



No. 27

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, April 28, 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: Draude, Hermanson, Bakken, Huyghebaert, Allchurch, Brkich, Weekes, Higgins 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 Laflèche and District Health Centre is not closed or further downsized.

(Sessional Paper No. 145)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that Porcupine Carragana Hospital is not closed or further downsized.

(Sessional Paper No. 146)

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 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 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 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)

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.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 128)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Yates, Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills, presented the First Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:

Your Committee has duly examined the under-mentioned Petitions for Private Bills and finds that the provisions of Rules 75, 76 and 79 have been fully complied with.

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

(Sessional Paper No. 149)

On motion of Mr. Yates, seconded by Mr. Kerpan:

Ordered, That the First Report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be now concurred in.

Thereupon the Clerk laid upon the Table the following Bills:

Bill No. 301 - The Bethany College Amendment Act, 2004

(Mr. Heppner)

Bill No. 302 - The Fountain of Life School of Ministry Inc. Act

(Mr. Toth)

Bill No. 303 - The Saskatchewan School Trustees' Association Amendment Act, 2004

(Mr. McCall)

The said Bills were read the first time, and ordered for Second Reading at the next sitting pursuant to Rule 82.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

With unanimous consent, the Assembly observed a moment of silence in remembrance of workers killed or injured in the course of their employment.

SPEAKER TABLES REPORT

The Speaker laid before the Assembly the Annual Report of the Children's Advocate for the year 2003.
(Sessional Paper No. 148)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 236 and 239, they were answered. (See Appendix)

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 237 and 238, pursuant to Rule 45(5), they were transferred to Motions for Returns (Debatable) Nos. 176 and 177.

On motion of the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:33 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. Quennell:

Annual Report for Saskatchewan Public and Private Rights Board for the year ended December 31, 2003.
(Sessional Paper No. 150)

By the Hon. Mr. Taylor:

Financial Statements for Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Administration Board for the year ended December 31, 2003.
(Sessional Paper No. 151)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Hermanson asked the Government Question No. 236, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: (1) Does SaskTel's MAX TV service have the technical capability to provide high definition television to its subscribers? (2) How much did it cost SaskTel to acquire or develop this technology? (3) If SaskTel's MAX TV service does not have the capability to provide high definition television to its subscribers, when does it intend to purchase or develop the required technology? (4) At what cost?

Answer:

- (1) No.
- (2) n/a
- (3) This is being evaluated and at this time plans have not been completed.
- (4) n/a

Mr. Weekes asked the Government Question No. 239, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Cline:

To the Minister Responsible for Information Services Corporation: (1) During fiscal year 2002-2003, what was the name of the report that resulted from the Gartner Group study recommending an appropriate governance model for geomatics services within the provincial government? (2) What were the costs associated with this study? (3) What were the results of the study? (4) Will the Minister table this report in the Assembly?

Answer:

- (1) Geomatics Governance Report – 2002
- (2) The Gartner Group was engaged jointly by Information Services Corporation (ISC) and the Information Technology Office (ITO). The cost of the Report was shared 50/50 between ISC and ITO. The total cost of the Report was \$95,824.86. The cost of the Report to ISC was \$47,912.43.
- (3) There were 19 recommendations in the Report. 17 of the 19 recommendations are being or have been implemented. The remaining two recommendations will be acted on in future.
- (4) Yes.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Friday:

Mr. Trew, to move the following Motion for a Seventy-five Minute Debate:

That this Assembly affirm its on-going support for the Canadian Wheat Board and its historical mandate to conduct the orderly marketing of grain on behalf of Canadian farmers.

NOTICE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

On Friday:

Mr. Gantefer, to move the following Motion:

That, pursuant to Rule 133(1), The Standing Committee on Human Services shall hold an inquiry and make recommendations regarding the future of health care facilities throughout Saskatchewan, and that the committee shall:

- a) Obtain from the Department of Health a comprehensive list of all health care facilities scheduled for closure or conversion;
- b) Hold public meetings away from the seat of Government in order that the fullest representations may be received without unduly inconveniencing those desiring to be heard;
- c) Hold at least one public meeting in each community with a health care facility scheduled to be closed or converted;
- d) Have the authority to send for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses under oath;
- e) Have the authority to receive representations from interested parties and individuals; and
- f) Have the authority to engage such advisors and assistants as are required for the purposes of the inquiry;

And, that this Assembly strongly urges the Government to place a moratorium on all health care facility closures and conversions until such time as this inquiry has been completed and a substantive report presented to the Assembly pursuant to Rule 133(4).

Mr. Yates, to move the following Motion:

That this Assembly recognize the government's on-going commitment to supporting communities and that initiatives in the 2004-2005 budget will support and build strong and vibrant communities across this province.

Mr. McCall, 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 reform to the equalization program be initiated immediately.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

On Friday:

No. 1 (Opposition)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Mr. Gantefer, to move the following motion:

That, pursuant to Rule 133(1), The Standing Committee on Human Services shall hold an inquiry and make recommendations regarding the future of health care facilities throughout Saskatchewan, and that the committee shall:

- a) Obtain from the Department of Health a comprehensive list of all health care facilities scheduled for closure or conversion;

- b) Hold public meetings away from the seat of Government in order that the fullest representations may be received without unduly inconveniencing those desiring to be heard;
- c) Hold at least one public meeting in each community with a health care facility scheduled to be closed or converted;
- d) Have the authority to send for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses under oath;
- e) Have the authority to receive representations from interested parties and individuals; and
- f) Have the authority to engage such advisors and assistants as are required for the purposes of the inquiry;

And, that this Assembly strongly urges the Government to place a moratorium on all health care facility closures and conversions until such time as this inquiry has been completed and a substantive report presented to the Assembly pursuant to Rule 133(4).

No. 2 (Government)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Mr. Yates, to move the following motion:

That this Assembly recognize the government's on-going commitment to supporting communities and that initiatives in the 2004-2005 budget will support and build strong and vibrant communities across this province.

No. 3 (Opposition)

ADJOURNED DEBATES

1. Bill No. 201 - The Whistleblower Protection Act

(Mr. Yates)
Adjourned Once

No. 4 (Government)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Mr. McCall, 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 reform to the equalization program be initiated immediately.

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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?

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 27 and are to be answered by day no. 32:

Mr. Heppner, to ask the Government the following Question No. 264:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: When will high speed internet be available in the community of Hague?

Mr. Heppner, to ask the Government the following Question No. 265:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: When will high speed internet be available in the community of Osler?

Mr. Heppner, to ask the Government the following Question No. 266:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) What are the specific plans in the current fiscal year for repair of Highway 35 south of Weyburn to the US border? (2) What are the specific plans in the current fiscal year for repair of Airport Road near the city of Weyburn?