



No. 15

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, April 7, 2004

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: Hermanson, Huyghebaert, Brkich, Weekes and Dearborn.

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 provide reliable cellular telephone service in the regions encompassed in the Constituency of Biggar.

(Sessional Paper No. 76)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that the Davidson and Imperial Health Centres be maintained at their current level of service.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 63)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to repair Highway 43 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 69)

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)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 63 to 72, they were answered. (See Appendix)

By leave, a correction to the answer to Question No. 34 was tabled. (See Appendix)

BUDGET DEBATE

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, seconded by Mr. Hagel:

That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

and the proposed amendment thereto moved by Mr. Krawetz, seconded by Mr. Hermanson:

That all words after "That" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"the current Premier and cabinet have betrayed Saskatchewan voters with the 2004-2005 provincial budget and, therefore, this provincial government does not enjoy the confidence of the Assembly."

The debate continuing on the motion and the amendment, it was on motion of Mr. Cheveldayoff, adjourned.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Taylor:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:36 p.m. until Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS AND PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Mr. Quennell:

Amendment to the Bylaw of the following Professional Association:

The Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 62)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Weekes asked the Government Question No. 63, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

To the Minister Responsible for Immigration: (1) For the fiscal year 1998-1999, what was the maximum number allowed under the Provincial Immigrant Nominee Program? (2) What was the total number of applications received that year? (3) How many applications received approval?

Answer:

- (1) The Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement, which established the provincial nominee pilot project, was signed September 16, 1998. It permitted a total of 150 nominees for the two-year period ending September 16, 2000.
- (2) From April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999, 6 applications were received and recorded.
- (3) From April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999, 5 nominations were approved.

Mr. Weekes asked the Government Question No. 64, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

To the Minister Responsible for Immigration: (1) For the fiscal year 1999-2000, what was the maximum number allowed under the Provincial Immigrant Nominee Program? (2) What was the total number of applications received that year? (3) How many applications received approval?

Answer:

- (1) The Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement, which established the provincial nominee pilot project, was signed September 16, 1998. It permitted a total of 150 nominees for the period ending September 16, 2000.
- (2) From April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000, 50 applications were received and recorded.
- (3) From April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000, 23 nominations were approved.

Mr. Weekes asked the Government Question No. 65, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

To the Minister Responsible for Immigration: (1) For the fiscal year 2000-2001, what was the maximum number allowed under the Provincial Immigrant Nominee Program? (2) What was the total number of applications received that year? (3) How many applications received approval?

Answer:

- (1) The Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement, which established the provincial nominee pilot project, was signed September 16, 1998. The agreement was amended in 2000 to permit 300 nominees for the three-year period ending September 16, 2001.
- (2) From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001, 58 applications were received and recorded.
- (3) From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001, 20 nominations were approved.

Mr. Weekes asked the Government Question No. 66, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

To the Minister Responsible for Immigration: (1) For the fiscal year 2001-2002, what was the maximum number allowed under the Provincial Immigrant Nominee Program? (2) What was the total number of applications received that year? (3) How many applications received approval?

Answer:

- (1) The Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement, which was a provincial nominee pilot project, was signed September 16, 1998. The agreement was amended in 2001 to permit 300 nominees for the four-year period ending September 16, 2002.
- (2) From April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002, 26 applications were received.
- (3) From April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002, 25 nominations were approved.

Mr. Weekes asked the Government Question No. 67, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

To the Minister Responsible for Immigration: (1) For the fiscal year 2002-2003, what was the maximum number allowed under the Provincial Immigrant Nominee Program? (2) What was the total number of applications received that year? (3) How many applications received approval?

Answer:

- (1) A new Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Provincial Nominees was signed November 14, 2002. It permits a total of 200 nominees per calendar year or portion thereof, for the period from September 16, 2002 to November 14, 2007.
- (2) From April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003, 155 applications were received.
- (3) From April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003, 52 nominations were approved.

Mr. Weekes asked the Government Question No. 68, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

To the Minister Responsible for Immigration: (1) For the fiscal year 2003-2004, what was the maximum number allowed under the Provincial Immigrant Nominee Program? (2) What was the total number of applications received that year? (3) How many applications received approval?

Answer:

- (1) A new Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Provincial Nominees was signed November 14, 2002. It permits a total of 200 nominees per calendar year or portion thereof, for the period from September 16, 2002 to November 14, 2007.
- (2) From April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004, 232 applications were received.
- (3) From April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004, 180 nominations were approved.

Mr. McMorris asked the Government Question No. 69, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Quennell:

To the Minister of Justice: (1) In the Regina area, what was the fee paid by the Coroner's office to "Spectrum Transfer Company" per transfer done in 2001? (2) Is this contract tendered? (3) If not, why not?

Answer:

- (1) \$135 fee per transfer, plus expenses
- (2) No
- (3) Insufficient volume

Mr. McMorris asked the Government Question No. 70, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Quennell:

To the Minister of Justice: (1) In the Regina area, what was the fee paid by the Coroner's office to "Spectrum Transfer Company" per transfer done in 2002? (2) Is this contract tendered? (3) If not, why not?

Answer:

- (1) \$135 fee per transfer, plus expenses
- (2) No
- (3) Insufficient volume

Ms. Draude asked the Government Question No. 71, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Cline:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: How much money did the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority spend in the 2002-2003 fiscal year on freight costs to ship alcohol to each of the 81 SLGA-operated liquor stores in Saskatchewan?

Answer:

In fiscal 2002-2003 Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) spent \$489,541 on freight to SLGA stores. This freight would include combined shipments of alcohol, allied products and stationery.

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 72, which was answered by the Premier:

To the Premier: Will the Premier ensure that men and women of Saskatchewan serving in the Canadian Armed Forces in theatres of conflict such as Afghanistan, Bosnia, Haiti and the HMCS Toronto serving in the Persian Gulf receive full income tax exemption similar to federal income tax exemptions for such persons?

Answer:

The March 23, 2004 federal budget announced that for the 2004 and subsequent taxation years, a deduction be allowed in computing taxable income for members of the Canadian Forces or a Canadian police force in respect of employment income earned in a high-risk deployed operational mission as described in the budget documents tabled by the Minister of Finance in the House of Commons on March 23, 2004.

The Saskatchewan personal income tax system is linked to the federal income tax system and administered on the Province's behalf by the federal government. This linkage provides a common definition of income for tax purposes. The Province therefore, accepts the federal government's policies on income inclusions and deductions and provincial income tax must be calculated as a percentage of 'Taxable Income', after allowing for federally defined deductions from 'Total Income'.

As a result, Saskatchewan's income tax system will automatically ensure that those persons having employment income exempt from federal income tax will likewise have their employment income exempt from Saskatchewan income tax.

Correction to answer to Question No. 34

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 34, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Cline:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) How much money was paid to Phoenix Advertising for the Future is Wide Open Campaign? (2) What was their commission?

Answer:

(1) Costs of the *Our Future is Wide Open* campaign from November 2002 to March 2004 paid to or through Phoenix Advertising are as follows:

- Paid to Phoenix for work it did directly on its own: \$ 603,057
(This work included the development of advertising strategies and media buy plans, the creation of Web sites, the writing and design of advertising and promotional materials, and the supervision of work done by third party suppliers such as television production companies producing commercials.)
- Paid to third-party suppliers through Phoenix: \$1,689,431
- Paid for PST: \$ 131,433
- Paid to media outlets: \$2,858,786
- Paid as commission to Phoenix: \$ 504,492
- Total costs: \$5,787,199

(2) \$504,492 in commissions on advertising placed with media outlets. (This is the same \$504,492 included in the preceding answer.) No commissions were paid for work done by third-party suppliers.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

On Wednesday:

Hon. Mr. Wartman to move First Reading of Bill No. 22 – The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act, 2004

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 12 and are to be answered by day no. 17:

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 155:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: (1) What impact will the recent hike in taxes on tobacco and alcohol have on musicians who perform at live venues in Saskatchewan taverns? (2) What consideration and study was given to this matter prior to the tax increase decisions? (3) Could these documents be provided for the Saskatchewan Arts Community?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 156:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) For fiscal year 2004-2005, how many employees in this department will be receiving scale increases in their wages? (2) What is the total value of those increases? (3) What is the total value of all salaries and remunerations paid to employees in this department?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 157:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) For fiscal year 2004-2005, how many employees in this department will be receiving Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increases in their wages? (2) What is the COLA percentage and what will be the total value of the COLA increase?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 158:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: (1) For fiscal year 2004-2005, how many third-party grants will be eliminated by this department? (2) Which grants to those organizations will be so affected? (3) Could you please list the amount of each grant that is being eliminated?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 159:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: (1) For fiscal year 2004-2005, how many third-party grants will be reduced by this department? (2) Which grants to those organizations will be so affected? (3) Could you please list both the previous and the newly-reduced amounts of each grant?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 160:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: (1) In fiscal year 2004-2005, is the \$12.6 million allocated for “affordable housing construction” all provincial funding? (2) If not, could you please provide a breakdown of funds from contributing sources?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 161:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: What is the mandate of the Provincial Housing Policy Framework for fiscal year 2004-2005?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 162:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: (1) For fiscal year 2003-2004, what was the total allocation for “affordable housing construction”? (2) Was this all provincial funding? (3) If not, could you please provide a breakdown of funds from contributing sources?

Mr. Gantefer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 163:

To the Minister of Health: Which third-party organizations will have their grants reduced, and by how much?

Mr. Gantefer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 164:

To the Minister of Health: What are Saskatchewan Health’s policies for approving out-of-province MRIs when ordered by a specialist?

Mr. Cheveldayoff, to ask the Government the following Question No. 165:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) At what facility does the government plan to house the new nursing education seats? (2) How many new instructors will be hired to accommodate the increase in nursing education seats?

The following Question was given notice on day no. 13 and is to be answered by day no. 18:

Mr. Heppner, to ask the Government the following Question No. 166:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) With regard to the Highway 11 twinning project, what is the Department’s plan for accesses on this Highway in the communities of Hague, Osler and Rosthern? (2) Has the Department consulted with the councils in those communities about the number and location of these accesses? (3) What is the position of those communities about these accesses, and how does it compare to that of the Department of Highways’ plan?

The following Question was given notice on day no. 14 and is to be answered by day no. 19:

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 167:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: When will the section of highway 15 from the junction of #20 east to the junction of #6 be resurfaced or re-paved?

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 15 and are to be answered by day no. 20:

Mr. Hermanson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 168:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: (1) As of December 31, 2003, how many MAX TV subscribers were employees of SaskTel? (2) Do SaskTel employees receive a discounted subscription rate for the MAX TV service? (3) If so, how much is the employees' discount, per employee? (4) What is the total discount amount?

Mr. Hermanson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 169:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: Can the Minister provide an explanation as to why SaskTel can release the number of subscribers for its MAX TV service, yet does not release the number of disconnects due to what is termed "competitive reasons"?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 170:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation: How many full- and part-time positions will be lost within SPMC due to the budget?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 171:

To the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization: In light of the recently announced cull of 19 million chickens in Canada, and given the need to replace those birds, will any action be taken to expedite the granting of quotas to Saskatchewan chicken and egg producers who are on waiting lists for the Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Hatching Egg Producers' Marketing Board, respectively?

NOTICE REGARDING PETITIONS FOR PRIVATE BILLS

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Rules 75 and 78 of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, that the time for filing Petitions for Private Bills with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly will expire on the twentieth sitting day, and that the time for presenting Petitions for Private Bills to the Legislative Assembly at its present Session will expire on the twenty-fifth sitting day of the said Session.

GWENN RONYK
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
