



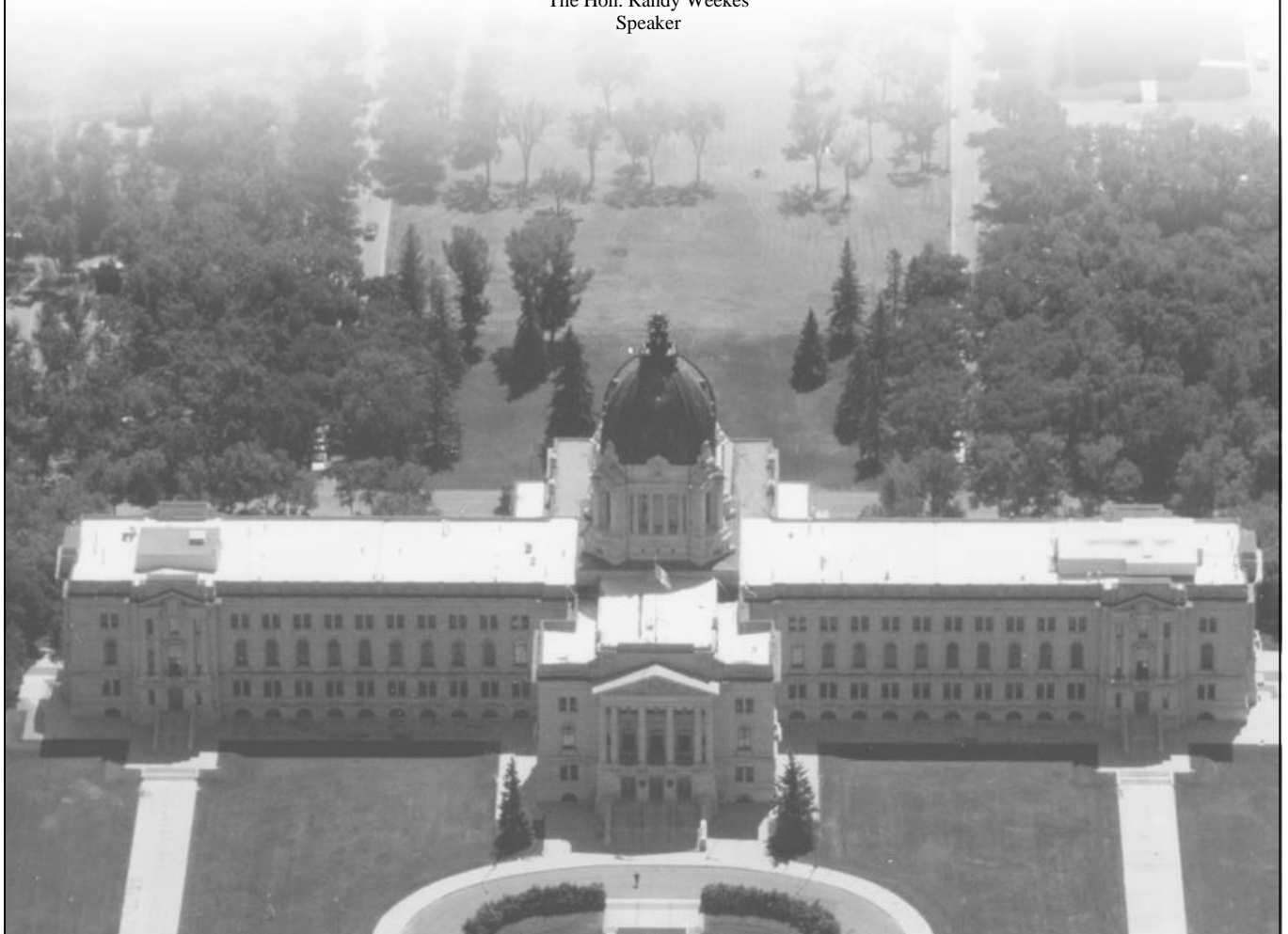
FOURTH SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
4th 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)	Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)	Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)	Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	McLeod, Blaine — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Burki, Noor — Regina Coronation Park (NDP)	McLeod, Hon. Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)	McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Clarke, Jared — Regina Walsh Acres (NDP)	Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)	Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)	Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (Ind.)	Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)	Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)	Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)	Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)	Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)
Hargrave, Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	Teed, Nathaniel — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)	Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

Standings

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 45; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 14;
Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Independent — 1

Clerks-at-the-Table

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

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Flowing from *The Saskatchewan First Act*, which came into force on September 15, is the independent assessment tribunal, whose purpose and role will be to determine, assess, and quantify the economic effects of federal policies and legislation on the people, businesses, and industries of our province. This morning I formally introduced the members of the tribunal, some of whom could join us in your gallery today.

Mr. Speaker, Chair Michael Milani, K.C. [King's Counsel] is a senior commercial and insolvency partner at McDougall Gauley with over 40 years of experience in practice, a former Estey Chair in business law at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Law, a former president of the Law Society and Federation of Law Societies of Canada, and the current Chair of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan.

In his legal capacity, Mr. Milani has undertaken various renewable energy projects for SaskPower, including negotiating power purchase agreements around wind and solar energy and agreements for the engineering, procurement, and construction of combined-cycle gas plants. I know Mike to be highly effective, professional, and honourable, and I know he will serve the tribunal and the province well.

It was also my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, this morning to introduce Vice-Chair Janice MacKinnon, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Member of the Order of Canada, and former Saskatchewan cabinet minister. In 2017 she was appointed to the federal advisory panel on NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] and the environment. In 2019 she was appointed by former Alberta premier Jason Kenney to chair the Blue Ribbon Panel on Alberta's Finances.

She remains a professor of fiscal policy at the School of Public Health at the University of Saskatchewan and is a senior fellow and member of the National Council of the C.D. Howe Institute.

Mr. Speaker, also able to join us today, Kenneth From, the former president and CEO [chief executive officer] of SaskEnergy, former CEO of the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and of the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan. He served as

an officer and director of Raven Oil Corporation from 2012 to 2016 and before that as president of Prairie Hunter Energy Corporation. A professional engineer, he also served from 2003 to 2004 as president of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan. When I was minister of SaskEnergy, I found Ken to be the definition of a detail person, and I know that his wide breadth of energy sector knowledge and expertise will serve the tribunal and the province very well.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, I also introduced Dr. Stuart Smyth, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan in the department of agricultural and resource economics whose research focuses on sustainability, agriculture, and innovation. He has published over 100 academic articles and is recognized as a leading expert on barriers to innovation and regulatory efficiency. He's also the Agri-Food Innovation and Sustainability Enhancement Chair at the University of Saskatchewan.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, Estella Petersen, whom I also introduced earlier today. She is a heavy equipment operator in Fort McMurray, Alberta, originally from Saskatchewan and Treaty 4 Cowessess First Nation. Estella has been part of Suncor Energy's Aboriginal ambassador program. She has also written eloquently, including for *The Globe and Mail*, about the crucial economic importance of the natural resource sector to Indigenous communities. As she told me after the press conference this morning, and contrary to what some of the questions suggested, just because you work in the oil sands doesn't mean you don't care about the environment.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — I should say. Estella offers a unique on-the-ground perspective which will be of great value to the tribunal's work.

Mr. Speaker, we are very pleased that this fine, distinguished group has agreed to serve on Saskatchewan's Economic Assessment Tribunal. Their work will be detailed, comprehensive, and valued. Please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a true, true pleasure to join with the minister in welcoming these individuals to their service on this tribunal, as well as Mr. Milani and Mr. From to this, their legislature.

Mr. Milani, we haven't met, but the list of accomplishments that the minister read off is truly remarkable, mildly terrifying, and I think illustrates a true life of professional service and a service to this province and all of its potential. And I want to thank you for being here today and for agreeing to serve Saskatchewan and its interests.

I also want to thank Janice MacKinnon, who I've never had the pleasure of meeting but whose career I've obviously followed closely, and whose book I read with relish and delight when I was first privileged enough to be elected to this Assembly, and who continues, I think, to serve in a number of capacities.

Dr. Stuart Smyth, again, just an individual with a remarkable résumé. And I note in particular the minister's commentary on his dedication to reducing barriers to innovation, which I think speaks strongly to his commitment.

And Estella Petersen from Fort McMurray, breaking barriers, using her voice to speak for her industry, her community, a proud member of Cowessess and Suncor. I look forward to her advocacy.

And last of all I want to give a special, hopefully appropriate shout-out to Ken From who had perhaps the misfortune of formerly being my boss at PTRC [Petroleum Technology Research Centre], who I worked under for a couple of years. And I have just been privileged to know you professionally and to watch all that you've gone on to do in your work with SaskEnergy as well as your background in the sector. I know Ken as someone who's incredibly accomplished, whip smart, charismatic, funny, cares deeply about his province, his sector, and just really brings excellence to all that he touches.

So with that, on behalf of the official opposition, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to add our welcome and congratulations to these members and thank them for their service to this province.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce a number of good-looking individuals seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. I don't have all their names. I've got four or five, and there's probably 20. So I feel sorry for the 15, so I'm not going to introduce any of you actually by name.

But I do want to say this is a group of paramedics, of course, and also firefighters that do an annual lobby in the legislature. I guess I'll introduce one because I met with him individually, Paul Hills from the Saskatoon Paramedic Association. But annually they do this lobby that brings their issues to the forefront for all of us legislators, both opposition and government.

And I want to say what a great job that you do, what a professional lobby you always have been. And although we haven't been able to follow through maybe on every suggestion that is made, I want you all to know that your suggestions are extremely valuable. And if it doesn't get done this year, continue on and, Mr. Speaker, we'll work to try and accommodate as much as we possibly can.

So on the government side, I want all members to join me in welcoming and thanking these professionals for what they do each and every day to keep our society safe. Thank you.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming all of these guests to their Legislative Assembly, all the firefighters and paramedics that are here with us. And I want to take a minute to also join with that member and all of us in thanking you for the work that you do each and every day, day in and day out, the work that you do on

the job serving people, many times in the worst moments of their life, very challenging moments that you show up with professionalism and care to serve this province.

But I also want to thank you for what you do when you're off the job. We know that these members with us here today, Mr. Speaker, they need to take care of themselves — their physical health, their mental health, their well-being — to ensure that when duty calls, when they're called to show up and perform, that they're able to do that. We know that it's an especially tough time to do that in a professional capacity with the pressures that you're facing on the job, so we thank you for all that you do on and off the job.

In particular, off the job, something that lots of folks might not realize but certainly would appreciate is the volunteerism that these members bring to their communities, getting involved in things like the Special Olympics, volunteering at track meets and things like that, helping out. I know I see professional firefighters and paramedics in my community all the time, giving back in their communities, and it's just another testament to how important you are as leaders in our province.

I will name a few by name, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank especially President Lloyd Zwack, who is in his last year here as president. Thank you for all of your work over the years and thank you for being such an effective leader of this organization. I'll also recognize Vice-President Clint Belitsky, Secretary-Treasurer Aron Gidluck, as well as all of the local presidents, vice-presidents, treasurers, and executive members from across the province.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, there's three individuals from Saskatoon Eastview I'd like to recognize, first responders in my constituency: Paul Hills, Jared Benson, and Greg Garbe. Thank you for being here today and for all the work that you do in our community.

The minister is correct, Mr. Speaker, that their lobby has been effective. And with the addition of six new presumptive cancers to the list, I do thank the government for listening to that lobby. But the credit goes to the individuals in the gallery today and those that came before them for being steadfast in their work, for presenting both sides of this Assembly with a thoughtful, researched, well-communicated lobby year after year to make a difference for your members so that they can make a difference in our province.

On behalf of the opposition and all members, I thank you for being here today. And I invite all members to join me in welcoming all of these firefighters and paramedics to their Assembly.

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

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I too would like to join the Minister of Government Relations and the member opposite in recognizing our Saskatchewan firefighters and paramedics, and special recognition to Lloyd Zwack who's from up in my area. It's good to see him again down here. And I want to thank you for the amazing work that you do in our communities.

Our Human Services Committee had the pleasure of meeting with them earlier today, and we had some very, very good conversation. And I ask that all members join me in welcoming this group to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to briefly join with the minister and with the members in welcoming all of the guests to their Legislative Assembly, but especially those firefighters and those paramedics seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. And I will name names.

This is the 26th annual Gerry Huget fall lobby, the last one that we will have Lloyd Zwack as president for. And I want to thank Lloyd for his service, his professional service in Prince Albert, his leadership, all of the good things he does in the community. And as has been said, someone who has not only led, led through some difficult times I'm sure, but has been incredibly effective. And the fact that with the passage of the bill in front of us, we will see Saskatchewan lead when it comes to presumptive cancers impacting your members, Mr. Speaker, that is a very fine legacy indeed.

And I invite all members to join with me in thanking this group and Lloyd Zwack for their service to this province. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to welcome the grade 4 class from Arcola School, accompanied by their teacher, Judy Naylen, and parent chaperones. Arcola School is home to the Panthers. So we welcome them and I ask all members to welcome them to their legislature. There is ice cream.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Friesen: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, it is a great day in Riversdale when I get constituents of mine showing up in their Assembly today. And it is my honour and pleasure to introduce Lyle and Dori Krahn, if you can give a wave. They're from the Holiday Park area of my constituency.

And we had a good chat this morning although I had to take off for a committee. But colleagues took over, and I'm not sure what stories they told you about me, but all true apparently. But they worked in this Assembly years ago in the — I'm not going to say how long ago because maybe that'll show how old we are — but they worked here for a number of years in this building, Mr. Speaker. So they're no strangers to this Assembly.

They have two children and seven grandchildren which, I will say, I'm quite jealous of that fact. But I really want to thank you for coming today. It was great chatting with you this morning. And I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

Mr. Skoropad: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it's a pleasure and an honour to welcome and introduce a constituent of mine, Larry Packet, seated in the west gallery. Larry and his wife, Judy, who is an LPN [licensed practical nurse] in the Davidson Health Centre, live on the farm just near Davidson.

And when the saying, Mr. Speaker, was first written, "If you want something done, ask a busy person," well that author had Larry Packet in mind. Because Larry is not only busy, but he's community-minded as well, Mr. Speaker. His latest venture, as a matter of fact, is serving as state deputy for the Saskatchewan chapter of the Knights of Columbus organization.

This is important and this is meaningful work, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to talking a little bit more about Larry and about the work of the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus in an upcoming member's statement. And with that I'd ask all members to help me in welcoming Larry Packet to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition calling on the government to address the affordability crisis. The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention that inflation is the highest it's been in more than three decades; that half of Saskatchewan residents were living paycheque to paycheque before transportation and food costs skyrocketed in 2022.

And I would argue, Mr. Speaker, the reason I am here in this role today is because the good folks of Regina Walsh Acres wanted to send the government a message that we need action on affordability and the cost of living in this province.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to meaningfully address the affordability crisis in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories today reside in Regina and Regina Walsh Acres. I do so present.

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

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the many questions that we get regarding affordability and the profound effect that the federal Liberal-NDP [New Democratic Party] coalition government federal carbon tax has on our residents, I'd like to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan that reads:

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: whereas the Trudeau Liberal-NDP coalition carbon tax is one of the main causes of affordability issues and inflation in the nation of

Canada, and that the federal government has signalled that the carbon tax does affect Canadians differently by issuing an exemption on home heating oil for Atlantic Canadian provinces; further that the province of Saskatchewan, 85 per cent of whom rely on natural gas to heat their homes, are unfairly left without support by the Liberal-NDP coalition who continue to drive up the cost of living with their price on carbon.

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 remove the carbon tax from all home heating costs across Canada to reduce inflation and drive down the rising cost of living faced by all Canadians from coast to coast.

The below undersigned are residents of Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for adequate funding for education. The undersigned residents of the province wish to bring to your attention the following: that education funding included in the '23-24 provincial budget is wholly inadequate and will lead to cuts in the classroom again. The Saskatchewan School Boards Association, who represents all 27 school divisions in a non-partisan way, have criticized this budget, stating that it further erodes education in our province. They note that the increase in the school division budget provides just 0.7 per cent for '23-24 school year.

Saskatchewan teachers say that they are baffled by this government's disregard for students. STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] President Samantha Becotte says, "Government either doesn't understand the issues or doesn't think they are important."

It's also important to note that these failures come after nearly a decade of funding that fails to keep pace with inflation and enrolment, and for years school divisions have described a system that is truly cut to the bone.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, call on the government to provide adequate, sustainable, and predictable operating funds for our 27 public and separate school divisions to ensure schools, teachers, and other caring professionals can meet the needs of students in Saskatchewan.

It is signed by the residents of Saskatoon Nutana with kids at Victoria School. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Community Association Fosters Connection and Celebration

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the Al Ritchie Community

Association has done it again with another great year of community building and activities. In 2022-23 a total of 14,314 pounds of food and clothes were given away for free and 12,741 people were served through community events and programs.

This year Al Ritchie acknowledged the growing need and introduced various youth programs to address multi-faceted challenges faced by our young community members. The afterschool program, youth mentorship program, and youth cook & eat classes have all catalyzed academic improvement, enhanced self-esteem, and equipped youth with essential life skills.

The adult and senior programs reached 1,976 individuals this year through activities like tai chi, adult arts and crafts, pickleball, and chair yoga. These programs transcend physical well-being, fostering mental and emotional health. In the coming year they plan to add additional arts and fitness programs.

Al Ritchie's community events, some of their most cherished times of the year, attracted approximately 4,970 participants, while growing a connection and celebration within Al Ritchie. Their Second Chance Community Shop and community pantry offers a lifeline to those in need and aim to address food insecurity in my riding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Al Ritchie Community Association, the board, and staff for their tremendous work in their community. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Saskatoon Children's Choir Wins Top Prize at Festival

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In July of this year the Saskatoon Children's Choir took home the top prize at the International Choral Kathaumixw in Powell River, British Columbia.

The Saskatoon Children's Choir was founded in 1996 by Phoebe Voigts. Phoebe started the SCC [Saskatoon Children's Choir] program because she wanted a safe place for children to sing. She never imagined that SCC would go on to teach hundreds of kids and win international awards. Mr. Speaker, for many years the Saskatoon Children's Choir has used music to draw attention to global issues, including projects to ban land mines, treat HIV [human immunodeficiency virus], support refugees, and prevent bullying.

Preparing for an international festival like this takes a lot of hard work, practice, and study. Mr. Speaker, to add to the challenge this year, SCC's concert choir was still regrouping from the lost seasons of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the 34 singers who travelled to BC [British Columbia], only six had ever been on tour before.

Despite the SCC's difficult times, this group of hard-working and dedicated children persevered and were named Choir of the Festival. Their program featured music composed or arranged by Canadians, along with Bach and some other international pieces. Voigts, who now serves as the choir's artistic director, said "I think when children sing well, it touches the soul. And there is

no question that they took what they learned in Saskatoon and performed brilliantly.”

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Saskatoon Children’s Choir team for their impressive accomplishment. Thank you.

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

Government’s Record on Housing

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Homelessness has hit a shameful high-water mark in Saskatchewan as a result of the Sask Party government’s cuts to housing supports and their lack of action. This government is sitting on over \$600 million worth of vacant housing units in Saskatchewan while families, seniors, and others are homeless; while the government has cut supports and funding for social housing by hundreds of millions of dollars over the past decade.

Even today the Sask Party continues to underfund these units so they can’t be repaired and made available to the people of this province. And while those units sit vacant, the government continues to pay over \$200 million worth of utilities, taxes, forgone rents associated with these units. Then they stick people in hotels owned by their colleagues and stick the public with the bill. This government thinks it’s a good news story to be building 22 new units in North Battleford, where 143 social housing units are sitting empty in The Battlefords alone.

The waste and mismanagement of this tired, old Sask Party government is nothing short of astounding, while the cost of living is absolutely hammering the people of Saskatchewan. The seniors and families of our province are sick and tired of their tax dollars being squandered through the policies and practices of this government. This government should be embarrassed about the over 3,000 units sitting empty across Saskatchewan. Their record on housing is one of absolute failure, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Credit Union Donates Funds to Women in Ukraine

Ms. C. Young: — Mr. Speaker, the war in Ukraine has not ended and, as we know, many families have been displaced and have had to call new places home, including right here in Saskatchewan. The Lloydminster Synergy Credit Union recognized that the humanitarian needs of Ukraine are many, and particularly for women. Synergy Credit Union recently fostered a relationship with Ukraine, and through their new community development legacy fund chose to donate \$100,000 to a women’s program called SEW [Supporting Economic Prosperity for Women and Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine] in Ukraine.

Synergy’s donation will help fund a program that aims to rebuild and promote economic prosperity for 2,200 vulnerable and displaced women. This program supports women through access to employment, vocational training, workplace integration programs, and ancillary services such as shared child care facilities. SEW also supports women establishing co-operatives and micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, providing them with higher skills and new-found opportunities for long-

term sustainability.

The funds provided will specifically address food insecurity in Ukraine caused by the war, and support agricultural co-operatives. Lloydminster Synergy Credit Union says their \$100,000 donation is the first of many over the coming months that will add up to \$1 million in support of more worthy community initiatives.

Please join me in thanking this grassroots financial institution on continuing to support the community of Lloydminster, but also extending open hearts to important causes around the world.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

Knights of Columbus Provides Coats for Kids

Mr. Skoropad: — Mr. Speaker, November 6th was a milestone day for the Knights of Columbus organization. It was on this day that the one millionth coat was donated as a part of the international Coats for Kids program that began in 2009. As we have become accustomed in this province, Saskatchewan has 10,000 members of the Knights of Columbus punching well above its weight in this campaign, proving to be most generous in terms of coats donated and volunteer hours committed.

Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan we know the strength of team. And to that end, the Saskatchewan chapter of the Knights of Columbus has partnered with the Prince Albert Grand Council, Saskatoon Tribal Council, and the Meadow Lake Tribal Council to help deliver coats to children right here at home in most need. And on Monday, Mr. Speaker, they’ll be headed up to the community of Fond-du-Lac to give out more coats.

Mr. Speaker, grass does not grow well under the feet of state deputy Larry Packet of Davidson and the 134 councils he represents, as they have already begun work on the next million Coats for Kids campaign.

And I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that today is a special day. Today is Giving Tuesday, a day that encourages people to do good like that done by the Knights of Columbus over the 116 years of service in this province. And with that in mind, I want to thank and encourage all people and organizations in Saskatchewan who selflessly work today and throughout the year to provide for those in need. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Agreement Improves Firearm Safety and Education

Mr. Lemaigre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In partnership with Saskatchewan Métis Nation, our government has signed a memorandum of understanding focused on firearm safety and education. This agreement plays a crucial role in recognizing and preserving the cultural and historical practices of hunting and trapping. We aim to empower our citizens through education and licensing, ensuring that firearm safety is deeply ingrained in our societal fabric. Our collaboration will focus on minimizing unnecessary criminalization, fair compensation for seized firearms, and safeguarding the privileges of gun owners.

[14:00]

This potential establishment of a community educator position supported by potential funding up to \$50,000 exemplifies our effort to make firearms safety education and licensing more accessible. This initiative is vital in supporting our citizens in obtaining their possession and acquisition licences, ensuring they are well-informed and equipped to handle firearms responsibly.

This memorandum is more than a document. It's a bridge fostering understanding and respect between the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the wider community. It signifies our continuous effort to build a strong government-to-government relationship and a shared commitment to preserve the Métis Nation's distinct culture and way of life.

Let us move forward together, committing to safety, education, and mutual respect as we honour our heritage and embrace our future. Thank you.

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

Government Funding for Microreactor

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week our government announced that we will be providing \$80 million to the Saskatchewan Research Council. The SRC [Saskatchewan Research Council] will use these funds to pursue the demonstration of a microreactor in our province.

Mr. Speaker, this project has the potential to totally transform our economy, industry, and communities. Our government believes that the future of Saskatchewan's economy and energy grid can be found right here at home. Thanks to the work of the dedicated researchers at the SRC, we're charting a course that will see Saskatchewan become a provider of clean and reliable energy that the entire nation can be proud of.

The SRC is the second-largest research and technology organization in Canada. Mr. Speaker, we've partnered with Westinghouse Electric Company to develop the eVinci microreactor here in the province. The surrounding infrastructure for this type of reactor is less than two-thirds the size of a hockey rink and produces 5 megawatts of electricity or over 13 megawatts of high-temperature heat.

We're excited about the possibilities this technology has for Saskatchewan people, and we're also proud, Mr. Speaker, to announce that the SRC will be joining the Saskatchewan delegation at COP28 [Conference of Parties 28] this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing the work of the SRC and Westinghouse Electric in this exciting new chapter of Saskatchewan innovation.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Health Care Staffing and Support for Emergency Services

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver on health care. We see that in our hospitals where nurses are holding protests outside, where we

have fire code violations in the ER [emergency room], and we see that in ambulance care.

Earlier this fall we released FOI [freedom of information] data that shows that there were more than 1,100 cases when a Saskatchewan person needed a local ambulance but no ambulance was available.

How does the Premier defend that record, and how is that building and protecting Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, we've been on the floor of this Assembly and the rotunda speaking to the investments and the recent addition to those investments in ambulatory care, not only in the city of Regina but across the province, including the rural areas of the province.

Ambulatory care or EMS [emergency medical services] care is a part, is part . . . Well if they'd like to hear the answer, Mr. Speaker, I'll provide an answer. It's part of a continuum of emergent care and urgent care in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Just earlier today myself, the Minister of Health, a number of other members of the government had the opportunity to go and tour an 85-per-cent-complete urgent care centre right here in the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker. In there not only is there going to be urgent care offered to the citizens not only of Regina but surrounding communities, but also, also will speak to being that single point of intake for those that may be having a mental health crisis or may have entered a life of addictions and are looking for some of the recovery supports that are also being built out here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

And so investments continue not only in ambulatory care, investments continue not only in our emergency rooms, but investments continue in new and innovative ways to provide health care here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, ways that really have not been offered anywhere else in Canada.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, we're joined today by professional firefighters and paramedics, and they know all too well the crisis that our first responders are facing.

Chronic short-staffing means that people don't get the care they need when they need it. And ambulance shift-supervisor logs we received through an FOI show just how bad things are, with hours-long offload delays or OLDs becoming the norm. From one of those logs, Mr. Speaker, I quote: "Insane night. The calls never stopped. OLDs at RGH all night with 10 patients stacked at one point."

Does the minister think that it's acceptable to have 10 patients waiting and for the workload to be insane on the regular?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier to the investments that we are making in ambulatory care, also investments that were announced over the course of the last week

or week and a half in our emergency room staffing to ensure that we are able to turn those ambulances around, make them available to the community again.

Yesterday the Minister of Health had spoken to the fact that just in the last 12 months, we have hired, the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority], pardon me, has hired 870 new graduate nursing students into our system, into our facilities, Mr. Speaker. On top of that, 410 offers have been made to folks from the Philippines, medical health professionals from the Philippines, 90 of which are offering services and bridging in our facilities here today to help turn those ambulances around, make them available to the community.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, we had the opportunity to tour an 85-per-cent-complete urgent care centre on north Albert Street here in Regina. We look forward to the opening day of that facility in the new year, which will offer additional urgent care services, reducing the strains on our emergency rooms here in the city of Regina — and consequently in Saskatoon when that one is built in the partnership with Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation — offering services to the residents not just of Regina but the surrounding areas, getting our ambulances back in service to the community quicker, Mr. Speaker, when you combine that with the most ambitious health human resource plan in the nation of Canada.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier has professional paramedics in the gallery today. I suggest he put the lines down and listen to these folks, because there's far more.

Here's another log from June 15th, and I quote: "Busy night from the start. OLDs at RGH three hours; Pasqua, two hours. OLDs just cripple our ability to respond."

And this one, Mr. Speaker, from July 3rd: "Both hospitals just absolutely overrun at shift change. Very busy night. Down two trucks basically and lost a crew at each hospital. It's killing crews. Sad face emoji."

How much more does this tired and out-of-touch government need to hear before they recognize that this is their record and it's past time that they listen to the local voices in health care, like the nurses and firefighters and paramedics who are reaching out to fix the crisis in our health care system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — As I said, Mr. Speaker, 870 new graduates hired into the system are going to help us unload those patients, provide them the services that they need and make that ambulance available to the residents of not only Regina but all Saskatchewan communities.

The millions of dollars, additional dollars invested in our ambulatory care will add staff to our ambulance services across the province, Mr. Speaker. 410 folks that have been offered, medical professionals that have been offered positions from the Philippines — as I said, 90 of those are in our communities today — are going to help turn those ambulances around, make them available to whatever community they're operating in, which

includes the capital city of Regina, Mr. Speaker.

And the urgent care centre that we were touring this morning that is 85 per cent complete is going to be yet another opportunity for our ambulances to access, on behalf of the patients that may require their services, the care that they need.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier is quoting some math but I don't think many people would find his government's math very trustworthy these days in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, these ambulance logs show all the bad things happening in our health care system under the watch of this tired and out-of-touch government. Here's another one from August 15th: "Longest continuous offload 10-plus hours. OLDs at both hospitals all day."

From September 1st: "Longest continuous offload seven-plus hours. General OLD unreasonable, been all shift. Have eight patients as of this writing." From May 23rd: "OLD at both places, both running two to four hours at a crack. Longest continuous offload six-plus hours."

How is this acceptable to that minister? Why won't he work with health care workers to fix this broken system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'll begin by thanking those folks who have joined us here today in the galleries and also who are providing this very valuable service for us as ground paramedics, as firefighters across Saskatchewan, each and every day, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Mr. Speaker.

This government is going to continue to support the people in this gallery and paramedics right across this province. Mr. Speaker, in this year's budget we have an \$8.8 million increase towards EMS services across the province.

The member opposite likes to quote from the ambulance logs, and yes, Mr. Speaker, we do face some challenges out there. But we are addressing those challenges, Mr. Speaker. From those same logs, June 18th: "Really good night again." July 22nd: "Steady night. No offload delays." August 25th: "Great day overall. Good night." September 24th: "Good night overall."

Again recognizing that we do have pressures, which is why we're making these investments, why we continue to meet with front-line providers, with paramedics, with ground EMS, to make sure that we can continue to build upon the work that's already been done in collaboration with our partners in health care, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do like to quote from those logs. And I've got more quotes for that minister. From July 10th: "Offload delays at General all night, five to six deep." From July

25th: “Longest continuous offload all day. Single patient more than six hours. OLDs all day at RGH and/or Pasqua.” From June 25th: “Tons of ODs. OLD issues at Pasqua despite multiple open rooms.”

Mr. Speaker, these delays are caused by this tired and out-of-touch government’s short-staffing crisis in our hospitals. Nurses want to help and they’ve called for a task force to fix this. Why won’t that minister just say yes to the nurses, so we can fix these chronic problems in our hospitals that lead to those long delays?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Multiple topics in the member’s question once again. I’ll focus on EMS today as we have the guests here in the gallery, Mr. Speaker.

As I said previously, this government is making some significant investments into EMS. I talked about the \$8.8 million increase for EMS services, \$2.6 million for wage parity funding for paramedics working for contracted services. Additional funding, a 2 per cent grant increase for contracted ambulance operators to mitigate some of the pressures they are facing, Mr. Speaker.

More training seats through Sask Poly and our Saskatchewan regional colleges, Mr. Speaker, adding an additional 100 paramedic care, paramedic training seats in our post-secondary institutions to bring more people into that system. We’re going to continue to work with our front-line health care providers on these initiatives.

Here’s a quote, Mr. Speaker, from March 24th, and I quote: “It’s a great budget for ground EMS. It doesn’t meet everything 100 per cent, but that can’t happen overnight,” says Steven Skoworodko, president of the Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan. We continue to work with the front-line health care providers to address these challenges.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, if that Health minister doesn’t understand the connections between nurses’ concerns and paramedics, then he better give his head a shake and check his notes again.

You’d think from everything that he has to say that everything’s just fine in our health system, but that’s not the case. I’ll quote again from these logs from August 12th: “Multiple extended OLDs at both hospitals. Always got to be these doggone offload delays.”

And that’s not the only dog reference, Mr. Speaker. From September 30th:

OLD bad. Longest, eight-plus hours at one point. Six of my nine units were tied up at the General ER. [Six of nine.] Two more tied up at Pasqua. Eight of nine units tied up at the hospital. That dog don’t hunt.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister finally admit that when it comes to Sask Party’s record on health care, as these paramedics said, “That dog don’t hunt.”

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite wants to talk about the government’s record when it comes to ground EMS and health care. Well we’ll talk about the record, Mr. Speaker. Here’s the record. In February we announced \$2.4 million for 24.5 full-time equivalent paramedic positions here in the city of Regina to staff two additional ambulances and two additional paramedic response units, Mr. Speaker. That’s this government’s investment into ground EMS.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to rural health care and rural EMS, where we have a very aggressive rural EMS stabilization plan, adding full-time positions into rural communities and remote communities as well right across this province. In June of this past year, Wakaw adding additional hours to its second ambulance to create 8-hour staff, 16 hours on call; June 1st, Hudson Bay adding enhanced staffing and guaranteed eight hours per day with 16 hours on call; Porcupine Plain, same thing; Cupar, same thing; Wakaw, more enhanced ambulance services; Kindersley, adding a second ambulance, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, I do want to talk about this government’s record in health care because these FOIs clearly show that this tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government is failing to deliver on health care for the people of Saskatchewan. And that is especially true when it comes to ambulances.

But there’s hope, Mr. Speaker. The firefighters and paramedics who are here today are asking this government to work with them, open up *The Ambulance Act*, and collaborate on the changes we need to fix the problems in health care.

Will the minister say yes for once? Will he agree to work with firefighters and paramedics to fix this broken system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Myself as the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, as well as members from across the government on this side of the Chamber meet regularly, meet regularly with front-line providers, with their various organizations, with fire chiefs across this province, Mr. Speaker, and have these discussions around how we can continue to improve ground EMS in Saskatchewan. So we’ll continue to have those conversations.

My question would be, what would the members opposite do? What sort of changes are they proposing for ground ambulance, Mr. Speaker? I’d ask for them to put their position — for once — to put their position on the record, Mr. Speaker.

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

Emergency Shelter for Individuals with Complex Needs

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. This tired and

out-of-touch government isn't listening to people. This government is turning the former SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] store on Idylwyld into a shelter for people with complex needs. Before making this announcement, the Sask Party did zero consultations with people who live and work nearby. Many of them are my constituents.

Why is the Sask Party opening this shelter without doing any consultation with impacted community beforehand?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, in terms of our work on homelessness in and around Saskatchewan, we made an announcement a couple of months ago now, \$40 million in addition to the work being done by my colleague on mental health and addictions. Always working to increase capacity. Three hundred more beds total in the province for supportive housing, traditional emergency shelters, and those with complex needs, Mr. Speaker.

This is exactly what our municipal partners have been asking for. This is exactly what the police have been asking for, Mr. Speaker. We saw the work being done by city council last week in terms of hearing from the community, Mr. Speaker. There was pamphlets and information sent around to the surrounding community is my understanding. And so we're going to continue to work with the community to help individuals who are most vulnerable out there.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, let me be blunt. We need more complex-needs beds in Saskatoon. We need more mental health and addictions supports. We need action on housing for people.

There is a right way and a wrong way to do this. Help us understand why this tired and out-of-touch government isn't doing any consultation with people who have concerns and questions.

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we made an announcement around a month ago — I think I maybe said in my previous answer an incorrect date — so we're going to continue to work with our municipal partners who've asked for this for quite a long time. Police have asked for this for quite a long time, a place to put individuals who are having challenges. They're a danger to themselves. They could be potentially a danger to the public.

So we've come up with this significant investment, Mr. Speaker, to keep our communities safe. I talked about the outreach that ministry has done with the business on that particular block. We've worked with the city to get information out to the public. It was out in the council chambers in Saskatoon with a 10 to 1 vote in favour of this coming through.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're working very hard to meet the needs of individuals who are struggling. Even her colleague, the member

from Fairview, wrote a letter to me that says, we need more spaces; we need more dispersed locations. Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what we're doing.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, people have questions that aren't being answered, so I put them in a letter to the Premier last week. What supports are going to be there? How did the government choose this location? What's the plan for people after their 24 hours in the shelter are up? What supports are going to be there for residents and business owners? When will we get answers to those questions? And finally, what is the contingency plan if this call falls apart?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, we know there are certainly challenges out there in our communities with those struggling with mental health and those struggling with addictions. We're hearing about that all the time.

Part of the approach to homelessness that we brought forward is to increase the amount of shelter spaces, to increase the amount of supportive living, and we're going to continue to do that. So we will work with our community partners; this is what they've asked for. We're going to continue to work on these, Mr. Speaker, and see how this approach works. And we're looking at many approaches to be able to deliver on a way to keep the community safe but also help those who are most vulnerable.

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

Social Services' Policies on Emergency Hotel Stays

Ms. Conway: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. They're simply not listening. They're not listening to the solutions coming from front-line workers in the health care system, from paramedics whose situation could not be more worse, from concerned Saskatoon residents, and they're not listening to Saskatchewan people who have fair questions about this government's waste of public dollars.

Sunrise Motel, owned by a government MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], where the rate jumped up 50 per cent when taxpayers started picking up the tab. Evelyn checked in at 119 per night. That rate shot up to 200 once this ministry was shamed into picking up the tab. They spent more than \$750 to save a \$200 damage deposit.

The explanation didn't make any sense last week and it doesn't make sense now. How does the minister justify this waste of taxpayer money?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, again similar to my previous answers, our priority is to help vulnerable people in difficult situations, in emergency situations often, in our province to find them a safe, warm place to stay. And so that's what we're talking about with the provincial approach to homelessness. We

also occasionally have to use hotels in emergency situations, Mr. Speaker.

So as I've said before, the ministry is reviewing the policy. We're looking at that. We're committed to getting the information the member has asked for as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to look at the situation as we move forward. Thank you.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, they've cut public housing to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. They've manufactured this crisis. Now they have to stick people in hotels and then stick Saskatchewan people with the bill. It's the minister's responsibility to make sure that his ministry has policies to protect the taxpayer and make sure dollars aren't being wasted.

We now know \$172,000 was paid out to his colleague, the owner of Sunrise Motel, just last year. We've asked for the policies associated with hotel stays to be tabled. Where are they? When will the minister do that? Or does the ministry just not have policies in place to protect the public?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said before many times in this House, we are looking at this policy to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used appropriately of course. But also we want to make sure that individuals who are in a difficult situation, an emergency situation quite often, to be able to find a safe place to stay. Sometimes that involves emergency shelters. Sometimes that involves hotels. This is the same policy that's been for many years in Saskatchewan, having to use hotels, and was the same as under the members opposite is my understanding.

So again in light of this situation, I've asked the ministry to look at policies and procedures around this situation. That work is under way. We're also looking to get as quickly as we can the information that has been requested by that member. Thank you.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people want answers about how this government is wasting public money, particularly in light of this week's budget announcement. It's our job as legislators to hold this government to account, but last week when I tried to put forward a motion for the Provincial Auditor to look into this mess, the Sask Party voted it down. What a shame, Mr. Speaker. It stinks. Sunlight is the best disinfectant; and at the Sunrise Motel, it's going to take a lot of disinfectant.

Why did the Sask Party block the auditor from doing a special investigation? Where are the requisitions? Where's Evelyn's damage deposit? Where are those numbers I asked for? What are they trying to hide?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, again as I've said before, we're reviewing the policy, taking a look at that within the

ministry and trying to find best practices. The Provincial Auditor, as I've said before, is free to review anything that she wants and that has happened many times in the Ministry of Social Services, even in my time as the minister. And they are free to look at anything to do with it.

But it is my understanding, through officials' communications, that the auditor is in fact going to look at this matter, the policies and procedures around it, in her next cycle of audits. So that that work will continue, Mr. Speaker, and the ministry will comply fully with that and work with the auditor just as they have done many times before.

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

Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, in answers to written questions tabled by this government, we learned that for survivors waiting to see a counsellor after a sexual assault in northern Saskatchewan, the average wait times are three to six months. Three to six months of waiting, Mr. Speaker. It's completely unacceptable. We see this government move with lightning speed to pass legislation and act in areas that are their priority, but we see nothing to address these unacceptable wait times.

When will we see action from this government to ensure survivors of sexual assaults in northern Saskatchewan won't have to wait three to six months to see a counsellor?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm certainly aware of the written question and of the situation. I would disagree with the characterization. \$27.5 million we've committed as a government this year to addressing interpersonal violence; and as part of that, 1.7 million committed to sexual assault service providers across the province.

And we would submit that it is making a difference. Of the community areas reporting, which the member opposite asked about, two communities do have proportionally higher wait-lists. However even including those two communities, the average wait-list to see a counsellor at a sexual assault service provider is 36 — as in 36 ahead of one in the queue, Mr. Speaker.

There's always work to do and certainly we are attempting to do that, Mr. Speaker, covering the gamut of initiatives that try to address this and the waiting list, at which for some sexual assault services, the wait-list is zero.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Point of order arising from question period, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — State your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members

in the Chamber well know, impugning the integrity and honesty of other members is unparliamentary. During question period the member for Saskatoon Eastview said that a member isn't trustworthy. That's clearly out of order. I'd invite the member to withdraw and apologize.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw and apologize.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 153 — *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2023*

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

[14:30]

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 153, *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 153 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I recognize . . . Why is the member on her feet?

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Leave to return to ministerial statements, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Leave to return to ministerial statements. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Referral of Federal Regulations to the Economic Impact Assessment Tribunal

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just over a year ago we announced *The Saskatchewan First Act*, which amended our own provincial constitution to entrench and reconfirm

Saskatchewan's exclusive provincial jurisdiction over natural resources and power generation under section 92A of the Constitution. The Act came into force on September 15 of this year. In the Throne Speech, we announced that we would initially be referring three sets of federal regulations to the economic tribunal whose members were introduced earlier, Mr. Speaker, namely the clean electricity regulations which we are officially referring today, proposed oil and gas caps, and the federal fuel standard. Other referrals may well be to come.

Of late there has been something of a tipping point and growing momentum when it comes to recognition of constitutional provincial jurisdiction, with two key recent decisions on federal-provincial jurisdiction. One was the Supreme Court holding on the federal *Impact Assessment Act*, or Bill C-69. The other, just two weeks ago, was the Federal Court decision on the federal government's classification of all plastic manufactured items as toxic. Both courts held for provincial exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces and that the federal government had exercised far too overly broad an overreach into that jurisdiction. Both are a strong symbol and signal to the jaded voices who would rather have us bow down and accept uneven treatment in this country, a double standard, and literally impossible expectations.

Our efforts, Mr. Speaker, starting with *The Saskatchewan First Act* last fall on behalf of Saskatchewan people, have shown that resistance is not futile. The timing is right now. And when provinces speak up against what is always unilateral, not collaborative action by the federal government, things can change. We are seeing that. It's always just do it, pay for it, or else. That cannot go on.

The federal government has not costed out any of these policies, which is why the work of the tribunal will be so important. And, Mr. Speaker, as the Vice-Chair, Janice MacKinnon, said in the news conference this morning, no one should accept federal policy without knowing the cost. In her report, *Alberta 2023 and beyond*, when she looked at that province and their finances, she and her co-authors wrote:

A major challenge to the province is addressing federal government climate change policies. The federal government often acts unilaterally, does not respect provincial jurisdiction, and establishes unrealistic, unachievable targets.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, it was Minister Steven Guilbeault who said, how fair would it be for the rest of the federation if we started carving out exceptions for provinces? Our thoughts exactly.

Mr. Speaker, today, along with the membership of the economic impact tribunal whom I introduced earlier, we are also formally announcing that we will be referring the federal clean electricity regulations for first consideration to the tribunal. Once we receive the tribunal's report on the anticipated dollar figure impact of these regulations, we will decide as government how to proceed. And one strong possibility could be that we submit that finding as evidence in legal action in defence of and to protect Saskatchewan's autonomy, constitutional rights, and future economic prosperity.

We believe that referring these regulations to the economic

tribunal sends a strong signal, and we hope, by putting a dollar figure on the regulations' impact, will exert pressure on the federal government to fundamentally change and/or pause them. As *The Globe and Mail's* John Ivison wrote last week on Saskatchewan's efforts on the clean electricity regulations, "No wonder the provinces most impacted are asserting their constitutional rights, particularly on a subject that is so existential to their survival as electricity rates."

On behalf of the government, Mr. Speaker, and the Premier, who boldly set us down this path of Saskatchewan first, we are proud to establish the economic assessment tribunal. No other Canadian jurisdiction has created, if I dare say, such a clear, transparent process and path for assessing federal initiatives and their economic impact on provincial economies with autonomy legislation. No other province has an economic assessment tribunal.

A strong Saskatchewan, as part of what must be truly co-operative federalism, means a strong Canada. Confirming Saskatchewan's place as part of co-operative federalism also means asserting our exclusive constitutional right to develop natural resources and power generation and grow our economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to rise in response to the ministerial statement. And I'd like to thank the Minister of Justice for providing a copy of her remarks in advance.

First I want to thank the individuals who have agreed to serve on the tribunal for the purposes of this referral, very well-respected individuals who we know will do a thoughtful and careful analysis of this and produce something that will be, I believe, very well done. In particular to the two individuals who are here, Mr. From, who is very well respected within the energy sector and the public service, and Mr. Milani, who I know to be someone who is a very well-respected member of the bar.

I would be remiss however if I didn't mention a few things the minister had remarked on as, with respect, she does have the tendency to overdramatize the actions of her government. First of all, as has been stated before, you cannot entrench what already exists in the Constitution. The Sask first Act merely repeated what already exists in the Constitution, and it's not the ability of any government, including this one, to entrench something that already exists, Mr. Speaker.

As well to be clear, the legislation, the Sask first Act, was not needed for the government to do what they always do and other governments have also done when there are matters of questions that they want to investigate — to strike a committee, to have a committee of experts weigh in and seek input on a specific issue and create a report. Governments across the country do that. This government has done that as well. Again legislation and the amendment to the Saskatchewan Act was not needed to do that, Mr. Speaker.

Once again I'd like to thank the individuals who have decided to be a part of this committee. We're very appreciative of their

work. My colleague the critic for Energy has already relayed and laid out our concerns about the clean electricity regulations, Mr. Speaker. So once again thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this matter.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 138

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 138 — *The Workers' Compensation (Extending Firefighter Coverage) Amendment Act, 2023*** 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 in the debate on Bill 138, Mr. Speaker. We had a number of individuals here in the gallery today who care very passionately about portions of this legislation, in particular those that seek to amend and expand the list of presumptive cancers. That's something that the firefighters and paramedics in particular have been advocating about for a while. We're very happy that Saskatchewan will be a leader on that front once this bill passes.

We had a number of questions, Mr. Speaker, about the remainder of the bill as there are other portions of the bill that aren't related to that ask from those individuals. Very much looking forward to having the opportunity to ask questions about this bill at committee. In order to facilitate that work, I'm now prepared 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. 138 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

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

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

Bill No. 151

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 151 — *The***

SaskEnergy (Carbon Tax Fairness for Families) Amendment Act, 2023 be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet again to enter into debate on Bill No. 151, *The SaskEnergy (Carbon Tax Fairness for Families) Amendment Act, 2023*.

I want to start off by acknowledging and thanking the member for Regina Walsh Acres for the originating motion that led to the development of this bill and calling for fairness when it comes to the cost for home heating in Saskatchewan and the removal of a pollution price on home heating fuels, including natural gas and other types of fuel, here in Saskatchewan. It was incredibly unfair to the people of this province for the federal government to bring in a carve-out for a certain region of the country to the exclusion of all else and have that further insult with the flippant remarks of the federal minister suggesting that we vote in more Liberals if we want to see our affordability issues addressed.

But certainly this government has made life less affordable for Saskatchewan families. They've increased the cost of power here in the province three times in the last year; continue to add on taxes and fees to everything from cultural events, movie tickets, and sporting events. And certainly when it comes to addressing the cost-of-living crisis here in Saskatchewan, there is far more to be done including, as we have called for, a removal of the gas tax for a six-month period. That motion has been repeatedly made by our Finance critic, and we've seen no action on that.

So while we have been very clear about our support for the removal of the carbon tax January 1st, we also want to ensure that the bill that's been presented here is one that achieves legislative competence. There's been a number of questions that we have brought to this debate that we will continue to investigate and continue to do those consultations, reaching out to stakeholders to understand the legality of the legislation that's been put here before us. But ultimately we want to see leaders stepping up on this issue in a mature and responsible way to ensure that the carbon price on home heating fuel is removed by January 1st in ways that are legal and won't indemnify the employees of SaskEnergy.

And so as I say, there are many questions to be asked and responded to with respect to the bill that has been put forward before us. And we look forward to that opportunity to getting the answers to the many questions that we have on this bill.

At the same time we also want to see our government demonstrate leadership, both in terms of getting to the table with the federal government to hash out a deal so that we do achieve this end result, and that we also can see action on the climate crisis here in Saskatchewan, because while we do not support the carbon price, we absolutely want to see real action being taken here in Saskatchewan, not performative action by going off on some kind of a junket to Dubai and spending a million dollars of taxpayer money to do so. We want to see real action. We want to see sincerity in the actions that are being taken.

[14:45]

And I know the members opposite take a lot of exception to that and are having a lot of difficulty with my suggestion that they show up as leaders for a change, as opposed to pointing the finger and blame everywhere else but at themselves. But as I say, I'm prepared at this time to let this bill move to the next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 151 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — To the Committee of the Whole on Bills.

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

Bill No. 140

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 140** — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2023* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. Well I'm surprised I'm up a number of times today. I'm here to offer just a bit about the Bill 140, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2023*.

So this bill is about repealing public bills and private bills that are outdated. And to my surprise, 1920 is one of the bills that need to be repealed, and that's way before my parents' time. So it is always good to update these Acts. So it's a good time also to reflect on issues that are still resonating today, so whether it's home ownership or faith-based education, etc.

But at this time, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on this as others may want to provide more information and/or enter into debate on this. So at this time I will just move to adjourn debate on Bill 140.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 140. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 142

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 142** — *The*

Miscellaneous Statutes (Utility Line Locates) Amendment Act, 2023 be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will be speaking on Bill 142, the miscellaneous statutes amendment Act, 2023, the utility line locates. You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, anyone who's going to be digging around utility lines has to provide three working days' notice to SaskTel, SaskPower, or SaskEnergy as applicable. It used to be 48 hours.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, safety is very important for private citizens and for Crown employees. It's rare to see that we see that government worrying about consumer protections at the cost of making it harder for the Crowns to do business. And it's always good to have consistency among all Crowns so it avoids confusion. We love our Crowns and that's why we're so disappointed the Sask Party is running them into the ground. You know, that's really sad.

You know, I had just an experience where we had to relocate our meter when we were building a garage years ago. And what a challenge it was communicating with the different ministries with their different criteria they had in place. And so it's good to see that we're looking at changing some of this to make it more consistent across the board for all . . . [inaudible] . . . so they're all speaking the same language when it comes to the citizens in this province.

And I really hope that this government will look at our Crowns and see that they are still very important to many of us in this province. So with that I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill 142, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 142. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 143

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cockrill that **Bill No. 143** — *The Child Care Amendment Act, 2023/Loi modificative de 2023 sur les garderies d'enfants* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on Bill 143, *The Child Care Amendment Act, 2023*. We have a crisis going on with child care in our province. We have heard from parents. We've heard from providers that provide the service. It's alarming, you know. We see a federal government throwing dollars in and trying to partner and encouraging and hearing the call for more. We have a government here that wants to come forward with legislation.

I know our critic will be asking questions, will be consulting. But

at the end of the day, you know, you hear parents out there saying the waiting list is unreal, the timelines to try to get your child into a daycare, home care. You talk about a government that likes to brag about all the beds or all the daycares they're going to open and the spots and positions that will be available for Saskatchewan residents. And it sounds really great. It does. They talk about these thousands, the big numbers, and it really sounds like, man, they're moving on it. But they are moving at a snail's pace. It's sad today to see where the situation has gone. And the government is well aware of what's going on.

And you know, you don't always like to give back and forth, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I think they're failing families. They're failing our kids. You don't have to take my words for it. You can just talk with the industry, see parents, groups that have come here to say the alarm bells are ringing off.

And I don't know why the government doesn't understand it and move. And they always want to say, oh, you guys are always wanting us to do more, do more. Well you make these announcements about all these beds, these positions, daycare spots that are going to be available for people, for their children, so they can work and provide for their families. And again this government fails them miserably.

I just wanted to show, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where it's at. I know my colleague, the critic, will ask more questions in committee and find out and consult more. We've seen people making it very clear how unhappy and how terrible and the struggle, the real struggle to find care for their children while they're trying to work and do their part, trying to help Saskatchewan. They're doing their part as parents but they need help from this government.

Federal government's come forward but again the Sask Party government is asleep at the wheel, trying to make it sound like really . . . They love photo ops. I watch it just constantly. It doesn't matter what it is, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They want to take a photo op and make it look good. But at the end of the day this is truly legislation and we should be putting it with teeth to help people.

So with that, you know, I know we have other individuals that want to speak on some of these bills, so at this point I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 143, *The Child Care Amendment Act, 2023*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment on Bill No. 143. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to accept?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 144

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 144** — *The Police (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2023* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Burki: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure and my honour to be entering into debate on Bill 144, *The Police (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2023*.

Mr. Speaker, we know the importance of policing and the job they're doing. We highly appreciate all those police officers, that they are on the street. And when we are sitting at home, we stay at home peacefully. We can't ignore them, their hard work. We always appreciate that. And at the same time we have to look into that, that when we were on doorsteps, we got a lot of concerns of the community, both at the by-election and the general election in 2020 as well.

People really were concerned about the crimes, how we can reduce the crimes on the street, mostly people and businesses that were complaining. And it's just one of the biggest factors in the economy to give a boost and to give confidence to people that they can do business freely and happily and can sustain and can retain in our province by making sure that they should have safety and security for them.

I do understand that one police officer can't control the entire constituency or can't control three or four streets. They need definitely resources. They need a lot of support as well.

So here we can see we have . . . that in the marshals service structure they are allocating about \$20 million. I don't know about exactly where that money will go. Will that be fulfilling for that job? Basically we are needing security and protection for the people to their constituencies, to their residences, and to their businesses as well.

Our critic will be talking about it in detail by contacting the stakeholders and they will get back to the further detail. With that, I will adjourn the debate today on Bill 144, *The Police (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2023*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment to Bill No. 144. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 145

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 145** — *The Funeral and Cremation Services (Legal Decision-Maker Protection) Amendment Act, 2023* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join on comments I'd like to make on the record for Bill No. 145, the funeral and cremation services legal decision-making amendment Act, 2023. Initially there were some changes and I know that some of my colleagues, someone approached them and I'm glad that . . . and some of the comments my colleagues said that, you know, we've advocated for this change in legislation.

And I think families go through the loss of loved ones. And we

know that whether, you know, whether you lose your child or whatever it is and if you're responsible for a child as parents, and maybe the parents aren't together and something happened to your loved one, the legislation that was there gave to the older parent of the couple, whoever the parents . . . of my understanding, would give the power to the oldest parent. And that was something that sometimes maybe the caregiver, the parent that was taking care and had custody of the child wouldn't get to deal and have . . . to lay their loved one to rest the way they wanted to and stuff. I'm not going to get a lot into it, but I think in this case it's now changing the amendment.

And I know if I'm correct from what I've looked at, now, whoever is the caregiver and has custody of the child would be the parent that would have the legal decision making on what to do with the body, the remains, and take care of their loved one and put their loved one to rest. It would be their decision.

We're supporting this. We think this is the right way to go. I'm glad that my colleagues could, you know, weigh in and share their views with whoever, you know, has been talking back and forth. And this is the right thing to do, and I think this is a good change, a legislation that's needed.

There's times where we know legislation is so needed, and sometimes we know that there's legislation that needs to be changed and amended. And you know, when government gets it right for the people, it's a good thing. That's what our job is here. But when the government fails and doesn't bring up legislation that impacts people, then the government fails them. And I'll talk a little bit about that next when I go through.

So at this point I'm prepared to allow this — you know, and my colleagues who have other comments that want to — I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 145.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of Bill No. 145. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 146

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 146** — *The King's Bench Consequential Amendments Act, 2023* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm on my feet to enter my remarks on Bill No. 146, *The King's Bench Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*.

This bill is just a housekeeping bill. We're changing from the Queen's Bench to the King's Bench. And yeah, this is just a very straightforward bill that is just changing from the Queen to the King's Bench. I don't have much else to say other than, yeah, this should move forward in the usual way.

[15:00]

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to allow this . . . or move debate . . . adjourn debate on 146. It just speaks to how long that I've been away from here, not speaking to these bills. So with that, miigwech, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 146. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 148

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 148 — *The Film Content Information Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 148, *The Film Content Information Act*. Before I comment about the bill, I've talked a little bit about legislation that's needed. And when I think about sometimes we'll hear government say, well we're not going to do legislation. When we come to it, the duty to consult and accommodate . . . We wanted that. That was meaningful and needed to be done. And I know my colleague from Saskatoon had introduced that bill. And that would give teeth, with legislation, and that's what people want. They want the government to do legislation that's needed. And there's times there's policies that government uses, but sometimes, I think sometimes it's so warranted that we have legislation that gives teeth, that protects.

In this situation, you know, the film industry, and it just happens that it . . . [inaudible] . . . to mind when I say the film industry because I've seen for years, we had seen with the film industry in our province, government had made some change with supporting the film industry. And we see how it is and how bad it hit that industry, and how they did all they could to fight the government and bring recognition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to changes in legislation, changes to supports to different organizations, companies.

And I just think about the film industry that's left. And I mean, they're moving forward and they're doing some good things and pushing government to work with them, and I hope that good work continues. And sometimes you've got to give, you know, some credit. When government's got it right, you give them credit. When the government doesn't get it right, you've got to remind them. That's what opposition members do on behalf of the good people.

In this legislation here, the Act 148, really what it's doing, it's getting rid of some red tape, which is probably good. And I hope, you know, the movie theatres, those that show movies will get that benefit. There also may be some benefits financially for them where they're saving some dollars, and that's important to see. If that's truly what's going on, that's good if it saves, you know, the industries. Like we see the way the economy is and less

people to spend, maybe less people going. So any time you can help out, that's a good thing.

But you know, I want to talk a little bit about legislation and then I'm going to move away, but how important it is when we come forward with legislation. I have watched governments come up with policy saying, oh, we're going to have a policy. And then a minister gets to change it. With a stroke of a pen he can change it, because it's not legislated. It doesn't have teeth. When you have legislation, it has teeth and you know that it's the law.

And I love the way the member from Saskatoon Centre has talked about that when it comes to the meaningful duty to consult and accommodate First Nation/Métis people and Saskatchewan residents. And that's so important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I show the example because of that.

I hear members sometimes talk about, and they want to brag and make photo ops of government signing MOUs [memorandum of understanding]. Oh, we signed MOUs, and they take a photo op, or it's a policy and they want to sign and they want to have a photo op. And you know, at the end of the day, when you put in legislation, in legislation you put it in, it has teeth to it and it means something to people. I've seen the way it works. I've seen the policies. I've seen the photo ops, and it doesn't work for many of the people that I know I represent. I know that my family, some of this legislation doesn't affect and won't. So some of these MOUs that they want to have the photo ops and make it sound like it's just all so great . . . And that's fine. They can do the photo ops, and that's up to them, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But again I say legislation is so important because, again, I now understand. It's taken me a while. I've been here a few years, and I won't be, as we know like some of our members, won't be coming back in this Assembly at some point when the election is called. This member will retire and go away, which you know, I know some of the other members on their side will retire and go away. And some of them won't get re-elected because of things they did or didn't do, but that's up to their constituents. Very loud and clear, that's up to the constituents.

So when I say about having legislation with teeth, and that's the law, that's important. And I know for me, I would advocate to anybody, don't get caught up in photo ops with MOUs and policy. Make sure it has legislation. Let's fight to get legislation and that it has teeth — and I understand — and then that's the law. That's the law, and that's so important.

So really, I know we've got other work that we have to do. I don't want to go on much longer here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But just I wanted to get on the record a few things that I thought was important, you know, when I hear people talking about, again I'll go, MOUs and photo ops and policy and all that. It just doesn't work. For some it does. You can trick some people, but a lot of us understand that and just find those photo ops not very . . . Really for me, I don't know that they work so good for most people.

So on that note, I'm prepared to actually move adjournment on Bill 148, the film content Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment on Bill No. 148. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 149

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 149 — *The Franchise Disclosure Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter comments into the record on Bill No. 149, *The Franchise Disclosure Act*.

The Franchise Disclosure Act, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I confess, you know, when I'm in this House I am most comfortable on my feet speaking about things like housing and social services, income assistance, education, health care, the need for a strong economy, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot of the big-picture challenges that this province is facing. But part of our duty of course as legislators is to make sure that some of, you know, the affairs of the province that are maybe not quite as exciting on their face are attended to.

And my understanding is this is a new bill — it's not amending an existing piece of legislation — and that we're the only Western province without franchise disclosure legislation, which is used to regulate the market and of course address the power imbalance between franchisees and franchises, or franchisors. Franchisees and franchisors.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, so with that, you know, this is important work, and certainly — although not an area that I'm as familiar with — I know that the changes that are contained in bills like this can make a significant difference in the lives of the folks out there who are working in this field.

My understanding is *The Franchise Disclosure Act* establishes the obligation of a franchisor to disclose information to prospective franchisees. It establishes, for example, legal actions that a franchisee may take against liabilities. It provides a right for individual franchisees to associate with other franchisees in their community or join organizations of franchisees, thus again addressing that power imbalance, drawing on the strength and abilities and knowledge of partners.

I am looking forward to hearing comments from my colleagues on this bill. On its face it seems like in general this is a good move, but we will want to be looking at the details, getting some feedback from the community.

And with that I am happy to move to adjourn debate on Bill 149, *The Franchise Disclosure Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 150

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 150 — *The Securities (Saskatchewan Investors Protection) Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 150, *The Securities (Saskatchewan Investors Protection) Amendment Act, 2023*.

This is a bill that amends an existing piece of legislation. I understand that with this bill, Saskatchewan Securities Commission can now designate independent dispute resolution services. The independent dispute resolution service sets its own standards, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the commission can make orders in the public interest.

Now I would note that the public interest referred to in this Act is perhaps so broad as to be meaningless, so that is a concern we're just flagging. The bill does come with an increase to the maximum administrative penalty under this Act. It's increased from 100,000 to a million. We're glad to see the maximum penalty has increased because I understand now it very much mirrors the situation in other jurisdictions.

And in general, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will say that we welcome greater oversight and decentralization from the minister's office. You know, we do see a concerning pattern from this government, a lot of centralization of decision making, a pattern which I would argue leads to, you know, not listening to local voices, not listening to front-line voices, not listening to experts, more and more decisions being made in smaller, smaller rooms by fewer and fewer people.

So again, as a general principle, we certainly always on this side welcome a sort of a move away from centralization in a given ministry — minister's office, rather — and we see with this bill that the oversight body now has a means to enforce its decisions. That is certainly a good thing.

And generally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm looking forward to hearing the comments of my colleagues on this bill, hearing from the critic, as I know steps are being taken to reach out to stakeholders. So with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 150, *The Securities (Saskatchewan Investors Protection) Amendment Act, 2023*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 150. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 152

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 152 — *The Protection From Human Trafficking (Coerced Debts) 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. This is the last piece of legislation before the Assembly this afternoon, so in the interest of keeping things civil with all members, I'll keep my comments fairly tight. And I am receiving thumbs up from members opposite. But I do think this is an important piece of legislation, and so I do want to put a few thoughts on the record here with relation to Bill 152, *The Protection From Human Trafficking (Coerced Debts) Amendment Act*.

I think that it's positive to see some action being taken to address these concerns, you know, the concerns of folks who are in a situation where human trafficking is taking place or at risk of taking place, often relationships where — I think always relationships where — a power imbalance exists between those being victimized and those profiting from the offence. And so I think that these changes do have potential for positive outcomes, no doubt.

So it's good to see them coming forward in terms of trying to protect folks who have a debt owed to somebody who's been exploiting them, that there's some amendments here that will protect the victims of human trafficking in terms of the impacts and the financial impacts of the crime, which often leaves the victim unable to leave a location, leave a relationship, leave these circumstances due to debt that's been forced upon them by the perpetrators. So it's good to see those changes coming in.

It does raise several questions. I know I'd point the government to one group that's done excellent advocacy work in this area, Hope Restored. I know that they've been here to meet with members of the government. I was fortunate to go to an event that they hosted — I can't even remember; I think it was about a year ago — at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] campus, Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre. It was very good. It was to release a study, and they also offered several recommendations.

And one of those that I'd like to highlight here today in terms of addressing human trafficking is the challenge of transportation for somebody trying to flee a situation in which they're being, you know, exploited and coerced in these unequal power relationships that are a part of human trafficking. Oftentimes those folks are trying to flee. It's very hard to get out of a community. And I know it gets rehashed a lot, and I hope it doesn't become tiresome for members opposite, but the loss of STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] and the transportation network puts people at risk. And it puts people at risk who have no other way to get out of the situation that they're in.

[15:15]

And that was flagged for me as a member of this Assembly at this event hosted by Hope Restored who . . . again just incredible work that they do in advocating for changes in terms of policy, legislation across the province. So that was one thing that I would be remiss if I didn't mention in my comments here today related to Bill 152.

Overall, you know, I think there's some other challenges here, you know, that these protections are good. But are they accessible to all victims of human trafficking? Are they accessible to somebody who can't afford a lawyer? Or we know that access to legal representation is a challenge, and often one of the barriers is being able to afford that representation. There's gaps in our province where folks are falling through the cracks.

So that's one of the concerns that I have in terms of the effectiveness of these changes. And I think that there's, as I mentioned, several things that this government or any government could do. Listen to folks with the deep knowledge, even folks who have, you know, unfortunately been victimized, to hear their perspective and what would have helped them to either, you know, avoid or get out of those situations. Because there are steps that we can take, and I hope to see those come before this Assembly in the future.

But for now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'll conclude my remarks, continue to listen to my colleagues in opposition as they bring forward their questions and concerns and our lead critic on this eventually. But at this point I'll move that we adjourn debate on Bill 152, *The Protection From Human Trafficking (Coerced Debts) Amendment Act*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 152. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this Assembly does now adjourn. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — Does the Assembly agree?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:17.]

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