



No. 58

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, June 16, 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, Hermanson, Stewart, Huyghebaert, Brkich, Weekes and Dearborn.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to Order, the Deputy Clerk informed the Assembly that on June 15, 2004, a certain petition concerning balancing the budget without raising taxes was presented. Pursuant to Rule 14(7) the petition was found to be irregular and therefore was 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 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 continuation of the current level of services available at the Kindersley Hospital and to ensure the current specialty services are sustained to better serve the people of West Central Saskatchewan.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 73)

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 reinstate the bulk beer discount structure cancelled in the recent provincial budget.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 174)

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 the Radisson School fall under the two-year moratorium on school closures and allow the community and school division the opportunity to consult on alternatives to the closing of the Radisson School.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 198)

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 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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:

Bill No. 71 – The City of Lloydminster Act

Bill No. 23 – The Regional Parks Amendment Act, 2004

Bill No. 33 – The Archives Act, 2004

Mr. Harper, Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure, presented the First Report of the said committee which is as follows:

Your committee considered the Estimates of the following Government departments and agencies and adopted the following resolutions:

Main Estimates, 2004-2005:

Resolved, that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005, the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs.....	\$191,105,000.00
For Highways and Transportation.....	\$169,182,000.00
For Northern Affairs	\$5,225,000.00

Lending and Investing Activities

For Highways and Transportation.....	\$1,050,000.00
For Northern Affairs	\$2,010,000.00

Major Capital Expenditure

Resolved, that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005, the following sums, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for that fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2006:

For Highways and Transportation Capital	\$125,565,000.00
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Your committee reviewed the following Estimates for which no funds were requested or required to be voted:

Main Estimates, 2004-2005:

Executive Branch of Government

For Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)	
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Your committee recommends that upon concurrence of its report by the Assembly, the sums as reported and approved shall be included in the Appropriation Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

(Sessional Paper No. 210)

On motion of Mr. Harper, seconded by Mr. Bjornerud:

Ordered, That the First Report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure be now concurred in.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

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:

Bill No. 65 – The Agri-Food Act, 2004

Bill No. 66 – The Cattle Marketing Deductions Amendment Act, 2004

Bill No. 47 – The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2004

Bill No. 50 – The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004

The following Bills were reported without amendment, and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole at the next sitting:

Bill No. 70 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2004

Bill No. 36 – The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2004

Mr. Lautermilch, Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy presented the First Report of the said committee which is as follows:

Your committee considered the Estimates of the following Government departments and agencies and adopted the following resolutions:

Main Estimates, 2004-2005:

Resolved, that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005, the following sums:

Budgetary Expenses

For Finance.....	\$135,714,000.00
For Industry and Resources.....	\$56,551,000.00
For Labour.....	\$14,187,000.00
For Saskatchewan Research Council.....	\$7,779,000.00

Lending and Investing Activities

For Industry and Resources.....	\$7,500,000.00
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Your committee reviewed the following Estimates for which no funds were requested or required to be voted:

Main Estimates, 2004-2005:

Executive Branch of Government

For Centenary Fund
For Finance – Servicing the Government Debt (Statutory)

Fiscal Stabilization Fund Transfer

Fiscal Stabilization Fund

Lending and Investing Activities

For Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)
For Saskatchewan Power Corporation (Statutory)
For Saskatchewan Water Corporation (Statutory)
For Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation (Statutory)
For SaskEnergy Incorporation (Statutory)

Debt Redemption, Sinking Fund and Interest Payments

For Finance – Debt Redemption (Statutory)
For Finance – Sinking Fund Payments – Government Share (Statutory)

Your committee recommends that upon concurrence of its report by the Assembly, the sums as reported and approved shall be included in the Appropriation Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.
(Sessional Paper No. 211)

On motion of Mr. Lautermilch, seconded by Mr. Stewart:

Ordered, That the First Report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure be now concurred in.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 502 to 504, they were answered. (See Appendix)

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:31 p.m. until Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Elhard asked the Government Question No. 502 which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:

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?

Answer:

There were no changes.

Mr. Elhard asked the Government Question No. 503 which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:

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?

Answer:

There were no changes.

Mr. Brkich asked the Government Question No. 504 which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag:

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?

Answer:

No.

NOTICE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

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 WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were asked on day no. 55 and are to be answered by day no. 60:

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 507:

To the Minister of Health: (1) In 2003, was there any increase or decrease in administration personnel at the Heartland Health Region? (2) What was that change?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 508:

To the Minister of Health: (1) In 2004, was there any increase or decrease in administration personnel at the Heartland Health Region? (2) What was that change?

Mr. Gantefer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 509:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many radiation machines for treating cancer patients are in operation in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region? (2) How old are they? (3) How many hours do they operate per week? (4) How often is maintenance required and scheduled?

Mr. Gantefer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 510:

To the Minister of Health: How many acute care hospital beds were in operation on March 31, 2004 in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region?

The following Question was asked on day no. 58 and are to be answered by day no. 63:

Mr. D'Autremont, to ask the Government the following Question No. 511:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency: With reference to the reassessment that SAMA will be undertaking this fiscal year: (1) What are the preliminary proposals and will they be released to the public? (2) What is the expected impact on property taxes? (3) When is it expected that reassessment will come into effect? (4) Will public hearings be held prior to the recommendations being implemented? (5) If so, when and in what communities will these hearings be held?