



No. 82

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Thursday, March 31, 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: Toth, Elhard, D'Autremont, Wall, Draude, Hermanson, Bjornerud, Stewart, Eagles, Bakken, Brkich, Weekes, Hart and Yates.

PRESENTING PETITIONS FOR PRIVATE BILLS

The following Petitions were presented and laid upon the Table:

By Mr. Addley	Of the Concentra Financial Services Association, in the Province of Saskatchewan
By Mr. Addley	Of the Saskatoon Foundation, in the Province of Saskatchewan
By Mr. Hagel	Of the Soeurs de la Charité de St. Louis, in the Province of Saskatchewan

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 reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue re-organization of school divisions 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)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to implement a strategy that will deal with crystal methamphetamine education, prevention, enforcement and treatment.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 720)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 914 to 916, they were answered. (See Appendix)

BUDGET DEBATE

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen, seconded by Mr. Hagel:

That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

A debate arising, it was moved by Mr. Cheveldayoff, seconded by Mr. Krawetz, in amendment thereto:

That all words after "That the Assembly" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"disagrees with the general budgetary policy of the government because the Premier and Cabinet have betrayed low and modest income earners by not increasing the basic personal exemption for people who earn less than \$35,000 a year, have not included indexation to the food allowance for people living on social assistance, have pre-determined the outcome of collective bargaining for teachers and nurses, have frozen funding for K-12 education, have not committed to fully fund the province's share of the Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization Program, have not addressed revenue sharing with municipalities, and have not laid out a long-term vision for the province for the next 100 years, therefore this provincial government does not enjoy the confidence of this Assembly."

The debate continuing on the motion and the amendment, it was on motion of Hon. Mr. Belanger, adjourned.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:59 p.m. until Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 914, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: When a child is placed in foster care and the Department then learns that the child has become suicidal, what steps does the Department take to ensure the child's safety?

Answer:

Every child in care is assigned a trained professional Social Worker responsible for developing a comprehensive case plan for the child/youth. When a child in care is identified as being suicidal, the department would make a referral to mental health professionals and seek their assistance in assessing the level of risk and developing an immediate plan. The plan could include 24 hour supervision, referral to other specialists for assessment or in severe situations, could include hospitalization to ensure safety. The suicide assessment and subsequent safety planning is vital information and is communicated to everyone involved in caring for the child.

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 915, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: What are the Department of Community Resources and Employment's policies and procedures for following up on a complaint made by a child against a parent whom the child is living with?

Answer:

The department assesses the validity of all reports of child abuse or neglect whether the report comes from the child or another person. An initial assessment of the report is made to determine whether reasonable grounds exist to believe a child may be in need of protection. An initial investigation may include making collateral contacts with the child's school or other sources to gather information. The purpose of the child protection investigation is to determine whether a child is at significant risk and to determine the best methods of assuring the child's safety. The investigation may involve interviews with the child, interviews with the family and other professionals the family may be involved with. As a result of the child protection investigation, it may be determined that child safety can be maintained in the family home. In other situations, children must be removed temporarily from the home to ensure safety. In situations of allegations of physical or sexual abuse, a joint investigation is conducted with the police or RCMP according to the Provincial Child Abuse Protocol.

Ms. Bakken asked the Government Question No. 916, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Crofford:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: (1) Is it common practice for the Department to place a child with a person who was involved in filing a complaint against the child's parent? (2) If not, what is the common practice for placing a child in foster care?

Answer:

- (1) When children must be placed in out of home care for safety reasons, extended family is explored as a first priority for placement. It is possible that the same family member who initially raised concerns for the child's safety is found to be a safe placement resource for the child. An assessment of the proposed extended family caregiver is conducted to ensure that the home is safe for the child and that the extended family is able to meet the child's needs. The principle of the "best interests of the child" governs all decisions made regarding placement of the child.
- (2) If there is no family member or person of significance to the child that can safely care for the child, an appropriate foster care resource is found.

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were asked on day no. 79 and are to be answered by day no. 84:

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 917:

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?

Ms. Eagles, to ask the Government the following Question No. 918:

To the Provincial Secretary: Please identify the amount the provincial government has spent to date on: (1) Print commercials promoting the province's centennial; and (2) Radio commercials promoting the province's centennial.

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 919:

To the Minister of Health: In the 2005-06 budget, how much money is allocated for the construction of a new St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Humboldt?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 920:

To the Minister of Health: When is the construction of a new hospital in Humboldt scheduled to begin?

The following Questions were asked on day no. 80 and are to be answered by day no. 85:

Mr. Morgan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 921:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: (1) How much did SLGA pay for veterinary services at Marquis Downs Race Track in Saskatoon in 2004, and to whom? (2) Please provide details of all veterinary services provided at Marquis Downs Race Track during 2004.

Mr. Morgan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 922:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: (1) How much did SLGA pay for veterinary services at Marquis Downs Race Track in Saskatoon in 2003, and to whom? (2) Please provide details of all veterinary services provided at Marquis Downs Race Track during 2003.

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 923:

To the Minister of Learning: Is there a minimal standard of professional training that is required of any person employed within the K-12 school system in the capacity of a counsellor?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 924:

To the Minister of Learning: In view that personal counselling could be considered as mental health treatment, are policies in place by the Department that determine: (1) The minimum age for which a child can receive counselling without parental permission or awareness; and (2) A minimum number of sessions for which a child may consult with a counsellor before parental consent and/or awareness is required?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 925:

To the Minister of Learning: If it has been determined by a professional worker within the K-12 system that a child may harm him/herself or another student, what protocol does the Department have in place for that professional to follow to: (1) Inform the parents of the child; and (2) Seek professional help for the child?

The following Question was asked on day no. 81 and is to be answered by day no. 86:

Mr. Hermanson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 926:

To the Premier: (1) What new positions were included in the 2005-2006 budget for Executive Council? (2) What are the corresponding job descriptions and responsibilities? (3) What are the salaries for each new position?

The following Questions were asked on day no. 82 and are to be answered by day no. 87:

Mr. D'Autremont, to ask the Government the following Question No. 927:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: (1) Which investments held by SGI or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2003? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. D'Autremont, to ask the Government the following Question No. 928:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: (1) Which investments held by SGI or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2004? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. D'Autremont, to ask the Government the following Question No. 929:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance: (1) Which investments held by SGI or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2005? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Wall, to ask the Government the following Question No. 930:

To the Minister of Community Resources and Employment: How many new residential spaces for individuals in Swift Current with lifelong disabilities were funded in the 2005-2006 provincial budget?

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 931:

To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: What percentage of money allocated for the 2003 CAIS program has been paid out to Saskatchewan producers?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 932:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: What is the cost charged by SaskPower to villages, towns and cities per street light in their jurisdiction?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 933:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) What is SaskPower's policy regarding dates for turning on Christmas lights and decorations? (2) What is the policy regarding any village, town or city that does not adhere to this policy?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 934:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: (1) Which investments held by SaskEnergy or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2003? (2) What were the results of the review?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 935:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: (1) Which investments held by SaskEnergy or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2004? (2) What were the results of the review?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 936:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: (1) Which investments held by SaskEnergy or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2005? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 937:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: (1) Was a third party review completed prior to DirectWest's purchase of Midwest Marketing? (2) Who was hired to conduct the review? (3) What fee was paid by SaskTel for the review? (4) Will the review be tabled, and if so, when?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 938:

To the Minister Responsible for Crown Management Board: (1) Which investments held by Crown Investments Corporation or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2003? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 939:

To the Minister Responsible for Crown Management Board: (1) Which investments held by Crown Investments Corporation or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2004? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 940:

To the Minister Responsible for Crown Management Board: (1) Which investments held by Crown Investments Corporation or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2005? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 941:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: (1) Which investments held by SaskTel or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2003? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 942:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: (1) Which investments held by SaskTel or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2004? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 943:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications: (1) Which investments held by SaskTel or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2005? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 944:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) Which investments held by SaskPower or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2003? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 945:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) Which investments held by SaskPower or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2004? (2) What were the results of the review?

Mr. Kerpan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 946:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) Which investments held by SaskPower or any of its subsidiaries were subject to an independent third party review in 2005? (2) What were the results of the review?

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
