



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

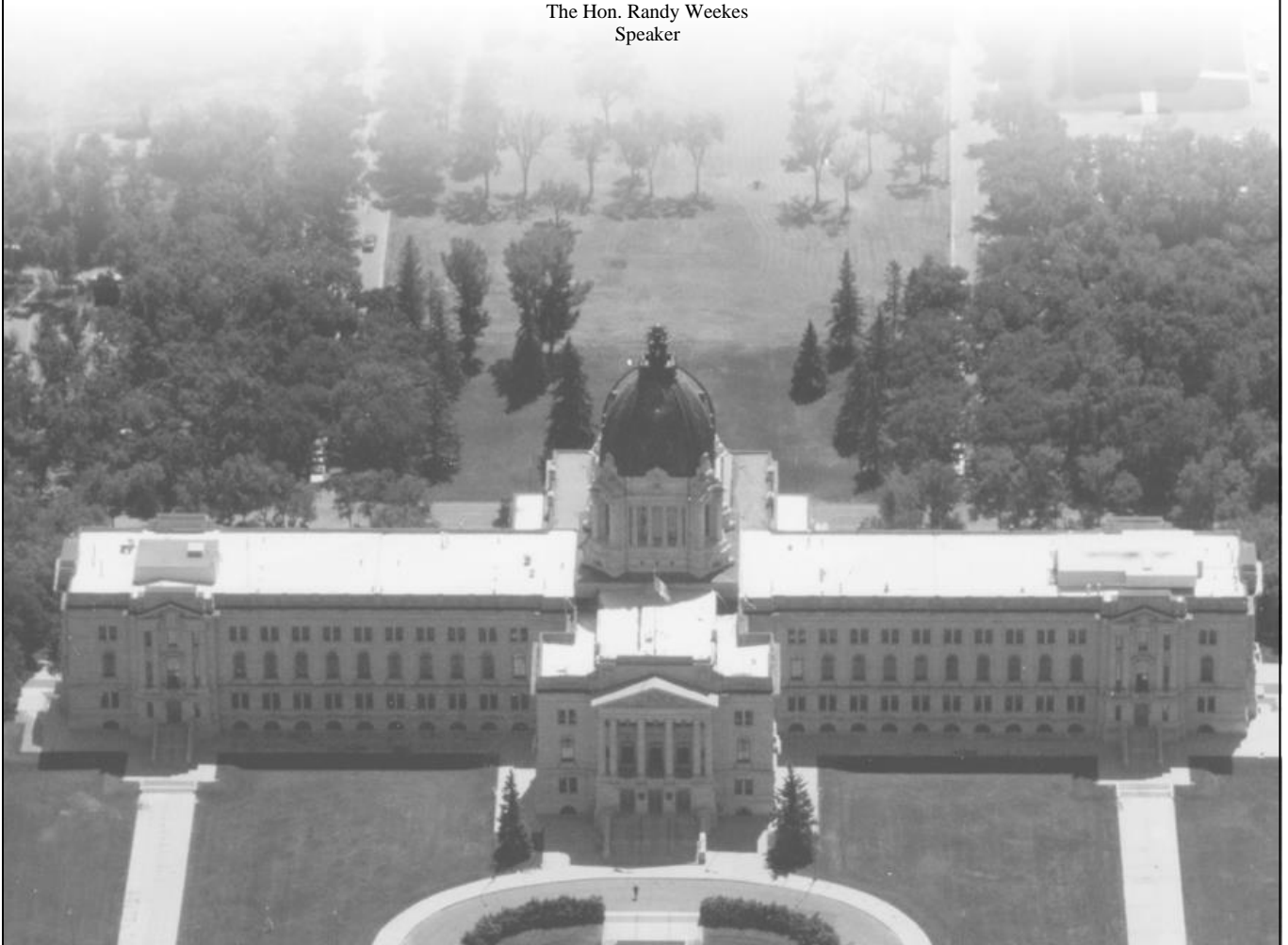
of the

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)

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)

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 — Lumsden-Morse

Vacant — Regina Coronation Park

Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres

Standings

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 45; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12;

Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 3

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>

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Fiaz	3531
Beck	3531
Grewal	3531
Friesen	3531
Keisig	3531
Wotherspoon	3531
Conway	3532

PRESENTING PETITIONS

McLeod	3532
Nippi-Albright	3532
Mowat	3532
Conway	3533

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Anniversary of Provincial Sales Tax Increase	
Wotherspoon	3533
Welcoming More Ukrainians to Saskatchewan	
Dennis	3533
Recognizing Staff and Volunteers at the Al Ritchie Community Association	
Sarauer	3533
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Presents President's Award of Distinction	
Hindley	3534
Secure Energy Celebrates 25 Years of the Unity Cavern Facility	
Domotor	3534
Critical Mineral Strategy Goals Announced	
Young, C.	3534
Federal Carbon Tax Increase Costs Residents More	
Jenson	3535

QUESTION PERIOD

Ambulance Services and Support for the Health Care System	
Beck	3535
Merriman	3535
Mowat	3536
Love	3536
Hindley	3536
Regulating Quality of Drinking Water	
Ritchie	3538
Cockrill	3538
Overdose Deaths in Saskatchewan	
Mowat	3539
Hindley	3539

MOTION UNDER RULE 61

Opposition to the Potential Closure of RCMP Depot in Regina	
Beck	3540

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 128 — <i>The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023</i>	
Reiter	3540
Mowat	3541
Bill No. 129 — <i>The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023</i>	
Merriman	3541
Mowat	3541
Bill No. 130 — <i>The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act</i>	
Morgan	3542
Mowat	3542
Bill No. 131 — <i>The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Consequential Amendments Act, 2023</i>	
<i>Loi de 2023 portant modification corrélative de la loi intitulée The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act</i>	
Morgan	3543
Mowat	3543

Bill No. 132 — <i>The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023</i>	
McMorris	3543
Mowat	3543
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 118 — <i>The Warrant Compliance Act</i>	
Sarauer	3544
Harrison, J. (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee)	3544
Bill No. 122 — <i>The Saskatchewan Revenue Agency Act</i>	
Wotherspoon	3544
Harrison, J. (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee)	3545
Bill No. 124 — <i>The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
<i>Loi modificative de 2022 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard</i>	
Teed	3545
Harrison, J. (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee)	3545
Bill No. 126 — <i>The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2022</i>	
Sarauer	3545
Harrison, J. (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee)	3546
Bill No. 117 — <i>The Saskatchewan Firearms Act</i>	
Sarauer	3546
Recorded Division	3546
Harrison, J. (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee)	3546
MOTIONS	
Committee Membership	
Harrison, J.	3546

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Mr. Speaker, I ask request for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker, to all the members of this Assembly, I ask to welcome the executive committee members of the Sikh Society of Regina, sitting in the Speaker's gallery.

Mr. Speaker, April is the Sikh Heritage Month, and our government proclaimed this month as the Sikh Heritage Month. Today after question period, the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport will present the certificate of proclamation to these members.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you by name all these members. We have Rajbir Singh Bagyan. He is the president of the Sikh Society of Regina. Balvir Singh Bhattal, he is the general secretary, Mr. Speaker. We have Satwinder Pal Singh, Ajit Singh Bhullar, Gurdev Singh Dhaliwal, Manmeet Singh, Khushminder Singh. We have Hardeep Singh, Harpinder Singh Bajwa, known as Sunny Bajwa, Mr. Speaker, to our friends. Jatinder Brar and Jatinder Romana. I also see a missionary, Harchand Singh, and Harpinder Singh Ji, Bikramjeet Singh Ji, Mr. Speaker.

I ask all the members to welcome this group to our Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to join with the member opposite in welcoming the Sikh Society of Regina, and offering congratulations on behalf of the official opposition for the proclamation of Sikh Heritage Month here in Regina.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the society for the open welcome that all members in this Assembly and in our community always receive at the gurdwara. And thank you for all of the good works done in our community. Whether it's planting trees for the future, whether it's feeding people in our community, the work that you do in promoting community and equality is appreciated by all members of this Assembly. And I would invite all members to join me in welcoming this group of leaders to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to join my colleagues to welcome some of my Sikh community members here in their legislature. April is Sikh Heritage Month, so it's very nice to see all of you here. May I ask all members to join me in welcoming all the Sikh community members in their own legislature.

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

Mr. Friesen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to join my colleagues in welcoming the Sikh community, in particular, Ajitpal and Sunny Bajwa. I know I've had opportunities to get to know a lot of your community better, and what you do for our community is amazing, all of you. And so thank you for what you do. Thank you for being you. And I'd like all members to join me and welcome them to their 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 this Robert Southey grade 9 class is here today. Give a wave everyone. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Jeremy Werstiuk. We had some absolutely great questions today, Mr. Speaker, from the students about the role of the provincial government, the role of the federal government, the role of their municipal government.

We also had a very nice talk. Their teacher is teaching them about ancient Greece and how democracy was formed and the differences in our modern democracy; fantastic talk about the benefits of owning a Polaris snow machine versus an Arctic Cat, Mr. Speaker; so it was a very nice conversation. And please join me in welcoming Robert Southey grade 9 students to this, their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to join with the member opposite to welcome a friend to this Assembly, Kadi Nordal, that's here today. Her parents, their family, are good friends, Mr. Speaker. They farm just north of Southey. They operate a metal and welding shop, Mr. Speaker.

But Kadi is a real awesome young person in this province, Mr. Speaker. I think she just turned 15 this weekend. She's getting ready for that learner's licence, Mr. Speaker. She's a swimmer, a dancer. I know she plays soccer, Mr. Speaker. And I know she's an incredible baker, Mr. Speaker, and I can attest to the quality of her amazing pies, Mr. Speaker.

Her and her family also enjoy paddling up in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Her mom had played for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies on the hockey team, Mr. Speaker. As I say, they've got a beautiful farm, a wonderful garden that I look forward to raiding this summer.

But on behalf of all in this Assembly, I want to give Kadi a very

warm welcome to her Assembly and to give a shout-out to her parents, Matt and Thera. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Conway: — Merci, monsieur le Président. C'est un plaisir de présenter une classe de Monseigneur de Laval — ils sont assis dans la galerie est — et leur enseignante, Madame Pain. Je viens de rencontrer avec les étudiants. Ils avaient des questions on a discuté un peu. C'était vraiment intéressant. Il y a aussi des parents ici avec eux.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce a class from Monseigneur de Laval — they are seated in the east gallery — and their teacher, Madame Pain. I just met with the students. They had questions that we discussed for a while. It was really interesting. There are also some parents here with them.]

Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome a grade 4 class from Monseigneur de Laval. They've just arrived. They're here with their teacher, Madame Pain, and parent chaperones. We just had a great chat. We didn't talk about snow, snowmobiles . . . Sorry, was it snow blowers? Yeah, snowmobiles. Yeah, okay. But we had a pretty good chat nonetheless. It was really nice to get to know them a bit, and I want to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

I also want to say one other thing, and it is:

Bonne fête à toi,
Bonne fête à toi,
Bonne fête à Thomas,
Bonne fête à toi.

[Translation:

Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to Thomas,
Happy birthday to you.]

Happy birthday, Thomas. Thomas is 10 years old today, and I've actually had the pleasure of watching Thomas grow up, so I wanted to give him a shout-out, a little sing-out.

And then while I'm on my feet, I also want to welcome, just give a special welcome to Allan Pulga, who's here as a parent chaperone. He's something of a local celebrity. He's a food writer. We actually went to high school together. And I didn't even recognize him when I first saw him but it's so lovely to get that blast from the past. And he's a really . . . He's made some really special contributions to this community, so I wanted to give him a shout-out as well. So I'd like to ask all the members to join me in welcoming the grade 4 class from Monseigneur de Laval and their various guests.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Hon. Mr. McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to present

the following petition:

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 market.

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

This petition is signed by residents of Moose Jaw. I do so present.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present the following petition. The folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention the following: this government has been and is currently selling off and offering long 33-year leases on Crown lands that had been used by Indigenous people and the citizens of this province; the current process of mailing out notices and hand-picking recipients when Crown lands are posted for lease or sale is deeply flawed; we need duty-to-consult legislation in this province; the first right of refusal needs to be offered to First Nations involved in the TLE [treaty land entitlement] process.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately stop the sell-off of Crown land, and enshrine duty-to-consult into law by enacting the meaningful duty-to-consult legislation.

The folks who've signed this petition reside in Prince Albert, Weyburn, and Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to act on a suicide prevention strategy. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that *The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act* received royal assent two years ago, Mr. Speaker; that the ministry is required under the Act to consult with community organizations to develop a suicide prevention strategy — this was to happen within 180 days; that suicide remains the second leading cause of death for young people aged 15 to 34; and that 1,913 people have died by suicide in Saskatchewan over the last 10 years.

We know that suicide rates for Indigenous people in Saskatchewan are four times higher than they are for non-Indigenous people, and that northern Saskatchewan continues to experience high levels of suicide and overdose deaths.

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 work with community organizations and leaders in the North to develop Saskatchewan's suicide prevention strategy.

This is signed by individuals from Saskatoon today, Mr. Speaker. 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 again to present a petition calling on this government to adequately fund the SAID program, the Saskatchewan assured income for disability. This of course is a program for individuals with considerable and sustained disability with barriers to employment, Mr. Speaker. This program didn't see an increase for eight years, which represented a 20 per cent decrease in benefits. With this latest budget, we saw a one-dollar-a-day increase to this program. That's about a 2 to 3 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker, and it's simply not enough.

I will note that another thing that this petition calls on this government to do is to end the discriminatory practice of clawing back pensions for folks on this program. And I understand that this government now has the unfortunate record of now being taken to court by Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry over this practice, which is very sad to hear, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the government to increase SAID rates to account for inflation, respect the constitutional rights of persons with disability in Saskatchewan, index the SAID basic amount going forward, and provide targeted relief to those in deepest poverty.

The signatories of this petition, Mr. Speaker, reside in Saskatoon. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

[13:45]

Anniversary of Provincial Sales Tax Increase

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 1st marked the anniversary date of the largest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history. On April 1st, 2017 this government increased the provincial sales tax by 1 per cent and added the PST [provincial sales tax] to a number of previously exempt products

and services that in total cost residents over a billion dollars each and every year.

Each time a family buys clothes for their children, restaurant meals, or snack foods for their family, this government takes more money from them. Every time that a family or their school board or municipality starts a construction project, either new or renovation, they're paying an extra 6 per cent to this government. When their school board or their municipality pays that tax, they're paying it through their property taxes. In addition, each year as their car and home insurance comes due, they're paying 6 per cent more than they did before.

Not only are they paying more taxes because of that government's mismanagement, those taxes are killing jobs in Saskatchewan and they're driving up costs for families: \$1,000 more each and every year for their family, the average family.

Mr. Speaker, while the anniversary of this massive tax hike of that Sask Party government was this past Saturday, April Fool's Day, Saskatchewan families and businesses that are left to pay the bill know that it's no joke. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

Welcoming More Ukrainians to Saskatchewan

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week our province welcomed 247 Ukrainians as they touched down at the Regina International Airport. That brings a total number of displaced Ukrainians brought to Saskatchewan to nearly 4,000.

Mr. Speaker, just like last time we had new Ukrainians arrive, these people will be set up with temporary supports and accommodations to assist them in settling during their transition. This final flight concludes the memorandum of understanding that the Premier signed with Solidaire and Open Arms.

And to help these newcomers get started, we provided access to one-top session, where they receive help applying for health cards, housing, banking, driver's licence, etc.

I continue to be impressed and touched by the generosity of our residents. And there are no words that could fully express the resilience shown by the Ukrainian people, both in Ukraine and abroad. Mr. Speaker, for as long as this war goes on, we'll continue to denounce the illegal invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. We'll continue to welcome the displaced Ukrainians to Saskatchewan.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming these newcomers to our province and thanking Saskatchewan people for their generosity towards the Ukrainian families. Slava Ukraine.

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

Recognizing Staff and Volunteers at the Al Ritchie Community Association

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize the staff and volunteers of the Al Ritchie Community

Association, a registered charity and non-profit organization that has been actively advocating on behalf of the Al Ritchie community since 1987. The organization began as a small group of people who managed recreational programming for the residents of Al Ritchie and has since grown to include social programming services, community events, and referrals to other agencies and organizations in Regina.

During the past year, the Al Ritchie Community Association has held many successful events. This past Christmas they had their annual Jingle Ball event and this coming Easter they will hold their annual Eggstravaganza event, which will have an Easter egg hunt, bouncy castle, and many other family-oriented activities.

They also oversee a wellness program that includes a food pantry and clothing bank. And they host a toddler-to-parent food prep cooking class, not to mention they've recently started their Fresh Cut Fridays, which offers residents the opportunity to come by and get a quick trim.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me today in recognizing the Al Ritchie Community Association and all the important work they do for the residents of their community. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Swift Current.

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Presents President's Award of Distinction

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I ask that members join me in recognizing the achievements of Mr. John Froese. Mr. Speaker, John is a constituent of Swift Current and a former board member for Saskatchewan Parks during its most transformational period. John has been recognized with the President's Award of Distinction, which is the most prestigious award the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association offers.

Mr. Speaker, from 1989 to 2019, John dedicated himself to working with Sask Parks in various capacities, first as a board member for Lac Pelletier before moving on to the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association, which he chaired from 2002 until 2019. He was also involved with the development of Lac Pelletier Regional Park from a small park to quite a large park today, the grass green golf course, a fully computerized irrigation system, and a state-of-the-art water treatment plant. And he was also involved with the installation of a Métis Veterans Memorial, and he also built and donated a traditional Red River cart to Lac Pelletier Regional Park.

Mr. Speaker, John's dedication to our parks over 30 years has helped to contribute to the fun and enjoyment of all those that visit Saskatchewan's regional parks. Garry Blanchette, board Chair of SRPA [Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association], had this to say about John's dedication: "Regional Parks are John's passion. Without John Froese, we would not have the Regional Park System in Saskatchewan as we know it today."

Thank you, John, for your service to the province, and congratulations on this recognition of your achievements.

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

Secure Energy Celebrates 25 Years of the Unity Cavern Facility

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Secure Energy celebrated the Unity Cavern's silver anniversary on September 22nd of last year, which happened to be exactly 25 years since the first load of oil field waste was accepted at the Canadian Crude Separators facility in 1997. Canadian Crude Separators became Tervita through an official name change in 2012. And Tervita was purchased by Secure Energy in July of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, the 3,600-foot below-surface underground caverns are considered a safe and secure way to store oil field and industrial waste. In 1997 CCS [Canadian Crude Separators] was handling 15 to 20 trucks per day. Today that number has doubled to between 35 to 40 trucks per day.

Secure Energy works to be environmentally responsible. In 2016, under the leadership of Tervita, a vapour recovery system and incinerator were added. Mr. Speaker, all pipelines on site are physically checked every six hours, 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. Secure Energy employs a total of 11 people, which benefits Unity and the surrounding areas.

Thank you to Christan Lawrence, the operations supervisor, whom personally toured me in and around the facility last October 12th. I was amazed to see the work being done at the caverns. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of this Assembly join me in congratulating Secure Energy and the Unity Cavern on their silver anniversary. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Critical Mineral Strategy Goals Announced

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan is securing the future. Last week our government announced our critical mineral strategy. The strategy outlines four primary goals for the critical mineral sector: (1) to increase Saskatchewan share of Canadian mineral exploration spending to 15 per cent by 2030; (2) to double the number of critical minerals being produced by 2030; (3) to grow our production of potash, uranium, and helium based on our growth plan targets; and (4) to establish the province as a rare earth element hub.

Mr. Speaker, as the world transitions to other forms of baseload power, and as the global need for rare earth elements like lithium and uranium grows, this province will be there to be the global leader in this industry. Our province has 23 of the 31 minerals listed on the Canadian critical minerals list, making us well positioned to lead the nation in the exploration and extraction of these resources.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to telling our story across the world. We have the lithium, the helium, the uranium, the potash, and more that the world is going to need in the future, and when the world needs those minerals they know to look here.

Mr. Speaker, this means more jobs and more opportunities across the province, and that's growth that works for everyone.

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

Federal Carbon Tax Increase Costs Residents More

Mr. Jensen: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't a very happy April Fool's for residents this weekend as they saw a 30 per cent increase to the federal carbon tax, a carbon tax that even the parliamentary budget officer noted is costing families more. And I quote, "Based on our analysis, most households will pay more in fuel charges and GST, as well as receiving slightly lower incomes than they will receive in the climate action incentive payments." And in response to this report our federal Environment minister doubled down. I quote, "If you do the average, yeah it's true. It's going to cost more money to people."

And, Mr. Speaker, it's just not right that families and job creators are the ones left footing the bill. So while the opposition and the Liberal-NDP coalition will want you to thank them for giving you back your money, we believe it's better off in the pockets of families. And we will continue our toxic positivity if that means standing up for the residents and families and businesses.

I quote from the member from Nutana here and what she thinks of this tax. "We don't think the carbon tax is a tax. This is a price on pollution and a necessary one." Mr. Speaker, I don't know what world the opposition is living in, but this tax is a very real tax on our residents and our industry. But they will continue to claim that they have never supported this tax. All the while the federal leaders, Justin and Jagmeet, pile costs onto our residents. And, Mr. Speaker, that is growth that works for nobody.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Ambulance Services and Support for the Health Care System

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this is a government failing to deliver when it comes to health care, and it's clear that they have no plan to deliver a fix when it comes to problems with our ambulance system. Last month we raised the concerns of Sharon Chartier's experience, here in the Assembly. Members will remember that Sharon waited for more than an hour when she thought that she was having a heart attack. Mr. Speaker, she waited because no ambulance was available.

Does the Premier believe that when a Saskatchewan person picks up the phone, needing an ambulance, that one should be available without delay?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I've explained in the media, there are some challenging times with our ambulance services. But we've been able to reduce our ambulance offload delays by 40 per cent since December. We've also been able to reduce the overall stay within our whole health care system by one day, Mr. Speaker. That's a significant amount.

We are working with local EMS [emergency medical services], rural EMS, to make sure that they have the proper resources, Mr. Speaker. In last year's budget, we hired 70 additional FTEs [full-time equivalent], which are just about full. We also provided in-

year fuel subsidy. And this year we were able to help them out with some of their billing codes and their fee-for-services. So we'll continue to work with those to make sure that the patients do not get delayed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, when Sharon desperately needed an ambulance, she had to wait. And unfortunately this isn't a one-off. Documents that we received show that during the first six weeks alone of this year — that's after December — the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] didn't have an ambulance available 216 times. That's 216 people who, like Sharon, needed to wait for the health care that they urgently needed. Mr. Speaker, that's more than five people every day.

Does the minister think that it's acceptable that more than five times a day, there was no help available for Saskatchewan people who needed an ambulance?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, on top of what I've already addressed, we also have new protocols in place for treat-and-release, where an ambulance will go out, and if they don't need to bring that individual to a hospital, they can treat right there under the advice of a doctor. They can call in or do a virtual call to a doctor to be able to release those individuals so the ambulances can . . . back out on the road.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure of the member opposite's math. I don't think it actually quite makes sense, but do we have some challenges within our system, Mr. Speaker. But we're continuing to work with EMS providers — not just on ground; fixed-wing and STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service] — to be able to make sure that we can get those ambulances out of the hallways in the back of the hospital and rolling to be able to get the patients' needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, apparently he's using the math-is-hard defence, but these are his own documents from his own ministry that show a broken system. And this tired and out-of-touch government shows no interest in doing what needs to be done to fix it.

Mr. Speaker, 216 times in just six weeks, urgent calls were made for an ambulance, but there was no ambulance available. And, Mr. Speaker, these documents capture only a portion of the problem, because they only deal with communities with SHA ambulance. Saskatoon, the largest city in the province, is completely excluded because they have a private ambulance system.

How many additional people, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan — like Saskatoon and other communities not served by SHA — had to wait for an ambulance because none was available?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again we have made drastic improvements in our ambulance services and

our offload. And I've got this quote, Mr. Speaker: "As work continues to change with the ministry and the SHA, Medavie Services west has seen a decline in the median offload times that allows resources to get back out on the road." That's from Gerry Schriemer, head of Medavie for Western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, they recognize that we are working on this problem. We have been able to allocate more money in the budget just recently, Mr. Speaker. We meet with the EMS. We attend all of their meetings, not just the local meetings but also the national meetings that were held in Saskatchewan last year. We will continue to work with them to make sure.

[14:00]

But we are not just working with the EMS providers in the emergency room. It's an overall flow within our hospital system, Mr. Speaker, that we're working on. That's why reducing the overall stay by one day is a significant measure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, a key driver of the problems with ambulances all across our province is the crisis in our emergency rooms. When ERs [emergency room] are full, there's nowhere for an ambulance to offload a patient. The ambulance and paramedics have to wait at the hospital until a bed is free, and then the ambulance can go on to the next call.

Tracy Zambory, president of Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, has described our ERs as being in total system collapse. She's offered to work with the government on a task force to fix this crisis. Why won't the minister just say yes and accept the offer?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Zambory and her team, Amber as well as the rest of the team over at SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses], to be able to work on some process improvements, Mr. Speaker. We were able to allocate \$3.1 million for a nurse travel pool in this year's budget. These are some of the pressures . . . These are some of the antidotes that were actually to be able to reduce the amount of stay.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, we're also adding in urgent cares in Regina and in Saskatoon to be able to take the pressure off of that. We're working with hospital staff — not just at the SHA, but the affiliates — again, to improve overall flow. If somebody needs to go from the emergency room up to the wards, we need to make sure that those beds are ready. This is a process that starts at the emergency room door and then ends when the patient is discharged, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're looking at the whole process and we've been able to make some significant improvements over the last four months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, we are talking about the last four

months, in the first six weeks of 2023. Mr. Speaker, not surprisingly, the FOI [freedom of information] shows that Regina led the way with the highest number of incidents when no ambulance was available at 49 times. Dozens and dozens of Saskatchewan people who needed help, but it just wasn't there. How is this acceptable to the Health minister? And what is his plan to fix our broken ambulance system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — First off, Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage the people of Saskatchewan, if it is an emergency that they can call on the ambulance and they will be able to get there as soon as they possibly can.

We're putting the dollars in to be able to make sure that those ambulances are rolling, Mr. Speaker. Are there some challenging times, some peaks on Friday and Saturday evenings? Absolutely. But that's why we're working with them to make sure that they have enough people on the road, extra ambulances.

And I can tell the House exactly what we've done in the last couple of years with this, Mr. Speaker: \$20 million for 64 permanent acute and complex care beds added into our health care system; \$8.8 million for more paramedics and enhanced EMS services; \$6 million in new funding for a multi-year ICU [intensive care unit] enhancement strategy; \$10 million to build the Regina and Saskatoon urgent care centres; \$4.4 million to continue to support patient flow initiatives. This is a very critical one, Mr. Speaker, so we can get the individuals from the emergency room up into the wards so they can get discharged and back to their lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this government is failing to deliver ambulance care for people in Regina, but it doesn't stop there. Let's take a drive through the list. Buffalo Narrows was number two at 24 times when no ambulance was available. And there were many communities in the Athabasca constituency that also had no service: La Loche, six times; five times in Beauval; Ile-a-la-Crosse and Black Lake, four times each.

More than three dozen people who needed help, but no ambulance was available. What does the minister say to those 43 families in the North who called for an ambulance but didn't get one when they needed it?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has made significant investments into the area of ambulance, both ground ambulance but also air ambulance and STARS over the past number of years.

Mr. Speaker, specific to ground ambulance, in last year's budget we initiated a rural EMS stabilization strategy which also included northern parts of Saskatchewan. We have redone that program and launched a new phase of the rural EMS stabilization strategy in the new budget.

Mr. Speaker, specific to Athabasca — as the Minister of Health had said previously, yes, we have identified some challenges that we need to address — but I would point out that in the constituency of Athabasca, Beauval was one of those communities that was able to recruit for their vacant positions and fully resumed service, no longer sharing time with Buffalo Narrows, Mr. Speaker. Those are the types of investments this government will make into northern Saskatchewan and will continue to make in the years to come.

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

Mr. Love: — Meadow Lake, Mr. Speaker, Meadow Lake where the hospital has faced chronic short-staffing, and a woman had to give birth on the side of the road. Meadow Lake had 17 times when no ambulance was available. Now Meadow Lake even has a Sask Party MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], a senior cabinet minister who seems to be calling all the shots over there. What does he say to the 17 people that he represents who called for an ambulance but none were available?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2023-24 budget includes an increase of over \$8.8 million in annual funding to enhance emergency medical services right across the province, Mr. Speaker, building upon last year's investment into this very critical area for health care across rural and remote Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the funding in this year's budget includes three and a half million dollars to support an additional 33 FTEs in 27 communities across this province, both SHA and contracted ambulance services. There's also \$2.6 million to support wage parity for paramedics working for contracted services, further support for those important services in our rural and remote communities. And, Mr. Speaker, there's also \$866,000 to support a 2 per cent grant increase for contracted ambulance operators to mitigate the rising operational pressures.

As the Minister of Health said previously, we meet regularly with front-line providers, with paramedics, with the Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to work with them, meet with them to address these challenges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, let's move to Indian Head. There were seven instances when an ambulance wasn't available. Now people who live in Indian Head, they've got a government MLA, a former Health minister. What does that minister say to the seven people that he represents who needed an ambulance but didn't get one because none were available?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In last year's budget we funded support for 70 additional full-time equivalent

paramedic positions across Saskatchewan. A large majority of those positions have been filled, Mr. Speaker. And there's funding, new funding, in this year's budget to fund more positions across rural Saskatchewan into more communities, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we're working very closely with the Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan, working with our post-secondary institutions on the training aspect of this as well, doing everything we can to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain health care workers in this province. That includes paramedics, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to continue to work and meet with local communities as we address these challenges, and try to find solutions to the challenge that they are facing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Not a single word of compassion from that minister for the dozens of Saskatchewan people who called for help and didn't get it. Let's look at the Southeast, Mr. Speaker: Radville, six calls, no ambulance; Whitewood, five calls, no ambulance; Lampman, four calls, no ambulance; Oxbow and Carnduff, three calls each, no ambulance; Redvers, Estevan, Kipling, two calls each, no ambulance.

What does the minister say to the 27 people in the Southeast who, in just six weeks, had no access to an ambulance because of his government's failure to deliver?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, part of the reason that we rely on these ambulance services as much as we do is because of the number of rural hospitals that were closed by that member and those members opposite when they were in government, Mr. Speaker.

Now they want to run through a list of services, Mr. Speaker. Communities like Redvers have filled all their vacant positions; Rosetown filling positions; communities like Beechy, Frontier, Naicam, and Imperial all stabilizing their service delivery; a number of other communities where investments have been made.

There's a list of 27 communities that will benefit from the investments in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker. We can run through that list if the member opposite would like us to do that. Communities like Biggar, Carnduff, Cupar, Cut Knife, Eston, Fillmore, Hudson Bay, Kamsack, Kindersley — that's just the first column, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to continue to make these investments into ground ambulance, into STARS, into air ambulance as well, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that people across this province have access to the health care they need when they need it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, I asked for compassion, and from this tired and out-of-touch government get nothing but arrogance.

Let's turn our attention to west central Saskatchewan. Kindersley was short ambulances seven times; Maidstone, six times; the good people of Wilkie and Cut Knife, four times each; Unity, three times; Biggar, Eston, Kerrobert, two times each.

Don't the people of west central Saskatchewan deserve to have an ambulance when they need it?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the member opposite wasn't listening when I went through the list the first time because Kindersley was one of the communities on that list that's going to be benefiting from the expanded, enhanced EMS stabilization dollars that are in this year's budget, which those members opposite voted against last week, Mr. Speaker.

Other communities that will be benefiting from that include communities such as Wilkie, as an example, Mr. Speaker, communities like Yorkton, Shaunavon, Stoughton, Prince Albert, Eston — I mentioned that — Norquay, Nipawin, Melville, Lestock. The list goes on, Mr. Speaker.

As I said earlier, we've committed to making improvements to rural EMS across this province. It started with last year's rural EMS stabilization strategy and the funding that was committed to that, 70 new FTEs in last year's budget, Mr. Speaker. This year's budget, 33 new FTEs will be added. We'll work closely with our post-secondary training partners and with the Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan as we work to fill these positions to enhance ambulance service right across our province.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this minister's list of failures certainly does go on and on and on. This tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver when it comes to ambulance care. They're failing to ensure that we have enough staff. They're failing to ensure that paramedics aren't overworked, burning out, and experiencing significant mental health strains due to their jobs. They're also failing to ensure that ERs have the staff and capacity they need so that ambulances can drop off quickly and get to the next call. It's a problem in every community, and in these six weeks it was happening five times a day.

When will the minister sit down with paramedics and fix our broken system once and for all?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Mr. Speaker, what day was budget day? March 22nd? Mr. Speaker, that's the day that I most recently sat down with paramedics. And we do this regularly, Mr. Speaker, meeting with paramedics, the Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan, meeting with local operators. Aside from even the

formal meetings, we reach out to each other on a regular basis.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite stand up here today and they talk about all the problems that are out there, but not a single solution. Not a single solution from those members opposite. They went on some sort of rural health solutions tour apparently, earlier this winter, and you know how many solutions we've seen out of them so far, Mr. Speaker? Not a single one. Not a single solution from those members opposite to any of the challenges being faced in rural Saskatchewan.

On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we've made a record-breaking investment into health care that includes ground EMS. Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to make those investments across Saskatchewan regardless of what the members opposite say.

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

Regulating Quality of Drinking Water

Ms. Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, CTV's [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] W5 report last week on the issue of asbestos pipes used to carry drinking water in Canadian communities was reported. The story found that many communities in Saskatchewan use these pipes, and testing found high levels of asbestos fibres present in water samples taken in Regina. These reports have many people concerned and looking to the provincial government for oversight.

To the Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency, what is the provincial government's plan to ensure adequate and appropriate testing standards for asbestos in Saskatchewan's drinking water and for testing and monitoring going forward?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. You know, the Water Security Agency works with municipalities around the province ensuring that water quality is safe for folks to drink, whether you live in Regina or North Battleford or Carnduff, Mr. Speaker. We work actively with those municipalities.

[14:15]

You know, the use of asbestos concrete pipes, Mr. Speaker, has been discontinued for many decades now. I would remind the member opposite, replacement of these pipes, that's a municipal responsibility, Mr. Speaker. And I would say that on this side of the House, this government has supported municipalities through a number of programs, through MEEP [municipal economic enhancement program], through ICIP [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program], through municipal revenue sharing, which is going up by 13 per cent this next year. We're going to continue to work with municipalities to support them with their infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Ritchie: — Well, Mr. Speaker, last time I checked, the Water Security Agency is responsible for the safety of our

drinking water supply. And, Mr. Speaker, when people hear about asbestos in water supply, it's reasonable for them to have concerns. And when people have concerns about that, this minister should have answers. The minister is from North Battleford. He should know how important issues like drinking water safety are to Saskatchewan people.

Does the minister for the Water Security Agency not see any role for himself in ensuring there are no health concerns with asbestos in drinking water as reported in the *W5* story?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, the member mentions the water challenges that we had in our community, The Battlefords, in the early 2000s. That's why the Water Security Agency was originally set up, Mr. Speaker, is to support municipalities in ensuring that they can have safe drinking water for their residents.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the member opposite that the Water Security Agency is the regulator. We don't actually run the municipal water systems, Mr. Speaker. We are the regulator, and we work with municipalities on an ongoing basis to ensure that water is safe to drink.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to note that the asbestos level noted by *W5*, approximately 300,000 fibres per 1 litre of water, is about 23 times lower than the US [United States] EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] standard. We're going to continue working with municipalities to support drinking water quality around the province. Thank you.

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

Overdose Deaths in Saskatchewan

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, last week I cited a story from the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] on the overdose crisis. Government members laughed. But this is no laughing matter, Mr. Speaker. The story profiles 24 Saskatchewan people who lost their lives due to overdose.

Their names were Avery Bird, Matthew Baraniuk, Vernon Belanger, Emily Bryce, Cory Cardinal, Adam Cissé, Garnet Eashappie, Randall Fehr, Shane Flahr, Landon Francis, Justin Genaille, Victoria Gibson, Marilyn Marceline Gordon, Damon Grant, Julian Hazen-Babchuk, Clinton Hotomanie Jr., Jesse Irvine, Josephine Mavis Isaac, James McKnight, Nikkia Sugar, Mitchell Sveinbjornson, Travis Tumach, Shayne Turner, and Cass Wardell.

When will we see a real plan to address the overdose crisis for those who took their lives, and the lives of 1,200 other Saskatchewan people?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I mentioned in a previous question earlier in session, I too have seen the news article in the CBC and have read it, reading all the

profiles of those who have lost their battle with addictions, Mr. Speaker. And I extend my condolences to their families and loved ones and the communities that have been impacted by their tragic losses, Mr. Speaker.

This is why we're continuing to make significant investments into this area of mental health and addictions, a record \$79 million into addictions services in the new budget year which is now under way, Mr. Speaker. That includes an expansion of the treatment bed capacity, treatment space capacity in this province, \$2.3 million towards that in this budget. You would have seen some of the first post-treatment beds announced, 14 beds earlier this spring. And there is work being done, Mr. Speaker.

I had a conversation in my most recent meeting with officials this morning about the next steps that will be taken with respect to expanding treatment space capacity in this province. And we'll have more to say on that in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, listing these investments is cold comfort for the family members who have been left behind. We need people to stay alive long enough to be able to get to those treatment beds. Medical students were here last week calling for funding for intranasal naloxone: more naloxone; it lasts longer; it's easier to administer, Mr. Speaker.

Will he commit to funding intranasal naloxone to save lives?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government funds a take-home naloxone program currently — it has for the past number of years — for intramuscular naloxone, injectable naloxone. We are also undertaking as we speak, and this has been under way for a number of months now, a pilot project with respect to nasal naloxone to look into the efficacy of that particular product in terms of its effectiveness, Mr. Speaker.

It's something that we are actively monitoring on this issue, Mr. Speaker. And I would say that there is a lot of research to be done when it comes to its efficacy versus the efficacy of the intramuscular naloxone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek leave to move a motion under rule 61.

The Speaker: — Will the member briefly state the purpose of the motion and read the text of the motion? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

MOTION UNDER RULE 61

Opposition to the Potential Closure of RCMP Depot in Regina

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a fairly simple and straightforward motion that I hope all members can support. My friend the Opposition House Leader shared the text of the motion with the Government House Leader earlier today, and I hope that all members would grant me leave to move the following motion:

That the Assembly opposes any plan for changes to RCMP training that involves the closure of Depot Division in Regina and the loss of more than 500 jobs.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to move without notice a motion of urgent pressing necessity under rule 61. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The member may proceed.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to all members for granting me leave.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to open my remarks by acknowledging the 2020 tragedy in Portapique, Nova Scotia. It was the deadliest shooting in Canadian history, and it was an incident that led to a necessary and a thoughtful review of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, one that comes with a suite of recommendations for the future of the Mounties. Mr. Speaker, it's clear from the report that the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] are not perfect and that changes to training are needed to ensure that a tragedy like this never happens again.

The official opposition welcomes changes within the RCMP to ensure that it can be responsive to public safety needs in modern Canadian communities. We look forward to improvements that lead to more transparent, open, and honest policing, and that includes training that sets up RCMP officers for better relationships with the communities that they serve, in particular the relationships with First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and racialized people across Canada.

But, Mr. Speaker, the need for changes in training is no reason to move that training out of Regina. For decades every RCMP officer has come to the Queen City for training, and this is an institution and a tradition that has been critical to Regina's economy. Hundreds of good jobs would be lost if RCMP Depot Division is closed. Mr. Speaker, those are mortgage-paying jobs that support families and jobs that bring people to Regina to stay. And trainees come to know that Regina is a launch pad of their careers as they leave and serve right across this country.

Mr. Speaker, we have two universities here — the U of R [University of Regina] and the First Nations University of Canada — that could be partnered with to ensure that the RCMP trainees have the tools that they need to serve Canadians, all Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, my message to the federal government is this: let's find a way to fix RCMP training and make them the police force that we need in the 21st century, but closing Depot is a non-starter.

I move the following motion:

That the Assembly opposes any plan for changes to RCMP training that involves the closure of Depot Division in Regina and the loss of more than 500 jobs.

The Speaker: — The member has moved:

That the Assembly opposes any plan for changes to RCMP training that involves the closure of Depot Division in Regina and the loss of more than 500 jobs.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 128 — *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*. The amendment proposes to change the rate of the Saskatchewan mineral exploration tax credit from 10 to 30 per cent. Increasing the Saskatchewan mineral exploration tax credit encourages the exploration and development of Saskatchewan's mineral resources.

A key part of the province's growth plan is to increase mining exploration and the value of mining exports and incentivizing the industry with a tax credit such as the one proposed here, which is but one tool to help us do that. Exploration is an important first stage in the mineral development process. Exploration is needed in order to develop new mines. This proposed change will improve Saskatchewan's competitiveness with other jurisdictions and encourage Saskatchewan residents to invest into junior exploration companies.

This increase will bring Saskatchewan's mineral exploration tax credit to the highest in Canada, equal to Manitoba at 30 per cent. This increase will help exploration companies more easily secure financing and add an estimated cost to the Government of Saskatchewan of less than \$1 million, while the potential downstream income from major extraction projects or from one of these exploration discoveries is expected to produce significant returns.

By supporting this change we are heeding the call of industry. The industry has long been requesting an increase like this to the Saskatchewan mineral exploration tax credit. Given technology advancements, growing populations, and security-of-supply concerns, the world has an ever-increasing demand for critical minerals, an ever-increasing demand for the resources that our province can supply.

Saskatchewan is home to 23 of the 31 critical minerals found on Canada's critical mineral list. Incentives to industry, like the one proposed here, help us on our path to growing and diversifying our position as a global supplier of critical minerals, building on our already world-leading positions in potash and uranium mining. And as we've just seen in the budget, our province is benefiting immensely from our resource revenues. Adopting this change will only serve to increase these benefits in the years ahead.

I now move second reading of *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 128 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the minister for providing some second reading remarks for Bill No. 128.

[14:30]

I'm pleased to enter into debate here on *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*. It's certainly not a surprise to see this come forward. We saw a mention of this in the budget as well, Mr. Speaker. And you know, we certainly want to ensure that our mining exploration is encouraged and that industry is encouraged throughout this province to do this important work. We know that there is significant demand for critical minerals and, you know, this is an important time for exploration as well for our province.

Of course we want to support these industries and want to keep them competitive. But you know, it's also a shame that this government didn't use this budget to provide some of the revenues that it has back to the people of the province who are struggling with day-to-day cost-of-living issues, back into the health care system that is so desperately in need, and also into our education system which continues to see cuts, Mr. Speaker.

We'll definitely need to consult stakeholders and take a look at this legislation. But with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 128 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. 129 — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to move second reading of Bill 129, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*. This bill will regulate physician assistants under the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan and will establish the scope of practice for the new profession. I want to thank Dr. Preston Smith and the college for their support on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, licensing physician assistants will enable the province's health system to add more skilled workers to our health care teams and help address the demand for health human resources within our system. Physician assistants are health professionals who have taken additional advanced training at one of the recognized programs in Canada. They practise medicine under the supervision of a licensed physician, often with a multi-disciplinary health care team.

Physician assistants have been integrated successfully in other Canadian jurisdictions. There are about 900 certified physician assistants practising across Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and New Brunswick. Within these jurisdictions, physician assistants are mostly used in primary care, long-term care, emergency medicine, cancer care, general internal medicine, and surgical specialities. Some of these key duties include conducting patient examinations, prescribing medications, and ordering and interpreting test results.

Mr. Speaker, physician assistants will complement and support other health care professionals and bring a number of benefits and include more balanced resident and physician workloads, increasing access to health care and reduce wait times for patients.

Mr. Speaker, we are making key investments to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain more health care workers, including nurses, physicians, and other health professionals. And the 2023-24 budget includes \$55.5 million for the Ministry of Health, as well as overall investments of nearly \$100 million across government to support Saskatchewan's HHR [health human resources] plan.

An initial \$1.3 million, 1.7 million annualized, will fund the creation of 12 physician assistant positions in Saskatchewan within our health care system for the first time to provide care under supervision of a doctor in a variety of settings.

Mr. Speaker, leading up to the introduction of this legislation, the Ministry of Health consulted with key stakeholders, including the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Medical Association, and the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants.

Mr. Speaker, I'm now pleased to move the second reading of Bill No. 129, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 129 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the minister for his opening second reading remarks here on Bill No. 129, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*. As the minister identified, this bill essentially creates the position of physician assistant in our province and authorizes these folks to operate underneath a practising physician. Again, not a surprising piece of legislation to be coming forward, Mr. Speaker, as I believe these were announced in the Throne Speech initially back in the fall.

We know that family physicians are fully stretched and

overworked and overwhelmed by the amount of overhead costs that exist and the amount of administrative work that is in front of them. When it comes to work that is unpaid in our current fee-for-service model, that is largely a lot of the work that I think they would see being tackled by physician assistants. And I've heard that from folks that we've consulted with as well.

So certainly we're in favour of anything that could alleviate some of those burdens, Mr. Speaker, to make it so that those physicians can focus their time on patients and be able to see more patients in their day-to-day routine. So I think that there is some, you know, good work being done here, Mr. Speaker.

I will also say though that we're talking about 12 positions as far as I understand it. We know, according to the Provincial Auditor, that the government's plan still falls 1,000 health care workers short in five years, so there is much bigger work to be done in addition to this, Mr. Speaker.

So I think that, you know, the calls have still been quite loud, even from the physicians themselves, that team-based care is what is needed. A reform to the system is what is needed, and in fact the inclusion of physician assistants does not equate to team-based care. It is being inserted in within the current fee-for-service model as far as I understand it.

So I will have a lot of questions for the ministry as this bill moves along, you know, including who we see being utilized as physician assistants, what the protection is of scope for other health care workers in the field, and where we're planning to train these folks because, as the minister mentioned, we don't have active training seats for physician assistants in this province. So there will be a lot of questions about how this comes about.

But there are some very big issues in health care that the government should be focusing on. These solutions are being brought forward by local voices, by health care workers, by doctors. We hear the nurses coming forward and offering to set up a task force. We hear docs coming forward and saying, we absolutely need to look at team-based care and changing the model. So I would hope that the government is also keeping their eye on these issues and that we will see further announcements on this front in the days to come, Mr. Speaker. So that's what we'll be looking for.

I know many of my colleagues will want to weigh on this as well, but with that I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 129 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. 130 — *The Lotteries and Gaming
Saskatchewan Corporation Act***

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very

much. I rise today to move second reading of *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*. The legislation takes effect April 1st, 2023 retroactively with full conduct and management powers coming into effect for Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan, commonly referred to as LGS, on June 1st, 2023.

LGS is a new Crown corporation tasked to oversee gaming in the province. LGS will take an industry-wide perspective to provide sound gaming policy and management, while the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, SLGA, will transition to becoming the gaming regulator.

The new legislation sets out powers for LGS, allows for a board of up to nine members, continues Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation — SaskGaming — as a wholly owned subsidiary as of June 1st, 2023, and retains the SaskGaming board structure. It outlines the SaskGaming casino and online gaming payment obligations to First Nations Trust, the Métis Development Fund, and the Community Initiatives Fund. And it maintains the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, which distributes Sask lotteries' proceeds to eligible sport, culture, and recreation organizations throughout the province.

Mr. Speaker, when fully operational, LGS will oversee all casinos in the province, online gaming and lotteries, and will operate the VLT [video lottery terminal] program. LGS will also make decisions about the gaming sector, including gaming strategy and the gaming framework agreement. The legislation makes no changes to the operators of gaming or to the beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 130 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the minister opposite for his remarks. We talk about Bill No. 130. You know, I've heard a lot of folks that are quite engaged in online gaming and have been waiting for these changes, Mr. Speaker. It certainly seems prudent to reorganize our systems to reflect that change. I'm not a big TV sports fan, although I like to engage in sports in real life when I can. But I know for many folks this is a ritual. This is day to day. This is part of the way that they live their lives and their culture. And it is important that we protect those consumers and that we know that, you know, these systems are going to protect their assets, Mr. Speaker.

I certainly have friends who are more engaged in online gaming and have questions about how this is all going to operationalize in the province, Mr. Speaker. We will have many more of those questions as we move forward. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 130 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. 131 — *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Consequential Amendments Act, 2023/Loi de 2023 portant modification corrélative de la loi intitulée The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*. The consequential amendments Act will add LGS as an entity which SLGA regulates, and repeals conduct and management powers from SLGA which are moving to LGS.

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to move second reading of *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 131 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, pleased to enter into debate on Bill No. 131. As this is consequential amendments, we know that this is when we get into the nitty-gritty details and change other Acts based on the Act we're just changing. So my comments for 130 still stand here. And with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 131 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. 132 — *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023*

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill 132, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023*. This bill, if passed, will amend *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* of 1999 which governs the safe operation requirements for boilers and pressure vessels and licensing of individuals who construct, repair, and operate boilers and pressure vessels in Saskatchewan.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committing to ensuring industry can operate safely and cost-effectively. This includes allowing businesses to test and use innovative new technologies where they are practical and safe to do so.

[14:45]

Boilers are used in many industries for heating and processing, and they are one of the technologies that the Government of Saskatchewan regulates to ensure the safety of people and their property. Recent advancements in industry and the needs of

producers means it is time to revisit the way that boiler and pressure vessels are regulated in Saskatchewan. These advancements, when tested, can allow the operation of boilers and pressure vessels to be more accessible to individuals and businesses that choose to invest in automation and remote monitoring.

In Saskatchewan, boiler and pressure vessel safety is overseen by the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan, better known as TSASK. The chief boiler inspector and official of TSASK is responsible for licensing permits and inspections of boilers and pressure vessels.

Certain boilers and pressure vessels are required to be supervised at all times. This constant supervision can put the cost of operating a boiler out of reach for individuals and businesses that might see a benefit from using one. New technology promises to allow greater automation and remote supervision of boilers. Automation would ensure that the boiler would automatically shut down in the event any issue could cause a risk to the safety of people and property.

The proposed legislative amendments will allow the chief boiler inspector to permit, under the test conditions of a pilot project, a boiler to operate using automation and remote supervision if the boiler owner meets specific conditions and the chief boiler inspector believes that there is no undue risk to the public safety. These amendments can be used in agriculture by agriculture producers, where boilers can be used to process feed and achieve higher conversion rates in finishing livestock.

While the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to allowing individuals and businesses to benefit from innovation, this government remains committed to safety. Any individual or business seeking to use automation and remote supervision to operate a boiler or pressure vessel would need to present the chief boiler inspector with a plan that satisfies all safety requirements that will be set out in regulation. All boilers and pressure vessels will still need to provide appropriate safeguards and redundancy against potential accidents. Any remote monitoring system would need to provide adequate assurance and reliability. Any processes and supervision agreements proposed would need to meet the standards to be set out in regulation and meet the approval of the chief boiler inspector.

In closing, this bill makes an important new step towards the modernization of boiler and pressure vessel safety standards in Saskatchewan. It will permit the people of Saskatchewan to realize the benefits of new technology and promote investment here in Saskatchewan. And so, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill No. 132, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2023*.

The Speaker: — It's been moved that Bill No. 132 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? 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. 132. We're talking about automation and remote supervision in this project. I think there is always a desire to want to modernize and to move in the direction that industry is going in. So we'll certainly be watching for what best practices exist within industry as well as what other

jurisdictions are doing, whether TSASK has been involved in recommending this change.

You know, I think in particular there is a concern about safety in this bill and we would want to make sure, as the minister has already assured us, we would want to make sure that there are good systems in place for safety. You know, this is quite a large change that's being proposed here in terms of remote supervision to boilers that have been previously supervised 24-7.

So we think about safety. We think about jobs, Mr. Speaker, making sure that we are adding more jobs, not less jobs in the system, in the province. And I think those will be some of the issues that we want to canvass here as well as the terms of the pilot, you know. Where will it be taking place? How long? You know, to what extent is this a pilot versus an overall change?

I had the opportunity to learn a little bit about TSASK in my work as a member of Public Accounts, Mr. Speaker, and see some of the great work they do in overseeing this regulation. I'm sure that we are in good hands here, but we will have some questions about this legislation and further consultation to do. And for that reason I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 132 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.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 and enter into the debate on Bill No. 118, *The Warrant Compliance Act*. Mr. Speaker, we've had the opportunity to put our thoughts on this bill on the record. I have several questions to ask officials and the minister with respect to this bill, particularly in regard to the implementation and the effect of the legislation. In order to allow myself to do that work, I'm prepared to let this bill move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 118 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. 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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief here today with respect to the Saskatchewan revenue Act, Mr. Speaker, because it's my view that the consideration of this bill should be brief and that it should simply be pulled by the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. It shouldn't be proceeding any further.

There are so many important matters in this province for us to be focusing our time and attention on, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to making life more affordable for Saskatchewan people: creating jobs that they can count on, building the health care that they can count on when they need it, Mr. Speaker — and yes, that includes an ambulance, Mr. Speaker, when they make that call — and making sure our classrooms have the supports that students across Saskatchewan need and deserve, and of course, doing a better job and making sure the most vulnerable in Saskatchewan are given a chance, Mr. Speaker, given some of the support and hope that they so desperately deserve.

Of course, I've been very clear, Mr. Speaker, and I think the business community and Saskatchewan people have been clear as well, that this bill that was derived by the Sask Party government in isolation, possibly with some separatists in closed-door meetings this summer, Mr. Speaker, just isn't in the interests of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, there are areas that we need to prioritize, place our energy, and make investments, Mr. Speaker, but to build a more cumbersome, more costly, less effective tax system is not something that I've heard from anyone.

Of course, I've heard across the business community, Mr. Speaker, that this legislation has been panned, Mr. Speaker, that this legislation should be shelved, that we should be focusing on the matters that are important to Saskatchewan people and businesses.

And we know Mr. Speaker, that this is a government that's flush with cash, Mr. Speaker. But as I've said to this government, that should be no excuse to burn through those dollars in wasteful ways, Mr. Speaker, to waste dollars on initiatives like this that don't advance the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

We've done, you know, an assessment of the cost, Mr. Speaker. And not counting the exorbitant start-up cost, the millions of dollars that would be spent there, we're talking about tens of

millions of dollars each and every year, Mr. Speaker. Ten million dollars a year on administrative costs alone on a very low, conservative estimate based on the experiences of other jurisdictions in Canada, Mr. Speaker, that have gone down this path.

And we know that at a time where businesses across Saskatchewan are already facing so many challenges with supply chains, with the labour force, with new fees and taxes imposed by that government, the cost that they're facing, including the cost of financing, Mr. Speaker, it makes no sense for a government to be building this new bureaucracy in Regina with all this cost and to build out this new red tape that will cost Saskatchewan businesses more.

And based on the example of when Ontario had gone down this path and then realized the error in their ways and cancelled the collection of corporate taxes, Mr. Speaker, we know that Saskatchewan businesses will be on the hook for at least \$16 million more each and every year, Mr. Speaker. The 42,000 businesses in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, aren't looking for more costs, Mr. Speaker. They're not looking for more red tape. They're not looking to file their taxes twice, as these changes would require, Mr. Speaker.

So this bad idea, you know, it shouldn't have got out of the gates, but it did. Made its way into the legislature. It should be shelved at this time. It shouldn't proceed any further. Government should pull this foolish legislation, Mr. Speaker, and government should do so before they waste any more time, any more energy, and certainly the millions of dollars of taxpayers and businesses in Saskatchewan.

Of course those estimates that I shared, when you look at the cost for taxpayers and compliance cost for businesses, dial that out 10 years, Mr. Speaker, a decade, and we're talking about \$260 million more for Saskatchewan businesses and taxpayers for a less effective, more cumbersome tax system, Mr. Speaker, that forces businesses to face more red tape and to file twice.

This bad idea should have been shelved at the get-go. We call on this government to do the right thing and yank this legislation. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, you didn't?

The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 118 be now read the 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: — I stand corrected. Bill 122. To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Bill No. 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 been a pleasure to have previously put comments on the record for Bill 124, the alcohol and gaming amendment Act. I have no further comments at this time. I just want to say a huge thank you to my colleagues who've put very thoughtful comments on the record. A lot of perspectives to be had on this legislation.

I promise to continue to engage with stakeholders and will certainly have more comments and questions for the minister in committee. So at this time, I'm comfortable seeing this bill move to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 124 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt this 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?

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

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

Bill No. 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 Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 126, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, most of my colleagues have had the opportunity already to enter into the

debate around this piece of legislation. Largely, from what I understand, this legislation seeks to implement some changes that have been discussed in other pieces of legislation as well as some other changes that I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to discuss with officials and the minister at committee. In order to facilitate that work, I'm prepared to allow this bill to move on to its next stage.

[15:00]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 126 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. 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 Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 117, *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*. Mr. Speaker, I believe I've already had the opportunity to put my comments about this legislation on the record. I know several of my colleagues have also had the opportunity. I'm looking forward to asking questions of officials and the minister about this legislation at committee.

In order to facilitate that work, I'm prepared now to allow this bill to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 117 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried ... [inaudible interjection] ... Recorded division.

[The division bells rang from 15:01 until 15:04.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas — 53]

Moe	McMorris	Reiter
Merriman	Harpauer	Morgan
Duncan	Tell	Wyant
Makowsky	Marit	Cheveldayoff
Bradshaw	Kaeding	Cockrill
L. Ross	Eyre	J. Harrison
Carr	Hindley	Skoropad
Buckingham	Hargrave	Fiaz
Lambert	Dennis	Kirsch
A. Ross	Ottenbreit	Francis
C. Young	Steele	McLeod
Friesen	Grewal	Nerlien
Goudy	Keisig	Lemaigre
Jenson	D. Harrison	Domotor
Beck	Nippi-Albright	Mowat
Wotherspoon	Love	Teed
Sarauer	Conway	Bowes
Ritchie	Wilson	

The Speaker: — All those opposed please stand.

[Nays — Nil]

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour, 53; zero opposed.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — I think we have to designate the committee to which it is going to be referred, and I will designate that it be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands to the committee of intergovernmental and justice committee.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — I would ask the Assembly for leave to move a motion regarding committee membership on the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

MOTIONS

Committee Membership

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you to the Assembly. I would move:

That the name of Joe Hargrave be added to the membership

of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved:

That the name of Joe Hargrave be added to the membership of the Standing Committee on Human Services. 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: — In order to facilitate the work of committee this afternoon and this evening, 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 15:09.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

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

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

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services

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

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

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Health

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

Hon. Jim Reiter
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Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

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

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Advanced Education