



No. 43

# VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Wednesday, May 26, 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, McMorris, Bakken, Brkich, Weekes, Dearborn and Hart.

## 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 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 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 Biggar Hospital, Long-term Care Home and Ambulance services maintain their current level of services.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 106)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that Mainprize Manor & Health Centre is not closed or further downsized.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 157)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that the Doddsland and Luseland ambulance services are not discontinued.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 167)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to reconsider the decision to reduce funding to the Claybank Brick Plant.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 180)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that the Border Health Centre in Climax remains a 24-hour facility.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 182)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that Foam Lake Jubilee Home is not closed or further downsized.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 183)

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

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

Bill No. 57 - The Irrigation Amendment Act, 2004

(Hon. Mr. Wartman)

Bill No. 58 - The Cities Amendment Act, 2004

(Hon. Mr. Taylor)

Bill No. 59 - The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2004

(Hon. Mr. Nilson)

#### **WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 350 to 357, 359 to 391, 398 to 400, and 406 to 436, pursuant to Rule 45(5), they were transferred to Motions for Returns (Debatable) Nos. 204 to 278.

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 358, 392 to 397, and 401 to 405, they were answered. (See Appendix)

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

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The Assembly adjourned at 2:26 p.m. until Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

*Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky*  
*Speaker*

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**RETURNS, REPORTS AND PAPERS TABLED**

The following paper was laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Mr. Quennell:

Amendment to the Bylaws of the following Professional Association:

Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of Saskatchewan

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 62)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Mr. Heppner asked the Government Question No. 358 which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Nilson:**

To the Minister of Health: Will proposed legislation banning smoking in public places be applicable to and enforced on Saskatchewan reserves?

Answer:

*The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004* is a law of general application and does apply on reserve land.

**Mr. Gantfoer asked the Government Question No. 392, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Nilson:**

To the Minister of Health: (1) Can the Minister please provide the criteria that the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Authority uses to award units of physiotherapy service contracts with privately operated physiotherapy clinics? (2) Is this criteria consistent with how other health authorities award physiotherapy service contracts?

Answer:

(1) For the past number of years the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority has used a tender process to award contracts for outpatient physiotherapy. The criteria used includes 17 categories (total points 100) ranging from:

- qualifications of staff
- supervisory experience
- safety procedures
- policies
- length of time/experience as a clinic
- infection control
- statistical and outcome monitoring etc.

Contracts are awarded on this criteria and the total number of points scored.

(2) Each regional health authority that contracts with physiotherapy clinics, establishes its own criteria for clinic selection

**Mr. Gantfoer asked the Government Question No. 393, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Nilson:**

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many private physiotherapy clinics applied for service contracts with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health District in the new term beginning April 1, 2004? (2) How many received contracts?

Answer:

(1) For 2004/05 the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority received nine applications for physiotherapy contracts.

(2) Contracts were awarded to seven clinics.

**Mr. Gantfoer asked the Government Question No. 394, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Nilson:**

To the Minister of Health: Who assesses private physiotherapy clinics who have applied for service contracts with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health District to determine if they meet all of the eligibility requirements?

Answer:

The regional health authority assesses the applicant using the criteria referenced in Question No. 392.

**Mr. Gantefer asked the Government Question No. 395, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Nilson:**

To the Minister of Health: If a private physiotherapy clinic has applied for a service contract and does not meet the eligibility requirements of the Regina Qu'Appelle Health District, is the operator notified as to the deficiencies of the clinic so they may improve their eligibility status in subsequent years?

Answer:

Applicants are notified as to whether they are successful or unsuccessful. Unsuccessful applications may request information about why they were not selected.

**Mr. Gantefer asked the Government Question No. 396, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Nilson:**

To the Minister of Health: What are the eligibility requirements for pre-authorized out-of-province medical treatment?

Answer:

The vast majority of out-of-province services within Canada are provided using the Inter-provincial Reciprocal Billing Agreement, and no pre-authorization is required. Magnetic resonance imaging and cataract services are only insured with prior approval from Saskatchewan Health. In order to be considered eligible for out-of-province approval, a written request by the patient's attending specialist is required. Within this request, confirmation regarding the medical necessity of the service, and that the service is not able to be performed as required in Saskatchewan, is requested.

**Mr. Gantefer asked the Government Question No. 397, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Nilson:**

To the Minister of Health: (1) Is there a formal appeal process for people who have been denied pre-authorized out-of-province medical treatment? (2) If so, what is the process?

Answer:

- (1) Yes
- (2) When a decision has been made to deny coverage for out-of-province health treatment, an appeal may be made to the Executive Director of the Medical Services Branch, Saskatchewan Department of Health. The review of the appeal is based on whether an individual was treated unfairly within the established criteria, or additional information or data that was not available when the request for out-of-province coverage was requested.

**Ms. Harpauer asked the Government Question No. 401, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:**

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) For fiscal year 2003-2004, what was the total number of appeal applications made to the Highway Traffic Board? (2) Of that number, how many were approved? (3) How many were rejected? (4) How many of the approved applications resulted in a successful appeal?

Answer:

The Highway Traffic Board does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Highways and Transportation.

**Ms. Harpauer asked the Government Question No. 402, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:**

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) For fiscal year 1999-2000, what was the total number of appeal applications made to the Highway Traffic Board? (2) Of that number, how many were approved? (3) How many were rejected? (4) How many of the approved applications resulted in a successful appeal?

Answer:

This does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Highways and Transportation.

**Ms. Harpauer asked the Government Question No. 403, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:**

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) For fiscal year 2000-2001, what was the total number of appeal applications made to the Highway Traffic Board? (2) Of that number, how many were approved? (3) How many were rejected? (4) How many of the approved applications resulted in a successful appeal?

Answer:

This does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Highways and Transportation.

**Ms. Harpauer asked the Government Question No. 404, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:**

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) For fiscal year 2001-2002, what was the total number of appeal applications made to the Highway Traffic Board? (2) Of that number, how many were approved? (3) How many were rejected? (4) How many of the approved applications resulted in a successful appeal?

Answer:

This does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Highways and Transportation.

**Ms. Harpauer asked the Government Question No. 405, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:**

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) For fiscal year 2002-2003, what was the total number of appeal applications made to the Highway Traffic Board? (2) Of that number, how many were approved? (3) How many were rejected? (4) How many of the approved applications resulted in a successful appeal?

Answer:

This does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Highways and Transportation.

## **NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

On Friday:

Hon. Mr. Wartman to move First Reading of Bill No. 65 – The Agri-Food Act, 2004

Hon. Mr. Wartman to move First Reading of Bill No. 66 - The Cattle Marketing Deductions Amendment Act, 2004

## **NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE**

On Friday:

Mr. McMorris to move the following motion:

That this Assembly congratulate Boards of Education throughout Saskatchewan that have shown leadership in pursuing school district amalgamation on a voluntary basis.

## NOTICE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

On Friday:

Mr. Yates to move the following motion:

That this Assembly recognize this government's commitment to responsible fiscal management and accountability.

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 the equalization program be reformed immediately.

## NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

On Friday:

### No. 1 (Government)

Mr. Yates to move the following motion:

That this Assembly recognize this government's commitment to responsible fiscal management and accountability.

### No. 2 (Opposition)

Adjourned debate on Motion No. 2 moved by Mr. Gantefer:

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)

*Adjourned Twice*

**No. 3 (Government)**

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 the equalization program be reformed immediately.

**No. 4 (Opposition)**

Bill No. 201 – The Whistleblower Protection Act

(Mr. Yates)  
*Adjourned Once*

**NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**The following Questions were asked on day no. 40 and are to be answered by day no. 45:**

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 441:

To the Minister Responsible for Investment Saskatchewan: How much money does the government have invested in Heartland Hog Barns?

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 442:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: What is the cost to SaskTel for each MAX TV home installation?

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 443:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: (1) Is a study underway to move MAX TV from ADSL capability to VDSL? (2) When will the study be complete? (3) How much would the cost involved be for the upgrade?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 444:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: What is the total number of kilometres of roadways that your department is responsible for?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 445:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: For fiscal year 2001-2002, how many kilometres of highways were rebuilt?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 446:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: For fiscal year 2002-2003, how many kilometres of highways were rebuilt?



Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 447:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: For fiscal year 2003-2004, how many kilometres of highways were rebuilt?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 448:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: For fiscal year 2001-2002, how many kilometres of highways were repaired and/or resurfaced?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 449:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: For fiscal year 2002-2003, how many kilometres of highways were repaired and/or resurfaced?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 450:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: For fiscal year 2003-2004, how many kilometres of highways were repaired and/or resurfaced?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 451:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: For fiscal year 2004-2005, what is the total number of kilometres of highways projected to be: (1) Repaired and/or resurfaced? (2) Rebuilt?

**The following Questions were asked on day no. 41 and are to be answered by day no. 46:**

Mr. Hermanson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 452:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: What is the return on investment in MAX TV to date, both in terms of capital expenditures and in terms of operating costs?

Mr. Hermanson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 453:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: What is the value of incremental revenues earned from MAX TV to date?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 454:

To the Minister of Health: (1) What process is used to ensure that Methadone is only provided to people who qualify for the Methadone program? (2) Are those qualifying for the Methadone program required to take their dosage in the presence of a physician?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 455:

To the Minister of Health: What is the total cost savings of closing one wing of the long-term care facility in Davidson?

**The following Questions were asked on day no. 42 and are to be answered by day no. 47:**

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 456:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many Communications Directors and Communications Officers are employed within your department? (2) What is the total amount for their wages and expenses?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 457:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many Communications Directors and/or Communications Officers are employed at each Regional Health Authority? (2) What is the breakdown for wages and expenses for each of them?

**The following Questions were asked on day no. 43 and are to be answered by day no. 48:**

Mr. Gantefoer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 458:

To the Minister of Health: How much money did the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Authority spend in overtime for nursing positions in each quarter of the fiscal year 2002-2003?

Mr. Gantefoer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 459:

To the Minister of Health: How much money did the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Authority save by recently combining units and reallocating beds?

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 460:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: For the calendar year 2004, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 461:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: For the calendar year 2003, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 462:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: For the calendar year 2002, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 463:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: For the calendar year 2001, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 464:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: For the calendar year 2001, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 465:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: For the calendar year 2002, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 466:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: For the calendar year 2003, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 467:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: For the calendar year 2004, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 468:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: For the calendar year 2004, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 469:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: For the calendar year 2003, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 470:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: For the calendar year 2002, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 471:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: For the calendar year 2001, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 472:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: For the calendar year 2001, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 473:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: For the calendar year 2002, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 474:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: For the calendar year 2003, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 475:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: For the calendar year 2004, can the Minister please provide: (1) The names of employees who have participated in language lessons in a foreign country. (2) What country they travelled to. (3) What language they are learning. (4) How many trips they have made and the duration of their stay. (5) The cost of each of these trips.