



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

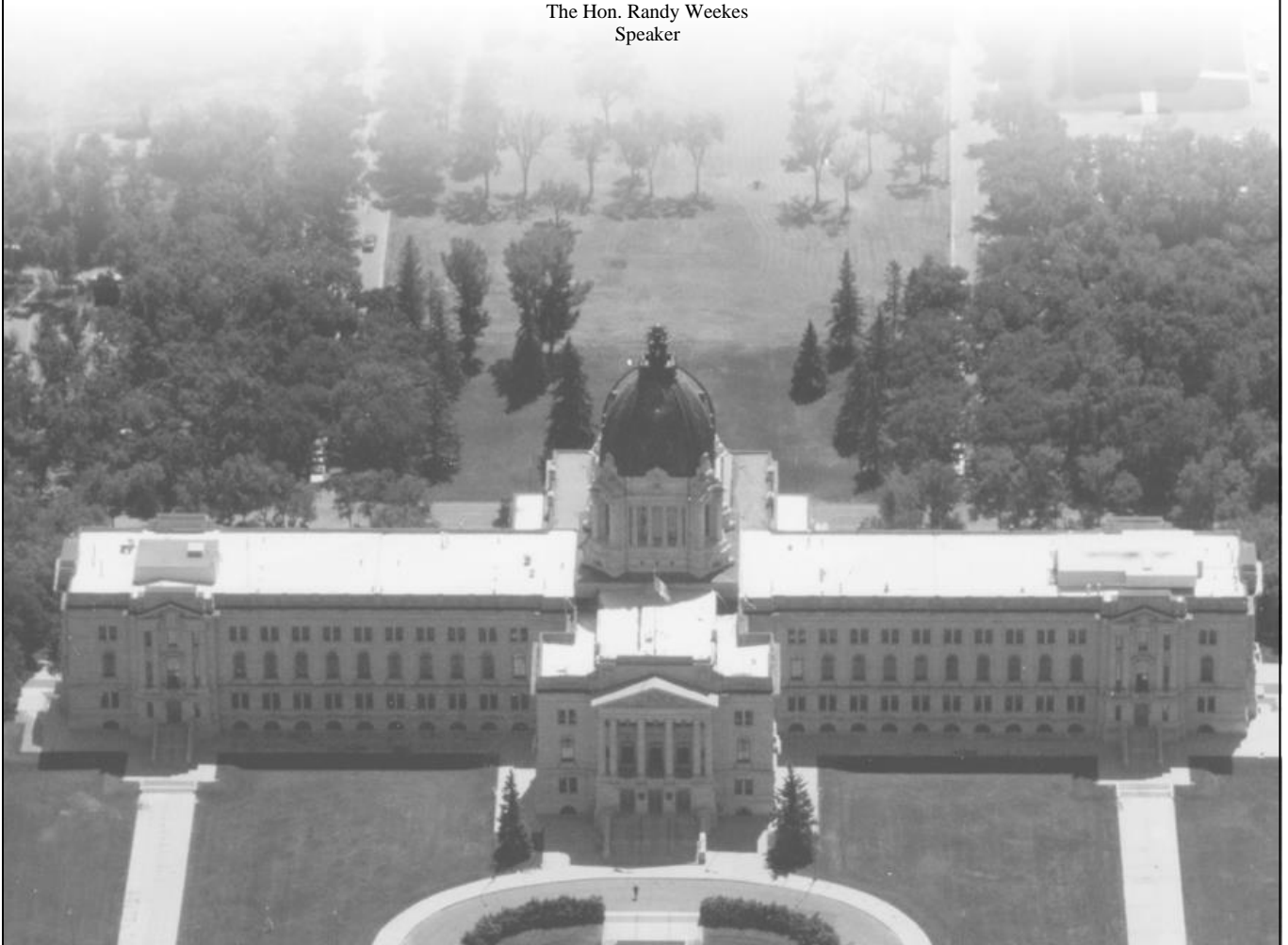
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
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Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)	Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
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Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
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Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)	Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)	Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)	Skoropad, Hon. Dana — Arm River (SP)
Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)	Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Teed, Nathaniel — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)	Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	Vacant — Lumsden-Morse
Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)	Vacant — Regina Coronation Park
Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)	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

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

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

Clerk: — I wish to advise the Assembly that Mr. Speaker will not be present to open today's sitting.

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome nine guests to their Legislative Assembly that are here for dementia awareness day here at the legislature, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I believe they are seated in the Speaker's gallery here this afternoon. And if I could, I'd like to introduce each of them and ask that they give a wave. And I hope I'm not missing anyone here.

Starting with Elaine Unrau, Alan Thomarat who are both family caregivers who are here today. We also have a number of representatives from the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, starting with the president, Dan Kohl. Three board members here: board member Allison Cammer . . . No, Allison's not here. Board member Owen Kot and board member Brian Martynook.

In addition to the board members, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also have a number of other individuals from the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan. CEO [chief executive officer] Joanne Bracken is here, who is well known to many members of this Chamber. Director of programs and services Joanne Michael, seated in the top row. And the director of revenue development for the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, Kaleta Strain.

Mr. Speaker, last year 3,200 more people developed dementia in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, our government has a long-standing relationship with the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan. And I do want to extend my sincere thanks to them for their exceptional work.

So as I said, last year 3,200 more people developed dementia. About 20,000 people are affected by Alzheimer's disease and/or related dementias in Saskatchewan. And what this number doesn't necessarily reflect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and take into account, is the families and the loved ones that are also affected by this terrible disease and those who become caregivers and offer that support as well.

By 2050, Mr. Deputy Speaker, projections estimate there will be

more than 42,000 people living with dementia in our province, and that just goes to show you how much of an impact this disease is having right across Saskatchewan. Dementia awareness day is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and their growing impact on people living with dementia and their family caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members of the Assembly to join me in thanking these individuals for everything that they do for those suffering with dementia in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly. To Elaine and Alan, Dan, Owen, Brian, Joanne, Joanne, and Kaleta, thank you for your advocacy. Thank you for being here in your Assembly to make all of us aware of the issues that you advocate for every day.

We know that, as the minister noted, members on both sides of this Assembly and across our province are impacted by loved ones, members of our communities, members of our families who are dealing with dementia. And I thank you for the work that you do in raising awareness this week and today as we wear our flowers to stand with you in that awareness of the 32,000 individuals that the minister noted. And thank you, and ask all members to join with me in welcoming you once again to your Assembly.

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

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to welcome nine grade 12 students from Langenburg Central School to their Legislative Assembly. They're seated in the top of the west gallery. They are led by their multi-talented teacher, Fallon Prince.

Ms. Prince has been my neighbour, is an incredibly talented actress and the lead singer of a rock 'n' roll cover band, and next year will be the principal of Churchbridge high school.

I'd like all members to welcome Langenburg students and their teacher to their Legislative Assembly.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sitting in the west gallery is 44 students from Huda School. Mr. Speaker, Huda School is the first Islamic religious school in Saskatchewan, and people all over from Regina, they come, they're being transported to that school. And the population has significant increases since the last 10 years. And they expanded recently their school, actually built a couple of more classrooms — not a couple of, actually; more than a couple of — and also have a new gym there as well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am pretty sure there's a lot of students, they are fasting today as well. And they are very ready to celebrate Eid coming up on this Friday, or maybe on Saturday, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I forgot to mention that this group of school is accompanied by the teacher, Amber Learned Garritty, and Kyle Teron with them. I ask all the members to join me, welcome this school group in their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise 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 on April 30th, 2021 with the ministries required under the Act to consult with community organizations in the development of a suicide prevention strategy; we know that suicide remains the second-leading cause of death for young people age 15 to 34 in Canada; and that suicide rates for Indigenous people in Saskatchewan are four times higher than non-Indigenous people.

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 Regina today, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that the NDP [New Democratic Party]-Liberal federal tax on carbon continues to make life more expensive for Saskatchewan residents; that the federal Liberal-NDP coalition government continues to be disingenuous with their rhetoric surrounding the carbon tax; and according to the parliamentary budget officer's analysis, most households will pay more in fuel charges and GST [goods and services tax] as well as receiving slightly lower incomes than they will receive in climate action incentive payments. Despite promises from the federal government that the tax would remain neutral and that families would benefit, the reality is that families are paying

more than they receive.

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 Canada to immediately end the federal carbon tax and support Saskatchewan's development as a global supplier of food, fuel, and fertilizer.

The below undersigned are residents of Tisdale, Nipawin, and Sylvania. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet to present a petition calling for adequate and equitable SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] rates. I began presenting this petition, Mr. Speaker, before the announcement of the 2023 budget. And with the extra mere dollar a day announced for this program, I'll certainly continue to present this petition, as that falls well short of what recipients expected and are entitled to, frankly, Mr. Speaker.

Another thing that's happened since that budgetary announcement is the Regina Anti-Poverty has announced that they're taking this government to court over their discriminatory pension clawback policies. The rates and these policies are two things that are directly dealt with in this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So with that I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to increase SAID rates to account for inflation; respect the constitutional rights of persons with disability in Saskatchewan by halting discriminatory clawback practices; index SAID basic rates going forward, and provide targeted relief to those in deepest poverty, such as single individuals paying market rent, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The signatories of this petition reside in Saskatoon and Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Kids of George Gordon First Nation Receive Brand New Hockey Equipment

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hockey connects so many communities within and across our nation. At its best, hockey welcomes people of all age, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, and religion. But hockey comes with barriers: the cost of playing, the cost of equipment, the cost of gas. For too many kids in Saskatchewan, the cost simply makes hockey out of reach.

But now, thanks to Chief Byron Bitternose of George Gordon

First Nation and Donny Uhren, GM [general manager] of Extreme Hockey, 40 kids from George Gordon have been gifted with brand spanking new hockey gear. What an amazing thing. The kids will also have an opportunity to attend a hockey camp with Next Level Hockey Consulting this summer.

From buckets to skates, from head to toe and everything in between, these kids will now be sniping bar-downs, racking up genos, and dangling their opponents out of their skates in their new gear. And the George Gordon community rink will get some much-needed love and use. Mr. Speaker, this is an incredibly generous act by George Gordon First Nation and Extreme Hockey.

I also want to recognize the exceptional support provided by Extreme Hockey staff and the many volunteers who helped make this happen, like Jared Bitternose and Josh Montana. The community came together to show these kids their worth, provide them with a fun outlet, and create something for them to look forward to for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the community of George Gordon First Nation and Extreme Hockey for this partnership, for giving these kids what they need to take part in our national sport, and for extending a message of hope and pride to these amazing kiddos who certainly deserve it.

Thank you.

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

Annual Convention of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The annual SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] convention first started this week with our Premier's address this morning. The event will be run from Sunday to Wednesday with many events and opportunity for learning during the course of this convention.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association has been bringing members together for an annual convention since 1906. Northern municipalities, resort villages, towns, and cities get together with over 1,000 delegates to discuss the issues that are most important to their communities. Mr. Speaker, this is a great opportunity to connect with our partners across the province and have a strong discussion about the future. I look forward to seeing many new and familiar faces at this year's SUMA convention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members of the Assembly to join me recognizing our urban partners for their hard work they do in municipalities' operations. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all the members to join me, thanking all the volunteers, organizers, and the key speakers who helped make this year's SUMA convention a reality.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Regina Dragon Boat Team Wins Multiple Medals at 2023 Championship

Ms. Beck: — I never thought I'd be on my feet speaking in favour of pond scum, but here we are.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, dragon boating is such a proud Regina activity. It's a sight to see them gliding across the lake every summer, and the Dragon Boat Festival brings paddlers from across the country every year. And this year we have even more to be proud of. At the 2023 Pan American Club Crew Championship back in March, Regina dragon boat team Pond Scum did an absolutely tremendous job, walking away with 11 gold medals, 3 silver, and 1 bronze.

[13:45]

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you're wondering about the name, this team started practising on the mighty Wascana back in the '90s, and some of our more senior legislators or anyone who has spent time in Regina in the summer might remember the condition of the lake at that time. They might know why this name is so appropriate.

But however dank their team name is, the Pond Scum's record is simply glorious. They've gone from a recreational team to champions on the international stage, and this is even more impressive when you keep in mind that the average age of the Pond Scum paddlers is 60 years old.

I invite all members to join me in congratulating Pond Scum on their wonderful performance, and I encourage everyone to watch them in action on the mighty Wascana this August. Thank you.

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

Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Last week we celebrated Telecommunicators Week from April 9th to 13th. This week recognizes the thousands of public safety telecommunicators in Saskatchewan and across the country who respond to emergency calls, dispatch emergency professionals and equipment, maintain radio and emergency phone systems.

Telecommunicators are known by some as the first first responders and the heroes behind the headset. When we dial 911 these are the folks we have confidence in to relay vital information to the firefighters, ambulance, law enforcement, and more.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we trust these men and women in an emergency to help us get emergency services we need. Across the province and the country, we have telecommunicators that work every hour of every day of the week to help save lives. Telecommunicators connect us to a lifeline.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to thank them for their hard work and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask all members to please join me in thanking these men and women, the telecommunicators of our province for a job very well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductees

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I had the opportunity to attend the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame inductee ceremony on Saturday, along with our esteemed Minister of Agriculture. There were five distinguished recipients recognized.

Bill Huber was the president of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association for years, served on the Inland Terminal Association board, and is very involved in municipal politics. Bill serves as a councillor in the RM [rural municipality] of Lipton and is vice-president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

Kevin Hursh was a recognizable agricultural journalist hosting *Farm Gate*. That television program was something that we all watched intently in our house growing up, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Dorothy Long from Lloydminster was instrumental in advancing consumer knowledge on food and farming production in Saskatchewan. She worked tirelessly on connecting dietitians and journalists to educate rural and urban people better.

John McKinnon from the University of Saskatchewan started his career as a beef specialist. With a doctorate in animal science, his research and work were influential in helping our world-class beef production grow and prosper.

Laurie Tollefson spent 40 years working at the irrigation centre in Outlook. His research not only helped our local agricultural producers, but his work was also recognized and used globally.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Yorkton Canola Crushing Facility to Double Production Capacity

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's another great day in Yorkton. We're crushing it — canola, that is.

Last week the Yorkton area received great news from the Louis Dreyfus Company. They're set to double their capacity at the Yorkton canola crushing facility to over 2 million metric tons of production. Expansion and construction of the additional canola crushing line are anticipated to begin later this year.

Canola oil and canola seed are among our top three agri-food exports. Last year those products were valued at 3.5 billion and 2.7 billion respectively. The doubling of the Richardson Pioneer plant along with this announcement have built much excitement in Yorkton. Currently over 120 people work at the LDC [Louis Dreyfus Company] facility, and in fact the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood worked on the original construction phase of this facility in 2009.

This expansion is great news for farmers, tradespeople, and Saskatchewan's workforce. It means more opportunities and

adds to our value of our agri-food sector. Thank you to LDC for continuing to invest in Yorkton and Saskatchewan. Thank you to their agri-food producers, and thank you to the workers who operate the plants. Saskatchewan will continue to be a world leader in innovation and industry for agri-food exports.

Mr. Speaker, with this investment we're one step closer to reaching our growth plan goals by 2030. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's growth that works for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Growth and Economic Activity in Saskatchewan

Mr. Nerlien: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, business is booming in Saskatchewan. Statistics Canada is once again showing strong year-over-year growth in the wholesale trade at 30.3 per cent. The total value of manufacturing sales in February of this year alone was \$2 billion. That's growth of not eight, not nine, but ten and a half per cent. Saskatchewan is open for business.

Urban housing starts are up 76.4 per cent year over year in February. Investment in building construction is up a total of \$356 million compared to February of 2022. These are among the top growth rates in the nation. There were also 9,500 new jobs in March 2023 compared to a year ago. Most economic forecasts show that we will lead the nation in economic growth in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, Jason Childs, the associate professor of economics at the University of Regina, had this to say, and I quote: "We have remarkably low unemployment and our labour force participation rates are pretty high, and so it's not like there are people sitting around saying, I need a job."

More growth and diverse economic activity means we can invest in the programs and services that matter most to our residents. And we will continue making this province the best place to work and raise a family, because that's growth that works for everyone.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provincial Economy and Jobs Numbers

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a premier failing to deliver when it comes to job creation. And the latest numbers from Stats Canada, well they bear that out. Since that Premier came to office, he has the worst jobs record in Canada, Mr. Speaker; it's not even close. 3.9 per cent — certainly not scorching hot as that Premier would have us believe.

When will the Premier accept any responsibility for the fact that under his watch Saskatchewan has the worst jobs creation record in the whole country?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. More great news in Saskatchewan today. Wholesale trade numbers out, showing this province with a 30 per cent increase in wholesale trade over the last year.

That adds to some other wonderful statistics, Mr. Speaker. Exports are up nearly 32 per cent. That really is in large measure due to the work that we have been doing in working internationally, engaging internationally — something that the NDP criticize every single opportunity that they get.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, what do they accuse the government of? They accuse the government of being toxic positivity. That's their phrase, Mr. Speaker, they've been using to describe the government. On this side of the House, we're not going to apologize for being positive. We know our best days continue to be in front of us, and the days today are very good as well, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I think we've discovered toxic spin. But here's the fact: dead last in Canada under that Premier's watch. And the numbers from Stats Canada don't lie, no matter how you want to slice it or spin it. Last place since the Premier came to office, last place year over year, and more jobs lost in this province month over month than any other province in the whole country.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people need more jobs and bigger paycheques, not more spin and excuses from that tired and out-of-touch government. When will they own up to their own record and get to work creating the good jobs that Saskatchewan people so desperately need?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Nineteen thousand jobs — that's the number listed today on saskjobs.ca. That means employers who are looking for people to fill jobs that they have created, Mr. Speaker.

What do we hear from the NDP though? We hear the NDP constantly negative, talking down the economy, attacking the economy, going after job creators. That's what they do every single day, Mr. Speaker, that they come into this House. They try and find reasons to talk down our economy. We know that that's not right, Mr. Speaker. We know that this economy has created 9,500 jobs over the course of the last year. We know that our exports are up 32 per cent over the course of the last year. And today, Mr. Speaker, more great news: wholesale trade up 30 per cent over the last year.

I look forward to answering more questions.

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

Ms. Beck: — Let's make this point super clear for the minister. We are not talking down the job creators. We are talking down and holding this government to account for their own record of

job creation.

And there is so much this tired and out-of-touch government could and should be doing to create good jobs in Saskatchewan: scrap the PST [provincial sales tax] that they put on construction labour; build out renewable power; energy efficiency retrofits for homes and for those businesses. They could be making — and, Mr. Speaker, they should be making — investments in education and in health care. But that's not what we see from this government. They're tired, they're out of touch, and they're clearly out of ideas.

Why won't the Sask Party listen for once and take us up on some of our ideas for getting the economy going in this province?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There are investments happening in health care, 6.7 per cent increase this year; in education, 6.7 per cent increase in funding this year, Mr. Speaker.

I was just at the SUMA convention where we had the opportunity to discuss the 10,000 new jobs that are in this province year over year; 20,000 people in the last four and a half months, Mr. Speaker. That compares to a 700-person reduction under the 16 years of the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

There is something old and tired in this House, and it's not the Government of Saskatchewan.

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

Affordability and Cost of Living

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, how dare he talk about education when there are school boards across this province right now looking to make even more cuts because of underfunding from that government? It's clear this tired and out-of-touch government simply is not listening anymore. And they are completely, completely out of touch with the reality that Saskatchewan people are facing.

Latest numbers from Angus Reid show that Saskatchewan people, by every measure, are struggling more than any other province. Fifty-two per cent say that they're in bad or terrible shape and are struggling just to get by.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't have to be this way and it shouldn't be this way, not with the fantastic people and opportunity we have right across this province. Why is this tired and out-of-touch government making life more expensive when Saskatchewan people are facing a cost-of-living crisis?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, unprecedented support in this province with \$500 affordability tax credit cheques; continued tax reductions to small businesses, the driver of the economy here in the province of Saskatchewan; and a billion dollars in debt repayment. A billion dollars last year, another billion dollars this year in debt repayment, Mr. Speaker, ensuring that we are not

going to saddle future generations with that debt.

Mr. Speaker, again up at SUMA today talking about 10,000 jobs year over year, 20,000 people in the last four and a half months. They're coming here, Mr. Speaker, because there's a Cargill crush plant being built just west of this city; AGT has a partnership with Federated Co-op in another plant, Mr. Speaker.

We're seeing Viterra's investment just north of the city. Cargill again in Clavet, Mr. Speaker. We see Richardson doubling the capacity of their canola crush plant in Yorkton. And just last week, Louis Dreyfus has announced that they also are going to double the capacity of their facility in Yorkton. That's investment that is working for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, and ultimately growth that works for everyone in this province.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it is past time that that Premier stood on his own record, and here are the facts. We have a tired and out-of-touch government with the worst job creation record in the whole country not offering a single thin dime of relief for Saskatchewan families while they struggle with the cost-of-living crisis. And we have more people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis in Saskatchewan than anywhere else.

But, Mr. Speaker, the minister would have us believe that everything is just fine, the Premier that the job creation is scorching hot. Mr. Speaker, it shows how out of touch they really are.

Why won't the Sask Party government do something, anything, to offer families struggling some relief with the affordability crisis they're facing?

[14:00]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, "Saskatchewan's labour market has been scorching hot in 2022." Those aren't my words; those are The Conference Board of Canada's words, Mr. Speaker.

"We project GDP growth to be the strongest in Saskatchewan." That's RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] provincial outlook for the province of Saskatchewan.

TD [Toronto-Dominion Bank] has this, Mr. Speaker:

Saskatchewan is on track to record robust expansion this year. In fact we think that Saskatchewan will lead the pack in terms of real GDP growth fuelled by the goods-producing sector which is posting gains in industries such as manufacturing, mining, and oil production.

That's TD provincial forecast, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Scotiabank has things to say. CIBC [Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce] has things to say.

And here's another quote:

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

Mr. Speaker, that's the Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that tired and out-of-touch government and Premier has zero credibility when it comes to the cost of living. It's that Sask Party government that brought in the largest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history, that raised taxes and fees 32 times in last year's budget despite sitting on windfall revenues, and that has done nothing to offer relief in this year's budget. Nothing to help families paying for groceries, filling up their tank, or struggling to make ends meet.

Why is this tired and out-of-touch government failing to deliver any cost-of-living relief to families at all and instead just making life more expensive?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Well the tired and old NDP, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, is still trying to debate the 2017-18 budget instead of the budget that's before us. And that's a budget that increased the seniors' income plan to help with affordability. That is a budget that includes subsidies for the seniors' drug plan. It subsidizes seniors' ambulance and seniors' home care, and it increased the personal care home benefit, Mr. Speaker.

It's a budget that has among the lowest personal income tax in our nation. It's a budget that includes the active families benefit that helps families, something introduced by our government, Mr. Speaker. It has a first homebuyers tax credit, Mr. Speaker. It has a children's drug plan, something introduced by our government. It has \$10-a-day daycare in that budget.

For students we have the graduate retention program, the best in the nation. And we have the Sask affordability scholarship. We have, for vulnerable people, there's a low-income tax credit. The list goes on. I'm waiting for the next question.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are struggling to pay their bills more than anywhere else in Canada; 52 per cent say their finances are in bad shape or terrible shape, barely getting by. And that's not the only thing the poll shows. Saskatchewan people say they are more likely than any other province to cut back on essentials, struggle to pay for groceries, or draw down on their meagre savings to pay the bills.

Which of these three bothers the Finance minister the most: the fact that Saskatchewan people are cutting back on essentials, using their meagre savings to make ends meet, or struggling to pay for food?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Finance minister.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, what bothers me the most is that the NDP may ever get in power, and quite frankly I know that they won't.

If you turn to page 71 in our budget document, you will find that for a family of four we are the most affordable province in our country. Does that mean that it is simple in times of inflationary increases? No. There is struggles for families, and that's why we are keeping our taxation as low as possible, among the lowest in the entire country, Mr. Speaker.

For the most vulnerable, we have the low-income tax credit in our budget. We have the Sask housing benefit. We have the best disability tax credit and caregiver tax credit. We have the Sask Aids to Independent Living. And we have increases in this budget to all of our programs of income for those most vulnerable. Mr. Speaker, all of that is in this budget to help with affordability.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, if the Finance minister knew her budget, the very page and tables she's referencing would show that Saskatchewan people are paying more than \$1,000 each and every year — the average family — for the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history. People can't make ends meet. We have the highest rate of mortgage arrears in the country.

Meanwhile this tired and out-of-touch government is plowing ahead with higher taxes, higher energy bills, and higher power bills to pay for their mismanaged projects — projects like the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deals, the bypass, and so much more.

To the minister: how is this fair? How is it fair to make Saskatchewan people, to force Saskatchewan people to pay the price when it's Saskatchewan people that can afford it the least?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I remember well when Saskatchewan people truly struggled in this province, and that's when they were paying, for a family of four making \$75,000 a year, were paying under the NDP \$2,273 more in income tax than they do today. That is more, \$2,273 more, under the NDP than they are today. That is how much we have reduced the tax burden on families in this province, as well as adding programs to help those families out.

So, Mr. Speaker, we will support families. We recognize right now inflationary pressures do exist, but there are a lot of affordable measures in our budget, along with the \$500 tax affordability credit that we had last fall.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, what a joke. The Finance minister points to their predecessors' damage, the Grant Devine Conservatives' debt and record. Mr. Speaker, there's so much

this government could be doing to help families struggling with cost of living. They could be rolling back their fee and tax hikes that just keep going up year after year after year. They could scrap the job-killing PST on construction labour, and they could scrap their hikes to both SaskPower and SaskEnergy bills that are hurting families and small businesses.

Why won't this Sask Party government scrap their damaging cost hikes and instead make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that that member opposite will talk about the rising debt. Because he doesn't want the debt. He wants everything to increase. He doesn't want any taxes to pay for it. It is very interesting that he never explains where the money would come from.

Where's the magic money, Mr. Speaker, that's going to pay for increased spending and not having to borrow for it? Not once have they laid out a plan of where that magic money's going to come from because they have no explanation. They have no plan. They can line up and they can absolutely criticize everything when they have no plan of what they would do differently.

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

Engagement with Communities on Health Care

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, it is clear that this tired and out-of-touch government is absolutely failing to deliver on cost of living. But they're also completely failing to listen to local voices in health care. Everywhere we go, north or south, rural or urban, Saskatchewan people are frustrated that this government isn't listening to local voices in health care. People are afraid to speak out about the long waits for ambulances, about chronic short-staffing, and about ERs [emergency room] closed because of this government's failures.

Why has this tired and out-of-touch government done so much to centralize power and health care decision making in the Premier's office, and why are they shutting out local voices in health care?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Engaging with local communities is something that our government does regularly, whether it's on health care or any number of issues, and that's something that we are going to continue to do, Mr. Speaker.

It's why we've done the work that we have done with developing our new four-point health human resources action plan that was launched back in September. And that was based on a number of conversations that the Minister of Health and I had, travelling around the province, touring upwards and meeting with upwards of 45 communities, community leaders, front-line health care providers, community engagement networks, whether they're local foundations, Mr. Speaker.

As a matter of fact, this morning I had a virtual meeting with a community from northeast Saskatchewan. I've got another meeting tomorrow afternoon with a community from east central Saskatchewan. These are the types of meetings we continue to have with people right across this province, and issues that are brought to our attention by our local MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] across Saskatchewan as well, Mr. Speaker. And that's the work this government is going to continue to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, this government isn't listening anymore. I heard the minister say that they're engaging, but they won't even show up to the town halls that they're invited to, like they were in Delisle. They said no. They said no.

They won't listen to paramedics to try and find solutions to the fact that 216 people called for an ambulance in the first six weeks of this year and those people were told no. And they won't listen to nurses who are calling for a task force to fix the crisis in our ERs. Those nurses have been told no.

Why does this tired and out-of-touch government refuse to listen to health care workers and find solutions to the problems caused by this failed government? Why won't they say yes to nurses today?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were a number of questions and points in the member opposite's question. I'll speak to emergency medical services and ground ambulance, Mr. Speaker, where the member opposite is just not correct that we do not consult with and meet with and hear the concerns of those at our ground ambulance service.

You can refer to quotes from the president of the Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan following the budget about the investments that this government has been making into ground EMS [emergency medical services].

As an example, Mr. Speaker, \$8.8 million in this year's budget to address a number of things that have been brought to our attention by our EMS providers, such as adding more FTEs [full-time equivalent] for ground EMS across Saskatchewan; additional funding to help support the recruitment and retention of paramedics through wage parity funding, something else that the paramedics have brought to the attention of myself and the Minister of Health; work to provide and funding to provide supports for community paramedicine projects across this province as well; funding to support EMS radio monthly user fee increases; technology upgrades. Mr. Speaker, the list goes on.

That's the . . . We're hearing back from those individuals. We're going to continue to do that work, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, the only ideas that this tired and out-

of-touch government have come up with is centralizing more power in that Premier's office, and that minister telling burnt-out health care workers to do what they're paid to do.

Let's have a look at their record on community health advisory networks. These used to exist in communities across this province, ensuring local voices could be heard on local health care issues. But since the Sask Party government centralized our entire health care system, they've scrapped these local voices and they've refused to bring them back.

Why won't this tired and out-of-touch government listen to local voices and bring back community health advisory networks?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify for the record here, Mr. Speaker, *The Provincial Health Authority Act* recognizes the community advisory networks that were already in place when the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] was formed, with a specific provision that recognizes that these relationships will continue. So that already exists. Community advisory networks are one of many forms of communities that they may choose to engage with the provincial government on their local issues.

We also hear from and reach out to mayors, to reeves, as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, to local foundations, health committees, groups like SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and SUMA that the Premier spoke to earlier today and we'll be meeting with later this week as we participate at the SUMA convention.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's a vast list of a number of groups that already exist across this province: health care foundations, advisory committees right across this province. And that helps inform the decisions that are made by this government on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this minister keeps saying that everything's fine. And every time he speaks, it's just more proof of how tired and out of touch this government truly is. It's also more proof that we need to hear these local voices in health care more clearly because they've got insights and ideas that should be heard. Everywhere we've been in this province, local leaders and front-line health care workers have solutions to the problems that they face every day in their communities. But they feel like they're being silenced, silenced by a government that would rather have them keep quiet when the government should be listening, listening to what they have to say.

Why is this government shutting down local voices that have the ideas that we need to hear to fix our broken system?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite could not be more wrong. This government has met with

and will continue to meet with front-line providers, with community leaders right across Saskatchewan as the Minister of Health and I have done and will continue to do, Mr. Speaker, and bring those ideas forward. That, as I said, is what helped formulate the four-point health human resources action plan. And as we continue to make enhancements to that plan and adjustments to that plan, that is based on the feedback we're hearing from local communities and local representatives, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

And I can read a few quotes into the record here, Mr. Speaker. Here's one from the mayor of Shaunavon. He says, and I quote:

Thank you for meeting with us and listening to our concerns. We look forward to working with you to keep our facilities running smoothly and keeping our residents safe.

That's what the mayor of Shaunavon said on September 27th, Mr. Speaker, after I had travelled to Shaunavon, had a meeting with that mayor, and continue to engage with that community through their MLA and through others in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Availability of Naloxone for Harm Reduction

Ms. Mowat: — When that's the praise that the minister has to offer, it's a bleak world out there, Mr. Speaker.

The overdose crisis in our province continues to take lives and create chaos in our health system. A hundred and fifty-two people this year have lost their lives to this crisis. That's more than all overdose deaths in 2016 and more than all overdose deaths in 2017, and we're only three months into the year. And yet this tired and out-of-touch government refuses to use evidence-based policies that would save lives and stop the harm.

Will the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions listen to the local voices who are calling for intranasal naloxone, yes or no?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said in this Chamber before and I'll say it again to the member opposite, we are piloting right now a project, a pilot project to look at the efficacy of intranasal naloxone as it compares to intramuscular naloxone, Mr. Speaker. So that work is being done.

I met with the group of university students here a couple of weeks ago when they were advocating for this, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to take a look at the data closely and make some decisions based on that, do the appropriate homework that needs to be done, Mr. Speaker.

This is a very serious issue, and we're doing everything that we can to make sure that we enhance treatment capacity. As an example, Mr. Speaker, earlier today announcing the addition of 36 virtual treatment spaces through EHN Canada as part of our

continuing plan to add more treatment capacity, whether it's bricks-and-mortar facilities or virtual options for people — to allow them to access treatment — that might have challenges and barriers, that are not able to access treatment because perhaps, as an example, of where they live in this province. And we're going to continue to do that work, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 133 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'm here today to move second reading of Bill No. 133, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023*. This legislation implements the income tax initiatives that were announced on March 22nd, 2023 as part of the 2023-24 provincial budget.

Manufacturing and processing, M & P, is a key sector of Saskatchewan that drives growth and benefits all residents by unlocking Saskatchewan's economic potential. Mr. Speaker, to continue encouraging M & P businesses in Saskatchewan to expand their production and export capacity, I am pleased to announce that this legislation extends the M & P exporter incentive for one more year, with the revised sunset date of December 31st, 2023. This incentive provides non-refundable tax credits to eligible corporations that increase the number of M & P-related full-time employees above the number that were employed in 2014.

To be more specific, this incentive has been split into two parts: the hiring tax credit and the head office tax credit. The hiring tax credit provides eligible corporations with \$3,000 in non-refundable tax credits for each incremental full-time employee. The head office tax credit provides eligible corporations with \$10,000 in non-refundable tax credits for each incremental full-time head office employee. This incentive supports ongoing success in M & P sector and ensures that Saskatchewan manufacturers continue to grow and increase employment, providing benefits across the province.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill No. 133, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023*.

The Deputy Speaker: — It is moved that Bill No. 133 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. Deputy Speaker, and I want to thank the minister for her second reading comment. As always, we will be taking a close look at the legislation, and any time we talk about amending *The Income Tax Act*, there are a number of implications that need to be considered here.

So we'll be reaching out to stakeholders, make sure that those consultations have been done, as well as looking at any unintended side effects of the legislation as we do that work. But with that, I would move to adjourn debate on this bill for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Committee of the Whole on Bills.

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

Bill No. 106 — *The Police Amendment Act, 2022*

The Deputy Chair: — Pursuant to rule 89, the Assembly has committed Bill No. 106, *The Police Amendment Act, 2022* to this committee. Before we begin, I would like to remind members of the procedures for Committee of the Whole on Bills pursuant to rule 90:

When a bill is committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills pursuant to Rule 89, the following procedures shall apply:

(a) Two hours will be allocated to Private Members for questions and comments.

(b) Private Members may be recognized more than once but must yield the floor after 20 minutes; should the list of speakers be exhausted before the two hours are up, Members who have already spoken may be permitted to speak again.

(c) No time limits shall apply to the Minister of the Crown who is responsible for the bill while responding to questions.

(d) Once the time allocated for questions and comments has expired and upon the completion of the Minister's responses, the Chair shall put every question necessary to report the bill to the Assembly.

Madam Minister, would you please introduce your officials.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my right is Dale Larsen, deputy minister, Corrections, Policing and Public Safety; and behind me to my right is Rob Cameron, assistant deputy minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety. I have no additional comments on this bill.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you, Minister. By practice the committee holds the wide range of debate during the consideration of clause 1. That debate will include the principle and detail of all the clauses of the bills. Once clause 1 is voted on, a debate is limited to the clause under consideration.

Clause 1, short title. Madam Minister, if you would like to please make your opening statement.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Chair, I have no additional comments on

this bill.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you, Madam Minister. Are there any comments or questions on the bill? Seeing none, we will proceed to the vote on the clause. Clause 1, short title, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Carried.

[Clauses 1 to 8 inclusive agreed to.]

The Deputy Chair: — His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 106, *The Police Amendment Act, 2022*.

I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

The Deputy Chair: — It has been moved that the committee report Bill 106, *The Police Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Carried.

[The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Committees.

Mr. Fiaz: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 106, *The Police Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 106 — *The Police Amendment Act, 2022*

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

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 106, *The Police Amendment Act, 2022* be now read the third time and

passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Bill No. 129

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

An Hon. Member: — On division.

The Deputy Speaker: — On division.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — Third reading of this bill. When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Next sitting.

The Deputy Speaker: — Next sitting.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 128

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 128 — *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate on Bill No. 128, the mineral resources assessment Act. Now my understanding of the bill, it's a fairly short bill in length. It will amend subsection 10.1(2) of *The Mineral Resources Act* "... by striking out '10%' and substituting '30%', " providing for a larger tax credit for those in this industry.

Now I know my colleague, the critic, is working hard, reaching out to affected stakeholders to get their feedback about this legislation and the amendment within. And I do know that I have several other colleagues as well who are interested in entering into the debate with respect to this bill. To allow that further dialogue, I am prepared now to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 128.

[14:30]

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 129 — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll put a few comments on the record here in relation to Bill 129, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act* of 2023. At first sight, I'll voice support for bringing in more qualified health care professionals to our province. We know how desperately they're needed. We hear this debated in this Assembly and coffee row and, you know, kitchen tables around our province as folks are concerned about getting the care they need, where they need it and when they need it.

We know that this is a top issue for folks in Saskatchewan, access to health care, and that adding more professionals to the workforce is certainly something that we support. That being said, I think that there's a few concerns that I have. And maybe I'll kind of voice some of the things I'm looking forward to, and also some of the questions that still exist, in my comments today.

First of all, I don't think that this is . . . I don't think anyone in here thinks — certainly I haven't heard this from either of the Health ministers — that this is the solution to fix what ails our health system today. But let's just be clear. This is not the solution. This is a very small part. We're looking at maximum, even if this is fully realized, 12 individuals working as physician assistants, which is a new professional designation in our province.

I did review the minister's comments. We know that physician assistants are working in other provinces, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I had the honour to meet a physician assistant over the break, at a family gathering, who works in the United States. I said, I'm so thankful to have you here. Let's sit down. I want to know what you do. And I realize in the American system that there may be differences, but I got more information out of that chance encounter than I've heard from our Health minister on this plan.

Because this is new. This is new in Saskatchewan, and I don't think that we have a lot of details about where these 12 individuals will work, whether that will be in emergency care, acute care, primary care, long-term care. I heard the minister in his comments mention many options.

But again, this is 12 people. We're unclear about what we'll be doing to recruit these individuals. We currently don't train physician assistants in Saskatchewan, to my knowledge, and quite frankly I don't know where we do. I know that there are programs in Canada. But this is so very new and with few details, it is unclear about where these folks will be asked to move from to come to Saskatchewan.

But therein lies one of my concerns. We have a poor record at retaining health care workers. We have a poor record at retaining young professionals in this province. We have some of the worst rates of out-migration, especially when it comes to young

professionals, folks who are beginning their career. We're not keeping them in this province. So of course I'm going to have those concerns with a plan that is so short on details like this one is right now.

We know that health professionals, nurses, our physicians in Saskatchewan, well I hear support for this. But we also know that there are other things that they're asking for that this government isn't moving on. The biggest things that they're asking for around reforming primary care have not been addressed. Not in this budget. They're not being addressed by this minister. They're not being addressed.

So while I am very much looking forward to see how these 12 individuals will fit into our system and thankful for the family gathering to learn what it is a physician assistant does — you know, looking forward to it — but I can't be on my feet without mentioning the many ways that this Sask Party government is failing our system that is in crisis right now. And we've heard nurses say that anything, anything that doesn't acknowledge that crisis is simply out of touch.

We know that nurses are asking for a task force. They've got a resounding no from this government. We know that communities are asking for their local voices to be heard, which was always supposed to happen when health regions were amalgamated, and that's continued to be a no from this government. So at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will voice support and interest in improving our health care workforce through the amendments of this Act, but I will continue to listen with interest as my colleagues in opposition contribute their remarks to the record on Bill 129. So at this time I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 129, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 130

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 130 — *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debate on behalf of the opposition with respect to Bill 130, *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill creates a new Crown corporation, the Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan corporation, which will oversee gaming policy and management in our province.

According to the minister's remarks, this new Crown corporation, once fully operational, will oversee all casinos in the province, online gaming, and lotteries, as well as operating the video lottery terminal program. Under this bill, the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority will transition to becoming the

gaming regulator, while the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation will become a subsidiary of this new Crown.

With this bill, Mr. Speaker, we will see the continuation of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit gaming agreements. And I would like to say that we as the opposition are in support of the modernization of legal online gaming. But in saying that, we certainly do want to see that it is ensured that there will be a robust consumer protection plan that creates a culture of safe play online.

As always, Mr. Speaker, our critic for this bill will be consulting widely with stakeholders across the province to gather feedback around this proposed legislation. And I would like to note for the record, Mr. Speaker, that this government has a rather dubious and shady record when it comes to Crown corporations, and so we'll certainly be keeping a close eye out as this legislation does move ahead. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 130, *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 131

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

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will enter just briefly in on adjourned debate on behalf of the opposition with respect to this bill, Bill 131, *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*.

As I've already addressed the substance of this bill in my remarks around the associated bill just earlier, Bill 130, I will let those remarks stand for Bill 131 as well. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll now move that we adjourn debate on Bill 131, *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 132

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 132 — *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll be brief in my comments, perhaps not as brief as my colleague from Saskatoon University, but still brief. I'm happy to put some comments on the record on behalf of the opposition for Bill 132, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act*.

I've taken time to do a quick review of these amendments as well as review the Minister of Government Relations' comments that were put on the record in his second reading speech about this bill and these amendments.

I think what this comes down to, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the balancing between efficiency and safety. And for me, I'm not someone who is, you know, ideologically against or concerned about the introduction or the infusion or reliance on technology when it comes to safety. I think that it's part of our age that we're living in. We all experience this when we, you know, check out at a store differently than we did a decade ago. And technology is making things more efficient in many ways, perhaps cutting through some of that red tape or making the process more efficient. We've seen it in lots of ways in our everyday lives.

But I did see the minister put some comments on the record about ensuring that safety still exists, that there will be a number of checks and balances, if you will, ensuring that in this case the reliance on technology and innovation is not putting the health and safety of individuals at risk.

In particular I want to note that Saskatchewan has a dubious track record when it comes to workplace safety — that we have the highest numbers of workplace fatalities in the country. And so we need to be very, very mindful of that fact and thoughtful whenever we loosen restrictions on something that can put Saskatchewan workers at risk.

I saw the minister make several comments in relation to this, and referencing again those checks that will be included in here to ensure that safety is not compromised. But I suppose there's also a bit of a process here where we need to continue to listen to colleagues in opposition, ensure that that thoughtful consultation has taken place, so that folks who really know have been consulted, have been included, that truly safety of our workers will not be compromised here.

At this point though, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to move that we adjourn debate on Bill 132, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committee this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 pm.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:43.]

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