives Platinum Jubilee Medal

Ms. Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you about one of the

many superheroes in my constituency awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. Their name is Jae Blakley and they put their heart and soul into volunteering in the community. A continuing care aide, Jae has been an active member of the community for many years, volunteering for TeleMiracle and Ness Creek, and actively involved in their union.

They are a certified mental health first aider at Preston Extendicare, where they are employed and volunteer providing naloxone training for staff members. Jae is a mental health activist, and as a member of the Schizophrenia Society delivers motivational speeches to high school students and community groups sharing their story with alcoholism and bipolar disorder.

Jae also serves as a patient- and family-centred care advisor with the Sask Health Authority, helping inform mental health policy in Saskatoon area. They are currently founder and board Chair of the Cider House. Once built, the Cider House will become Saskatoon's first dedicated MAID [medical assistance in dying] facility. Jae and fellow board members are currently fundraising for the project and are excited for the day it becomes operational.

My heartfelt congratulations go out to Jae for their tireless dedication and receiving the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Regulated Child Care Fees Reduced to \$10 Per Day

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning the member from Regina Pasqua and myself had an opportunity to join with our Education minister as he announced the achievement of a major provincial milestone. Beginning next month on April 1st, fees on regulated child care for children under the age of six in this province will be reduced to \$10 a day. We've achieved this goal three years ahead of schedule as outlined in our Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement our government signed in August of 2021.

Supporting parents as they raise their children is something that all levels of government in Canada can agree on, Mr. Speaker. Our government is partnering with the families of this province and investing in affordable, inclusive, and high-quality child care that provides Saskatchewan children with a positive start in life while also giving their parents the flexibility and choice to build their families and their careers. Ensuring Saskatchewan families have access to affordable child care is another way that we are investing to keep our growing economy strong, Mr. Speaker, and yet another reason why Saskatchewan is the best place, I believe, to live and raise and work with our families.

The action announced this morning is good news, helping parents grow strong families within their strong communities and, Mr. Speaker, that is growth that works for everyone. Thank you.

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

Sports Teams Show Their Pride

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pride was in the air at the most recent Saskatchewan Rush game in Saskatoon. After a

junior hockey player with the Saskatoon Blades came out publicly in 2021, the owners of the Saskatoon Blades and Saskatchewan Rush decided to be more vocal in their support of Pride in support of their players.

This year the Saskatchewan Rush's Pride night was held on Saturday, February 25th. The member from Saskatoon Nutana and I joined the crowd of rainbow colours, enjoyed a night of riveting lacrosse, and all the excitement that the Saskatchewan Rush games entail. Karma K, a drag queen and trans woman, dazzled performers at the halftime show and the audience was filled with nothing but love, acceptance, and excitement.

Thank you again to the Saskatoon Entertainment Group, the ownership of the Saskatchewan Rush and the Saskatoon Blades, for making sport a more welcoming and positive place, especially for the 2SLGBTQ+ [two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or questioning plus] community.

I would ask that all members join me in wishing the Saskatchewan Rush a successful season. They certainly won me over as a new fan.

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

Team Saskatchewan Athletes Bring Home Medals from Canada Games

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The constituency of Cut Knife-Turtleford was very fortunate to have two amazingly talented athletes represent Team Saskatchewan at the Canada Games in Niagara, Ontario this past August.

Our very own Isaiah Mamer from Wilkie and Jenna McFadyen from Waseca represented our province at the games. Isaiah, a member of the Team Saskatchewan men's volleyball team, brought home the gold medal after making the scoring point to win in the final game. Jenna McFadyen, a member of the Team Saskatchewan track and field team, brought home a silver medal in the 5000-metre women's race as well as a bronze medal in the 3000-metre women's steeplechase.

Both of these impressive athletes will continue to pursue their athletic dreams this fall. Isaiah will be in his first year at the University of Saskatchewan, as he is a member of the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] Huskies volleyball team. And Jenna McFadyen is going into her third year of studies at the University of Saskatchewan where she too will continue her track and field training.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of this Assembly join me in congratulating our two very talented athletes on their very deserving awards. You continue to make Saskatchewan very proud. We wish you both the very best as you continue to work towards your educational goals and your athletic dreams. Thank you.

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

Prince Albert Girl Guides Knit 1,000 Quilts For Donation

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Trefoil unit of the

Prince Albert Girl Guides has been hand-knitting quilts for disadvantaged members of the Prince Albert community since 2012. Now, 11 years later, the Girl Guides have sewn and donated quilt number 1,000 on February 22nd.

Mr. Speaker, creating a quilt is not an easy process. Thankfully the Trefoil unit, which is made up of Girl Guides aged 30-plus, are often joined by teenage Guides who step up to help. The group has 15 members who sew twice a week creating these quilts, which are then donated to organizations like the Moose Lodge Warming Shelter.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Prince Albert, I thank all Prince Albert Girl Guides who have donated their time, energy, and often dollars to support our most vulnerable people. Especially thank you to the Trefoil unit, who I know also run a program providing soup, muffins, and bread for local shelters in Prince Albert. You have truly made our city a better place for everyone with your efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the Assembly join me in thanking and recognizing the Prince Albert Girl Guides' life-saving efforts. Thank you.

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

Saskatchewan Continues to Welcome Displaced Ukrainians

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just two weeks ago the world marked one year of war in Ukraine. Over 3,500 displaced Ukrainians have arrived into our province since the Russian tyrant began this invasion, and I have been so proud of our province that we have welcomed the people into our communities, homes, workplaces, and schools. Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that the displaced Ukrainians' fifth flight, humanitarian flight, at the end of this month, will receive the same warm welcome.

Many of the people who have found our province came from similar circumstances from Ukraine over 100 years ago. Today Saskatchewan has over 140,000 people of Ukrainian descent living in our province. Many of their ancestors came from Eastern Europe to find a better life, to escape the war, tyranny, and oppression. And 100 years later, Saskatchewan is still the place for a better life.

Mr. Speaker, through you I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in thanking UCC [Ukrainian Canadian Congress] of Canada, Saskatchewan, various groups, and together we'll welcome the refugees to our province, and to all the people of Saskatchewan for opening their hearts and their homes to these people. Slava Ukraine.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Opposition Statements on Growth in Value of Building Permits

Mr. Francis: — Mr. Speaker, desperate times call for desperate measures as the NDP continue with their desperation narrative that our economy is not doing well, once again running down the province, maintaining their position there is nothing to be proud

of. They continue to cherry-pick numbers in another feeble attempt to convince voters that all is terrible in Saskatchewan.

But last week, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition took a step too far. Instead of just the regular cherry-picking, the leader posted flat-out incorrect economic numbers. She tweeted out that the value of building permits in Saskatchewan had only grown by 1 per cent a year between 2018 and 2022. Mr. Speaker, that is factually wrong, and we need to correct the record. The value of building permits have grown from 1.8 billion in 2018 to 2.1 billion in 2022. Mr. Speaker, that 300 million is more than 16 per cent growth in those four years. That's an average growth rate of over 300 per cent higher than what the Leader of the Opposition tweeted.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is growing at its fastest rate in 100 years, with the population surpassing 1.2 million last week. We're also leading the nation in economic growth, and have added over 16,000 new jobs the last year alone. Will the Leader of the Opposition stand in her place, correct herself, and apologize for running down our provincial economy? Here's her opportunity to get it right.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Population Numbers and the Provincial Economy

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it's been five years since that Premier took office, and on front after front his Sask Party government has failed to deliver. Failed to deliver an economy that works for people, failed to deliver on health care, and failed to deliver on job creation.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is this: why should the people of Saskatchewan be satisfied with that Premier's worst-in-the-country record?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I would thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question, Mr. Speaker, because it is a fair question. There are challenges that we are facing here in this province, challenges that we are facing across the nation, inflationary challenges among the highest of those, Mr. Speaker.

But the fact of the matter is, is that Saskatchewan, our province, is growing at its fastest pace in over a century. And the fact of the matter is, it is this party's, Mr. Speaker, it is this party's intent to ensure that that growth continues and that that growth is available to work for everyone in the province today.

Today in Saskatchewan we have more people than we ever did under the NDP, Mr. Speaker, more people living in this province. We have more jobs in this province. We have more opportunities. There's more doctors. There's more nurses. There's more hospitals, Mr. Speaker. There's more students. There's more teachers. There's more new schools, Mr. Speaker.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that in Saskatchewan we are growing at the fastest pace that we have in 100 years, and we

intend on ensuring that that growth continues and that it works for every Saskatchewan resident.

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

Ms. Beck: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government doesn't have to take my word for it. They can look at the latest Statistics Canada data. Or better yet, Mr. Speaker, how about go out and talk to people? Because we have the worst-in-the-nation economic growth, second-last growth in construction investment, flatlined wages that are not keeping up with the cost of living.

But according to that government, to that Premier, everything is just fine. You have to wonder, Mr. Speaker: how could a government be so out of touch with the people of this province? And why do they keep saying that everything is just fine?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I think in my first question, the very first words out of my mouth were acknowledging that there are challenges that we're facing in Saskatchewan and across Canada, Mr. Speaker. The highest among those challenges are the inflationary pressures that families that we collectively represent across this province are facing, Mr. Speaker.

But in spite of those challenges, in spite of those challenges the people in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, there's 16,400 of them that are working this year over what was there last year. Our unemployment rate is at 4.3 per cent. That's the third lowest in the nation of Canada. With respect to wholesale trade, merchandise exports, Mr. Speaker, we are leading the nation with double-digit increases. Building permits are up, Mr. Speaker. Most certainly this government is going to continue to focus on growth that works for everyone.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, what the people of this province don't need are more empty tag lines. What they need are more jobs and bigger paycheques. Instead they've got this tired and out-of-touch government focused on keeping their far-right fringe in the tent instead of focusing on what people in this province need — things like addressing the cost of living, health care that's there when you need it, and an economy with good jobs for everyone. Instead we have this government that has failed to deliver on front after front.

Mr. Speaker, you have to wonder how they can get it so wrong. Why are they failing the people of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, most certainly we do consult on whatever the topic, whether it be the economy, whether it be health care. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, is when you're consulting on jobs this year, there's 16,400 more people to talk to because that's how many new jobs are in this province year over year. When we go to consult with people, as of December the 3rd, 2022, there's 200,000 more people than there was under

the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

You look at the first quarter of this year — I just checked actually the Statistics Canada population counter — up another 10,000 people in the first quarter, Mr. Speaker. We grew more people in the last three months in this province than we did under an entire 16 years under the NDP in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. There's more people. There's more jobs. There's more opportunity. Mr. Speaker, and it's this government that is going to continue, continue to work with, consult with Saskatchewan people so that we can continue to grow and invest in the people of the province.

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

Ms. Beck: — He keeps saying that word “consultation,” Mr. Speaker, but I don't think he knows what it means.

People are struggling right across this country, but only in Saskatchewan do we have a government that is actively making life more expensive and stifling growth. Higher taxes, power bills, energy bills are stretching families thin and sending investment elsewhere.

Let's take the PST [provincial sales tax] on construction labour, a gut punch to our economy. This Premier has the worst record in the country when it comes to construction investment. Doesn't this government, doesn't that Premier understand that his choices are hurting our economy and are hurting Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, of those 16,400 new jobs this past year, many of them are working in the construction industry. They're building things like a new potash mine at Jansen, Mr. Speaker. They're building things like a new canola crush plant just west of this city. They're building things in the agriculture industry. They're building things in the mining industry. They're building things in the energy industry. And they're building things in each and every one of our communities, Mr. Speaker, alongside the record public investment in health care, in hospitals, in schools, in highways.

The people of this province continue to build things like they have for over a century, Mr. Speaker. The difference is, is there is more people living here building things today than there was under the NDP.

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

Sales Tax and the Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this government's decision to add the PST to construction labour has done serious damage to our economy, a gut punch. It's driven people, investment, and opportunity outside of Saskatchewan. It's the epitome of a job-killing tax. The average yearly growth in construction investment in Saskatchewan is dead last in Canada under this Premier.

When will this tired and out-of-touch government finally admit that this was a mistake from day one and scrap the PST that they stuck on construction labour?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to get up to talk about the strength of the Saskatchewan economy, Mr. Speaker. And as was pointed out in a member's statement right before question period, the NDP, the Leader of the Opposition actually had to apologize for putting misinformation, Mr. Speaker, into the public domain. They took it down off of Twitter with regard to this particular item.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, the NDP are so desperate, so desperate for the economy to be in the state that it was when they were in government, which was admittedly at that point, Mr. Speaker, very, very negative.

The reality today is completely different, Mr. Speaker. We have an economy and a population that are growing at a rate faster than they have grown in over 100 years, Mr. Speaker. 1.2 million people and more now call Saskatchewan home. But if you listen to the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, they have concocted a narrative — I think they've even convinced themselves — that somehow the population is declining. It's not true.

The Speaker: — I just want to caution the minister. Refer to the opposition not as the party name but the opposition. And vice versa with the government, not the party name. I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know, Mr. Speaker, we know the Sask Party's always struggled with math over there. And we see that minister right there who I think is holding the chart upside down from StatsCanada that shows that they're dead last when it comes to average growth in building permits under this Premier.

You know, the fact is Saskatchewan should be booming right now. We have the resources that the world needs and the smartest and hardest working people in the world. But this government is failing to deliver and getting in the way. We're in a global competition for talent and investment, and this government's decision to add the PST onto construction labour drives up costs and drives down our competitiveness.

Again will the minister recognize that this was a mistake from day one and scrap the PST that they stuck on construction labour?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well the NDP Party, Mr. Speaker, continue to show how negative and desperate they are. They have . . . [inaudible] . . . I think in the United States they call this, Mr. Speaker, alternative facts. And these members opposite are pioneering in Saskatchewan alternative facts, although I guess they have some experience in that regard.

The reality is this, Mr. Speaker. We are growing in this province more quickly than we have grown in over 100 years. We have added 200,000 people over the course of the last 16 years and had the largest quarterly population increase in our history in the last quarter.

Over 16 years, Mr. Speaker, do you know how many people they

added to this province's population? The answer is zero, Mr. Speaker. In fact it's less than zero because they actually lost people over that same period of time. They had the worst job creation record in the entirety of Canada. We have added tens of thousands of jobs, not just over the course of the last 16 years, but 16,000 jobs even last month, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's all next year country again from that government. And I guess that's because last year and the year before it and the year before it and the year before it, that Premier was dead last in the nation on all economic measures, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, other jurisdictions are lowering costs while this tired and out-of-touch government is piling them on. In Alberta there's no PST at all. And in the US [United States], new incentives in the *Inflation Reduction Act* will attract jobs and investment that we want coming here to Saskatchewan, that belong in Saskatchewan. Policies matter. And when it comes to our ability to compete, that government is making things worse, failing to deliver, and getting in the way of the incredible businesses, the incredible workers, and the incredible ingenuity of Saskatchewan people.

Why won't the Sask Party government scrap the PST from construction labour . . .

The Speaker: — Withdraw and apologize. Withdraw and apologize. I cautioned you, no party names. Withdraw and apologize.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Withdraw and apologize.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well the journey in alternative facts continues, Mr. Speaker. The reality is under the NDP what was the PST at, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Go ahead, House Leader. You know what you need to do.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Withdraw and apologize, Mr. Speaker.

The reality is when the opposition was in government, Mr. Speaker, the PST was at 9 per cent. That's the reality and that's the fact. And again our journey in alternative facts with the opposition continues. But this is an opposition that is desperate — desperate to have people believe that the economy isn't doing well; desperate for people to forget their horrific record in government of decline; desperate to have people forget that their leader, Jagmeet Singh, is in coalition and the only thing keeping Justin Trudeau in power, Mr. Speaker.

This is the same opposition opposite that called the economy a dumpster fire. The same economy that The Conference Board of Canada said was scorching hot. Mr. Speaker, I guess you have to be a New Democrat to see a scorching hot economy as a dumpster fire.

The Speaker: — Would you like to stand up and withdraw and apologize again?

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — I withdraw and apologize, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that minister wants to talk about taxes brought forward with that Premier. The biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history, and ever since then they've been dead last on the economy. This Premier has the worst economic record in Saskatchewan — dead last on economic growth, actual shrinkage, Mr. Speaker; dead last on jobs; dead last when it comes to the average growth of building permits and investment in Saskatchewan.

This is driving jobs, investment, and opportunity out of Saskatchewan and delaying projects by years and threatening their very ability to get off the ground. How much worse do things need to get before this government finally removes the PST that they stuck on construction labour?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The journey continues, Mr. Speaker, of alternative facts and misinformation and disinformation from the opposition opposite. The reality is very, very clear and undeniable. The population is growing at a quicker pace than it has grown since the early 1900s. That is an undeniable fact, but the opposition try and pretend that's not true, Mr. Speaker. They can do that all they want. The public in this province know the facts.

The other fact is, Mr. Speaker, that we are seeing very, very significant job growth in this province: 16,000 jobs over the course of the last year; tens of thousands of jobs created over the course of our government. But they are desperate for people to think otherwise. They are desperate for people to forget their awful record in government, Mr. Speaker. They're desperate for people to forget that their party is the one keeping Justin Trudeau in power, Mr. Speaker. The reality is this government is working very hard to continue the growth in our economy that is real, that is substantial, and that is scorching hot according to the Conference Board.

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

Support for Municipalities

Ms. Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, this government's decision to add the PST to construction labour isn't just hurting private sector investment and job creation. It's adding millions of dollars in costs to municipalities, costs that they're forced to pass on to Saskatchewan people through higher property taxes.

Cities, towns, and RMs [rural municipality] are being forced to hand back millions of dollars in revenue-sharing grants each and every year. Does this government and that Premier realize that when they're taking with one hand and giving with another, it's

Saskatchewan people who end up paying the price?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister for Trade and Export just explained very clearly, the economy in this province is doing extremely well. The municipalities have been doing extremely well too, Mr. Speaker, through a program called ICIP [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program]. That's a joint, shared program between the federal government and the provincial government and municipalities. Over 414 projects have been funded, Mr. Speaker. That's \$1.6 billion that has gone into the economy on infrastructure projects across this province.

[14:15]

But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, municipalities will also talk about the municipal revenue-sharing program that was introduced by this government. Under the former government, the opposition, when they were in power, had a program that they would just every so often decide how much they were going to get. Now, Mr. Speaker, municipal revenue sharing is three-quarters of 1 per cent from two years past, a total that has gone up almost every year except for COVID. We look forward to what's going to happen in the future on that program as well.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, I've been meeting with municipal leaders all over this province. At every single table, the issue of PST construction comes up over and over again. SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] says revenue-sharing dollars handed back to this government by towns and cities account for anywhere from 24 to 39 per cent. All this adds up to higher property taxes or delayed projects.

What does the Minister of Government Relations have to say to Saskatchewan people paying higher property taxes because of his government's PST cash grab?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since we formed government as the Government of Saskatchewan and implemented municipal revenue sharing, over \$3.7 billion has been put back into municipal governments with virtually no strings attached. They could do with that revenue sharing as they saw fit, Mr. Speaker.

And I don't believe that any of those municipalities . . . If the member opposite was straightforward with them and said, "you know, as a former government, we don't agree with municipal revenue sharing." Because they never did it when they had the opportunity. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I remember the former premier said status quo wasn't on, and then status quo continued for two or three more years until we became government, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me make one other point. So if the municipalities, for example, think they should be exempt from

PST, should the provincial government be exempt on the billions of dollars of construction that we put? Because PST goes into that, which municipal governments get a share of — three-quarters of 1 per cent from two years past, Mr. Speaker. It would be an interesting debate. Because if they're asking for that, is that what they'd like to see the provincial government do as well? I think they're very happy with the MRS [municipal revenue sharing] that they're going to be receiving into the future.

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

Support for the Health Care System

Ms. Mowat: — This government is failing to deliver on so many fronts: failing to create good jobs, failing when it comes to the cost of living, and failing to deliver the health care people need.

Mr. Speaker, we've been hitting the road, meeting with local leaders and community members who have real concerns about the state of our health care system. On Friday we were in Delisle where people can't book an appointment at the clinic in their community. The community organized this town hall and they invited the ministers of Health and their local MLA, a former minister of Health. Why won't the government show up and hear from the people they're letting down? What are they hiding from?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government takes the issue of health care very, very seriously, which is why we, the Minister of Health and I, since this summer have visited and attended 45 communities approximately, where we have met with local community leaders, with local health care workers, visited health care facilities as well to hear first-hand from people about the concerns that they have in their communities, Mr. Speaker.

In the case of Delisle, there is work under way to help provide additional health care services to that community and to the surrounding area. I sent a letter to the mayor last week, Mr. Speaker, where we'll be hiring an additional nurse practitioner to provide additional service in Delisle. And I've instructed the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] to monitor the usage, and as that usage goes up we'll provide additional support so that they can hire more nurse practitioner services.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would also point out that there continues to be dollars allocated to hire a physician for the community of Delisle and that work shall continue to try to recruit a physician in addition to the nurse practitioners that are in Delisle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, that community has been pleading with them for two years. They conveniently get a letter the day that there's a town hall happening. But the minister did not show up and he knows that those two days for a nurse practitioner are not enough for what the community needs out there.

This tired and out-of-touch government has completely mismanaged our health care system, and it's because they've stopped listening to local voices, those same voices that were sounding the alarm about short-staffing well before the pandemic, Mr. Speaker. From our biggest cities to our smallest towns, people feel like this government has given up on them.

Why is this government shutting out local voices in health care? And why won't they bring back community health advisory networks so local people can have health care and have a say in health care in their communities?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That last part of the member opposite's preamble is just not accurate, Mr. Speaker. We have been meeting with and talking to front-line health care providers, talking to municipal leaders, local health foundations throughout the province.

You know what, Mr. Speaker? When this meeting was held on Friday, where I happened to be, Mr. Speaker, was attending and listening to constituents in Swift Current where I was attending the local Farmer Appreciation Night hosted by the Swift Current Chamber of Commerce. Come to think of it, Mr. Speaker, I don't recall seeing any NDP representation at any sort of events for farmers or rural Saskatchewan in this province.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to do this work across Saskatchewan. The Minister of Health and I have toured 45 communities in person, met with those community leaders. We continue to meet with them virtually through video conference, through teleconferencing, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact I have another phone call this afternoon with another community I have reached out to.

We'll be talking to SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities]. The Minister of Health and I spoke to officials from SARM last week. We'll be meeting with them on a regular basis as we continue to do that, hearing from front-line health care providers, hearing from municipal leaders to solve these challenges that we're facing.

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

Funding for Child Care

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, the fact remains: the minister got an invitation from that community and he was a no-show.

Earlier today the government made an announcement about their partnership with the federal Liberals to reduce child care fees. Lower fees are welcome news, but the question remains, Mr. Speaker. We have a question and it's a simple one: how much of today's announcement is provincial dollars, and how much of this announcement comes from the feds?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm

pleased to be able to stand today, on the day that we did announce with the federal minister that we have in fact, or will by April 1st, achieve \$10 per day here in Saskatchewan. We'll be the third province to achieve this, and it's nearly three years in advance, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, obviously we did sign a five-year agreement — \$1.1 billion of federal transfer that we are receiving. That is building on top of the over 80 to \$90 million that we have spent on an annual basis on child care in this province. This money will be used to build upon the system that we are creating here in Saskatchewan, one that saw us double the number of child care spaces since the members opposite, the NDP Party was last in government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, so we are certainly working with the federal government and colleagues from around the country to develop the system over the next number of years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

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: — Is anyone speaking to the bill? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just expecting some legislation to be brought forward. A little loud in here as well, so thank you. It's a pleasure to stand here, Mr. Speaker. I'll just wait a moment here.

It's a pleasure to rise and join in on the adjourned debate for Bill No. 101, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022*. Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that is an important bill, that is looking to raise coverage of children from 16 to 18 years old. 16- and 17-year-olds can agree to funding on living alone. It prioritizes familial and cultural continuity for decisions on Indigenous children, such as police must notify Indigenous kids' band chief of decisions about custodies and arrests or hearings, and individuals have the right to request information about kids in custody. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes sure that the ministry also has the right to refuse if this could pose danger.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill, and any time you're dealing with youth, vulnerable individuals in our society, it's important that we're getting this right. We have a bill here that is promising to allow 16- and 17-year-olds coverage and allowing them to live independently, but you know, Mr. Speaker, the one concern I have is what kind of supports are put in to ensure that these children continue to receive protections.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we're a little unclear on the transition period for 18-year-olds. You know, we had some feedback on this. We had an 18-year-old who, halfway through the school year, had her benefits slashed. So we have these benefits that go to 18, but the minute the birthdate comes around, we're seeing these benefits slashed. So this student had to scramble to get funding to finish her grade 12. Mr. Speaker, these transitions are crucial, and we need to ensure that we have wraparound services for vulnerable folks who need these supports, especially, especially children.

We have other parts. You know, it's extremely valuable in this legislation that we codify a duty to maintain a cultural and community for Indigenous kids, especially since the legal principle is under attack in the US right now and the *Indian Child Welfare Act* threatened. Mr. Speaker, we are leaning in favour of this bill. I want to stress in this House again that every time we rise to speak about social supports for youth, that we must, we must get this right. We need to have supports for youth in care.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 101.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 103

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

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 103, *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*. A number of folks have already spoken to this bill, and I know that it's been years in the making in talking to folks within the accessibility sector around what is needed, how to ensure that this legislation has teeth, and how to make sure that it is updated to 2023 standards, or that accessibility is updated to 2023 standards.

We know that these measures are going to be wide reaching with the creation of a Sask accessibility office to provide advice to the minister and the requirement for all prescribed persons to create accessibility plans. So it's encouraging to see some of the work that's come out of here. We know that there are a lot of folks who have been very invested in making sure that government gets this right.

And I know that our critic for Social Services has been really taking a keen look at this and even did a whole round of consultations before this legislation came out in April of 2021, and she also produced a report on what some of the sector needs. There's a lot of work that needs to be done here. You know, we all have constituents who have needed accessibility supports, and we have a tremendous responsibility to ensure that the Charter rights are

being enshrined as we execute these plans as well, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

So I know that the critic is going to continue doing work on this important bill and has already been meeting with stakeholders. If there are any stakeholders that are engaged with this that haven't yet been in touch, I would encourage them to get in touch because this is absolutely something we have to get right.

There's been, you know, an excessive delay in this legislation. There are significant concerns with the program fees that are offered through the SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] program. Try living off of that amount of money, Mr. Speaker; I would challenge you. And we know that STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] being dismantled has added further barriers to folks living in Saskatchewan with an intellectual disability.

We'll have a lot more to say about this and lots of questions in committee, Mr. Speaker, but with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 103.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 104

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'm just getting my folder straight here.

Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure here this afternoon to enter into Bill No. 104, *The Local Improvements Amendment Act, 2022*. I'll leave the large body of comments and questions and considerations and constructive suggestions to our able critic who's been holding meetings all across Saskatchewan with towns and villages and municipalities and cities and RMs and First Nations, Mr. Speaker, something that's very important to this caucus and something that we're committed to in the months and weeks ahead on all those fronts as well.

Mr. Speaker, we'll always look to bring forward constructive advocacy around legislative changes, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the changes here, there's a number of changes here, Mr. Speaker. One though that's missing, Mr. Speaker, one that was called for by the municipalities of Saskatchewan, by communities from across Saskatchewan, and that was to address the election dates, Mr. Speaker, that municipalities have a huge concern with to not . . . ensure the fair and important democratic process to have its hearing, Mr. Speaker.

This government has no interest in listening to many folks it seems these days, Mr. Speaker, certainly not municipalities. We see that as well with respect to local businesses and workers, Mr. Speaker. We see that with respect to health care in Saskatchewan. We see that with respect to education in our province, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's endemic at this time, Mr. Speaker, for this government that's just stopped listening to Saskatchewan people. But we haven't, Mr. Speaker.

And I know our critic will continue to bring voice to these issues and work to improve this legislation, Mr. Speaker. But like I say, absent from this legislation is addressing the concerns that municipalities have with this government's choice around election dates, which aren't giving due to the democratic process in municipalities across Saskatchewan.

Nor are they, Mr. Speaker, listening to municipalities with respect to that job-killing tax that the Sask Party government imposed a few years back, Mr. Speaker, that's been such a gut punch to growth in our province, Mr. Speaker, and causing double taxation, if you will. A real double whammy for municipalities, Mr. Speaker, who are dealing with higher interest costs, who are dealing with inflation, and then that are having to actually pay a PST on the valued and needed construction projects within municipalities.

And what's that mean for the average household, the average family, the average property tax payer, Mr. Speaker? Well it means their costs are going up, Mr. Speaker, because there's only one taxpayer, and the property tax payer is stuck with picking up the tab for the PST that they'll pay for inflated projects that have been driven up by way of the choices of this government to impose the PST, to only pay more taxes there to then transfer those back to this provincial government, Mr. Speaker.

We know it's an incredible impediment to business in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We know that it puts us at a competitive disadvantage, and we know that it's been driving investment and jobs and opportunity outside of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And of course as a result of the imposition of that PST, of course we're forcing people to pay more at a time of a generational cost-of-living crisis, Mr. Speaker, for many, many families, many households that are at a breaking point financially. And we know that it's caused serious economic damage, in fact stuck this economy in the ditch, Mr. Speaker, since its imposition. This Premier and this government have put Saskatchewan in dead last, Mr. Speaker, on economic measure after economic measure, Mr. Speaker.

So as I say, they should be listening to municipalities around the date of the election to ensure democracy. They should be listening to municipalities around the nonsense of charging the PST on construction labour, driving up costs for families and households and property tax payers and homeowners, Mr. Speaker, at the same time driving up costs on those projects.

Mr. Speaker, and again it should come as no surprise to Saskatchewan people that this Sask Party government could care less what the municipal sector thinks. It was just a few years back when they unilaterally ripped up the grants-in-lieu, Mr. Speaker, and took back from municipalities millions of dollars all while

sticking that bill on the backs of property tax payers across Saskatchewan. Homeowners, Mr. Speaker, local businesses as well.

So I'd urge this minister to work with our critic to hear the real suggestions and the real voice. I'd urge the minister to listen to the municipal sector — we're represented so well in Saskatchewan by exceptionally strong, locally elected democratic leaders, Mr. Speaker — and to bring about some improvements to this legislation that would improve democracy, Mr. Speaker, that would respect municipalities, and that would bring down the costs, of course for municipalities but also for property tax payers across Saskatchewan, all while stimulating that economy.

With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 104.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise once again with this folder right here, Mr. Speaker, to speak to the legislation before us, Bill No. 105. Basically the comments I had and criticisms and concerns around Bill No. 104 stand for Bill 105, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that's grown old and tired and think they know best, day in, day out, whether that's health care, business, or education, Mr. Speaker.

The same is the case when it comes to the municipalities across Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, they've failed to listen once again around the concerns, very valid, important concerns around the democratic processes for municipalities, the election date itself. Mr. Speaker, we have a government unwilling to hear that important message. Should be no surprise to us though, Mr. Speaker.

It's unfortunate but should be no surprise because this is a government that's not listening to municipalities, to villages and towns and cities and RMs across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, on so many other fronts like the PST that they stick on the bills of municipalities or ultimately on the backs of families and homeowners and local businesses, Mr. Speaker, by way of property taxes to collect the PST and charge the PST and then transfer that back to this provincial government, Mr. Speaker.

It makes no sense. It's hurt our economy. It's driven opportunity and jobs away, and it's certainly driven up costs for people and families and seniors and businesses across Saskatchewan at a

time where they face so many cost-of-living challenges, Mr. Speaker.

Should be no surprise because we've seen how this government has treated municipalities in the past. I remember the budget just a few years back where they ripped up the grants-in-lieu, Mr. Speaker, pulling back millions of dollars that had been committed legally to municipalities, Mr. Speaker, and then leaving, of course, property taxpayers, Mr. Speaker, to foot the bill, to foot the added bill, Mr. Speaker.

So we see a history with this government, one that thinks they know best, that could care less about the locally elected leaders in municipalities and ultimately the families and homeowners and local businesses in those communities who are bearing the costs of a government that just keeps off-loading, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 105.

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. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Now thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on this bill, give a few comments on Bill 106. I know we've heard a lot of concerns when it comes to policing out in our province. A lot of people are worried about their safety, and I guess this legislation is, I guess, kind of paving a way for, I think it's the government to have their new police or police force.

But really I don't want to talk much about that, as more I want to talk about and thank our law officers, our enforcement officers, whether they're RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], city, municipal. They're all over and they're doing the best they can when it comes to keeping us safe.

And when we look at that, I sometimes wonder why, you know, a province would want to have its own police service, you know, for a minister to have authority over that. And I guess I kind of, as things are rolling out, I'm starting to understand maybe a little better from my colleague who is the critic and expressing concern.

And from some of the, I guess, experts that are out there are making comments and sharing their concerns, I guess, different leaders, different areas, where we're starting to hear it. I think we're going to hear more and more people's concerns about the dollars. You're taking resources that could enhance and could build, could work with our RCMP and our city cops, municipal police, wherever to work together in a very positive way.

But again, here we go. We have a government who just doesn't

seem to understand when you're impacting citizens and our police officers, RCMP, our municipal, you know, our city — consult. But here's again an example of a government, you just don't ask. For some reason you think you get to make all the decisions and you don't have to consult with anyone. We'll just make this up as you go along, and then you have the nerve to go back to people and say after the fact, well, you know, we didn't consult you when we're doing this but, you know, now that we're going ahead with the legislation, now we want to sit down and talk to you. After you've made the whole plan, and you have the nerve. And I watch this when it comes to First Nations and Métis, when it comes to their rights and them being consulted and accommodated on many files.

Our Indigenous people should be talking, and I know there's members over here . . . And I think about the member from Athabasca who likes to stand here and say he's going to fight. Well please do. I hope genuinely he will stand up for the Indigenous people who are fighting. FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, they're making it very clear. Our Métis local presidents, I watch them and I watch how they unanimously pass legislation at the MNLA [Métis Nation Legislative Assembly] clearly. Rarely, rarely does that ever happen, and to see them make it a point to say they reject what this Sask Party government has done, by the government of the day without consulting, without consulting the people that would be the most impacted.

But you know what? I'll leave it at that. Just to go show how this government is so out of touch, and you know, I would hope the member from Athabasca would hear this message, start fighting for the Indigenous people, the people that you're supposed to represent. Because I know they're telling me, and they're not happy. So you better wake up and pay attention to them, so that members on that side . . .

So you know, we could sit here all day and we could go back, but I know my colleagues have more to say. They have other areas we're going to have to deal with today, so we're not going to take much more time. But every day that I can get up and speak up for the First Nations and Métis citizens and all citizens about a government's lack of consulting and talking. You guys just do whatever you think you have a right to do. I don't know why you think . . . I guess after 16 years you're pretty tired. You know, you don't have much to really add. You just want to do it. Let's just get through this so I can go home. It's too hard.

Well you know what? People that you're impacting, the decisions you guys are making are impacting many families, many leaders. So I would remind you, don't take the people, our voters, for granted. Don't take the Indigenous people for granted because you will pay a price. They will come together. The Métis, First Nations, they will come together in a strong voice to let you know how they feel.

[14:45]

So anyway you could sit here and play the little game like you don't hear it and don't want to hear it, doesn't matter to me. But, Mr. Speaker, this government has a record now of not consulting, and we're seeing it more and more. Many different files, health care, you look at it all over. And I think the people of this province are going to send a message to this government saying,

wake up and start listening.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 106.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to enter into debate on Bill No. 107, *The Provincial Protective Services Act*. This is a new piece of legislation that unites under one umbrella conservation officers, traffic officers, safer communities officers, deputy sheriffs, community safety officers. And this is under *The Provincial Protective Services Act*. We know that the provincial protective service was created last year, and basically this piece of legislation aims to try to coordinate some of those efforts and to reduce some of the barriers to fighting crime.

There are a number of concerns with this legislation, Mr. Speaker, and how it is being introduced and really the significant changes that it will mean for the policing framework in this province. I don't think it's a coincidence that we've seen a similar plan for a provincial police force come out of Alberta. We know that this government likes to see what its conservative friends are doing and sort of copy off of their homework and think that they're a good idea without doing adequate consultation, Mr. Speaker.

And that's what we've heard, is that the police forces have not been adequately consulted in the creation of this, you know, very similar to what my colleague was just talking about with the need to consult, as there's an intrinsic link between Bill No. 106 and Bill No. 107. Mr. Speaker, there are concerns about that lack of consultation as well as the overall approach to, you know, Americanized tough-on-crime approach that doesn't acknowledge the root causes of crime. And it's incredibly short-sighted to say you're going to get tough on crime and mean that you're going to get harder on enforcement when you're not actually going to address what's leading to crime in the first place, Mr. Speaker.

And that is a big point that I take issue with here. There are a lot of different pieces that need to be looked at here, but I think there's a big question around public money, whether this is a necessary public expenditure. You know, what bang are we getting for our buck here and, you know, what this impact is really going to have on our society as a whole, Mr. Speaker. I think there are a lot of questions here, and it is something we will be looking at further in committee and many of us will have a

chance to look at.

In light of the marshals plan, we're much more concerned about this framework moving forward. There's now a pattern of the minister creating and setting up police services that are directly accountable to her office. There is a question about oversight and independence here, Mr. Speaker. We saw that with Bill 70 in the spring. We're now seeing that with the marshals service. It needs some very specific scrutiny here as well.

So we'll continue to do that work and to ask those questions, Mr. Speaker, but with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 107 for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet in debate for Bill No. 108, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act*. This is a bill that is very technical in nature, by and large. Some of my questions have already . . . I mean we've canvassed the bill and spoke about it here in the Assembly.

What I would add further to what has already been said is that, you know, we do have questions around why some of these provisions were necessary beyond the more sort of technical ones in relation to the federal government amendments and who was consulted in that regard.

I do think in the short time I have, the one important thing I want to mention is that there are so many people here in Saskatchewan without pensions and no way to provide for their senior years.

At the moment, we're facing a generational cost-of-living crisis. This will only be further exacerbated for those senior members of our population who don't have any recourse for their retirement. And I would simply say that this a perfect example of how this is a government who's really just fiddling around the edges in terms of addressing issues of affordability and cost of living. And if they really want to get serious about addressing the issues facing our citizenry here, that they look to ensure that people are being supported, that their cost of living is being brought down.

We've come up with several ways in which to do that in terms of looking at the cost of food in our grocery stores as well as the tax on gasoline. And we'll continue to call for those sorts of measures to address what's been the most inflation we've seen in a generation and made life so unaffordable and difficult for so many here in the province. So with that, I will conclude my

remarks on Bill No. 108, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to be able to enter into adjourned debate on behalf of the opposition with respect to Bill 109, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022*. Mr. Speaker, this bill includes federal government employees who are now, you know, brought into the legislation, into the Act, and are compelled to comply with the legislation around trespassing on private land in Saskatchewan.

I think I just want to take my time to highlight here, Mr. Speaker, how I think the impetus to the amendments we saw to this bill are really just sort of more of the same of this provincial government trying to do everything they can to continue their match with the federal government and continuing to challenge the federal government on everything they possibly can, even when, you know, there's a lot of hyperbole.

You look at the minister's comments in the media around the incident that preceded these amendments. And what we know is that, I believe what is quite clear at this point is that, you know, there were federal employees who did not realize that they were on private land, how it was essentially a misunderstanding.

But you know, just the way that it was conveyed by the new minister who was clearly making his debut with this issue, the way it was conveyed back in August by the Minister for the Water Security Agency that, you know, he characterized those employees, who are residents of this province — let's be reminded of that — he characterized their water testing as covert and inappropriate. Which again we just see, you know, this sort of rhetoric that this government likes to just amp up around anything to do with the federal government, you know, facts aside, giving people the benefit of the doubt aside, giving Saskatchewan workers the benefit of the doubt aside.

It's just more of the same agenda. Which honestly, Mr. Speaker, has become very tiresome for Saskatchewan people, not just us here on this opposition side, but really tiresome when we see a government who, instead of governing seriously and instead of taking a mature approach with our federal government so that we can realize the best outcomes for Saskatchewan people, we just see this childlike schoolyard behaviour again by more and more on that side of the House.

And as I said by, you know, their brand new cabinet minister, the

Minister for the Water Security Agency, taking this misunderstanding by Saskatchewan workers who inadvertently encroached on private land, and turning it into another . . . you know, I won't say the word, but we know what kind of match with the federal government.

So I mean, should everyone respect private land and the right, you know, that private landowners have? I mean, yes. But yes, and that's really not the question here. But we do see again it seems to be, you know, a little bit tied in here as the same dog-whistle politics that we see by this government around any issues of trespass. And we do know that in Saskatchewan this is an issue that has been very complicated and it's had very tragic impacts — the idea of trespass and who is trespassing and who is not trespassing. And so we've seen this, if we go back to the killing of Colten Boushie and the outcome that we saw there.

And we have some serious problems with land sharing in this province. And so I think that what this government could be doing, instead of these types of amendments that really are just kind of for show mostly and for pure politics mostly, what we could be seeing is a real meaningful encouragement of land sharing, particularly in this province between settlers and between Indigenous peoples who have a right to access lands to exercise their treaty rights. And we've seen this again and again: my colleague, the member for MLA centre, bringing up this issue of the government's disregard for the rights of First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan to access land.

So that is how I would encourage the members on that side to spend their time and to spend their efforts when they're talking about trespass, when they're talking about land rights, instead of just frothing at the mouth when we have an inadvertent error made by a few Saskatchewan workers and using it to, you know, prove their point with the federal government and really do nothing of meaning or of substance.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to wrap up at this point. I'll conclude my remarks. I'm sure our critic for this bill will continue to do the necessary consultations, the proper consultations needed as opposed to, you know, whipping out some amendments and posting them to Twitter for some likes. You know, they accuse us of being on Twitter too much, but in fact that's how the minister communicated these amendments, you know, was just by throwing something up on Twitter and starting a bit of a match again with the federal government. So I'll conclude at this point, conclude my remarks and adjourn debate on Bill 109, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 110

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be good; thank you to my deskmate here. I won't be too long on my feet right now, Mr. Speaker, but I will take a moment to put a few comments on the record about Bill 110, *The Wills Amendment Act*. By and large, I see this as positive steps in modernizing a piece of legislation that has become outdated due to changes in our province and our world. I did take time to review the minister's comments as well as comments from my colleagues that are already on the record.

[15:00]

So certainly some positive changes here I think in terms of allowing for electronic signatures and witnessing, as well as some safeguards to be put in place to ensure that e-wills can be revoked and changed just like paper copies can. And also, you know, something I think that we've all considered when it comes to only keeping electronic copies, that we're always afraid of accidentally hitting the delete button or losing your work that you've put time into. But I know that there's been provisions put in place to ensure that those things won't take place here. So I think that that's a good sign.

I think, you know, we've seen a number of pieces of legislation brought before the Assembly during my time here that are really just efforts to modernize. And we can go back and forth about whether or not that's overdue or not, but I guess it doesn't really matter. I think this is a positive step now, and interested to see this come into force.

I guess the last point I'll put on the record here — and I think I need to take my own advice — is hopefully the future passing of this legislation will just serve as a reminder to folks to get their affairs in order, including their wills, just to ensure that their loved ones are protected and everything is where it needs to be.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my remarks, voice support for *The Wills Amendment Act*, but I do look forward to hearing other comments from my colleagues in opposition before this proceeds. But at this point I'll move that we adjourn debate on Bill 110, *The Wills Amendment Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter my comments into Bill 111, *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022*. So this Act, actually I'm pleased to be reading about the changes in this, as many folks know that in the Indigenous community often grandparents are the ones that look after their grandchildren, and often they do not seek child support or are not in a position to do that. So this bill gives them an opportunity to apply for child support if they wish.

In this affordability crisis, streamlining the process for child maintenance is necessary, and it helps with ensuring that the child that's in their care receives the best possible chance in going forward as they age and grow up.

So I'm not going to say much about this. My colleagues who have this area will have more to say on it. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move to adjourn debate on Bill 111, *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022*. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 112. Mr. Speaker, this is a largely inconsequential bill. It's changing the name from Queen's Printer to King's Printer, understanding the change in the monarchy that's happened, as well as removing the requirement for the minister to provide the King's Printer with a manuscript at the end of session, which is no longer really necessary in this modern day and age.

Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to ask questions about this bill at committee. In order to facilitate that, I am allowing it to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 112 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the companion bill to the bill I was just speaking about, Bill No. 112. In order to allow this bill to also move to committee, I am prepared to allow it to move into its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 113 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 114, *The King's Bench Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill replaces *The Queen's Bench Act*, a very important piece of legislation, but the changes here are mostly due to the death of the monarch.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that there are largely no other real substantive changes to the bill, but I'm looking forward to asking those questions to officials at committee. In order to allow myself to do that, I am prepared to allow this bill to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 114 be now read a second time. Is it

the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise . . . [inaudible] . . . the debate today on Bill No. 115. Mr. Speaker, I understand *The King's Counsel Act* will set up the King's Counsel eligibility, formerly known as the Queen's Counsel. Mr. Speaker, I do not think there are any changes to the eligibility, but I'm looking forward to asking those questions to officials at committee. In order to allow myself to do that, I'm prepared to allow this bill to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 115 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

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

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

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be on my feet to debate Bill No. 16, *The Plant Health Act*. This is an Act that has to do with when the minister can declare any animal, insect, or disease dangerous to plants or crops as a pest and appoint a pest control officer. It has details around when the minister can also appoint PCOs [pest control officer] and order compliance, or pay for destroyed crops, and other details.

I note that with the need for permission to access private land for inspections that it does raise some questions in my mind about, you know, the broader issue of access to private lands. I've debated that here in the past on other bills, most notably *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act*. And I want to make sure that when these kinds of bills are drafted that they ensure that the powers are appropriate, that they're not creating any sort of overreach, while at the same time balancing that off with the need to protect the public interest.

Also with the new provisions and powers given to the PCOs, I do have some questions around resourcing for those positions. Certainly we've had many cases where issues around compliance and enforcement for other Acts have been handicapped and without sufficient resources to make the legislation fully effective.

I'm sure that our critic will be canvassing those issues in committee to seek answers to those questions and also help us understand the consultation that accompanied these amendments. Who did they consult? What did they hear? And I note that when introducing this bill, you know, the Minister of Agriculture's comments were rather brief, leaving many questions unanswered in terms of the context, the need for these amendments, and so I bring forward those questions now with the hopes that this is indeed a sincere effort by this government to introduce a bill to address real issues rather than just play to their base.

And so with that, I will conclude my comments on Bill No. 116, *The Plant Health Act*. I move to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 117

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join in on the adjourned debates around Bill 117, *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*. This is a bill that looks to enshrine the rules and processes around seizures of guns in our province. I want to thank our critic who has done a tremendous amount of work on this file engaging stakeholders. This is a file that needs a lot of care here

in Western Canada, specifically in Saskatchewan, and I know that she's been working very hard to engage folks affected.

This is a bill that essentially goes over firearm seizures, looking at what licensed seizure agents are responsible for, determining that there should be a fair market value price scheme put in for any guns seized with a committee to back that up. Seized guns must then be looked over for forensic and ballistic testing to see if they have been involved in crime, and these firearms officers can hand down alternative measures instead of legal punishment for non-violent offences. And then lastly, firearms licences immediately suspended when conviction or major crime has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, we stand with the government in opposition to broad firearms bans that do not consult Western provinces. There is a lot of concerns that the folks whose livelihoods depend on hunting are not being consulted; they're not being considered. I've heard it myself. I have good family friends who are very responsible gun owners and use their firearms to feed their families, filling the freezer full of wild game meats, sharing, you know, always sharing the meals with folks, caring for their friends and family in that capacity. So this is a huge aspect to their livelihoods, especially with groceries through the roof, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is a bit of worry for all whenever a broad ban is put in place about consultation with First Nation and Métis hunters as well, just not being consulted. And so we're seeing that Ottawa making decisions for folks in Western Canada isn't working. It's not working for First Nations. It's not working for Métis folks.

[15:15]

I know, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of times gun bans and conversations are fuelled by gun violence in our largest cities. But I have to say that any time we have these bills that lay out a financial component — as we are paying fair value for these guns to repossess them, you know — I really think that any time a bill is put forward like this with a funding announcement to say, seize guns, that we should also see funding announcements and initiatives towards social supports that prevent the gun violence that these bills are aiming to reduce.

In short, Mr. Speaker, I believe that any conversation about guns and who can own them and who are prohibited to own them must include conversations with stakeholders that are affected, and rules and regulations must be brought in that respect communities of interest. As well, we must continue to pair conversations about gun violence with conversations about mental health, domestic violence, poverty, and ensure that the financial supports are in place to deal with those problems in our society.

Mr. Speaker, it's been a pleasure to weigh in on this in this adjourned debate. I move to adjourn debate on Bill 117, *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to weigh in on behalf of the opposition around Bill 118, *The Warrant Compliance Act*. I know in the minister's remarks, the way that it was communicated, the intent of this bill is for this legislation to improve warrant enforcement for what is termed prolific violent offenders in Saskatchewan. I know this has been mentioned prior, already, from our side of the House, but we do have a concern that there is no definition of, you know, this term "prolific violent offender." And I understand that the minister has indicated that, you know, it will be decided on a case-by-case basis, which seems concerning for obvious reasons to me.

The minister also, in her remarks around this bill, has said that the government is working to help police more proactively identify and apprehend what again they call prolific violent offenders with active Criminal Code warrants before they can cause harm to the public. And so how the legislation, you know, is supposedly going to be doing that is through the creation of a unit through the ministry which would be responsible for compiling and distributing a list of prolific violent offenders to government institutions, and that's for the purpose of having an individual's benefits either reduced, suspended, or terminated. So those benefits would include income assistance payments.

And I guess, you know, in the comments it is worth mentioning that, you know, the administrators of the benefits will retain that discretion to, you know, execute the stop payment notice, including continuing benefits if it could cause significant hardship to an offender's spouse or dependents. It's good to see that certainly in there as something that will be considered, Mr. Speaker. According to the minister, the bill will authorize the unit to request information from government institutions to help police services locate and apprehend prolific violent offenders with outstanding Criminal Code warrants.

And so my understanding is that this legislation was brought forward after the extremely tragic incident that took place on James Smith Cree Nation and at Weldon, Saskatchewan. Certainly understand, you know, the need to try and bring forward policy solutions to make sure that we do not see something of that nature ever happen again in our province, Mr. Speaker. However we, you know, have been hearing already some concerns from stakeholders around the legislation.

I will just note here just specifically about the John Howard Society expressing some initial concerns with the legislation, them having trouble seeing how the legislation could have prevented the tragedy in question, Mr. Speaker, and you know, questioning whether cutting folks off supports could cause more problems than it looks to sort of prevent, I suppose. So yeah, there's concern that if this is not executed properly that it could actually be bad for public safety in the long run, Mr. Speaker.

So I think that there's certainly a lot of nuance to be considered with this legislation and I hope that the government will consult . . . [inaudible] . . . That's the second time I've done that today. I'm, like, a little rusty, I guess. Anyway, here we are back again.

But what I was saying is I do hope that the government will consult very widely and thoroughly on this legislation, something that, you know, could have very, very significant, you know, implications I suppose in terms of public safety and in terms of people's access to social benefits that they rely upon.

So I do know that, you know, our critic will continue to consult very broadly herself around this bill. And I think I'm going to leave it at that for now. Thank you. And with that I will adjourn debate on Bill 118, *The Warrant Compliance Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet here to enter into debate on Bill No. 120, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Health Professions) Amendment Act*. The purpose of this amendment is to provide health professional organizations with the tools and powers required to fulfill their legislated mandate, public protection. And also it's giving the opportunity to change the regulatory bodies' names from society to college to reflect that public protection.

You know, this is interesting, you know. I think about last week — perhaps it was last week or maybe the week before — where in the community of Westview one of the pharmacists was selling opiates or whatever they were doing from the pharmacy.

And this is timely, this amendment, because we have to protect the citizens in this province. And we all know that high drug use and misuse in this province, and addictions, is quite rampant, and this is something that would ensure those regulatory bodies to investigate when situations like this happen.

And I heard last week in the news about not having the capacity to go and check all these, particularly in that area, to check . . . They didn't have the capacity to go and do their due diligence to ensure that the people were protected.

Another area that I think about, and this is something that we all should be thinking about, is about pretend Indian, pretendians, those that are claiming to be Indigenous. And when I think about this, that this is an opportunity for legislation like this to expand, protecting the public — in particular Indigenous people — from

those that are claiming false Indigeneity. And I think that would be something that all legislation, all statutes, need to be thinking about going forward. Because it is an issue whether it's in the health sector, in government, about settlers claiming Indigeneity and benefiting in ways that they have no right benefiting from.

So we need to ensure that all relevant statutes are aligned with the needs of the sector, anything to do with training, retaining, recruiting, in this case the health workers. So I'm pleased to see that we're looking at updating and becoming relevant when it comes to these issues that we're dealing with here in the House.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 120.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 121

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter into debate on Bill No. 121, which is a bill on the provincial honours and emblems amendment Act. This is a bill that gives a province the right to invent new provincial honours, including the recently awarded Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, and add that to the list of honours.

I must say that it was a tremendous honour to be able to nominate constituents in Saskatoon Nutana for this prestigious honour and provided us with an opportunity to recognize the unsung heroes within our community — of which there are many — and 40 awards was far too few to do it justice. But nevertheless it provided a wonderful opportunity to both celebrate their achievements and thank them for their community involvement and dedication. You heard earlier today the member statement for Jae Blakley, who was one of those recipients, and I hope in the coming days to also share the stories of many more.

I do also want to very briefly mention that it is also a bit of a controversial and complicated subject matter in terms of the honouring of the late Queen Elizabeth II, who I have pledged an oath of service and duty to here. But I must report that there were some concerns that I did hear from constituents around our colonial past. And as a settler on Treaty 6 territory, I do want to also make mention of that.

And I hope that now with the passing of the Crown to King Charles that we will be able to renew that relationship in a good way, in a way that builds trust as well as address truth and reconciliation here across Canada. And I look forward to doing that work to ensure that that happens. And with that I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 121.

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. 122

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 122 — *The Saskatchewan Revenue Agency Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter into the debate again, this time on Bill No. 122, the Saskatchewan revenue Act.

This government likes taxes so much that they've created a Crown corporation to bring in some taxes, adding to bureaucracy and red tape without consulting with folks across the province to see whether this is required, Mr. Speaker. They haven't provided a clear rationale on why they're doing this or what they hope that it's going to accomplish. We see them systematically dismantling our Crown corporations on one side of the coin and creating new Crown corporations that no one has seemed to ask for on the other side of the coin. It's certainly a head-scratcher, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

They don't even have numbers on what the set-up costs of this organization will be. But it's a big, cumbersome government and it is not set to accomplish anything. So incredibly disappointing to see that this is what they're doing with their legislative agenda. But this government hasn't met a tax it doesn't like, so I'm not surprised.

We'll be continuing to do that consultation work that this government hasn't done. But with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 122 for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 124

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Carr that **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*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pleased to enter into

adjourned debate on Bill No. 124, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act* of 2022. Now I've got a few comments that I do want to put on the record here about these amendments, because I think that these are substantial changes that municipal leaders, communities all around the province will spend some time considering and carefully weighing what they're going to do.

Some of the big changes here, obviously that municipalities, regional parks, and the PCC [Provincial Capital Commission] can designate outdoor spaces for drinking-permissible areas, and that they will be able to pass their own bylaws, creating boundaries and areas and hours and signage and all this kind of stuff to designate areas for outdoor spaces for consuming alcohol.

This is a big change in Saskatchewan. I know that other provinces have already done this and that we can look to their experiences. Hopefully we will, and we'll look to their experiences and how those changes took place and make sure that we eliminate any unintended consequences.

But I think that we're missing something really key here, and it's become a bit of a trend that we've seen from this Sask Party government opposite, and that is the lack of consultation that has taken place before this is announced, right? I mean that's the key about consultation, that you've got to do that work, build those relationships and that trust before you announce to the public what you're going to do.

And that is missing again here. I mean, Mr. Speaker, I've certainly heard that on the road as we've visited communities around this province on our health solutions tour. If there's a single theme out there, it's feeling left out of the decision-making process. And that adds insult to injury when you're trying to access health services. That's the injury. The insult is being left out of the process, and municipal leaders around this province are saying exactly that.

But you know what? I'm also critic for Education and we see the same track record when it comes to education in this province. The failure to consult on key things that are affecting communities is adding insult to the injury. Case in point, changes to online school. No one was consulted before that announcement was made — not local school board leaders, certainly not teachers and families, teachers and elected leaders in school division land. It's just adding insult to injury.

So here we have again that same track record of failing to consult, failing to build those relationships that matter, that matter at the local level. So now you've got municipal leaders that are being given significant work, significant work, with this change in legislation. And you know, it's not even about the substance of this bill that I'm raising concern. It's about the process. The process of building trust in relationships is another failure for this government.

Now we do see, as far as the substance of these amendments, I want to point out that I think it is a positive sign to see that each municipality or regional park will have the ability to craft their own bylaws and to make these changes in ways that work for the constituents that they represent. I think that's an important part that needs to be maintained here, that this will not be a one-size-fits-all situation. Because in the end we do have a number of

ways that we can modernize this bill and modernize the regulation of alcohol consumption in the province. So there is something positive there.

Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to hearing continued comments from my colleagues in opposition. We need to ensure, as we are doing . . . You know, our critic for municipal affairs is also on the road consulting with municipal leaders on a number of fronts, but essentially that leaves us to do the consultation that this government has failed to do on this front and so many others that I've outlined. So we'll continue to sit in those rooms and listen to folks that are feeling left out by this government.

With that though, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks and I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 124, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 125

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Carr that **Bill No. 125 — *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter the debate on Bill 125, the cannabis control Act, as official opposition critic for SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority]. As critic, and along with my colleague the critic for First Nations and Métis Relations, we're busy engaging stakeholders on the changes proposed in this legislation, and we promise to bring more questions about this legislative change to committee. So in that vein I will be keeping my comments brief today.

You know, we've seen cannabis legal in Canada since 2018, and of course it's been a learning curve for governments across the country. You know, it's important that as governments in the provincial jurisdictions, that they continue to engage with folks in these industries, especially First Nations, to ensure that the cannabis industry and small-business owners on First Nations and across our province, that when they get into these retail operations that they have the support of the government, that they're being consulted, and that policy and regulations make for an environment that's good for doing business.

You know, my colleague, the critic for First Nations and Métis Relations, has done amazing work on the duty-to-consult bill that she is sponsoring. This is another moment where a duty to consult First Nations in consultations surrounding their need and want to regulate and market cannabis. This is an important conversation to have.

Mr. Speaker, 125 will look at creating First Nations cannabis

authorities to regulate the on-reserve cannabis retail, distribution. These are similar regulations as we are seeing as off-reserve for, you know, hiring minors; setting prices; issuing, refusing, revoking permits; issuing fines. You know, cops, judges will have the same enforcement powers, and First Nations won't have to apply to the ministry for those permits.

You know, this Act lets First Nations set up their First Nations cannabis authorities so that they are able to sell cannabis as part of the reserve but ban cannabis sales on other parts. It gives them the control. And they also must comply with any regulations that come from the government.

This bill also just ensures that the government is able to revoke the authorities through order in council, I'm sure, if those regulations aren't being followed. And the last part of this bill — interesting — is that all cannabis retailers, First Nations or not, only need to check ID [identification] for people who look 25 and under. Anyone over, they are okay. That's the intention of the program.

Mr. Speaker, like I said, we'll continue to engage with stakeholders and First Nations. You know, there were a number of First Nations who went ahead with selling and retailing their own cannabis regardless. And they said, you know, don't tell us what to do. We have sovereignty and we want to be a part of this. And there's, you know, revenues to be made and regulations. And they know their communities, Mr. Speaker, they know their communities and they can put those regulations in place that will protect folks.

And as always, we are very supportive of enshrining First Nations on-reserve rights into laws where possible. So we're seeing that with this. The final piece, you know, the Check 25, has been a very successful program. I've heard from patrons of cannabis shops that they're happy with this change, the ease of purchasing cannabis when they want to, you know, not having to forget their licence at home when they're entering the shops, things like that.

The program has been so successful, you know. I think that always a concern is, is making sure that the ministry has the processes in place, that they're doing those random checks to ensure that these retailers are checking those cards when they need to when someone's looking too young to be purchasing cannabis.

So, Mr. Speaker, as always, you know, very supportive of modernization in this industry, very supportive of ensuring that First Nations rights are enshrined in laws. I will move to adjourn debate today on Bill 125.

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. 126

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 126 — The Summary**

Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2022 be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 126. Initially it looks like, it almost looks like . . . I don't know. I'm a little confused here kind of with this legislation. Well what's confusing is, did somebody from government actually go and talk to a First Nation community? Like, did you actually do that? Did you actually go out and actually have a little conversation, maybe you know, a coffee, visit the community, and say, as leaders, is there anything we could help you with?

And it looks like maybe two communities, First Nation leaders said, well by the way, you know what? We've never seen you. We're so happy to see you, that yes, there is a couple of things you could help us. We're having some issues with enforcement on certain bylaws or laws. And we know that traffic officers can give out tickets, and then there's a fine, a summary fine, and that's helpful. And that's one way of saying, instead of going to court you can actually pay a fine. And that's great. It works provincially. It rates really good.

Some cities do the same thing: parking, there's different violations. I'm not an enforcement officer. I'm not a lawyer, but I know many of my colleagues are. There's others that I've talked to, and they give me some good counsel on some of it to understand it.

But again I go back to this where I'm hoping that that's what happened here. Because I have to be honest with you, Mr. Speaker, there's so many First Nations, so many Métis leaders, so many people out there in our province living in our rural, our remote, our northern communities say this very clearly: this government does not have a clue how to engage, consult, meaningful consultation, and talk to many communities, many residents. Whether it's in health care, they just do whatever they want.

It's like, you know what? Well there used to be a member who used to sit here and say, we could do whatever we want. They are still going to vote for us. So I just reminded him to keep doing that, because, man, I think you're waking up some other people that really want to get involved in, you know, holding you accountable. And I'm going to enjoy watching that process because maybe it's time that you're held accountable instead of having that oh, we can do whatever we want and nobody can bother.

You know, I think about this, and I'm trying to be fair. Because if you are truly meaningfully consulting with communities and First Nations and Métis and you're doing it right, you won't be taken to court. You won't have them coming in the legislature, filling up the galleries. You won't have things happening. You won't have people telling you. But unfortunately some of the MLAs out there, I don't blame you — probably with government, you're backbenchers — I don't blame you for being a little uncomfortable going out in the community, you know, and talking with some of the residents.

So you are a part of the government whether you're, you know, a part of the current government and you sit as a backbencher.

But remember it is your government that people see you as part of when you represent them. You're representing them, and you're supposed to take care of their needs, all residents.

So I would encourage you to get door knocking. Get out there and talk. But it seems like you already know that, you know, have this attitude that you can do whatever you want or your government can do . . . Let me correct that because I want to be fair. Because probably some of the backbenchers, you do actually probably do some good work trying to talk to your constituents.

[15:45]

But probably when you come to cabinet and those that have the money strings and the powers that be probably don't hear much of what you have to say. But you know, I just want to be very clear. I know the people I represent and I know the people that I have met with and people I've talked to have said this government just doesn't seem to understand about consulting and talking.

And legislation like this, like I said earlier, with this Bill 126 I'm hoping that somebody . . . Like you have so many people who work for government, so many backbenchers, so many ministers. I hope somebody went and talked to them. And that's why this legislation is coming forward because somebody actually went and talked to somebody finally. Like that's what you're supposed to be doing.

But you know what? I don't think I have to tell you because the letters I get and the calls, and people that talk to me just, you know, they're not real happy right now with the government. But you know, I understand you don't really want to hear that because you want to continue to pat yourself on the back and say you've done 16 years of great work. And you just keep telling yourself that.

And you know, you might even want to have a look at numbers of . . . Really, seriously, do a little research yourself. You're very wise. I see you know some stuff. You have to. Do a little research and I will tell you, some of the backbenchers, you probably have different areas of expertise you could actually help the cabinet with, and maybe even help the Premier. Let him know how his five years have gone for him. Don't look at the previous, just look at the Premier's five years. Have a serious look at it and say, Mr. Premier, they are right. There are some serious number crunching here. This doesn't look good for us. But you know, I'll leave it to you because your members, you're busy out there, I guess, doing whatever you're doing.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, I think I just wanted to get an opportunity to just show about the importance of consulting with our residents. Those people that are going to be impacted, whether it's municipal, whether it's law, or whether it's First Nations, Métis, health care workers. There are so many areas that people are frustrated with the government and say they're not heard.

Now the last thing I'm going to say, and then I'm going to . . . no, well maybe I won't because . . . I keep talking about the member from Athabasca. I have to give, you know, I want to mention that to him. Because I hear from some people in the Métis world and as citizens, and I hear from some of the First

Nations. They would like to . . . You know, I want to remind him that, you know, when you tell them that you're going to fight and you're Indigenous, you're going to fight for the Indigenous people, I hope you're doing that. I hope you are being a voice for them.

And I hope that member is making sure, as a member of this Assembly and a member of part of government, that he's at the table, just banging on it, saying, you've got to fight for Indigenous people. Mr. Premier, government, cabinet, you must do this. It's important. But don't let that government pass legislation and make legislation that they don't consult with Métis and First Nations in a bill. And there's a certain bill I can talk about, but I won't. It's coming forward.

But you don't even talk to those individuals that will be impacted greatly, you don't even have the nerve. But after the fact you want to go out and play like you . . . Well now after this bill has been talked about and introduced and so on and so on, oh maybe we should sit out and talk to you now. A little late, a little late to be doing that.

So you know, like I said, just reminding the member from Athabasca, you know, and members opposite, anyone that's in here that's Indigenous, I would encourage you to bang on the cabinet table, your colleagues, and tell them. You've got to fight. I know me and my colleague on this side, Saskatoon Centre, as a First Nation, very proud First Nations woman, speaks her truth and fights. She's fighting for that. And I give her credit and I will continue to voice our concern when it comes to Indigenous rights.

So, Mr. Speaker, this government, I'm hoping, will wake up some day and truly hear what the Indigenous people are saying and what they're asking of the government who is supposed to represent my grandchildren, my next generation, my cāpāns, that they will do, protect their rights, that they have inherent rights that need to be protected.

So with that I will say, you know, again I'm going to remind the member from Athabasca every time I can. He gave a commitment, and we'll find out exactly what kind of commitment he gave when he was going to fight for the northern people and fight for the Indigenous people. We're going to see because they're starting to talk, and what I'm hearing is some of them aren't so happy.

So I'll leave it at that, Mr. Speaker. You know, I am prepared to, you know, adjourn debate on Bill No. 126, and I'll leave it to my colleagues to ask later more questions as they want to go forward on these bills.

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. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved to adjourn the House. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House now stands adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:50.]

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