



No. 53

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, June 9, 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, Brkich, Weekes, Dearborn, Hermanson, Bakken and Higgins.

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 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 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 Kerrobert Hospital is not closed or further downsized.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 165)

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

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 166)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that the Dodsland 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 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, through the Legislature's Human Services Committee, to hold public hearings in each of the communities affected by the changes recently announced by the Minister of Health prior to those bed closures, facility closures and layoffs taking place.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 201)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES RAPPORT DU COMITÉ PERMANENT DES SERVICES À LA PERSONNE

The following Bills were reported without amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, they were read the third time and passed:

Les projets de loi suivants sont rapportés sans amendement et avec la permission de l'Assemblée de passer outre au renvoi au Comité plénier, sont lus une troisième fois et adoptés:

Bill No. 43 – The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act

Bill No. 53 – The Securities Amendment Act, 2004

Bill No. 34 – The Psychologists Amendment Act, 2004

Bill No. 49 – The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2004

Projet de loi n° 49 – Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les services de l'état civil

The following Bill was reported with amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, it was considered as amended and read the third time and passed:

Le projet de loi suivant est rapporté avec amendement et avec la permission de l'Assemblée de passer outre au renvoi au Comité plénier, est considéré comme étant amendé et est lu une troisième fois et adopté:

Bill No. 10 – The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2004

Projet de loi n° 10 – Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi sur l'administration des successions

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 494 and 495, they were answered. (See Appendix)

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:41 p.m. until Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 494 which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Nilson:

To the Minister of Health: What is the progress on the establishment of an emergency mattress detox treatment centre in Saskatoon?

Answer:

The construction of the 12-bed brief detox facility, which is an add-on to the existing Larson House building, is now completed. All partners involved in the development of the Brief Detox will meet throughout the summer to develop the necessary protocols, staffing requirements and job descriptions, and administrative policies, etc. The opening of the Centre and acceptance of clients into the Brief Detox Program is hoped to go ahead within the first two weeks of September 2004.

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 495 which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Nilson:

To the Minister of Health: (1) Has the forensic audit of the MACSI Centre been completed? (2) When will the findings of this audit be made public?

Answer:

- (1) The forensic audit of MACSI is currently underway, covering financial information for the period of 1998 to 2004, and is expected to be completed by August, 2004.
- (2) The Provincial Auditor, at the request of Cabinet, has undertaken a Special Assignment to oversee the audit of MACSI, and will report his findings in the fall 2004 Chapter.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Friday:

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 (Opposition)

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

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. 2 (Opposition)

Bill No. 201 – The Whistleblower Protection Act

(Mr. Yates)

Adjourned Once

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were asked on day no. 51 and are to be answered by day no. 56:

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 496:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) On highway 44 from Davidson west to the junction of highway number 19, will the speed limit be raised from 80 km/h to 90km/h? (2) If not, why?

Mr. Elhard, to ask the Government the following Question No. 497:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: (1) How many severance packages worth \$100,000 or more were given out to employees who left the corporation in 2002? (2) Can the Minister please provide how much each of these severance packages were?

Mr. Elhard, to ask the Government the following Question No. 498:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: (1) How many severance packages worth \$100,000 or more were given out to employees who left the corporation in 2003? (2) Can the Minister please provide how much each of these severance packages were?

Mr. Elhard, to ask the Government the following Question No. 499:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: (1) How many severance packages worth \$100,000 or more were given out to employees who left the corporation in 2004? (2) Can the Minister please provide how much each of these severance packages were?

Mr. Morgan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 500:

To the Minister of Health: (1) Can the Minister please provide the details of the consulting contract signed between the Saskatoon Health Region and Jim Ferguson? (2) When was the contract signed? (3) When does the contract expire? (4) What are the financial details of the contract?

The following Question was asked on day no. 52 and is to be answered by day no. 57:

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 501:

To the Minister Responsible for Information Services Corporation: (1) Has ISC conducted any phone surveys in 2004? (2) What company conducted the survey? (3) What was the cost of the survey? (4) What were the questions on the survey?

The following Questions were asked on day no. 53 and are to be answered by day no. 58:

Mr. Elhard, to ask the Government the following Question No. 502:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: Can the Minister please provide what changes in service fees there have been for telephone installation and hook-up charges in the year 2003?

Mr. Elhard, to ask the Government the following Question No. 503:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: Can the Minister please provide what changes in service fees there have been for telephone installation and hook-up charges in the year 2004?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 504:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: Are any of the employees and/or owners performing contract work for SaskTel doing "locates" (searching for underground lines) current employees of SaskTel?