



No. 17

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, April 14, 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: Elhard, Hermanson, Huyghebaert, Brkich 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 ensure that Highway 18 from Claydon to Robsart is repaved at the earliest possible time to ensure the safety of drivers in the area and so that economic development opportunities are not lost.

(Sessional Paper No. 83)

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 fund the Unity and District Seniors Lodge Project to ensure that citizens of Unity and District remain in the community for this necessary service that will bridge the gap between independent living and long term care.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 65)

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)

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.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 76)

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

The following Bill was received, read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting:

Bill No. 22 – The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act, 2004

(Hon. Mr. Wartman)

SPEAKER TABLES REPORTS

The Speaker laid before the Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*:

Report of the Provincial Auditor on the Financial Statements of Crown Agencies for Years Ending in the 2003 Calendar Year dated April 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 88)

Report of the Provincial Auditor on the 2003 Financial Statements of CIC Crown Corporations and Related Entities dated April 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 89)

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

On Thursday, April 8, 2004, the Member for the Battlefords (Hon. Mr. Taylor) raised a point of order concerning the quotation of electronic mail in debate. The Member cited paragraphs 498 and 499 of the Sixth Edition of *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms* to make a case that electronic mail, like telegrams, should not be quoted in the Assembly because there is no way of ensuring the authenticity of the signature. He went on to argue that if it is permissible to quote electronic mail in the Assembly, then the Member should be required to indicate who has written the e-mail. I have reviewed this issue with respect to the Assembly's practice and the applicable parliamentary authorities.

Marleau and Monpetit's *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* states on page 517 that Members may quote from private correspondence as long as they identify the sender by name or take full responsibility for its contents. Members of the House of Commons have been required to take responsibility for the contents of unsigned or anonymous letters. This is wholly consistent with the practices of this Assembly. Members are at liberty to quote signed and unsigned letters as they wish to support an argument. They are not required to identify the sender of a letter but then they are required to take responsibility for the contents of what they quote. This extends to both the content and the accuracy of the material they cite. There is one exception to this practice, which relates to the Members' responsibility for the content of a quotation. It is out of order to read any document that contains language that would be out of order if spoken by the Member directly.

While on the topic of citing correspondence, I want to remind the Assembly that Private Members are not obliged to table documents cited in debate. If a Minister quotes a letter, it must be tabled on request.

Given the Assembly's practice on the quotation of documents, it is the Speaker's ruling that electronic mail may be quoted without identifying the author, but it can only be done so if the Member takes full responsibility for its content. With respect to the propriety of electronic mail, it is the Speaker's ruling that it is to be treated the same as any other document or correspondence that is cited in the Assembly.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 155, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162 and 165, they were answered. (See Appendix)

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 156, 157, 163 and 164, pursuant to Rule 45(5), they were transferred to Motions for Returns (Debatable) Nos. 110 to 113.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 1 – The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2004

The Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, a member of the Executive Council, having acquainted the Assembly that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, moved: That Bill No. 1 – The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2004 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. Gantefoer, adjourned.

Bill No. 2 – The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2004

The Hon. Mr. Quennell, a member of the Executive Council, having acquainted the Assembly that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, moved: That Bill No. 2 – The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2004 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. Toth, adjourned.

Bill No. 3 – The Certified Management Consultants Amendment Act, 2004

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: That Bill No. 3 – The Certified Management Consultants Amendment Act, 2004 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. Gantefer, adjourned.

Bill No. 4 – The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2004

The Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, a member of the Executive Council, having acquainted the Assembly that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, moved: That Bill No. 4 – The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2004 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. Heppner, adjourned.

Bill No. 5 – The Saskatchewan Pension Annuity Fund Amendment Act, 2004

The Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, a member of the Executive Council, having acquainted the Assembly that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, moved: That Bill No. 5 – The Saskatchewan Pension Annuity Fund Amendment Act, 2004 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. Toth, adjourned.

Bill No. 6 – The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2004

The Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, a member of the Executive Council, having acquainted the Assembly that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, moved: That Bill No. 6 – The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2004 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. Weekes, adjourned.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:45 p.m. until Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS AND PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Public Employees Dental Fund for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 85)

By the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Transportation Company for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 86)

By the Hon. Mr. Prebble:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Water Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 87)

By the Hon. Mr. Quennell:

Amendment to the Bylaws of the following Professional Association:
Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 62)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 155, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Beatty:

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 increase decisions? (3) Could these documents be provided for the Saskatchewan Arts Community?

Answer:

No specific study was conducted to measure the impact of the recent tobacco tax increase and change in alcohol markup on musicians who perform at live venues in Saskatchewan taverns.

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 158, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

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?

Answer:

- (1) There will be no third-party grants eliminated by the department's 2004-2005 budget.
- (2) No organizations are affected.
- (3) No grants were eliminated, therefore no list is attached.

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 159, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

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?

Answer:

- (1) There will be no third-party grants reduced by the department's 2004-2005 budget.
- (2) No organizations are affected.
- (3) No grants were reduced, therefore no list is attached.

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 160, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

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?

Answer:

- (1) No.
- (2) In 2004, the Province's share of the \$12.6 million budget is estimated at \$5 million. The federal government's share is estimated at \$6.3 million. Municipalities will contribute an estimated \$1.3 million.

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 161, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

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

Answer:

The mandate of the new provincial housing policy framework is to work with Saskatchewan people, all levels government, and the public, private and non-profit sectors to develop and deliver sustainable programs which improve the affordability, quality and availability of housing for Saskatchewan residents with a particular emphasis on low-income households.

The 2004-2005 action plan of the Provincial Housing Policy Framework will focus upon:

The continued delivery of new affordable housing through the Centenary Affordable Housing Program (CAHP) to assist in addressing the supply of affordable housing; and

The development of a family housing supplement tied to accessing quality housing.

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 162, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

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?

Answer:

- (1) For 2003, \$5.241 million was spent on the Affordable Housing Program for construction, acquisition and/or renovation.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Province contributed \$357,000. The federal government contributed \$4.78 million. Municipalities contributed \$106,000.

Mr. Cheveldayoff asked the Government Question No. 165, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Thomson:

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?

Answer:

- (1) The new nursing education seats will be housed at SIAST, Wascana Campus in Regina and at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.
- (2) It is estimated that 24 additional faculty are required to handle this increase.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

On Friday:

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen to move First Reading of Bill No. 27 – The Political Contributions Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen to move First Reading of Bill No. 28 – The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2004

Hon. Mr. Sonntag to move First Reading of Bill No. 29 – The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2004

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Friday:

Ms. Junor, to move the following Motion for a Seventy-five Minute Debate:

That this Assembly recognize the government's on-going commitment to high quality health care and that the investment of an additional \$160M to a record \$2.7B to continue with initiatives in the Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care will further distinguish Saskatchewan as a national leader in health care.

NOTICE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

On Friday:

Mr. Elhard, to move the following Motion:

That this Assembly condemns the provincial government for unfairly targeting rural residents with its budget cuts, a move based in cynicism and political motivation.

Mr. Trew, to move the following Motion:

That this Assembly recognize the current federal/provincial equalization formula is penalizing Saskatchewan for outstanding performance in the resource sector and that reforms to the equalization program be made immediately.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

On Friday:

No. 1 (Opposition)

SECOND READINGS

1. Bill No. 201 - The Whistleblower Protection Act

(Mr. Morgan) PRINTED

No. 2 (Opposition)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Mr. Elhard, to move the following motion:

That this Assembly condemns the provincial government for unfairly targeting rural residents with its budget cuts, a move based in cynicism and political motivation.

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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?

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 16 and are to be answered by day no. 21:

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 172:

To the Minister of Health: (1) What will be the anticipated costs to change the names of all hospitals in the Heartland Health Region? (2) Is it expected to occur in this fiscal year?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 173:

To the Minister of Justice: For fiscal year 2001, what was the total number of transfers done by Spectrum Transfer Company in the Regina area?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 174:

To the Minister of Justice: For fiscal year 2002, what was the total number of transfers done by Spectrum Transfer Company in the Regina area?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 175:

To the Minister of Justice: For fiscal year 2003, what was the total number of transfers done by Spectrum Transfer Company in the Regina area?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 176:

To the Minister of Justice: For fiscal year 2003, what was the fee paid by the Coroner's office to Spectrum Transfer Company, per transfer in the Regina area?

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 17 and are to be answered by day no. 22:

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 177:

To the Minister Responsible for Information Services Corporation: (1) How many lawyers are employed by ISC? (2) Under the old Land Titles system, how many lawyers were employed?

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 178:

To the Minister Responsible for Information Services Corporation: (1) How many people are employed full- and part-time at ISC as of April 1, 2004? (2) How many were employed full- and part-time at ISC as of December 31, 2003?

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
