



No. 28

# VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Thursday, April 29, 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, Huyghebaert, Brkich, Weekes and Dearborn.

## READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to Order, the Deputy Clerk informed the Assembly that on April 28, 2004, a certain petition concerning the *Right to Work* campaign and a certain petition concerning the closure of Major School were presented. Pursuant to Rule 14(7) the petitions were found to be irregular and therefore were not read and received.

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 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 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 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 make the necessary repairs to Highway 35 north from the United States border, in order to prevent injury or loss of life and to prevent the loss of economic opportunity in the area.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 107)

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)

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.

(Addendum to 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.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 146)

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 240, 241, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247 and 248, they were answered. (See Appendix)

The Order of the Day being call for Question No. 242, pursuant to Rule 46(1), the answer was Tabled and, by reason of length, converted by the Clerk to Return No. 178.

(Sessional Paper No. 156)

On motion of the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

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The Assembly adjourned at 2:17 p.m. until Friday 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:

Amendments to the Bylaws of the following Professional Associations:

- Certified General Accountants Association of Saskatchewan
- Chiropractors' Association of Saskatchewan
- Association of Professional Community Planners of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists' Association
- College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Dietitians Association
- Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan
- Funeral and Cremation Services Council
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Society of Occupational Therapists
- Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association
- Saskatchewan Applied Science Technologists and Technicians
- Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials
- Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
- Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association
- Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 62)

By the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board Superannuation Plan for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 152)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 153)

By the Hon. Mr. Wartman:

Annual Report for Agri-Food Council for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 154)

By the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2003, including Supplier, Grant and other Payments for 2003 as well as Consolidation Schedule, Corporate and Housing Authority Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 155)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 240, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Quennell:**

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?

Answer:

- (1) The rate charged for a seasonal disconnect/reconnect for general service accounts is \$155.00 (plus GST) and \$105.00 (plus GST) for each subsequent meter that is disconnected for the same customer at the same location during one trip.
- (2) The rate recovers the costs associated with seasonal disconnects. These costs include labour, vehicles, tools, equipment, administrative costs and infrastructure maintenance.

**Mr Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 241, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:**

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?

Answer:

The wage mandate applies to all Crown corporations as defined in those sections of the Crown Corporations Act, 1993.

**Mr Brkich asked the Government Question No. 243, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:**

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?

Answer:

- (1) No
- (2) N/A

**Mr McMorris asked the Government Question No. 244, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:**

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?

Answer:

The 2002-2003 total revenues for Echo Valley Conference Centre were \$1,471,143 and the total expenses were \$2,299,203.

**Mr McMorris asked the Government Question No. 245, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:**

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?

Answer:

The 2001-02 total revenue for Echo Valley Conference Centre was \$1,332,821 and the total expenses were \$2,296,786.

**Mr Gantefoer asked the Government Question No. 246, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:**

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*?

Answer:

The provincial government spent approximately \$60,000 to design, print and distribute *Budget 2004-05: Understanding Health Care in Saskatchewan*.

**Mr Gantefoer asked the Government Question No. 247, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:**

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?

Answer:

(1) The following sums were received in the three fiscal years:

Fiscal year	Amount (\$)
2001-02	\$0
2002-03	\$191,706
2003-04	\$1,596,046

(2) Canada Health Infoway (Infoway) does not provide annual 'grant' funding. Instead, Infoway reimburses the Saskatchewan Health Information Network (SHIN) for a portion of costs that we incur in Saskatchewan for approved health IT projects which meet Infoway's investment criteria. Funding is received from Infoway as project phases are completed and the funding goes directly to SHIN as reimbursement for the costs incurred. These funds do not therefore come into the provincial budget as revenues.

**Mr Gantefoer asked the Government Question No. 248, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:**

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?

Answer:

- (1) Saskatchewan Health is currently in discussions with Infoway about some projects that we expect will begin this year. The outcome of these discussions and the subsequent project planning work with Infoway will determine what funding SHIN will receive this year from Infoway in 2004-05.
- (2) Canada Health Infoway (Infoway) does not provide annual 'grant' funding. Instead, Infoway reimburses the Saskatchewan Health Information Network (SHIN) for a portion of costs that we incur in Saskatchewan for approved health IT projects which meet Infoway's investment criteria. Funding is received from Infoway as project phases are completed and the funding goes directly to SHIN as reimbursement for the costs incurred. These funds do not therefore come into the provincial budget as revenues.

## **NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF A BILL**

On Monday:

Hon. Mr. Quennell to move First Reading of Bill No. 43 – The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act

## **NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**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?

Ms. Bakken, 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?

**The following Questions were given notice on day no. 28 and are to be answered by day no. 33:**

Mr. Stewart, to ask the Government the following Question No. 267:

To the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization: What is the current provincial funding level for each community pasture in the province in the current year?

Mr. Stewart, to ask the Government the following Question No. 268:

To the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization: What was the provincial funding level for each community pasture in the province in the last year?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 269:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) How many elementary and high schools in Saskatchewan do not have high speed internet? (2) Can the Minister please provide the names of these schools?

Mr. Huyghebaert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 270:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: What is the department's specific plan in the current fiscal year for repair of Highway 43 west of Gravelbourg?