



No. 26

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, April 27, 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, Draude, Hermanson, Bakken, 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 reverse the decision to close the Rural Service Centre and Environment Office in Biggar.

(Sessional Paper No. 128)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary steps to ensure current Crown land lessees maintain their first option to renew those leases.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 48)

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 ensure that long-term health care facilities in the Weyburn-Big Muddy Constituency are not closed or further downsized.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 97)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that the portion of Highway 15 from the junction of #20 east to the village of Semans be repaired and re-surfaced immediately so as to remove the safety hazard to all motorists who rely on this vital road for transportation and economic purposes.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 115)

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS FOR PRIVATE BILLS

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

Of the Bethany Bible Institute, in the Province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to amend its Act of incorporation.

Of the Fountain of Life School of Ministry, in the Province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to provide authority to grant religious and theology degrees.

Of the Saskatchewan School Trustees' Association, in the Province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to amend its Act of incorporation.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 234 and 235, they were answered. (See Appendix)

REFERRAL OF ESTIMATES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, seconded by Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

That the following Estimates and Supplementary Estimates, being:

Vote 74	Information Technology Office
Vote 33	Public Service Commission
Vote 53	Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation

be withdrawn from the Committee of Finance and referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

REFERRAL OF ESTIMATES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, seconded by Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

That the following Estimates and Supplementary Estimates, being:

Vote 70	Centenary Fund
Vote 12, 18, 175, 176, 177	Finance
Vote 23, 171	Industry and Resources
Vote 20	Labour
Vote 35	Saskatchewan Research Council
Vote 71	Fiscal Stabilization Fund
Vote 147	Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan
Vote 140	Saskatchewan Water Corporation
Vote 164	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Vote 165	Crown Investment Corporation of Saskatchewan
Vote 159	Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan
Vote 154	Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation
Vote 152	Saskatchewan Power Corporation
Vote 153	Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation
Vote 150	SaskEnergy Incorporated

be withdrawn from the Committee of Finance and referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

REFERRAL OF ESTIMATES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSE SERVICES

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, seconded by Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

That the following Estimates and Supplementary Estimates, being:

Vote 34	Chief Electoral Officer
Vote 57	Conflict of Interest Commissioner
Vote 55	Information and Privacy Commissioner
Vote 21	Legislative Assembly
Vote 56	Ombudsman and Children's Advocate
Vote 28	Provincial Auditor

be withdrawn from the Committee of Finance and referred to the Standing Committee on House Services.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

REFERRAL OF ESTIMATES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, seconded by Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

That the following Estimates and Supplementary Estimates, being:

Vote 36	Community Resources and Employment
Vote 73	Corrections and Public Safety
Vote 27	Culture, Youth and Recreation
Vote 3	Justice
Vote 170	Education Infrastructure Financing Corporation

be withdrawn from the Committee of Finance and referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

**REFERRAL OF ESTIMATES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, seconded by Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

That the following Estimates and Supplementary Estimates, being:

Vote 30	Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs
Vote 16, 17, 145	Highways and Transportation
Vote 75, 163	Northern Affairs
Vote 151	Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan

be withdrawn from the Committee of Finance and referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

INTERIM SUPPLY

The Assembly, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Finance to consider resolutions for Interim Supply.

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

That a sum not exceeding one billion, twenty million, five hundred twenty-six thousand dollars be granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005.

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

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Resolved, That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005, the sum of one billion, twenty million, five hundred twenty-six thousand dollars be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The said resolutions were reported, read twice and agreed to, and the Committee given leave to sit again.

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2004 (NO. 2)

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, by leave of the Assembly: That Bill No. 42 – The Appropriation Act, 2004 (No. 2) – be introduced and read the first time.

The question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read the first time.

By leave of the Assembly and pursuant to Rule 57(2), the said Bill was then read a second and third time and passed under its title.

ROYAL ASSENT

4:04 p.m.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the Throne.

The Speaker addressed Her Honour:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

This Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the Government to defray the expenses of the Public Service. In the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour Bill No. 42, *An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of Money for the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending on March 31, 2005*, to which I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent:

Bill No. 42 – The Appropriation Act, 2004 (No. 2)

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor then replied: "In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill."

Her Honour then retired from the Chamber.

4:07 p.m.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 36 – The Provincial Sales Tax 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. 36 – The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2004 – be now read a second time.

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

Bill No. 37 – The Tobacco Tax 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. 37 – The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2004 – be now read a second time.

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

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:33 p.m. until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

Returns, Reports and Papers Tabled

The following paper was laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Mr. Wartman:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Milk Control Board for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 147)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ms. Harpauer asked the Government Question No. 234, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wartman:

To the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization: (1) How many extension agrologists were employed by the Government of Saskatchewan on April 1, 2004? (2) How many will be employed by the Government of Saskatchewan as of May 1, 2004?

Answer:

- (1) On April 1, 2004 the department had 157 agrologist positions.
- (2) The department expects to have 141 agrologist positions as of May 1, 2004.

Mr Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 235, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Wartman:

To the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization: (1) Will Saskatchewan chicken producers, currently on the waiting list to be granted quotas in our province to supply chickens, be granted those quotas in an expedited manner in order to supply the increased need for chickens due to the cull of 19 million birds? (2) What is the time frame from the granting of these new quotas?

Answer:

The Saskatchewan Board is co-operating with the CFC (Chicken Farmers of Canada) who is taking the lead on working with the British Columbia Chicken Board to step up production over the next six months. There is no requirement for issuance of Broiler Hatching Egg quota.

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 23 and are to be answered by day no. 28:

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 240:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) What is the minimum rate charge for a disconnect and reconnect for a commercial customer, specifically around seasonal buildings? (2) How is this rate determined?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 241:

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission: Does the 2004 provincial budget wage increase mandate of 0% - 1% - 1% for year one, year two and year three extend to the various types of Crown Corporations as defined in section 2(c), (e), (f), (f.1), (h) and (i) of *The Crown Corporations Act, 1993*, S.S. c - 50.101?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 242:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation: (1) Will SPMC be making any purchases of new and/or used vehicles for the Central Vehicle Agency in the 2004 calendar year? (2) Can the Minister please provide how many, and the make, model, year and cost of each vehicle?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 243:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation: (1) Does SPMC purchase any of the natural gas it uses in its properties in Saskatchewan from a company other than SaskEnergy? (2) If so, which properties use gas from a different company?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 244:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation: What was the revenue generated by the Echo Valley Conference Centre, and what were the operating expenses incurred by this facility in the fiscal year 2002-2003?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 245:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation: What was the revenue generated by the Echo Valley Conference Centre, and what were the operating expenses incurred by this facility in the fiscal year 2001-2002?

Mr. Gantfoer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 246:

To the Minister of Health: How much money did the provincial government spend on the post-budget mail-out to Saskatchewan residents entitled "Budget 2004-2005: Understanding Health Care Spending in Saskatchewan"?

Mr. Gantfoer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 247:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) How much money did the provincial government receive from the federal government for the Canada Health Infoway in the fiscal years of 2001-2002, 2002-2003, and 2003-2004? (2) How much of this money was allocated to the provincial health budget in each respective year?

Mr. Gantfoer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 248:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) How much money did or will the provincial government receive from the federal government for the Canada Health Infoway in the fiscal year of 2004-2005? (2) How much of this money was or will be allocated to the provincial health budget?

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 24 and are to be answered by day no. 29:

Mr. Toth, to ask the Government the following Question No. 249:

To the Minister Responsible for Investment Saskatchewan: For each of the suppliers, consultants, contractors and financial institutions used by the government in the discussions and negotiations with Broe Industries over the development of the Belle Plaine ethanol project: (1) What was each paid for their services? (2) How much did each receive from the Government of Saskatchewan as its share of the cost?

Mr. Stewart, to ask the Government the following Question No. 250:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) What was the total cost of the recent overhaul and re-fit of the Riverhurst Ferry? (2) Who was the general contractor awarded this job? (3) What was the tender price for the jobs? (4) Did the general contractor hold a bid bond? (5) How much downtime was experienced by the Riverhurst Ferry in 2003 following the re-fit and overhaul?

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 25 and are to be answered by day no. 30:

Mr. Hart, to ask the Government the following Question No. 251:

To the Minister of Labour: For all the cases before the Labour Relations Board in which a final decision was handed down in 2003: (1) What was the average length of time between the case being heard by the Labour Relations Board and the final decision being made? (2) What was the longest period between the hearing of a case and a final decision? (3) What was the shortest?

Mr. Hart, to ask the Government the following Question No. 252:

To the Minister of Labour: For all the cases before the Labour Relations Board in which a final decision was handed down in 2002: (1) What was the average length of time between the case being heard by the Labour Relations Board and the final decision being made? (2) What was the longest period between the hearing of a case and a final decision? (3) What was the shortest?

Mr. Hermanson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 253:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: For the year 2003, what amount of money did SaskTel spend on advertising: (1) MAX TV services? (2) High-speed internet? (3) Other SaskTel services?

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 254:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: For fiscal year 2004-2005, what is the annual maximum dental allowance for individuals who have been given Supplementary Health Benefits?

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 26 and are to be answered by day no. 31:

Mr. Hart, to ask the Government the following Question No. 255:

To the Minister of Labour: In 2003, how much did the WCB spend on promotional items designed to promote or otherwise publicize the Workers' Compensation Board?

Mr. Hart, to ask the Government the following Question No. 256:

To the Minister of Labour: In 2002, how much did the WCB spend on promotional items designed to promote or otherwise publicize the Workers' Compensation Board?

Mr. Hart, to ask the Government the following Question No. 257:

To the Minister of Labour: In 2001, how much did the WCB spend on promotional items designed to promote or otherwise publicize the Workers' Compensation Board?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 258:

To the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization: (1) Will farm fuel purchased from a card lock centre under 200 litres still be eligible for the farm fuel rebate program? (2) If not, why not? (3) Are there any exemptions relative to volume purchase available?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 259:

To the Minister of Health: Could you provide the number of full-time, part-time and contract staff in each employment category (i.e. nurse, housekeeping, doctor, etc.) at the Davidson health centre?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 260:

To the Minister of Health: Could you provide the number of full-time, part-time and contract staff in each employment category (i.e. nurse, housekeeping, doctor, etc.) at the Imperial health centre?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 261:

To the Minister of Health: Could you provide the number of full-time, part-time and contract staff in each employment category (i.e. nurse, housekeeping, doctor, etc.) at the Nokomis health centre?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 262:

To the Minister of Health: Could you provide the number of full-time, part-time and contract staff in each employment category (i.e. nurse, housekeeping, doctor, etc.) at the Watrous hospital?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 263:

To the Minister of Health: Could you provide the number of full-time, part-time and contract staff in each employment category (i.e. nurse, housekeeping, doctor, etc.) at the Wynyard hospital?