



No. 117

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Thursday, May 26, 2005

1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following Members: Elhard, D'Autremont, Draude, Hermanson, Eagles, Gantfoer, Harpauer, Huyghebaert, Toth, Brkich, Weekes, Kerpan, Merriman, Morgan, Hart and Kirsch.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to Order, the Deputy Clerk having favourably reported on the same pursuant to Rule 14(7), the following Petitions were read and received:

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to make necessary repairs to Highway 368 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

(Sessional Paper No. 818)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to reverse the increase in Crop Insurance Premiums and the reduction in coverage.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 72)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that the Wilkie Health Centre and Special Care Home maintain, at the very least, their current level of services.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 96)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to immediately address the concerns of all individuals affected by the TransGas Asquith Natural Gas Storage Project, pay 100% of the costs involved to rectify disruptions to water supplies, produce an environment assessment study encompassing a larger area outside the scope of the project, disclose the project's long term effects on these areas and consider alternative sources of water for the project.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 640)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 666)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to implement an allocation of financial resources to build an elementary school in Arbor Creek.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 716)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to implement the minimum compensation recommendations for staff members who support people with disabilities as outlined in SARC's human resources plan.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 798)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to improve access to resources for families with autistic children.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 814)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to pass a law allowing parents to place their children into involuntary drug treatment.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 815)

MOTION TO APPOINT THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Calvert, seconded by Mr. Merriman:

That an Humble Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor recommending to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that Mr. Marvin Bernstein be appointed the Children's Advocate pursuant to section 12.1 of *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act* effective September 6, 2005.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 1280 to 1293, they were answered. (See Appendix)

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

The Assembly, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Finance to consider Estimates and Supplementary Estimates for the Department of Health.

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006, the sum of \$2,893,766,000 for Health (Ordinary).

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005, the sum of \$9,000,000 for Health (Supplementary).

The Committee then considered Estimates and Supplementary Estimates for the Department of Executive Council.

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006, the sum of \$7,609,000 for Executive Council (Ordinary).

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005, the sum of \$305,000 for Executive Council (Supplementary).

The Committee then considered Estimates, Further Estimates and Supplementary Estimates for the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006, the sum of \$264,931,000 for Agriculture and Food (Ordinary).

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006, the sum of \$400,000 for Agriculture and Food (Lending and Investing Activities).

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005, the sum of \$101,200,000 for Agriculture and Food (Supplementary).

The Committee then considered Estimates for the Department of Government Relations.

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006, the sum of \$157,485,000 for Government Relations (Ordinary).

The Committee then considered Estimates, Further Estimates and Supplementary Estimates for the Department of Learning.

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006, the sum of \$1,216,795,000 for Learning (Ordinary).

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006, the sum of \$66,000,000 for Learning (Lending and Investing Activities).

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005, the sum of \$13,500,000 for Learning (Supplementary).

Progress was reported and the Committee given leave to sit again.

MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (DEBATABLE)**RETURN NOS. 358 - 364**

Leave of the Assembly having been granted, Motions for Return Nos. 358 to 364 inclusive were ordered.

Accordingly, the following Orders of the Assembly were issued:

Return No. 358 showing:

To the Minister of Health: (1) Whether Larson House in Saskatoon is run by a community based organization. (2) If not, the name of the organization that operates the facility and when the last change in operations structure took place.

Return No. 358 was brought down and tabled by Mr. Yates as Sessional Paper No. 957.

Return No. 359 showing:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) The number of trade missions the government conducted in 1999. (2) Where these missions took place. (3) The cost of each trade mission. (4) The number of businesses that have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions. (5) The number of jobs that have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions.

Return No. 360 showing:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) The number of trade missions the government conducted in 2000. (2) Where these missions took place. (3) The cost of each trade mission. (4) The number of businesses that have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions. (5) The number of jobs that have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions.

Return No. 361 showing:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) The number of trade missions the government conducted in 2001. (2) Where these missions took place. (3) The cost of each trade mission. (4) The number of businesses that have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions. (5) The number of jobs that have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions.

Return No. 362 showing:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) The number of trade missions the government conducted in 2002. (2) Where these missions took place. (3) The cost of each trade mission. (4) The number of businesses that have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions. (5) The number of jobs that have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions.

Return No. 363 showing:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) The number of trade missions the government conducted in 2003. (2) Where these missions took place. (3) The cost of each trade mission. (4) The number of businesses that have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions. (5) The number of jobs that have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions.

Return No. 364 showing:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) The number of trade missions the government conducted in 2004. (2) Where these missions took place. (3) The cost of each trade mission. (4) The number of businesses that have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions. (5) The number of jobs that have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions.

On motion of the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:22 p.m. until Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS AND PAPERS TABLED

The following Returns, which were Ordered by the Assembly on April 14, 2005, were laid upon the Table by Mr. Yates:

Return Nos. 339 to 351 by Mr. Kerpan

(Sessional Paper Nos. 821 to 833)

The following Returns, which were Ordered by the Assembly on May 9, 2005, were laid upon the Table by Mr. Yates:

Return Nos. 365 to 376 by Mr. Weekes

(Sessional Paper Nos. 834 to 845)

Return No. 377 by Ms. Draude

(Sessional Paper No. 846)

Return Nos. 378 to 487 by Mr. Dearborn

(Sessional Paper Nos. 847 to 956)

The following Return, which was Ordered by the Assembly on May 26, 2005, was laid upon the Table by Mr. Yates:

Return No. 358 by Ms. Bakken Lackey

(Sessional Paper No. 957)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1280, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the Judges of the Provincial Court Superannuation Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

The Judges of the Provincial Court Superannuation Plan is not indexed to inflation for Judges who retired prior to April 1, 2003; however, the Government of Saskatchewan makes an annual decision regarding the amount of increases that will be provided to pensioners. For Judges who retired on or after April 1, 2003 the plan provides increases of 75% of the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as long as the CPI increases by less than 5%. If the CPI increases by more than 5%, the plan provides increases of 75% of the increase in the CPI for the first 5% and 50% of the increase in the CPI over 5%.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1281, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the Navigata Communications Inc. Pension Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

Effective August 23, 2004, the Navigata Communications Inc. Pension Plan was curtailed and benefits are no longer accruing to the employees. Therefore, indexing to inflation does not apply.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1282, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Quennell:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the Saskatchewan Power Corporation Supplementary Superannuation Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

No.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1283, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the Liquor Board Superannuation Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

No. The Liquor Board Superannuation Plan is not indexed to inflation; however, the Government of Saskatchewan makes an annual decision regarding the amount of increases that will be provided to pensioners.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1284, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the Public Service Superannuation Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

No. The Public Service Superannuation Plan is not indexed to inflation; however, the Government of Saskatchewan makes an annual decision regarding the amount of increases that will be provided to pensioners.

Ms. Draude asked the Government Question No. 1285, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: How much money has the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Eastern Region II based in Archerwill, received from the government and for what programming?

Answer:

In 2004-05, the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Eastern Region II, received \$133,291.99. The programming provided by the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan includes Parent Aide and Family Support. These programs provide coordination of support services to families identified by the department and include recruitment, on-going training, supervision and support of parent aides.

Ms. Draude asked the Government Question No. 1286, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: How much money has the Mutual Equity, Trade and Investment Inc. received from the government and for what programming?

Answer:

In 2004-05, Mutual Equity, Trade and Investment Inc. received \$37,120.00. The programming provided by the Mutual Equity, Trade and Investment Inc. includes Life and Employable Skills Training and the Personal and Family Violence Outreach Program.

Ms. Eagles asked the Government Question No. 1287, which was answered by the Premier:

To the Premier: Is Executive Council and/or any department in the government of Saskatchewan purchasing tickets or receiving free tickets to the Centennial Gala celebration on May 19?

Answer:

The Chair of the Saskatchewan Centennial and Legislative Secretary, Glenn Hagel was an invited guest of the Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Hagel participated in the event by addressing the production staff and volunteers at the conclusion of the Gala.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1288, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the Anti-TB League Superannuation Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

No. The Anti-TB League Superannuation Plan is not indexed to inflation; however, the Government of Saskatchewan makes an annual decision regarding the amount of increases that will be provided to pensioners.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1289, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the Workers' Compensation Superannuation Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

The WCB superannuation plan was not indexed to inflation for fiscal year 2004 and previous years. Government of Saskatchewan indexing practices were followed by the WCB plan. Beginning 2005, the WCB superannuation plan is indexed to CPI up to a maximum of 2.5%.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1290, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the Members of the Legislative Assembly Superannuation Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

No. The Members of the Legislative Assembly Superannuation Plan is not indexed to inflation; however, the Government of Saskatchewan makes an annual decision regarding the amount of increases that will be provided to pensioners.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1291, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the STC Superannuation Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

No. The STC Superannuation Plan is not indexed to inflation; however, the Government of Saskatchewan makes an annual decision regarding the amount of increases that will be provided to pensioners.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1292, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Quennell:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the Power Corporation Superannuation Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

The PCSP is subject to ad hoc indexing, that is, as declared. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may declare increases up to the average of the increase in CPI between Regina and Saskatoon for the previous calendar year. Any declared increases become effective April 1st.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 1293, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:

To the Minister of Finance: Is the SaskTel Pension Plan indexed to inflation?

Answer:

Yes.