



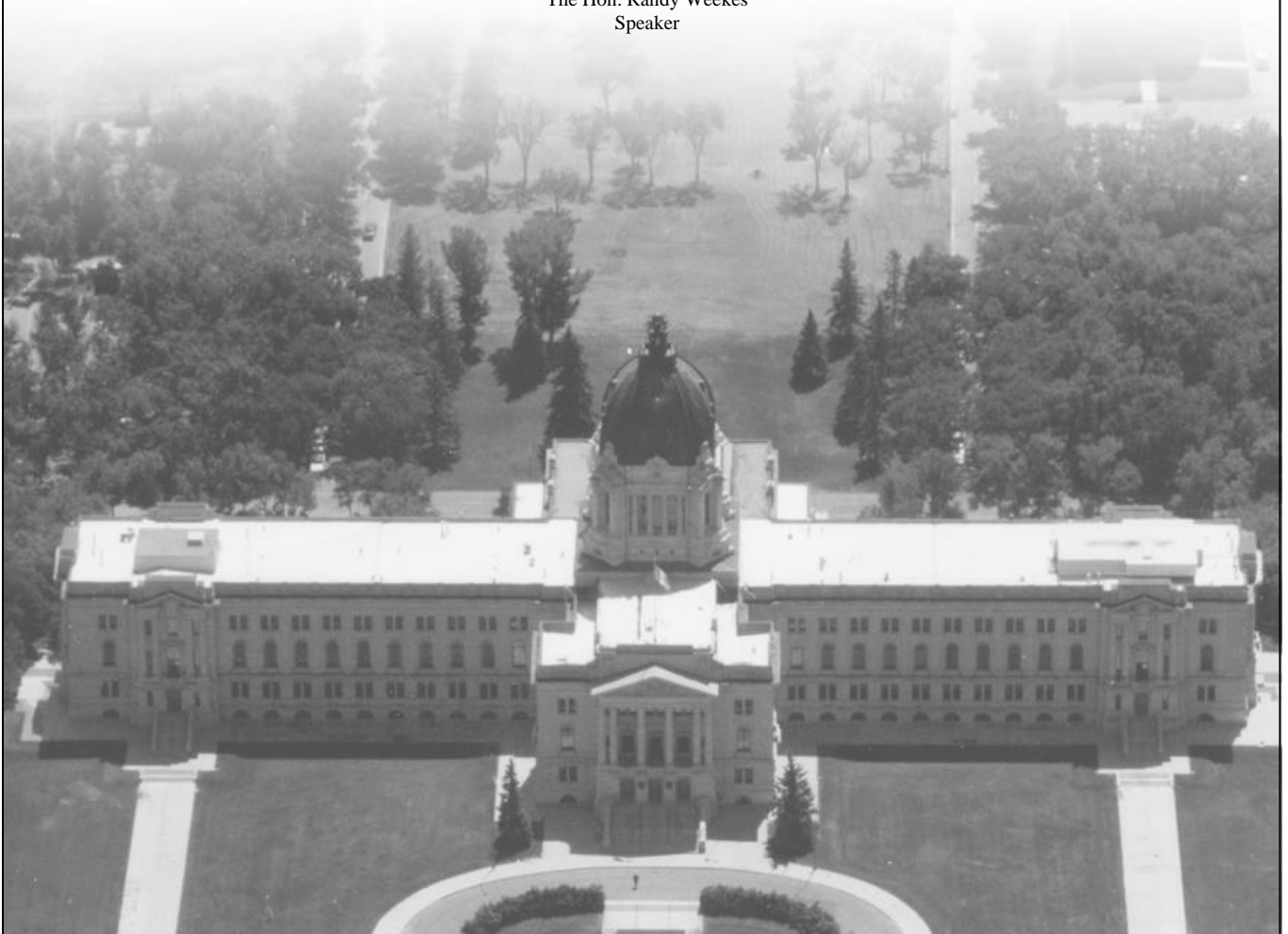
THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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

Standings

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 46; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12;
Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 2

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Iris Lang
Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, K.C.
Deputy Clerk — Kathy Buriannyk
Principal Clerk — Robert Park

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker: — Yesterday, March 20th, 2023, the Opposition House Leader rose on a point of order. She stated that the member for Athabasca made a personal accusation against the member from Regina Rosemont, violating rule 51(f). Rule 51(f) reads no member shall “. . . make a personal charge or accusation against a Member except by way of a substantive motion . . .”

There is no question that concerns about the conduct of another member should be raised by way of a substantive motion. Statements by members is not the proper means to question the appropriateness of another member's comments; in fact, rule 18(4) does not permit debate on statements by members.

During the statements by members, the member for Athabasca made serious accusations against the member for Regina Rosemont, stating that the member from Regina Rosemont “. . . made a number of extremely offensive and racially charged statements . . .” about him during a private members' day debate the previous Thursday. If the remarks can be interpreted as implying improper motives on the part of another member, they are not acceptable.

Speaker Toth stated on May 7th, 2008, “Challenging the position of another member is acceptable; questioning their character is not. A personal charge or accusation against any member may only be done by way of a substantive motion.”

Alternatively the member for Athabasca had the opportunity to raise a point of order at the time the statements were made last Thursday. I would like to remind all members that points of order should be raised at the earliest opportunity.

Speaker Hagel ruled on March 21st, 1997 that “. . . there is a forum for raising points of order, and that the members' statements are not to be used.” Therefore I find the Opposition House Leader's point of order well taken.

Additionally at the closing of this prepared member's statement, the member for Athabasca used inflammatory language which was directed at the member for Regina Rosemont. Rule 51(e) states that no member shall “. . . use offensive, provocative or threatening language.”

This is not the first time that members in this Chamber on both sides of the House have used statements by members as a forum to use divisive language when making comments about serious issues. This is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

In this highly charged atmosphere, I will on this occasion provide a warning to all members to be aware of the words that are spoken in this Chamber.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I have an introduction. In the Speaker's gallery I'd like to introduce Olajuwon Olaosebikan, a friend of mine. We first met in 2008 in Malaysia at the international Commonwealth Parliamentary international meeting, and since then he has visited Saskatchewan and Canada numerous times.

Ola is the secretary, House Committee on Works and Infrastructure at the Lagos State House Assembly, and also he wears a second hat as the special assistant to the Hon. Speaker in legislative matters. So please welcome Ola to our Assembly.

Introductions. I recognize the Minister of Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to welcome this afternoon 62 grade 5 students from École St. Elizabeth. And apparently all three classrooms have come together, so they have three teachers with them today: Jessica O'Donnell, Catherine Duffy, and Charles Ettien. I want to welcome all of you here to your Assembly. I'll be meeting with you later. I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to our Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join in with the welcome to those students, but to single out one young individual up there, Caitlyn Furber. Caitlyn, could you give us a wave here today? Caitlyn is an amazing dancer. She's a great basketball player. She's an alpine skier, and her mom, Michelle, is one of the nicest people you'll ever meet. She's a friend of Stephanie, my wife, for over 30 years, and a very successful local business owner as well.

She's also the daughter of someone who's no stranger to this Assembly, former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and a good friend of mine and ours, Darcy Furber, the former MLA for Prince Albert Northcote. Darcy of course served as MLA. He grew up and played for the Mintos, and he's a successful local business owner, owning and operating two Coras here in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, I know Caitlyn and all of her classmates have an amazing, bright future ahead of them, but I wanted to jump on my feet to give Caitlyn a warm welcome to her Assembly.

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

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce two guests seated in your gallery. There your first guest is my sister, Melanie Keisig. Give a wave. Melanie's a nurse, works at All Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle. The Minister of Rural Health and the Minister of Government Relations and myself toured the facility not too long ago. Unfortunately my sister was working on nights so we didn't have the opportunity to say hello, so I'm going to do that today.

Joining my sister is her daughter, Laine, my niece. She's a lab tech working in between Pasqua and General. So I really want to

thank all health care workers, particularly my family. And please join me in welcoming them to this, their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

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 below undersigned are residents of the city of Regina.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to immediately create a bipartisan committee on the mental health and addictions crisis. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that Saskatchewan has the highest suicide rate in the country; that the suicide rate for Indigenous people in Saskatchewan is four times higher than for non-Indigenous people; that Saskatchewan continues to break its own record in overdose deaths last year; that one in four youth in Saskatchewan have reported engaging in self-harm, and one in four youth have considered suicide in the past year; that there are 800 children and youth waiting to see a psychiatrist in Saskatchewan.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately create a bipartisan legislative committee on the mental health and addictions crisis in Saskatchewan.

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

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for home supports for older adults in Saskatchewan. Those that signed the petition today would like to draw to our attention that evidence shows that older adults in our province want to age in their own homes in their own communities, but that factors that often drive seniors away from their homes go beyond health care needs; and that a provincially subsidized home supports program would help older adults with other practical needs. The evidence shows that programs like this are doable, that they can be created. Other jurisdictions have created home supports programs that reduce the strain on long-term care and improve quality of life and outcomes for older adults.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to work with older adults, stakeholders, and municipalities to design a home support program that will allow seniors to age with dignity and autonomy in their own homes and communities.

I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the government's budget announcement tomorrow, I rise today to present our petition to address the cost-of-living crisis. The undersigned residents would like to bring to attention the following: that inflation is the highest it's been in more than three decades; that half of Saskatchewan residents were living paycheque to paycheque before transportation and food costs skyrocketed in 2022; that the Sask Party government's 32 new tax and fee hikes makes life more expensive, all while harming struggling industries like tourism, culture, and fitness; while other provinces acted, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government ignored the opposition's call for a gas-price relief plan.

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 meaningfully address the cost-of-living crisis in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the undersigned signees reside in Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet to present a SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] petition. Of course this petition was launched yesterday when we were joined by several self-advocates who rely on the SAID program and we submitted signed petitions from nearly 50 communities across the province.

Mr. Speaker, this is a petition calling on the government to make meaningful changes to the SAID program which hasn't increased

in seven years, which represents overall a reduction of 20 per cent in benefits. The other thing the petition calls for though, Mr. Speaker, is for this government to halt their discriminatory clawback policies. We've also asked for targeted relief to those in highest need, Mr. Speaker, and that would be single individuals paying market rent.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to increase SAID rates to account for inflation; respect the constitutional rights of persons with disability in Saskatchewan by halting discriminatory practices and aligning policies with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; index the SAID basic amount to inflation going forward; and lastly, provide targeted relief to those in deepest poverty, such as single individuals paying market rent.

The signatories of the petition reside in Saskatoon. And we'll add one more community to that list: Fort Qu'Appelle. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to call on the government to finally establish safe access zones for Saskatchewan abortion facilities. The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: that safe access zones around facilities that provide abortion services in Saskatchewan will ensure that patients and staff are safe and free from discrimination and harassment; that currently in Canada, six provinces have already passed bubble-zone legislation, including British Columbia in 1995, Mr. Speaker, that has been challenged and upheld; BC [British Columbia] legislation has successfully deterred protesters and protected people working in and accessing reproductive care facilities for 25 years.

[13:45]

Two private members' bills — pardon me, this is outdated — now three private members' bills have been introduced in this legislature by myself as the Status of Women critic, and the Sask Party government has had well enough sufficient time to understand the necessity of this legislation in protecting the health and safety of staff and patients accessing care. Mr. Speaker, the online version of this petition has garnered nearly 30,000 signatures. It is time for this government to quite dragging their heels and to act.

I'll read the prayer:

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

The residents who have signed the petition today reside in Esterhazy and Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — I rise today to present a petition to protect Saskatchewan's water supply. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is World Water Day. World representatives will be meeting at the United Nations assembly in New York to discuss protecting global water supplies.

And Saskatchewan is not immune to these global concerns. Just last year at the height of summer, the Saskatchewan Health Authority released an advisory warning of toxic algae in Manitou lake and advising people to avoid swimming or skiing and to keep children and pets away from the water. Not only did this shock vacationers, this toxic event has been devastating for the community. Small businesses who rely on the short summer season to make their income were hard hit. Hotel and restaurant reservations were cancelled and new bookings grinded to a halt.

We know this government doesn't care about protecting the environment, despite their recent greenwashing. But what about the families and small businesses that rely on safe water to enjoy their summer vacations and provide their livelihoods?

I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly actively protect Saskatchewan waters from current and future threats to our valuable water supply.

This petition is signed by residents of Manitou Beach and Regina.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

World Down Syndrome Day

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March 21st is internationally recognized as the annual World Down Syndrome Day and has been since 2012. The date being the 21st day of the third month was chosen to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome, which causes the condition. And this year's theme is With Us Not For Us. Early in government's mandate we prioritized people with disabilities and after extensive consultations, conversations, and collaboration we proudly introduced the SAID program.

As a parent of a daughter with Down syndrome, I am incredibly proud of the programs and supports we offer individuals with disabilities. And I am incredibly proud of my daughter and her achievements. She makes my life better. Love you, Deanna.

A strong and healthy economy should be something that everyone benefits from and why growth works for everyone. I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in recognizing March 21st as World Down Syndrome Day, and I encourage everyone to wear mismatched socks with bright colours to show your support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize World Down Syndrome Day. This year's theme is With Us Not For Us, which seeks to change the way society interacts with disability. It moves us away from the outdated charity model that has made people with disabilities reliant on the support of others, support which is often too poor or controlling in nature.

Instead, the theme of With Us Not For Us leads us towards a human rights-based approach to disability. Such an approach views people with disabilities as having the right to be treated fairly and have the same opportunities as everyone else, working with others to improve their lives.

Under this theme, there are three messages: persons with disabilities must have the freedom to make their own choices; they must be included in the work of organizations; and organizations comprised of persons with disabilities must be involved in the decision making. Listening to these messages will allow us to govern in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

I invite all members to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and to stand with persons of Down syndrome and disabilities today. And, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly rocking my socks today as well.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Yorkton Gridders Excel at Cheerleading Championships

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, last weekend the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina was buzzing with excitement and activity as Regina hosted the 18th annual Saskatchewan Cheerleading Association Provincial Championships. Over 1,000 athletes three years and older, representing teams from across the province competed, entertaining and astounding enthusiasts with their amazing performances. I'm proud to highlight the results of our Yorkton teams.

The Yorkton Gridders, led by Jennifer Ingham, has 150 athletes this year, representing 14 teams. They've been attending events for months, receiving widespread recognition. Teams receiving an excellent, superior, or first place, including three judges' choice awards, were Baby G's, under 6 novice; Kickoff, U6 [under 6] prep; my granddaughter Wynnslet's team, Scrimmage, under 8 prep; Blitz, U12 prep; Motion, U6 pom; Formation, U8 pom; Endzone, U12 pom; Touchdown, U16 pom; and U12, level 4 duo.

Second and thirds were awarded to Rush, under 12; Spike, under 12; Tackle, under 16; Lady G's, under 18; U12 level 3 indy; and Halftime, open pom, who was recently awarded the opportunity to compete at the world championships in Orlando this April. Spiral, U8 was awarded fifth place.

Mr. Speaker, as a cheer grandpa I've developed a true appreciation for these young athletes. My wife and daughter were cheerleaders in their high school years, and competitors today — through the combination of traditional cheer, dance, gymnastics,

and athletics — take the sport to a whole new level. Congrats, Gridders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, as a member of this Legislative Assembly I stand today in solidarity with all those who are observing the International Day for the Elimination of Racism. This day reminds us of our collective responsibility to eliminate racism in all its forms and create a more equitable and inclusive society.

In order to move forward, it's imperative that we acknowledge Saskatchewan's history and our persisting issues with racism and discrimination. We must recognize that racism is not just an individual problem but a systemic issue that affects every aspect of our society, including education, employment, housing, health, and justice. We need to work together as elected officials in this House to dismantle the structures and systems that perpetuate racism and ensure that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect regardless of their race, ethnicity, or cultural background.

Mr. Speaker, we must also continue to educate ourselves and our communities about the harmful impacts of racism and the importance of fostering diversity and inclusion.

On this International Day for the Elimination of Racism, we must renew our commitments to building a society that is free from discrimination and prejudice. I encourage all of us to stand together, speak out against racism, and work towards a more just and equal world for all in Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota.

Recognizing Saskatoon Historian

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 87,000 articles; 3,000 photos 1,000 yearbook photos; 600 biographies; and counting. That's down to the diligent work of Saskatoon-based Terry Hoknes, whose Facebook site Saskatoon History, hosted by Terry Hoknes, and website SaskatoonHistory.com have garnered 7.2 thousand followers. The point: everything Saskatoon, to index and post old *StarPhoenix* articles, photos, ads.

Terry started at 1880 and he's currently at 1994. That's the newspaper content. As for yearbooks from Mount Royal, Terry has cut now at 1961; Nutana, around 1949. Certainly, the news content can jog memories. It can also make for some fascinating time capsule reading.

Mr. Speaker, Terry graduated from the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] in music education. He's a performer and songwriter. He's been nominated as Saskatchewan musician of the year 20 times, has taught over 12,000 music lessons on 10 instruments. He's written over 15 books on Saskatoon history, and is a board member of the Saskatchewan heritage society.

Five years ago he made it his goal to read every page of every day of the *StarPhoenix*, and he's put over 10,000 hours into this project. I'd like to thank Terry for keeping Saskatoon history alive, and I'd encourage everyone to check out his books and website at SaskatoonHistory.com. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Johner Stock Farm Celebrates 51 Years at Agribition

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last fall the Canadian Western Agribition in the Queen City celebrated their 51st year. Mr. Speaker, David Johner, head of Johner Stock Farm from Maidstone, has been there for all of them. David attended the first Canadian Western Agribition in 1970. David said the most notable difference from today is that the barns were not heated at that time. It was cold, not the greatest time, but he kept coming back.

Today this is the only show in the world where all breeds are housed in one building at the same time. David referred to Agribition as a show where all the business gets done. For years, David raised Hereford cattle, doing business in South America, Australia, New Zealand, and in Europe. These connections continue today now that the ranch has moved into a Speckle Park breed of cattle.

Now, Mr. Speaker, he sees the next generation as coming in and taking over and says it's amazing. Agribition was always an event that they attended and enjoyed as a family. This experience remains a fond memory for David, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, David speaks about cattle with a twinkle in his eye and he doesn't plan to hang up his hat any time soon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in congratulating David Johner, his family, and Johner Stock Farm on 51 years of celebrating Agribition. Thank you.

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

Prince Albert Police Services Raid Drug Trafficking Operation

Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Prince Albert Police Service and the crime reduction team were hard at work last week. On March 16th, the joint effort team of the city of Prince Albert police and the CRT [crime reduction team] with support from the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] raided a property located north of the city after learning of an operation where cocaine was being trafficked. The raid came after the conclusion of an investigation that confirmed a source of illegal drugs being smuggled into the Prince Albert area.

Mr. Speaker, the drug bust resulted in 31 kilograms of cocaine being seized, by far the largest drug bust in the history of Prince Albert. Police Chief Jon Bergen said, and I quote, "You think of what was prevented here by this seizure, and I'm so impressed by the work of our crime reduction team, and the partner teams."

Much of the pain we see on the streets are tied to addictions. We

must be harsh on the individuals who seek to capitalize on the suffering of others and perpetuate the cycle of addictions for their own benefit. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the Assembly join me in thanking our Prince Albert Police Service and the crime reduction team for keeping these drugs off our streets and our communities safe. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for the Health Care System

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver on health care. Nurses report system collapse from our emergency rooms. The Health minister says that everything is just fine.

To the Premier: who should Saskatchewan people believe, his Health minister or those nurses reporting from the front lines of this crisis?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, most certainly both these Health ministers, as well as all of the MLAs when they return home during the week, at the end of the week, over the weekend, are talking to those very folks that are offering services in our facilities in communities right across Saskatchewan, whether it be here in Regina, Saskatoon, whether it be in Meadow Lake, whether it be in Estevan, Yorkton, Rosetown, wherever that most certainly may be, Mr. Speaker.

It's through those discussions that we had realized and prioritized our focus to get more people, Mr. Speaker, get more people working in our health care system, to hire more people from not only here in Saskatchewan and Canada but from around the world to bring support to those that are offering those services on our front line.

That's why we came forward, these Health ministers came forward with the most ambitious health human resources action plan in the nation, Mr. Speaker, a plan to recruit, retain, to train, and to incentivize. They're delivering on each and every one of those points, Mr. Speaker. We have today about 723 more nurses working in March today relative to March 2019, Mr. Speaker.

That is not work that is yet finished. We need to find more nurses, Mr. Speaker, more LPNs [licensed practical nurse], more folks, more CCAs [continuing care aide], more folks to come to help, Mr. Speaker, with those that are offering those services on our front line. And we're going to do it.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I don't think the Premier understands the extent or the intensity of this crisis. And make no mistake, the problems that we see in our hospital today are their failures as a result of their record. And these problems, Mr. Speaker, could have been solved had this government only listened to those local voices in health care. SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses]

president Tracy Zambory . . . Well they have a bit to say about that, Mr. Speaker. But Tracy Zambory is calling on the government to form a task force to find solutions to the crisis in our ERs [emergency room].

Why won't this Premier commit today to forming that task force?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, most certainly both Health ministers as well as myself have met with Tracy Zambory on multiple occasions. I understand the Minister of Health is actually meeting with the leader of SUN, Tracy Zambory, tomorrow morning, where they'll have a discussion about this among . . . where some of these resources, some of the human resources are coming from, where they are landing in our province. As I said there's over 700 additional nurses that are working in our province, relative to March 2019, today, Mr. Speaker. There's more work to do.

Here's some of that work in action: there's 400 conditional offers that have been provided to folks in the Philippines, Mr. Speaker, over just the last number of months. There's about 98 new nursing graduates that are working in our health care system; over 5,000 nurses working in this province over the course of the last 15 years relative to time before that, Mr. Speaker. There's more work to do in this space.

There's more work to do, quite frankly, across Canada in this space. That's why we worked with the federal government on the funding that they provided to ensure that we are utilizing that funding to bring forward our health human resources plan that we have — the most ambitious plan in Canada — to bring help to those front lines in our health care facilities in community after community, Mr. Speaker, so that we can continue to have the services in those communities that Saskatchewan people expect.

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

Provision of Health Care for Seniors

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, everything is not fine, and the failures of that government are having consequences for Saskatchewan people. Today we're joined by Mike McGuire. His mom was 93 when she checked into the hospital in Saskatoon with a minor health problem. Mr. Speaker, she didn't get the care that she needed and she never left that hospital. What is that Premier going to do to ensure that seniors going into our hospitals get the care they need so that this never, never happens again to any other family?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. McGuire to his Legislative Assembly today and to express my condolences to him and to his family on the passing of his mother.

I've had the opportunity to speak with Mr. McGuire on the phone previously and will be pleased to meet with him this afternoon as well, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Mr. McGuire for the work that he has done, not only advocating on behalf of his mother but also

on behalf of seniors in this province, by telling that story, and he's done so in a public manner through the media.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reaffirm this government's commitment to what it is that we are doing to enhance and improve upon the care that we provide for seniors in this province regardless of where they reside, whether it's at home, whether it's in long-term care facilities or personal care homes or also in our hospital facilities and health centres across Saskatchewan as well. And that is work that we're going to continue to do in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, Mike's mother, Lois, came to St. Paul's Hospital Christmastype 2021. She was mostly healthy except for a relatively minor bladder infection. Mike told the *StarPhoenix*, "that she came into that hospital able to walk, able to talk, able to eat, and able to drink." But after months in the hospital, Lois died. Lois went to the hospital to get better, but she was failed. Does the minister think that Lois received an acceptable level of care in this province?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be my expectation as the minister and the expectation of this government and, I think, everybody in this Assembly and across this province that people right across Saskatchewan, regardless of their age and what their health condition may be, that they would receive the best possible care that they can receive.

In this particular case, Mr. Speaker, I'm not, you know, in a position to speak to any specifics. Of course with any incident that may occur in a hospital, there would be avenues for follow-up whether it involves the quality of care coordinator, perhaps the Ombudsman, and other officials as well within the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] to look at what may have happened in the particular circumstances surrounding this or any other case.

And, Mr. Speaker, that is very important for each and every one of us. And important for us as government to make sure that we're continuing to look at continuing quality improvement when it comes to the care provided for our seniors and our elderly in our hospitals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, we have a crisis happening in our hospitals right now that this government needs to acknowledge. And they also need to acknowledge that older adults are especially vulnerable in this crisis. Short-staffing means that care is inconsistent. But day in and day out, we've got nurses, care aides, and hospital staff doing everything they can. But due to short-staffing, they're run off their feet and struggle to meet the needs of the people that they have in their care.

For Lois, experts suggest that the lack of movement and stimulation caused her to develop delirium and she got sicker.

Does the minister accept that his failings in health care failed Lois? And what steps has he taken to make sure that this never happens again?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We continue to make investments into more staff as well as more capital, equipment and facilities in this province, to make sure that we're always building upon the health care that we offer and provide here in Saskatchewan. And you've heard us talk in this Assembly about the number of new . . . whether it's nurses or care aides, as an example, Mr. Speaker. People will know that we've made a commitment to add more continuing care aides into the province.

In the area of seniors and elderly care, Mr. Speaker, I can inform this House that Saskatchewan currently has five Royal College-certified geriatricians working in Saskatchewan. Two of those, and these are recent additions over the past number of years, two of those working in Saskatoon that started practising in 2020, joining an existing geriatrician in Saskatoon; as well as two more geriatricians that started working in Regina to help expand that care. And they began working just this past August, Mr. Speaker.

And I think there's more work that is being done. In fact there will be more to say in tomorrow's budget about the care and the programs and services that we have and will be implementing for seniors in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's correct. It's not just short-staffing that is failing seniors like Lois. It's also specialized care, in particular geriatric care. He noted we have five geriatricians for a province of 1.2 million people. As one of Saskatchewan's few geriatricians notes, Dr. Lagimodiere says, we need in-patient geriatric psych care and geriatric units. She says, "we need to look at the system and see what we can do better."

What has that minister done to look at the system and ensure that older adults like Lois don't face the same fate?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the doctor's comments in the media. I've read the comments in that story. We do have our officials looking at possibility for expansion when it comes to that particular service and level of care that is provided.

Mr. Speaker, I would say that this is probably an area that is in need right across this country in terms of more specialty, more geriatricians practising, not just in Saskatchewan, and abroad. I can also inform the House, Mr. Speaker, that the College of Family Physicians of Canada also accredits a third-year family physician training called "care of the elderly," and that is another area of expertise that provides a level of care for seniors and those older adults in our province that require specialized health care.

As I've said previously, Mr. Speaker, this is an area of significant focus for this government and for this ministry, and you'll continue to see more investments from our government in this area to make sure that we are improving these services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, the truth is that better-staffed hospitals could have saved adults like Lois. More specialized geriatric care could have saved more older adults like Lois and alternative care could have saved Lois too. We need more strong public options like home care, long-term care, and rehabilitation centres to provide the best care for older adults at risk of getting sicker when they enter the system. But simply put, the current system fails to help people get the care they need, where they need it and when they need it.

The truth is that Saskatchewan is getting older. Alternative care outside of hospital for older adults is needed. Will the minister commit to this today?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what I will commit to today is to continue to make continued investments into the area that protects and serves seniors. And I would hope that the member opposite would commit to supporting tomorrow's budget and those investments that will be listed and detailed and itemized in that budget tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

In this current fiscal year, which is about to wrap up, this government is investing \$17 million to increase support to seniors in a number of areas including, as I've spoken before, more dollars to hire more continuing care aides as part of our election commitment from the past election. And stay tuned for more on the final tranche of those continuing care aides in the budget tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, increased funding for individualized home care funding and support of home care services to help support seniors and older adults living at home as well, which is something that I also hear regularly when I meet with organizations like the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism and the Saskatoon Council on Aging. I'll be meeting with both of those organizations, in fact as well, tomorrow morning, Mr. Speaker, and continue to take their advocacy as well as the advocacy of individuals like Mr. McGuire to work to improve the system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Establishment of a Provincial Revenue Agency

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government has really fallen out of focus on what matters to Saskatchewan people. Instead of focusing on the care that patients deserve in our hospitals and listening to front-line health care, they're distracted by pet projects, trying to keep the separatists in their electoral tent. And it's people and local

businesses who are left to pay the price. This is exactly what you see with that government's Saskatchewan revenue agency project, which should simply be scrapped.

Why won't the Finance minister commit to doing so today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I spoke to this yesterday. Quite frankly, I'm not sure if the member opposite heard what I had to say, but there are times where we have wanted to implement tax changes that the CRA [Canada Revenue Agency] will not agree with, that would be an advantage to the industries and businesses within our province. And that actually happened before there was a new party, where there was an incident where that happened and it was detrimental to some of our, in particular, female professionals who had clinics here in the province. And that should interest the members opposite, but obviously they don't care. So that's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker.

It's exploratory at this point. You know, I'm meeting with the chambers. I'm meeting with business groups. We're having a discussion how this will work. I've met with some accounting firms that do businesses in both Saskatchewan and Alberta to see the cost difference that it will be.

There has been high-level discussions with officials in Alberta to see if it is a huge money loss, which Alberta is telling me it is not, that it is not a money loss at all. So it's exploratory at this time. I would think that we should explore all possibilities to help business.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the minister should know that changes can be advanced in the current agreement. And there's been no good excuse provided for Saskatchewan people to be subjected to the costs that this would bring upon them with the creation of a Saskatchewan revenue agency, that would force taxpayers to shell out \$10 million more in additional costs each and every year, or a single good reason why Saskatchewan businesses should be saddled with an additional \$16 million per year in compliance costs at a time where they're facing so many challenges, new taxes and hikes by that government as well.

There's no business calling for a less effective, more cumbersome, more costly tax system that costs them more to file twice. How has that government fallen so out of touch with Saskatchewan people and local businesses?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — The member opposite is misinformed if he thinks that there's absolutely no business calling for this, quite frankly. Because there was businesses calling for changes in the past that we were unable to make.

[14:15]

I also had, you know, meetings with two prominent accounting firms that do business in both Saskatchewan and Alberta. And I had a business at one time where I had to, again, pay for

additional schedules that I would have, due to my business and the type of business I had, that were an extra cost at that time. This would be additional schedules.

The accountants were telling me the difference between a similar business from Alberta to Saskatchewan would amount to about \$100 to \$200 additional cost per year.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear, and you can learn from the Ontario experience when they backed away because of the high compliance costs in part, which saved local businesses. And the cost would be about \$16 million on a very conservative estimate for compliance for Saskatchewan businesses.

But this government has a real bad history on projects like this, Mr. Speaker. We think of how they've run up the tab: billion-dollar overrun on the Regina bypass; the lean fiasco; the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deals; IT [information technology] projects. I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker.

And now the minister wants to add 260 million of new costs over the next 10 years for taxpayers and businesses, all to throw a costly bone to their separatist base. Why should Saskatchewan people expect Saskatchewan people and businesses to pick up the tab for this Premier's voter coalition coming apart at the seams?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — You know what? Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on and on with the number of times that the members opposite have tried to fearmonger using numbers that they can't substantiate. They can't back up those numbers. They just go out and they fearmonger.

They don't stick with the facts. They don't even explore the facts. They don't care about the facts, Mr. Speaker. And you know what happens? Election after election after election, it doesn't work. They still just sit with their small seats over there. And I suspect this is another situation where they're going to try desperately to fearmonger and get nowhere.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people have seen the cost of this government's mismanaged projects before. Project after project, followed by the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history to pay the price for that mismanagement, Mr. Speaker.

Now people are looking for a government to deliver on health care, on cost of living, on supports for the most vulnerable. But that's not what this tired and out-of-touch government are focused on. They're focused on a costly project that will increase costs for business to the tune of \$16 million each and every year and increase the cost for taxpayers \$10 million annually, not counting start-up costs.

Why won't this Finance minister admit that this costly project

isn't in the best interests of Saskatchewan people and scrap it before the dollars are wasted?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — You know, I couldn't welcome that member's preamble more if I would have written it myself, quite frankly. He's saying, why won't we support all of these areas? Well wait, stay tuned until tomorrow where you're going to see more support for health care, Mr. Speaker. You're going to see more support for education, Mr. Speaker. You're going to see more support for the vulnerable and those that are on income assistance in this budget, Mr. Speaker. You're going to see more support for training, Mr. Speaker. You're going to see more support for municipalities, Mr. Speaker.

I would think that that member opposite that wants to see all those things will be more than happy to support the budget, and I bet you he's looking forward to seeing it tomorrow.

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

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability

Ms. Conway: — Quite a performance, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, many people living with disabilities in this province rely on SAID to survive. Social Services can and does force them to apply for their Canada Pension Plan before the age of 65. This permanently lowers the value of that pension after they turn 65. Then Social Services claws it back dollar for dollar. That person doesn't get one single dollar more, Mr. Speaker, and they can look forward to a reduced pension when they're a senior.

Why is the government literally taking pensions from people living with disabilities in this province?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, this'll be a tough act to follow for sure. But in terms of the SAID program, it was this government that brought this program in, Mr. Speaker. We talked about it yesterday when folks from the disability community were here, and we talked about how the rates are higher, 25 per cent higher than other income assistance programs — some of the highest rates in Canada. Mr. Speaker, since this program came in, rates have increased by 50 per cent since 2012.

In terms of the clawback on the CPP [Canada Pension Plan], this is the case where we . . . This is the whole-income approach, Mr. Speaker, and the last dollars that are available to folks out there. So anyone on income assistance has to avail themselves of all income streams available to them, and then the benefits are allocated based on that, Mr. Speaker. This is similar to what happens across Canada for the most part, as well as happened under the previous NDP government.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government isn't the first to push this policy. We've seen this

battle fought out recently in other provinces. In 2020 the practice was ruled discriminatory by the Manitoba Court of Appeal. The Supreme Court didn't see fit to consider any appeal. Why is this practice of violating Charter rights of individuals with disability in Manitoba not okay, but fair and sound policy in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker?

Will the government commit today to stop these clawbacks during a generational cost-of-living crisis, and will they commit today to ensuring that new federal supports that are coming will actually go to their intended purpose, that is to make life better for those struggling in this province?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Well again, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite, they tell half the story. The Government of Quebec saw the exact same case differently. So again as I mentioned before, this is a situation where someone who is looking to be on income assistance, they have to avail themselves of all other income, if it's private pensions, if it's some sort of income that comes their way, Mr. Speaker. That is clawed back, as was the case in many other provinces and under the previous NDP government, Mr. Speaker.

So again, I'd also remind the member this is a program that this government brought in to differentiate between income assistance and the unique challenges that are faced by individuals on disability, Mr. Speaker.

This was asked for, for many years prior to us becoming government, the Saskatchewan Party government. It was asked for. The NDP heard about it and did nothing. We acted a few years ago, Mr. Speaker.

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

Harm Reduction Initiatives

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government has refused to support harm reduction through safe consumption sites. And for years the overdose crisis has continued to spiral out of control. Hundreds have died because this Premier refuses to listen to local voices calling out for supports that would save lives. 103 people have already lost their lives in 2023, 404 people last year, and 402 people the year before that. That's nearly 1,000 people, Mr. Speaker. How many of them would be alive today if this government supported the evidence and supported safe consumption sites?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this year's budget we are funding \$67 million towards various addictions treatment and recovery and harm reduction initiatives across this province, including \$3.8 million for harm reduction initiatives, Mr. Speaker, \$2.2 million for rapid access to addictions medicine clinics in North Battleford, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and Regina as well.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment towards at least 150 more

treatment and recovery spaces in this province, the first tranche of that announcement made just last week, with 14 additional post-treatment beds at the treatment facility in Estevan, building upon the 12 additional treatment beds and two pre-treatment beds that are in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker. And there will be more to say in tomorrow's budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 97, *The Architects Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair that Bill No. 97 . . . When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that this bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 97 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move to third reading. I recognize the minister.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — I move that the bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 90, *The Telecommunications Statutes (Borrowing Powers) Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan].

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 90 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 90 — *The Telecommunications Statutes (Borrowing Powers) Amendment Act, 2022*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 92, the automobile insurance (miscellaneous) amendment Act, 2022 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in

Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

[14:30]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 92 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 92 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2022*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 93, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 93 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 93 — *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2022*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Work, work, work. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to present its sixth report. The sixth report focuses primarily on the committee's scrutiny role in its review of annual reports and the provincial auto reports since November 17th of 2021.

During that time our committee reviewed 24 reports and financial statements released by Crown corporations and related entities and reviewed six chapters on two reports of the Provincial Auditor. I'd like to thank the Office of the Provincial Auditor and the Legislative Assembly for their support they provide. I would also like to thank the minister and officials from Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan and the Crown corporations for their work and their attendance at meetings.

I move:

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

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

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

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I order questions 84 through 91.

The Speaker: — Ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise yet again on Bill No. 116. I have already put my comments on the record with respect to this legislation. I know that the critic is looking forward to having the opportunity to ask questions of officials at committee. In order to allow the critic to have the opportunity to ask these questions, I'm prepared at this time to allow the bill to go on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 116 be now read a second time. Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

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

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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 Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into the debate today on Bill No. 117, *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*. There are quite a few things being proposed here, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously we stand with the government in opposition to the federal firearms ban, but we do have concerns about this bill as a provincial response, namely with the lack of consultation with Indigenous and Métis hunters and the impacts that it will have to traditional hunting, Mr. Speaker. There's no evidence that that consultation took place, which is a bit of a trend, a disturbing trend from this government, Mr. Speaker.

And we'd like to see similar funding and initiative given to addressing the root causes of increased violence, given to providing social supports and mental health supports to decrease serious incidents of gun violence in the first place, Mr. Speaker. So it's about tackling those root causes. And more of a prevention approach needs to be put into this as well so that we don't see issues like this, or we see fewer of them.

I know that there will be a lot of my colleagues that want to continue to weigh in on this bill, but with that I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 117 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. 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 Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 118, *The Warrant Compliance Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting piece of legislation to say the least. I had the opportunity to review the minister's remarks and I understand, if I remember correctly, there was some media that happened the day that the legislation was introduced. There were concerns expressed already at that time about the bill, in particular the unintended consequences that this legislation and the removal of income benefits could have on particular children.

Mr. Speaker, the minister at the time basically said that that wasn't the intended consequences. However, what stands to happen with respect to the regulations and how this legislation rolls out is still very much up in the air, Mr. Speaker. The impact of this legislation and who will be impacted has yet to be defined as well, Mr. Speaker. That is also left up to the regulations.

I've had the opportunity to speak with some policing leaders who have expressed some ambivalence as to whether or not this would actually be able to help them do their job in terms of apprehending individuals who are on outstanding warrants, Mr. Speaker. It's up in the air whether or not this legislation is actually going to be able to affect what this government is saying its intention is.

I know, Mr. Speaker, when the minister spoke about this bill — at least in the media at that time — she spoke in particular about the events that happened at James Smith Cree Nation and the fact that Myles Sanderson was on an outstanding warrant at that time, Mr. Speaker. I think it stands to ask whether or not this actual piece of legislation would have prevented that situation. I would argue not, Mr. Speaker.

Again we've heard some concerns already with respect to this bill. I understand there are more folks reaching out with respect to this legislation, so I'm encouraging anybody who has some feedback to reach out to me specifically as the critic. In order to continue on that work, I am going to move to adjourn debate on this bill 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. 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 Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet for Bill No. 122, the Saskatchewan revenue Act. Now we already heard today in question period, the Minister of Finance unable to come forward with any clear explanation or justification for why this bill and this approach is necessary. We on this side of the House are concerned about the ongoing efforts and tactics of this government to distract from their record at a time when we are facing a cost-of-living crisis, a crisis in health care, in education, and lacking any kind of a strategy to ensure good mortgage-paying jobs for Saskatchewan citizens.

Instead they choose to go after small businesses with this new Crown corporation. We see at the same time, you know, cut after cut, whittling away at our Crowns. And yet, now of all times, they decide that they want to come forward with a new Crown, the Saskatchewan revenue agency. Zero justification. No explanation of how this is going to make life better for

Saskatchewan people or provide for growth that works for everyone.

Instead what we're going to see is administrative costs, the work that we've done on this side identified as costing \$10 million a year in administrative costs, costing businesses \$16 million to comply. That's 260 million over 10 years.

Why are we imposing a burden on small businesses, on corporations when there are solutions that are out there? This government has the ability to work with their federal counterparts, fix the problems in the current framework. They're choosing not to do that. They're taking an approach that is adversarial in nature. And they've heard from their own supporters that Saskatchewan people are tired of these divisive tactics and constant fighting. The Premier admitted to it in his end-of-year remarks back in December but then of course couldn't resist the urge to then slap back, clap back in the first opportunity in the new year. We see that attitude, that approach, that unserious approach to government by this government with this Bill No. 122.

It's going to achieve absolutely no benefit for the people of this province. It's only going to mean incurring greater cost for taxpayers, for business owners, and make life more difficult. This does not fit with a business-friendly climate. And in fact when I have spoken with chambers right across this province, they have absolutely panned it, wholly and conclusively. I have spoken to chambers in Yorkton, in Lloydminster, in Prince Albert, in Humboldt, and Moose Jaw, and absolutely none of those chambers or anyone that I have spoken to has shown any support for this bill. That is why we can see absolutely no reason to be in support of it, and I know I certainly won't be voting in support of it when the time comes.

Lots more has been said on this bill by my colleagues, and I know that the critic for Finance, the member from Regina ... Rosemont — bingo — will have a lot more to say. He's been consulting widely with stakeholders and undertaking analysis to ensure that when this bill goes to committee that there'll be some hard-hitting questions for the minister at that time.

So at this moment I will conclude my comments and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 122.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 124

[The 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 Meewasin.

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to speak to Bill 124 as the official opposition critic for SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority].

[14:45]

I want to thank my colleagues who have left comments on the record. As critic I've been engaging stakeholders on these changes. I'm happy to put some feedback on the record. The minister of Liquor and Gaming is listening to my comments and feedback.

I am pleased to see this legislation reintroduced, Mr. Speaker. Now that we've been given time to review the legislation, engage stakeholders, we as the opposition are much more comfortable with this legislation. Modernization is important, but it shouldn't be rushed.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 124 is indeed a welcome modernization of our liquor laws in Saskatchewan, allowing for a better quality of life for folks who call Saskatchewan home, and increasing flexibility for restaurants and those who patronize them. The most notable change in the regulation that this bill puts forward centres around the public consumption of alcohol. Through Act amendments, the bill moves to allow municipalities, regional park authorities, provincial parks, and governing bodies of Wascana Park, the Meewasin Valley, and the Wakamow Valley the discretion to designate spaces where public consumption of alcohol can be allowed.

Mr. Speaker, this is a welcome modernization and a quality-of-life booster for the people of Saskatchewan. During the first year of the pandemic, I think we all realized just how quickly an important public space, outdoor spaces were. Social gatherings could be done safely while sitting outdoors at a safe distance. And as noted in the minister's remarks, many cities around the world allow for public consumption with varying rules. In my experience visiting different cities that have allowed the public consumption of alcohol in public spaces, folks have been utmost respectful about those rules in the areas designated.

I encourage our larger city centres to consider ways to allow folks to enjoy the most that our Saskatchewan summers bring. I know that the very competent folks who are elected to govern our municipalities will make decisions that are best for their cities.

The bill makes other changes around serving homemade beer and wine at special events, updated recorking laws, updated language on how communities can apply for new liquor permits, liquor licence applications no longer needing to be published in the newspaper, and lining up regulations for craft producers to be similar to retail stores and permitted premises.

Other amendments include regulations around how SLGA deals with complaints or issues regarding licence-holding retailers, and reduced red tape around good character regulations for licensee-holding ownership.

Mr. Speaker, my discussions with stakeholders have been largely positive around these changes. Restaurant owners, event planners, and liquor retail stores feel confident that this will be positive. As I engaged both restaurant, liquor retailers, cannabis retailers, a few comments stood out to me. First and foremost,

from cannabis retailers, an enthusiast mentioned that if places could be designated for public consumption of alcohol, why not also include cannabis in those areas as well. Some folks have expressed that they find that there may be no legal area for them to smoke cannabis, say if they're renting an apartment for example. Designated public areas could really solve this problem. In many cases, cannabis is much less impactful than alcohol consumption. The worst thing that might happen is that the corner stores might run out of chips and snacks.

The second concern that I heard was why the government had rolled back the ability for restaurants to act as off-sales during the pandemic. This became a crucial revenue stream for restaurants during the pandemic and could be a crucial revenue stream again for restaurants going forward. I would encourage the government to re-evaluate this decision.

Mr. Speaker, in consultations with smaller municipalities, concerns were noted, thoughts around how public consumption rules would be enforced. It was clear that smaller communities, alongside communities that struggle with addictions, were not as pleased with this legislation. These communities though will be well served by this legislation as it allows them to opt in when they feel it appropriate. I think that the strength of this bill is that it allows municipalities to opt in, and gives local voices in their communities a chance to engage their municipal leaders if they feel they would want designated areas in those communities.

Mr. Speaker, any conversation around liquor must include a conversation around how we can help folks who struggle with addictions. With our Liquor and Gaming retail model coming to an end and revenue loss from the stores, it will be imperative that this government looks for alternative ways to raise revenue that funds programming for folks who struggle with addictions.

I want to thank my colleagues for their thoughtful comments that they have put on the record around important social issues that are exasperated by alcohol consumption. Saskatchewan has the highest rates of domestic violence in the country, and sexual assault is all too prevalent in connection with the overconsumption of alcohol, not to mention the critical health care needs related to alcohol that we are currently learning about.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague said yesterday in response to this bill, we are also dealing with a toxic drug supply and we have seen a total lack of funding for safe consumption sites. In fact it seems like the Minister of Rural and Remote Health can't even bring himself to say those words — safe consumption sites. They are not a swear word, Mr. Speaker.

All this to say the government must continue to educate the public on the dangers of alcohol consumption. Education of appropriate and safe consumption is so important. I firmly believe that this should be taught in schools, and if it's not, parents must be having those conversations at home. We do no justice by turning a blind eye to these very real-world situations. I don't see plans in this legislation of funding supports to continue this important work.

Lastly, as critic for both SLGA and SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], I would be remiss not to say this in closing: any time that liquor is consumed, it is imperative that people plan a safe ride home. It will be no different if folks are

consuming in public. Saskatchewan continues to deal with high rates of drinking and driving, and I need not elaborate on this. We must continue to invest in public transit and continue to make safe travel home a priority. With the sell-off of the STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] and a total lack of funding provided by our provincial government to municipal governments for transit, we simply are asking for more issues of drinking and driving to arise and the potential for more heartbreak to happen.

Mr. Speaker, it's been an honour to weigh in on this legislation as the critic for SLGA. Thank you for the opportunity to enter into this debate. I will continue to engage with stakeholders and hope to bring thoughtful questions and amendments during the committee stage. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 124, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation 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. 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 Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet today and enter into debate on Bill No. 26, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act*.

I will start by saying that I'm very pleased to see that progress has been made on the measures to allow for self-governance and policing by First Nations on their reserves, and in particular the pilots that are under way at Muskoday and Whitecap Dakota First Nations. I have been watching the developments of this project with great interest over many years, and certainly want to be able to see that amendments go forward that will further those pilot programs on those two Nations that will allow for them to be the law enforcement agencies of record on their First Nations.

I know that that's been a very difficult — or complex, I guess I would say — area of policy because it involves two layers of government. Well perhaps even three I suppose, those being federal, provincial, and First Nation. And I'm certainly happy to see that we haven't seen a politicization of this issue, and I sincerely want to see this move forward in a good way for all those considered.

There have been some questions already put on the record regarding the level of consultation with stakeholders related to this bill, and I also share some of those questions in terms of whether or not a broad section of the community was engaged. We've certainly seen how there are many shortcomings within the duty-to-consult framework here in the province. There is a

bill before the House, the meaningful duty-to-consult bill put forward by the member for Saskatoon Centre, to address those limitations. And certainly that bill has relevance and application in this case here.

And I know that our critic for this area, the member for Regina Douglas Park, will have many questions, consulting widely to ensure that the amendments that are proposed in this Act will be appropriate and all-encompassing, to ensure that these pilot programs will be successful. And we can see a broader expansion of the policing and enforcement on other First Nations as those come forward, where there is a capacity and the interest by First Nations to undertake that themselves.

And really I guess that's all I want to say on this bill. I think that in my review of the bill and the amendments that are proposed, I personally am not seeing anything of concern there, you know. It's good to see that the amendments are going to ensure that First Nations have the right to enforce laws and bylaws on their reserves, including issuing fines and tickets and for things such as traffic violations. I note that the time limit to apply to strike out a conviction has been extended from 15 to 60 days and also that there is a provision now for judges not to grant extensions on fines that are in default or that were forgiven for late payment charges.

So on the face of it, it seems that this is a reasonable set of amendments, and we'll be looking to support the bill to go forward. And I will leave it to the critic for Regina Douglas Park to ask those more detailed questions at committee. With that, I will conclude my remarks and adjourn debate on Bill No. 126.

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: — 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 14:58.]

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