



No. 74

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

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, D'Autremont, Wall, Hermanson, Bjornerud, Stewart, Eagles, Bakken, Huyghebaert, Weekes, Kerpan 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 implement an allocation of financial resources to build an elementary school in Arbor Creek.

(Sessional Paper No. 716)

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 force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue re-organization of school division on a strictly voluntary basis.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 637)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to immediately address the concerns of all individuals affected by the TransGas Asquith Natural Gas Storage Project, pay 100% of the costs involved to rectify disruptions to water supplies, produce an environment assessment study encompassing a larger area outside the scope of the project, disclose the project's long term effects on these areas and consider alternative sources of water for the project.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 640)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to provide the funding required for additional residential spaces for Swift Current residents with lifelong disabilities.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 715)

PETITIONS FOR PRIVATE BILLS

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, seconded by Mr. Gantefoer, by leave of the Assembly:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Rule 75, this Assembly allow Private Bills to be considered during the resumption of the First Session of the Twenty-fifth Legislature on the following dates:

All petitions shall be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly not later than Monday, April 4;

No petition shall be received by the Assembly if presented after Wednesday, April 6; and

No Private Bill may be introduced in the Assembly after Wednesday, April 13.

WRITTEN QUESTION

The Order of the Day being called for Question No. 896, it was answered. (See Appendix)

MOTION TO COMMEMORATE SASKATCHEWAN CENTENNIAL

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Calvert:

That this Legislative Assembly mark the first sitting in our Centennial year by honouring Saskatchewan – our rich history of traditions and diverse cultural fabric that have helped to shape our identity; our innovative thinking and inventiveness that built the province and helped to define Canada over the past 100 years; our community spirit and collective pride; our past accomplishments and future opportunities; and all of our people, places and perspectives that will provide the foundation to build a bright and prosperous future for Saskatchewan.

The debate continuing, it was moved by Mr. Krawetz, seconded by Mr. Toth, in amendment thereto:

That the following words be added after the words “future for Saskatchewan”:

And that in order to move the Province into the next century this Assembly urge the Government to adopt the following measures:

1. Reduce provincial income tax for low income residents.
2. Build a new integrated health sciences facility at the University of Saskatchewan.
3. Increase the food allowance for social assistance recipients.
4. Celebrate Saskatchewan’s Centennial by eliminating entry fees at all provincial parks in 2005.
5. Establish a single health care agency for the entire province to maximize the use of Saskatchewan’s health facilities and human resources.

6. Negotiate with the federal government for an eight year exemption on Saskatchewan's oil and gas revenues and a return to the ten province standard for equalization payments.
7. Recognize the Treaties as the foundation for a partnership between First Nations and non-First Nations people in the economic and social development of Saskatchewan.
8. Support a sustainable livestock industry by instituting a provincial capital tax exemption and providing a PST rebate on all capital costs associated with new or expanded beef processing capacity in Saskatchewan.
9. Establish a Children's Hospital in Saskatoon utilizing an existing acute care facility.
10. Create Enterprise Saskatchewan as the central economic development agency of government in partnership with industry, local government, First Nations, Labour, and Post Secondary Institutions to deliver on the Promise of Saskatchewan.
11. Increase training seats for medical professionals at Saskatchewan's post secondary institutions.
12. Forgive a portion of student loan debt for doctors, nurses and other health sciences graduates who choose to stay and work in Saskatchewan.
13. Create a provincial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) advisory board to address FASD issues in Saskatchewan and establish dedicated provincial FASD diagnostic centres.
14. Establish crystal meth addiction treatment centres capable of providing long-term treatment options and safe house facilities for high risk individuals waiting for treatment.
15. Coordinate a province-wide system of community-based organizations to address addictions issues and the shortage of detox and inpatient treatment facilities in the province.
16. Dedicate a percentage of liquor and gaming revenues to addictions programs and facilities including dedicated facilities and programs for youth addictions services.
17. Implement an aggressive public awareness campaign in all Saskatchewan schools about the dangers of crystal meth.
18. Partner with the Government of Canada to building three new all-weather roads in Northern Saskatchewan to facilitate sustainable northern communities and sustainable northern economic development.
19. Increase the amount a social assistance recipient can earn from employment while on assistance.
20. Consult with First Nations and Métis people in the development, and prior to the implementation, of provincial legislation that impacts on the jurisdiction of Saskatchewan's First Nations.
21. Establish New Growth Tax Incentives to encourage private sector investment in new or existing Saskatchewan businesses.
22. Create a Community Infrastructure Investment Fund that pays an income tax free return to Saskatchewan residents who invest in community infrastructure projects.

23. Establish a Provincial Youth Justice Board to address youth crime, rehabilitation and restitution measures.
24. Create a Diabetes Health Centre of Excellence to improve the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes.
25. Establish designated provincial conservation areas and protected wild spaces within Saskatchewan's provincial parks.
26. Make instruction in the history and content of the Treaties signed between First Nations and the Government of Canada a part of the provincial core curriculum.
27. Increase funding for K-12 education to provide short and long term property tax relief.
28. Create Innovation Schools within our publicly-funded K-12 education system to deliver enhanced educational programming.
29. Implement the Schools Plus program in all school divisions in Saskatchewan.
30. Implement a program to reduce surgical waiting lists to the national average within four years.
31. Make the University of Saskatchewan a Centre for Health Excellence in North America.
32. Support the expansion of entrepreneurial training to include every high school in Saskatchewan.
33. Commit all provincial fuel tax revenue as a minimum annual investment in provincial and municipal transportation construction and renewal.
34. Restore fairness to provincial public sector contract settlements by negotiating fair compensation packages that are competitive with other provincial jurisdictions in Canada.
35. Establish an effective one-stop agency to facilitate the delivery of services to children, families and individuals in need.
36. Establish annual performance and productivity targets for all government departments and agencies.
37. Implement a province-wide business retention program through Enterprise Saskatchewan.
38. Establish a Seniors' Advocate Office that will function as a single window access for seniors seeking assistance in dealing with the provincial government.
39. Increase funding to cultural agencies by reducing the fee charged by the provincial government to administer the lottery licensing agreement.
40. Support healthy communities by providing an annual grant to address energy costs in community-owned recreational facilities.
41. Encourage new private sector investment in Saskatchewan-based value-added enterprises through tax-free returns on long term investment growth and dividend payments.

42. Create an Environmental Centre of Excellence at the University of Regina mandated to develop environmentally friendly technology for the energy, mining, forestry, transportation, agriculture and utilities industries.
43. Support a non-partisan, professional civil service where government policy is clearly communicated by Cabinet and implemented by well trained public servants.
44. Expand development of Saskatchewan's Uranium Industry.
45. Establish a fully independent Crown Utility Rate Review Board.
46. Create a single water management agency in Saskatchewan to develop, manage and conserve Saskatchewan's water resources.
47. Fully fund Saskatchewan's share of any federal/provincial agricultural program to which the province is a signatory.
48. Create a centrally dispatched Emergency Medical Response (EMS) system to coordinate delivery of EMS air and ground services in Saskatchewan.
49. Reorganize provincial EMS to include emergency fixed and rotary wing service in partnership with the STARS program in Alberta.
50. Create a comprehensive and seamless patient referral service in the province.
51. Provide Saskatchewan's post secondary institutions with stable, long term, multi-year funding commitments.
52. Make Saskatchewan the First Small Business Tax-Free Zone in Canada.
53. Aggressively expand Saskatchewan's irrigation capacity as a central component of Saskatchewan's long term agri-business and economic development plan.
54. Restore trust and confidence in Saskatchewan's justice system by undertaking a comprehensive justice review.
55. Mandate Saskatchewan's major crown corporations to provide high quality utility and insurance services at the lowest possible cost.
56. Implement a crown dividend policy that establishes net return levels adequate to meet crown re-investment requirements and directs excess crown profits to a dedicated infrastructure renewal fund.
57. Review the mandate and dividend policy of Saskatchewan's major crown corporations every five years.
58. Review Provincial government competition with existing private sector businesses.
59. Expand home care services to encourage independent living for seniors.
60. Create a Health Care Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

61. Establish a Health Care Commissioner to measure, monitor and report to the people of Saskatchewan on the quality of health care.
62. Establish a one-stop service for businesses and investors interested in starting or expanding a business in Saskatchewan.
63. Work with other provinces and the federal government to negotiate a long-term agriculture support and risk management program that creates greater financial stability for producers and financial institutions.
64. Review the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance program with a view to expanding coverage and reducing risk.
65. Support partnerships between the Government of Saskatchewan and provincial post secondary institutions to promote research, development and commercialization of science and technology.
66. Participate in public/private partnerships to assist in commercialization of Saskatchewan based research and innovation including investments in the life sciences, health sciences, synchrotron science and renewable energy.
67. Give every K-12 student in Saskatchewan a Saskatchewan Centennial Tree to plant.
68. Establish set provincial election dates every four years.
69. Establish an enhanced business nominee program for immigrants with skills and investment capital to increase immigration and attract new investment capital.
70. Negotiate a new Municipal Revenue Sharing Agreement based in part on provincial own sources revenues and the municipalities' ability to raise local property tax revenue.
71. Establish fair and balanced labour legislation that respects the collective bargaining process and removes barriers to investment, job creation and economic growth.
72. Support voluntary municipal amalgamation.
73. Complete a value-for-money audit of the provincial health care system.
74. Build partnerships with other jurisdictions for patient referral.
75. Complete the development of an integrated health information network in Saskatchewan.
76. Implement a four year plan to move to 100% provincial funding of health care capital projects.
77. Establish a provincial family care tax credit for renovation of existing homes or construction of new homes to accommodate care of elderly or disabled family members.
78. Establish a provincial care-giver tax credit to assist in the care of elderly family members or family members with mental or physical disabilities.
79. Establish a provincial tax credit to assist parents in the cost of child care.
80. Investigate the establishment of a Research Chair in Occupational Health and Safety at one of Saskatchewan's universities to improve the health and safety of all workers in Saskatchewan.

81. Invest in improved online distance education programs to enhance local educational opportunities especially in rural and remote areas.
82. Establish a partnership with First Nations to increase participation rates and improve educational outcomes for First Nations students.
83. Increase provincial tax credits for research, development and commercialization performed in Saskatchewan.
84. Strengthen support for local recycling programs to preserve our environment and reduce stress on community landfills.
85. Establish a stand-alone Department of Forestry with the mandate to facilitate the environmentally sustainable, long-term growth of Saskatchewan's forestry industry.
86. Make Saskatchewan the energy heart of North America by assessing the potential for further development of power generation from wind, clean coal, natural gas, nuclear, biomass, coal bed methane, ethanol, solar, oil sands, co-generation and hydrogen fuel cell technology.
87. Reduce capital gains on proceeds reinvested in Saskatchewan from the sale of a Saskatchewan business or property.
88. Encourage the establishment of a Western Canadian transportation hub and a North/South transportation and trade corridor in Saskatchewan.
89. Create a province-wide transportation policy to encourage population and economic growth and sustainability.
90. Review Saskatchewan's student loan program to ensure access to post secondary education for all qualified Saskatchewan students regardless of economic circumstance.
91. Review all government regulations every five years with a view to eliminating barriers to environmentally sustainable economic growth.
92. Address the impending shortage of qualified public sector employees by directing the Public Service Commission to develop an aggressive strategy for recruiting and retaining qualified public servants.
93. Support an open and transparent selection process for provincial justices.
94. Strengthen the ability of the provincial Maintenance Enforcement Office to ensure compliance with maintenance orders.
95. Strengthen police authority and discretion in advising the public of the presence of potentially dangerous violent or sex offenders in communities and/or neighborhoods.
96. Partner with other provincial governments in western Canada to deliver services where costs can be reduced and services improved.
97. Work in partnership with First Nations and Métis people to implement existing agreements and develop new agreements to build our province.

98. Streamline Saskatchewan's inter-provincial trucking and transportation regulations.

99. Eliminate any government fee that costs more to collect than it raises in revenue.

The debate continuing on the amendment, it was moved by Ms. Hamilton, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Forbes, in amendment to the amendment:

That the following words be added after the words "raises in revenue":

100. Recognize the contributions of the voluntary sector.

The debate continuing on the subamendment, the Speaker interrupted proceedings and adjourned the Assembly without question put, pursuant to Rule 3(2).

The Assembly adjourned at 5:01 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:

Amendments to the Bylaws of the following Professional Associations:

Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission
Funeral and Cremation Services Council of Saskatchewan
Law Society of Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses
Saskatchewan Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association
Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 62)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Dearborn asked the Government Question No. 896, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Prebble:

To the Premier: (1) Did the Deputy Premier request legal advice from the Department of Justice regarding documents filed on October 17, 2003 in the SPUDCO lawsuit, alleging that the Saskatchewan Party had committed to settle the SPUDCO lawsuit if it became government, by lawyers with the firm Olive Waller Zinkham Waller? (2) If so, what was the monetary cost to the Department of Justice and how many hours were billed for this legal advice?

Answer:

- (1) No.
- (2) Nil.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Friday:

Mr. Lautermilch to move the following motion:

That this Assembly endorse the Premier's vision for an expanded energy sector in Saskatchewan.

NOTICE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

On Friday:

Mr. Huyghebaert to move the following motion:

That due to the lack of its competence and vision, this Government no longer enjoys the confidence of the Legislative Assembly.

Ms. Junor to move the following motion:

That this Assembly commend the Premier for his determination, reasoned approach and success in negotiating with Ottawa on the issue of federal transfer payments.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

No. 1 (Opposition)

Mr. Huyghebaert to move the following motion:

That due to the lack of its competence and vision, this Government no longer enjoys the confidence of the Legislative Assembly.

No. 2 (Government)

Ms. Junor to move the following motion:

That this Assembly commend the Premier for his determination, reasoned approach and success in negotiating with Ottawa on the issue of federal transfer payments.

No. 3 (Opposition)

Bill No. 203 - The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Day Act

(Mr. Brkich)

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were asked on day no. 72 and are to be answered by day no. 77:

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 897:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: (1) What are the communities where VLTs are operating? (2) What is the number of VLT machines in each community? (3) What is the total revenue generated from VLT machines in each of those communities?

Ms. Eagles, to ask the Government the following Question No. 898:

To the Minister of Environment: What cities, towns and/or villages have been charged under subsection 33(3) of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002*, subsection 33(2) of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002*, subsection 30(5) of *The Water Regulations, 2002*, section 74(1)(a) of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002*, and/or any other legislation or regulations pertaining to the operation of water works for the purpose of supplying water for human consumption?

Ms. Eagles, to ask the Government the following Question No. 899:

To the Provincial Secretary: (1) Can the Provincial Secretary identify the amount the provincial government has spent to date on television commercials promoting the province's centennial? (2) Please also identify the names of the actors that appear in the commercials, where they live and whether they are members of ACTRA.

Mr. Heppner, to ask the Government the following Question No. 900:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: How many tickets has SGI purchased, and how many does it intend to purchase, for the Lieutenant Governor's Centennial Gala on May 19, 2005 at Credit Union Place in Saskatoon?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 901:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: How many tickets has SaskEnergy purchased, and how many does it intend to purchase, for the Lieutenant Governor's Centennial Gala on May 19, 2005 at Credit Union Place in Saskatoon?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 902:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: How many tickets has SaskTel purchased, and how many does it intend to purchase, for the Lieutenant Governor's Centennial Gala on May 19, 2005 at Credit Union Place in Saskatoon?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 903:

To the Minister Responsible for Crown Management Board: How many tickets has Crown Management Board purchased, and how many does it intend to purchase, for the Lieutenant Governor's Centennial Gala on May 19, 2005 at Credit Union Place in Saskatoon?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 904:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: How many tickets has SaskPower purchased, and how many does it intend to purchase, for the Lieutenant Governor's Centennial Gala on May 19, 2005 at Credit Union Place in Saskatoon?

Mr. D'Autremont, to ask the Government the following Question No. 905:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: How many tickets has Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority purchased, and how many does it intend to purchase, for the Lieutenant Governor's Centennial Gala on May 19, 2005 at Credit Union Place in Saskatoon?

The following Questions were asked on day no. 73 and are to be answered by day no. 78:

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 906:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) Is Highway 35 south of Weyburn to the US border part of the 2005 spring construction project for the Department of Highways and Transportation? (2) When will the construction be started? (3) What section of Highway 35 will be included in the project? (4) What type of work will the project include? (5) What is the cost of the project?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 907:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) What reasoning may be provided for rural customers paying a municipal fee? (2) How are municipal fees assessed? (3) What amount of revenue does SaskPower collect from municipal fees? (4) Do city customers pay this fee?

The following Question was asked on day no. 74 and is to be answered by day no. 79:

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 908:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: (1) What was the cost of the TransGas cavern projects located at Landis and near Melville, which were sold in 1997 to Canadian Crude Separators and Plains Environmental, respectively? (2) Why were these caverns developed by TransGas prior to their sale? (3) Why were these caverns sold by TransGas?

NOTICE REGARDING PETITIONS FOR PRIVATE BILLS

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with an Order of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan dated March 16, 2005, that the time for filing Petitions for Private Bills with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly will expire on Monday, April 4, 2005, and that the time for presenting Petitions for Private Bills to the Legislative Assembly at its present Session will expire on Wednesday, April 6, 2005.

GWENN RONYK
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
