



No. 60

# **VOTES and PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

**SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE**

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**Monday, May 15, 2006**

1:30 p.m.

*PRAYERS*

## **SPEAKER TABLES REPORT**

The Speaker laid before the Assembly the Annual Report of the Children's Advocate for the year 2005.  
(Sessional Paper No. 752)

## **PRESENTING PETITIONS**

Petitions of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following Members: Elhard, McMorris, D'Autremont, Draude, Hermanson, Bjornerud, Stewart, Wakefield, Chisholm, Gantefoer, Weekes, Huyghebaert, Allchurch, Kirsch, Brkich and Merriman.

## **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 the Biggar Hospital, Long-term Care Home and Ambulance services, maintain, at the very least, their current level of services.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 5)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take all necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 7)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources to build an elementary school in Arbor Creek.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 27)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary actions to ensure that Highway 18 from Claydon to Robsart is repaved at the earliest possible time.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 42)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that Highway 20 be upgraded to primary weight status to ensure the economic viability in the surrounding areas.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 65)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Dept. of Highways section shop in Watrous remain open so as to ensure the safety of all motorists and Sask. Highways employees.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 67)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to act upon the recommendations made by the group "Saskatchewan Families for Effective Autism Treatment".

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 638)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 639)

### **WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 1096 to 1099, they were answered. (See Appendix)

### **COMMITTEE OF FINANCE**

The Assembly, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Finance.

The Committee considered Estimates for the Department of Environment.

The Committee then considered Estimates for the Department of Learning.

Progress was reported and the Committee given leave to sit again.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hagel:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

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The Assembly adjourned at 5:50 p.m. until Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

***Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky***  
***Speaker***

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Mr. Brkich asked the Government the following Question No. 1096, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Taylor:**

To the Minister of Health: How many communities in rural Saskatchewan are without the services of a full-time resident physician, and which ones?

Answer:

The Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) are responsible for providing the day-to-day delivery of health programs and services, including the management of physician recruitment and retention. At the same time, Saskatchewan Health continues to work closely with RHAs to retain and recruit key health care providers, to ensure quality of health services and access to care. The overall supply of physicians has been steadily increasing over the past few years. The head count of all licensed physicians in Saskatchewan, including temporary licensed locums, was 1,728 in December 2005 compared to 1,622 at the end of March 2001, an increase of 6%.

Our records show that there are approximately 230 rural family physicians providing services to communities across rural Saskatchewan, up nearly 10% from 210 physicians in 2001. Many of these physicians provide visiting services to a range of communities in their geographic area.

**Mr. Brkich asked the Government the following Question No. 1097, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Taylor:**

To the Minister of Health: What assistance does the provincial government provide for communities who have lost the services of their resident physician?

Answer:

Saskatchewan Health, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA), funds an array of programs and initiatives directly and indirectly targeted at recruiting and retaining physicians. These include specific programs targeted at rural physicians, including the Locum Relief Program, Rural and Regional Practice Establishment Grants, Rural Practice Enhancement Training, and a Rural Extended Leave Program. These programs and many other initiatives for physicians amount to approximately \$21M in 2005/06.

The Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) manage the provision of health services for their communities. We recognise that there are continuing challenges faced by rural and remote communities to recruit and retain physicians and we are working with the SMA, the College of Physician and Surgeons, and the RHAs to address these challenges. For example, Saskatchewan has recently released a Health WorkForce Plan that provides a framework within which the Province, in partnership with stakeholders, will ensure that the needs for all health providers will be met now and into the future.

**Mr. Brkich asked the Government the following Question No. 1098, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Taylor:**

To the Minister of Health: Does the provincial government offer temporary physician services to communities that have lost their full-time resident physician until a permanent physician can be obtained?

Answer:

Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) are responsible for the provision of health services for their communities. RHAs arrange for visiting services while the recruitment occurs. As well, there are a number of programs and initiatives that assist in physician recruitment and retention, including Rural and Regional Practice Establishment Grants and a Rural Extended Leave Program.

**Mr. Brkich asked the Government the following Question No. 1099, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Taylor:**

To the Minister of Health: Does the provincial government offer a physician recruitment service for communities that have lost the services of a full-time physician?

Answer:

The Regional Health Authorities are responsible for recruiting physicians in communities within their jurisdiction. However, in addition to the physician recruitment and retention initiatives, the provincial government will be establishing a Provincial Recruitment Agency that will assist regions in recruiting, particularly those regions with difficulties recruiting and retaining physicians in rural and remote areas.

## **NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**The following Questions were given notice on day no. 57 and are to be answered by day no. 62:**

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1100:

To the Minister of Health: How many people are currently on the waiting list for long-term care in the Heartland Health Region?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1101:

To the Minister of Health: (1) What long-term care facilities have waiting lists in the Heartland Health Region? (2) How many people are on each facility's waiting list in the region?

**The following Questions were given notice on day no. 58 and are to be answered by day no. 63:**

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1102:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: (1) How much money has been clawed back from communities that received Centennial grants in 2005? (2) How many communities have been required to pay back money?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1103:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated: (1) In what year did the Government of Saskatchewan begin participating in the federal EnerGuide program? (2) Why did they not participate earlier?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1104:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1105:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1106:

To the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1107:

To the Minister of Learning: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1108:

To the Minister of Learning: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1109:

To the Minister of Learning: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1110:

To the Minister of Learning: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1111:

To the Minister of Learning: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1112:

To the Minister of Learning: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1113:

To the Minister of Learning: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1114:

To the Minister of Learning: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1115:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2000-2001? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1116:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2001-2002? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1117:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2002-2003? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1118:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000-2001, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1119:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2001-2002, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1120:

To the Minister of Learning: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1121:

To the Minister of Learning: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1122:

To the Minister of Community Resources: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1123:

To the Minister of Community Resources: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1124:

To the Minister of Community Resources: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1125:

To the Minister of Community Resources: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1126:

To the Minister of Community Resources: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1127:

To the Minister of Community Resources: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1128:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2000-2001? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1129:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2001-2002? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1130:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2002-2003? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?



Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1131:

To the Minister of Community Resources: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1132:

To the Minister of Community Resources: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1133:

To the Minister of Community Resources: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1134:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000-2001, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1135:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2001-2002, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1136:

To the Minister of Community Resources: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1137:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1138:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1139:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: Did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1140:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1141:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1142:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: How did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1143:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2000? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1144:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2001? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1145:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2002? (2) If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1146:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2000?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1147:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2001?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1148:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: What did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1149:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1150:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2001, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Ms. Draude, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1151:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) Is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers/clients, suppliers or others? (2) If so, what is the nature of the activity?

**The following Questions were given notice on day no. 59 and are to be answered by day no. 64:**

Mr. Allchurch, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1152:

To the Minister of Northern Affairs: Did Northwest Communities Wood Products submit a status report to the department after receiving \$25,000 from the Northern Development Fund in July 1999?

Mr. Allchurch, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1153:

To the Minister of Northern Affairs: Did Northwest Communities Wood Products submit an interim report after receiving an initial disbursement of \$65,000 as per the funding agreement with Saskatchewan Northern Affairs signed in March 2001?

Mr. Allchurch, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1154:

To the Minister of Northern Affairs: How much of the \$291,677 maximum funding amount as detailed in Order-in-Council 508/2001 was actually disbursed to Northwest Communities Wood Products?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1155:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) To date in the current fiscal year, how many claims have been submitted to the department for vehicle damage? (2) What is the total dollar value of these claims?

Mr. Brkich, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1156:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: (1) Will the section of Highway 20 between Lanigan and Nokomis be upgraded this year to the primary weight category? (2) Will any other stretches of Highway 20 be upgraded as well?

Mr. Morgan, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1157:

To the Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission: How many government employees who have been terminated because of cases of fraud since 2003 have been subsequently re-employed by the Government of Saskatchewan?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1158:

To the Minister of Health: How many nurses, including RNs, RPNs, and LPNs are currently employed in the following employment categories in each Regional Health Authority: permanent full-time, permanent part-time, and casual?

Mr. McMorris, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1159:

To the Minister of Health: How many nursing vacancies, including RNs, RPNs, and LPNs are there in the following employment categories in each Regional Health Authority: permanent full-time, permanent part-time, and casual?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1160:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) For the calendar year 2004, how many SaskTel employees and their immediate families have been compensated for appearing in commercials for SaskTel products and services? (2) What was the total compensation?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1161:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) For the calendar year 2005, how many SaskTel employees and their immediate families have been compensated for appearing in commercials for SaskTel products and services? (2) What was the total compensation?

Ms. Harpauer, to ask the Government the following Question No. 1162:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Telecommunications Corporation: (1) To date, how many SaskTel employees and their immediate families have been compensated for appearing in commercials for SaskTel products and services? (2) What was the total compensation?