



No. 26

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

10:00 a.m.

PRAYERS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following Members: Higgins, Atkinson and Iwanchuk.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to Order, the Clerk having favourably examined the same pursuant to Rule 16(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 provide funding for the expansion and renovation of the Moose Jaw Union Hospital.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 87)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to withdraw Bill Nos. 5 and 6 and hold broad public consultations about labour relations in the province.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 89)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to immediately restore funding to the Station 20 project.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 111)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Minister, having acquainted the Assembly that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, the following Bill was received, read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting:

Bill No. 33 – The Active Families Benefit Act

(Hon. Ms. Tell)

BILL NO. 36 - WITHDRAWN

The Order of the Day being called for the introduction of Bill No. 36 – The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2008 – the said Bill was withdrawn.

SPEAKER TABLES REPORT

The Speaker laid before the Assembly the following:

Report of the Provincial Auditor on the 2007 Financial Statements of CIC Crown Corporations and Related Entities, dated April 2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 146)

Chief Electoral Officer's Report pursuant to section 286 of *The Election Act, 1996* for the by-election held on March 5, 2007 in the constituency of Martensville, dated April 14, 2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 147)

Chief Electoral Officer's Report pursuant to section 286 of *The Election Act, 1996* for the by-election held on June 19, 2006 in the constituency of Weyburn-Big Muddy, dated April 14, 2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 148)

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

(Unparliamentary Language)

I wish to rule on the point of order raised by the Government House Leader (Hon. Mr. Gantefer) regarding certain statements made during the Seventy-five Minute Debate last Thursday. I thank both House Leaders for their interventions.

The first session of every Legislature is a time for newly elected Members and returning veterans to familiarize themselves with the Rules and traditions of the Assembly. Determining how best to phrase one's views and positions in a forceful yet respectful manner requires skill and a sound understanding of the factors involved. The issue of unparliamentary language has been dealt with by my predecessors on numerous occasions, including April 17, 2000, May 12, 2000 and April 11, 2007.

A ruling made on June 13, 2003 clearly summarizes the guidelines used by Presiding Officers in determining the acceptability of language. These include balancing the right of every Member to speak freely while respecting those limitations imposed by the Assembly itself. The context that the language was spoken in and its impact on the decorum in the House are also important considerations.

Applying these guidelines to the comments made during last Thursday's debate, I find that the comments in question, while pointed and direct, do not exceed the boundaries that this Assembly has set for acceptable and spirited debate.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question No. 555, pursuant to Rule 20(5), it was transferred to Motions for Returns (Debatable) No. 35.

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 556 to 575 and 577, they were answered. (See Appendix)

The Order of the Day being called for Question No. 576, the answer was tabled and, by reason of its length, converted by the Clerk to Return No. 36 pursuant to Rule 20(6).

(Sessional Paper No. 149)

ADJOURNED DEBATES / DÉBATS AJOURNÉS

Bill No. 5 – The Public Service Essential Services Act

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Norris: That Bill No. 5 – The Public Service Essential Services Act – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 5 – The Public Service Essential Services Act – was committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 6 – The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2007

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Norris: That Bill No. 6 – The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2007 – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 6 – The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2007 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 2 – The Enterprise Saskatchewan Act

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Stewart: That Bill No. 2 – The Enterprise Saskatchewan Act – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 2 – The Enterprise Saskatchewan Act – was committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 1 – The Growth and Financial Security Act

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer: That Bill No. 1 – The Growth and Financial Security Act – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 1 – The Growth and Financial Security Act – was committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 4 – The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (Fixed Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2007

Projet de loi n° 4 – Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi de 2007 sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif (élections à date fixe)

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Morgan: That Bill No. 4 – The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (Fixed Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2007 – be now read a second time.

L'Assemblée reprend le débat ajourné sur la motion de l'hon. M. Morgan: Que le projet de loi n° 4 – Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi de 2007 sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif (élections à date fixe) – soit maintenant lu une deuxième fois.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

Le débat se poursuit et la motion, mise aux voix, est adoptée et, en conséquence, ledit projet de loi est lu une deuxième fois.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Morgan, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 4 – The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (Fixed Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2007 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Selon la désignation de l'hon. M. Morgan, conformément au règlement 81, le projet de loi n° 4 – Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi de 2007 sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif (élections à date fixe) – est renvoyé au Comité permanent des affaires intergouvernementales et de la justice.

Bill No. 3 – The Potash Development Repeal Act

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Boyd: That Bill No. 3 – The Potash Development Repeal Act – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 3 – The Potash Development Repeal Act – was committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

SECOND READINGS / DEUXIÈME LECTURE

Bill No. 23 – The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2008

The Hon. Mr. Hutchinson, a member of the Executive Council, having acquainted the Assembly that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, moved: That Bill No. 23 – The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Hutchinson, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 23 – The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2008 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 15 – The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008

The Hon. Mr. Hutchinson, a member of the Executive Council, having acquainted the Assembly that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, moved: That Bill No. 15 – The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Hutchinson, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 15 – The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 12 – The Consumer Protection Amendment Act, 2008

The Hon. Mr. Morgan, a member of the Executive Council, having acquainted the Assembly that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends it to the consideration of the Assembly, moved: That Bill No. 12 – The Consumer Protection Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Morgan, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 12 – The Consumer Protection Amendment Act, 2008 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 13 – The Teachers’ Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Amendment Act, 2008

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz: That Bill No. 13 – The Teachers’ Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Krawetz, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 13 – The Teachers’ Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Amendment Act, 2008 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services

Bill No. 18 – The Public Service Amendment Act, 2008

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Elhard: That Bill No. 18 – The Public Service Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 18 – The Public Service Amendment Act, 2008 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 11 – The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2008**Projet de loi n° 11 – Loi de 2008 modifiant la Loi de 2002 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens**

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Morgan: That Bill No. 11 – The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

L'hon. M. Morgan propose: Que le projet de loi n° 11 – Loi de 2008 modifiant la Loi de 2002 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens – soit maintenant lu une deuxième fois.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

Il s'élève un débat et la motion, mise aux voix, est adoptée et, en conséquence, ledit projet de loi est lu une deuxième fois.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Morgan, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 11 – The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2008 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Selon la désignation de l'hon. M. Morgan, conformément au règlement 81, le projet de loi n° 11 – Loi de 2008 modifiant la Loi de 2002 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens – est renvoyé au Comité permanent des affaires intergouvernementales et de la justice.

Bill No. 14 – The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Repeal Act

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz: That Bill No. 14 – The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Repeal Act – be now read a second time.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Krawetz, in accordance with Rule 81, That Bill No. 14 – The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Repeal Act – was committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 3:13 p.m. until Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Hon. Don Toth
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS AND PAPERS TABLED

The following paper was laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Mr. Norris:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board for the year ended December 31, 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 148)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 556, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many injuries and deaths occurred on grid roads in 2006? (2) 2007? (3) 2008?

Answer:

- (1) The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure does not compile these statistics. Saskatchewan Government Insurance compiles these types of statistics.
- (2) Same as above.
- (3) Same as above.

Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 557, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many injuries and deaths occurred on highways in 2006? (2) 2007? (3) 2008?

Answer:

- (1) The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure does not compile these statistics. Saskatchewan Government Insurance compiles these types of statistics.
- (2) Same as above.
- (3) Same as above.

Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 558, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many injuries and deaths occurred on municipal roads in 2006? (2) 2007? (3) 2008?

Answer:

- (1) The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure does not compile these statistics. Saskatchewan Government Insurance compiles these types of statistics.
- (2) Same as above.
- (3) Same as above.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 559, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: In which communities in Saskatchewan are each of the FTEs for Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch, as of March 1, 2008, located?

Answer:

Service Centres employing full-time employees are located in the following communities: Buffalo Narrows, Creighton, Estevan, Fort Qu'Appelle, Humboldt, Kindersley, LaLoche, LaRonge, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Weyburn and Yorkton. This does not include periodic, day-office services provided to many other communities which do not have full-time employees.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 560, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: What is the intended number of term employees for Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch by March 1, 2009?

Answer:

Ministry budget employee plans do not identify term positions. Term positions are staffed according to operational needs.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 561, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many term employees did the Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch have as of April 1, 2008?

Answer:

The term employee count as of April 1, 2008 is 44.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 562, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many term employees did the Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch have as of March 1, 2008?

Answer:

The term employee count as of March 1, 2008 is 41.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 563, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: What is the intended number of full-time employees for Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch by March 1, 2009?

Answer:

Detailed allocation plans for these FTEs, for 2008-09, are yet to be determined.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 564, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many full-time employees did the Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch have as of April 1, 2008?

Answer:

The full-time employee count as of April 1, 2008 is 251.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 565, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: On April 2, 2008, the Minister announced, "Cabinet has approved revisions to her Ministry's Income Assistance Modernization Strategy that will lead to improved services for clients. Changes to benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan are being deferred pending further consultation with staff and stakeholders." What are the communication plans for the Minister to announce publicly any further changes prior to implementation so staff, stakeholders and clients may be fully aware of the changes?

Answer:

Communication plans will be developed once the process for consultations has been finalized.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 566, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: On April 2, 2008, the Minister announced, "Cabinet has approved revisions to her Ministry's Income Assistance Modernization Strategy that will lead to improved services for clients. Changes to benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan are being deferred pending further consultation with staff and stakeholders." Please describe the consultation process, as cited in the above statement for stakeholders by answering the following: (1) Who are the stakeholders referred to in the press release? (Please name them) (2) When will meetings be held? (3) Who will be invited? (4) Will there be public notice given for the consultation process? (5) How will the ministry fully consult its staff?

Answer:

(1) To be determined.

(2) To be determined.

- (3) To be determined.
- (4) No.
- (5) Meetings with regional staff during 2008.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 567, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: On April 2, 2008, the Minister announced that Cabinet has approved revisions to her Ministry's Income Assistance Modernization Strategy. (1) Will the strategy still be known as the "Modernization Strategy"? (2) What other names will it be known as?

Answer:

- (1) A revised Modernization Strategy has been confirmed by Cabinet.
- (2) No other names for this strategy have been considered at this time.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 568, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many calls were logged to the Housing Information Line in the month of September 2007? (2) October 2007? (3) November 2007? (4) December 2007? (5) January 2008? (6) February 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 811
- (2) 458
- (3) 127
- (4) 59
- (5) 75
- (6) 65

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 569, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: What is the intended number of part-time employees for Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch by March 1, 2009?

Answer:

Ministry budget employee plans do not identify part-time positions. Part-time positions are staffed according to operational needs.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 570, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many part-time employees did the Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch have as of April 1, 2008?

Answer:

The part-time employee count as of April 1, 2008 is 51.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 571, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many part-time employees did the Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch have as of March 1, 2008?

Answer:

The part-time employee count as of March 1, 2008 is 54.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 572, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many FTEs did the Employment and Support and Income Assistance branch have as of March 1, 2008?

Answer:

The full-time employee count as of March 1, 2008 is 256.

Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 573, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: (1) What were the salary and benefit expenses for South Hill Liquor Store (Store 562) in 2004/05? (2) 2005/06? (3) 2006/07? (4) 2007/08?

Answer:

The salary and benefit expenses incurred in South Hill Liquor Store for the years requested are:

- (1) 2004/05 - \$93,121.
- (2) 2005/06 - \$95,619.
- (3) 2006/07 - \$91,113.
- (4) 2007/08 (End of Period 12 or March 1, 2008) - \$91,464.

Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 574, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: (1) What were the operating expenses for South Hill Liquor Store (Store 562) in 2004/05? (2) 2005/06? (3) 2006/07? (4) 2007/08?

Answer:

The total operating expenses for the South Hill Liquor Store for the years requested are:

- (1) 2004/05 - \$144,284.
- (2) 2005/06 - \$148,027.
- (3) 2006/07 - \$147,495.
- (4) 2007/08 (End of Period 12 or March 1, 2008) - \$139,903.

Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 575, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: (1) What the net income from South Hill Liquor Store (Store 562) in 2004/05? (2) 2005/06? (3) 2006/07? (4) 2007/08?

Answer:

The Net Income* for the South Hill Liquor Store for the years requested are:

- (1) 2004/05 - \$615,421.
- (2) 2005/06 - \$554,131.
- (3) 2006/07 - \$617,772.
- (4) 2007/08 (End of Period 12 or March 1, 2008) - \$649,931.

* Net Income provided equals sales less cost of sales less store only expenses

Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 577, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: (1) What did SLGA spend on repair and maintenance work related to the South Hill Liquor store in 2004/05? (2) 2005/06? (3) 2006/07? (4) 2007/08?

Answer:

SLGA paid the following amounts for building and property maintenance work on the South Hill Liquor Store for the years requested:

- (1) 2004/05 - \$16,223.
- (2) 2005/06 - \$2,874.
- (3) 2006/07 - \$2,800.
- (4) 2007/08 (End of Period 12 or March 1, 2008) - \$4,993.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Thursday:

Mr. Harrison to move the following motion:

That this Assembly supports the enhancement of uranium value-added opportunities in Saskatchewan and recognizes the benefit it provides to the growth and prosperity of the people of the province.

NOTICE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

On Thursday:

Mr. Calvert to move the following motion:

That this Assembly urges the government to defend the interests of the people of Saskatchewan by actively engaging the federal government in meaningful discussions to achieve a fair and equitable equalization agreement.

Mr. Furber to move the following motion:

That this Assembly rebukes the government for the incompetent manner in which it has dealt with the Prince Albert Pulp Mill closure and urges the government to enter into discussion with Domtar to assure the Prince Albert Pulp Mill re-opens in a timely fashion.

Mr. Broten to move the following motion:

That this Assembly admonishes the government for failing to adequately address the critical issue of affordable and available post-secondary education which plagues the students of this province and calls on the government to work towards a viable solution to this problem.

Mr. Forbes to move the following motion:

That this Assembly admonishes the government for failing to address the issue of affordable housing which plagues the citizens of this province and calls on the government to work towards a viable solution to this problem.

Ms. Junor to move the following motion:

That this Assembly urges the government to remove the means testing from the seniors drug plan and implement a universal drug plan that will benefit all the people of Saskatchewan.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

On Thursday:

No. 1 (Opposition)

Adjourned debate on the proposed **Motion No. 1** of Mr. Yates:

That this Assembly calls on the government to refrain from the political destruction of both the civil service and crown corporations and in doing so keep the civil service and crown corporations professional and non-partisan.

(Mr. Trew)

Adjourned Once