



No. 95

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, April 20, 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, Wall, Draude, Hermanson, Eagles, Bakken and Weekes.

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 take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 666)

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)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to install the technical equipment necessary to ensure that all rural areas of Saskatchewan are protected by reliable cellular phone coverage.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 730)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES

Your Committee met for organization and to consider its order of reference from the Legislative Assembly dated April 12, 2005 as follows:

That this Assembly urge Government and Crown Corporation officials to respect the rights and privileges of all Members of this Assembly by ensuring that Official Opposition Members and their staff are allowed to attend any embargoed news conferences and technical briefings open to members of the news media; and

that this matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges, and

that the Committee table its report in the Assembly no later than Wednesday, April 20, 2005.

The Committee elected Mr. Bjornerud as Deputy Chair.

The Chair has been instructed to report that the Committee met three times, on April 13, April 18 and April 20, but was unable to come to a decision on its order of reference.

(Sessional Paper No. 752)

Moved by Mr. Bjornerud, seconded by Mr. Morgan:

That the First Report of the Standing Committee on Privileges be now concurred in.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to.

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. 109 – The Criminal Enterprise Suppression Act

(Hon. Mr. Quennell)

Bill No. 110 – The Seizure of Criminal Property Act

(Hon. Mr. Quennell)

SPEAKER TABLES REPORT

The Speaker laid before the Assembly the following:

Annual Report for Provincial Ombudsman Saskatchewan for the year ended December 31, 2004.
(Sessional Paper No. 753)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 984 to 996, they were answered. (See Appendix)

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

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

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS AND PAPERS TABLED

By the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board for the year ended December 31, 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 754)

By the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Extended Health Care Plan for the year ended December 31, 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 755)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Municipal Employees' Pension Commission for the year ended December 31, 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 756)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Extended Health Care Plan for Retired Employees for the year ended December 31, 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 757)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Government Insurance Service Recognition Plan for the year ended December 31, 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 758)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board Superannuation Plan for the year ended December 31, 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 759)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Extended Health Care Plan for Certain Other Retired Employees for the year ended December 31, 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 760)

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation Supplementary Superannuation Plan for the year ended December 31, 2004

(Sessional Paper No. 761)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Public Employees Group Life Insurance Fund for the year ended December 31, 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 762)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 984, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Labour: How many decisions have been reserved by the Labour Relations Board and the decisions not yet rendered for 2004?

Answer:

20

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 985, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Labour: How many decisions have been reserved by the Labour Relations Board and the decisions not yet rendered for 2003?

Answer:

10

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 986, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Labour: How many decisions have been reserved by the Labour Relations Board and the decisions not yet rendered for 2002?

Answer:

0

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 987, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Labour: How many decisions have been reserved by the Labour Relations Board and the decisions not yet rendered for 2001?

Answer:

2

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 988, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Labour: How many decisions have been reserved by the Labour Relations Board and the decisions not yet rendered for 2000?

Answer:

0

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 989, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Higgins:

To the Minister of Labour: How many decisions have been reserved by the Labour Relations Board and the decisions not yet rendered for 1999?

Answer:

0

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 990, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Prebble:

To the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety: (1) How many grievances were filed by SGEU employees at the correctional centre in Saskatoon in 2004? (2) How many of these grievances remain outstanding?

Answer:

(1) 15 grievances were filed in 2004.

(2) 12 remain outstanding.

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 991, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Prebble:

To the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety: (1) How many grievances were filed by SGEU employees at the correctional centre in Saskatoon in 2003? (2) How many of these grievances remain outstanding?

Answer:

- (1) 16 grievances were filed in 2003.
- (2) 11 remain outstanding.

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 992, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Prebble:

To the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety: (1) How many grievances were filed by SGEU employees at the correctional centre in Saskatoon in 2002? (2) How many of these grievances remain outstanding?

Answer:

- (1) 8 grievances were filed in 2002.
- (2) 6 remain outstanding.

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 993, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

To the Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission: (1) How many grievances were filed by all SGEU employees in 2004? (2) How many of these grievances remain outstanding?

Answer:

- (1) 169
- (2) 109

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 994, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

To the Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission: (1) How many grievances were filed by all SGEU employees in 2003? (2) How many of these grievances remain outstanding?

Answer:

- (1) 218
- (2) 99

Mr. Morgan asked the Government Question No. 995, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Atkinson:

To the Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission: (1) How many grievances were filed by all SGEU employees in 2002? (2) How many of these grievances remain outstanding?

Answer:

- (1) 159
- (2) 64

Mr. Brkich asked the Government Question No. 996, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Serby:

To the Minister of Rural Development: (1) Will the Department of Rural Development be setting up any offices around the province in 2005? (2) If so, where will they be located, and what are the lease arrangements?

Answer:

- (1) No.
- (2) N/A

NOTICE OF A GOVERNMENT MOTION

On Friday:

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen to move the following motion:

That an Order of the Assembly dated April 12, 2005, instructing the Standing Committee on Privileges to consider the matter of the rights and privileges of Members to attend embargoed news conferences and technical briefings, be rescinded for reason that the said committee could not agree to recommendations before the specified deadline of April 20, 2005, had expired; and further,

That in the absence of recommendations from the Standing Committee on Privileges, this Assembly requests that the Government instruct its officials and Crown corporations to acknowledge and respect the rights and privileges of all Members of this Assembly as follows:

That technical briefings and news conferences that deal with matters to be considered by the Assembly be made available to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff in advance of, or concurrently with, any media briefings;

And further, any technical briefing provided to the media that excludes Members and their staff shall not be considered a breach of privilege as long as an advance, or concurrent, technical briefing is provided to Members and their staff.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Friday:

Mr. Iwanchuk to move the following motion:

That this Assembly endorse Saskatchewan's Building Independence Program, which supports low-income families and has reduced the number of social assistance cases to the lowest level in 14 years.

NOTICE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

On Friday:

Mr. Bjornerud to move the following motion:

That this Assembly recognize that the plight of Saskatchewan farm families is worse this spring than it has been in decades and the severity of cash flow problems this spring is causing severe distress and hardship not only in rural Saskatchewan, but in other parts of the province that rely on agriculture-based businesses.

Mr. Yates 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. Bjornerud to move the following motion:

That this Assembly recognize that the plight of Saskatchewan farm families is worse this spring than it has been in decades and the severity of cash flow problems this spring is causing severe distress and hardship not only in rural Saskatchewan, but in other parts of the province that rely on agriculture-based businesses.

No. 2 (Government)

Mr. Yates 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)

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.

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were asked on day no. 92 and are to be answered by day no. 97:

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 998:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) Does the provincial government receive any funds from the federal department of Human Resources and development for job creation? (2) If so, how much did the province receive in 2004 and where were these funds directed to?

Mr. Bjornerud, to ask the Government the following Question No. 999:

To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: Can the Minister identify the amount of money the provincial government has spent on radio advertising as part of Agrivision's "Growing the Future" radio advertising campaign?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1000:

To the Minister of Health: (1) Is Larson House in Saskatoon run by a community based organization? (2) If not, who operates the facility and when did the last change in operations structure take place?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1001:

To the Minister of Health: (1) What is the amount of funding allocated to Larson House by the government of Saskatchewan, including funding provided to the brief detox facility? (2) How many beds are there in both Larson House and the brief detox facility attached to Larson House?

The following Questions were asked on day no. 93 and are to be answered by day no. 98:

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1002:

To the Minister of Property Management: Can you provide details as to the criteria used in the tendering process for contracts concerning the service of SPMC vehicles?

Ms. Eagles, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1003:

To the Minister of Health: Is the government planning to close Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw over the next three to five years?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1004:

To the Minister of Health: Do government employees have access to any designated smoking rooms in buildings that house government departments, Crowns, agencies, boards or commissions, including Workers' Compensation Board, Casino Regina and government-owned property leased to third parties?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1005:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) How many trade missions did the government conduct in 1999? (2) Where did these missions take place? (3) How much did each trade mission cost? (4) How many businesses have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions? (5) How many jobs have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1006:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) How many trade missions did the government conduct in 2000? (2) Where did these missions take place? (3) How much did each trade mission cost? (4) How many businesses have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions? (5) How many jobs have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1007:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) How many trade missions did the government conduct in 2001? (2) Where did these missions take place? (3) How much did each trade mission cost? (4) How many businesses have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions? (5) How many jobs have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1008:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) How many trade missions did the government conduct in 2002? (2) Where did these missions take place? (3) How much did each trade mission cost? (4) How many businesses have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions? (5) How many jobs have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1009:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) How many trade missions did the government conduct in 2003? (2) Where did these missions take place? (3) How much did each trade mission cost? (4) How many businesses have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions? (5) How many jobs have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions?

Ms. Bakken, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1010:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) How many trade missions did the government conduct in 2004? (2) Where did these missions take place? (3) How much did each trade mission cost? (4) How many businesses have re-located to Saskatchewan as a result of these missions? (5) How many jobs have been created in Saskatchewan as a result of these trade missions?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1011:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) What was the amount spent on advertising the “Future is Wide Open” campaign in the province of Quebec for the year 2002? (2) Which advertising agency was employed for these purposes?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1012:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) What was the amount spent on advertising the “Future is Wide Open” campaign in the province of Quebec for the year 2003? (2) Which advertising agency was employed for these purposes?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1013:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) What was the amount spent on advertising the “Future is Wide Open” campaign in the province of Quebec for the year 2004? (2) Which advertising agency was employed for these purposes?

Mr. Dearborn, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1014:

To the Minister of Industry and Resources: (1) What was the amount spent on advertising the “Future is Wide Open” campaign in the province of Quebec for the year 2005 to date? (2) Which advertising agency was employed for these purposes?

The following Question was asked on day no. 94 and is to be answered by day no. 99:

Mr. Weekes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1015:

To the Minister Responsible for Immigration: (1) What was the total number of applications received for the fiscal year 2004-2005? (2) How many of these applicants received approval?