



No. 42

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

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: Higgins, Quennell, Taylor, Forbes 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)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

The following Bill was reported without amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, it was read the third time and passed, on Division:

Bill No. 24 – The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

Mr. Hart, Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services presented the Third Report of the said committee which is as follows:

Your committee considered the Estimates of the following government ministries and agencies and adopted the following resolutions:

Main Estimates, 2008-2009:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2009, the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Advanced Education, Employment and Labour	\$761,779,000
For Corrections, Public Safety and Policing	\$314,116,000
For Education	\$1,016,747,000
For Health.....	\$3,773,609,000
For Social Services.....	\$635,475,000

Lending and Investing Activities

For Advanced Education, Employment and Labour	\$43,000,000
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Your committee recommends that upon concurrence of its report by the Assembly, the sums as reported and approved shall be included in the Appropriation Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.
(Sessional Paper No. 217)

On motion of Mr. Hart:

Ordered, That the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

Mr. Kirsch, Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice, presented the Third Report of the said committee, which is as follows:

Your committee considered the Estimates and Further Estimates of the following government ministries and agencies and adopted the following resolutions:

Main Estimates, 2008-2009:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2009, the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For First Nations and Métis Relations	\$70,286,000
For Intergovernmental Affairs	\$3,538,000
For Justice and Attorney General.....	\$120,400,000
For Municipal Affairs	\$245,307,000
For Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport	\$139,230,000

Your committee reviewed the following Estimates for which no funds were requested or required to be voted:

Lending and Investing Activities

For Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)

Your committee recommends that upon concurrence of its report by the Assembly, the sums as reported and approved shall be included in the Appropriation Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.
(Sessional Paper No. 218)

On motion of Mr. Kirsch:

Ordered, That the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be now concurred in.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 661 to 679 and 681 to 692, they were answered.
(See Appendix)

The Order of the Day being called for Question No. 680, the answer was tabled and, by reason of its length, converted by the Clerk to Return No. 53 pursuant to Rule 20(6).
(Sessional Paper No. 219)

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:29 p.m. until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Don Toth
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 661, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new families with children received Income Assistance in the Northeast Region in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 114
- (2) 106
- (3) 98

“New families” are defined as families that were not paid benefits in the previous month. Income Assistance includes the Saskatchewan Assistance Program and the Transitional Employment Allowance.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 662, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many SAP/TEA cases were open in the Northwest Region in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 2,736
- (2) 2,724
- (3) 2,749

“Open cases” are defined as cases that were paid benefits.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 663, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many SAP/TEA cases were open in the Centre Region in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 7,262
- (2) 7,293
- (3) 7,221

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 664, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many SAP/TEA cases were open in the Southwest Region in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 7,434
- (2) 7,402
- (3) 7,384

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 665, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many SAP/TEA cases were open in the Southeast Region in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 1,643
- (2) 1,654
- (3) 1,654

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 666, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many SAP cases involving people who were employable were open in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 5,096
- (2) 5,060
- (3) 5,035

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 667, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many SAP cases involving families with children were open in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 6,043
- (2) 6,013
- (3) 6,027

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 668, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many SAP cases involving people living with disabilities were open in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 13,718
- (2) 13,659
- (3) 13,679

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 669, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new SAP cases were open in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 1,191
- (2) 1,070
- (3) 1,078

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 670, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many SAP cases were open in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 22,118
- (2) 22,093
- (3) 22,116

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 671, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new TEA cases were open in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 649
- (2) 634
- (3) 486

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 672, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many TEA cases were open in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 3,133
- (2) 3,140
- (3) 2,991

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 673, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many people were receiving SIP in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 10,919
- (2) 10,888
- (3) 10,839

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 674, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new families with children received Income Assistance in the Northwest Region in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 71
- (2) 81
- (3) 64

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 675, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new families with children received Income Assistance in the Centre Region in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 159
- (2) 141
- (3) 158

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 676, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new families with children received Income Assistance in the Southwest Region in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 179
- (2) 169
- (3) 160

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 677, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new families with children received Income Assistance in the Southeast Region in: (1) January 2008? (2) February 2008? (3) March 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 47
- (2) 44
- (3) 42

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 678, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: What was the average wait (in months) for a public licensed child care spot in: (1) 2006/07? (2) 2007/08?

Answer:

The ministry does not track facility waiting list information, and does not have the figures requested.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 679, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: How many educational assistants were employed within Saskatchewan schools in: (1) 2006/07? (2) 2007/08?

Answer:

(1) 3,583 educational assistants.

(2) 3,603 educational assistants.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 681, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: What was the average school fee for grades K-5, 6-9 and 10-12 in: (1) 2006/07? (2) 2007/08?

Answer:

The Ministry of Education does not collect this type of information from boards of education.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 682, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: What was the average course fee for each secondary course in: (1) 2006/07? (2) 2007/08?

Answer:

The Ministry of Education does not collect this type of information from boards of education.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 683, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: What was the drop-out rate for all students in Saskatchewan from 1990/91 through to 2006/07?

Answer:

Saskatchewan has a solid record compared to other provinces in keeping students in school, and an overall pattern of improvement since 1990-1991. As reported in Saskatchewan Education Indicators documents, the percentage of students in grade 10 who did not complete high school has declined from 20.7% in 1993 (grade 10 start year) to 19.4% in 2003 (grade 10 start year). These figures include students in provincially funded schools, independent schools, and First Nations schools. Students who continued schooling in other provinces would be considered as non-completers in this analysis.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 684, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: What was the First Nations and Métis drop-out rate from 1990/91 through to 2006/07?

Answer:

The percentage of students in grade 10 who did not complete high school has fluctuated from 45% to 50% between 1996 and 2003 (grade 10 start year). The average is 48%. These figures include students in provincially-funded schools, independent schools, and First Nations schools who have self-declared as having First Nations/Métis ancestry. Students who continued schooling in other

provinces would be considered as non-completers in this analysis. (Before 1996, the number of students self-declaring was too small to produce meaningful rates.)

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 685, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: What was the First Nations and Métis grade 12 graduation rate in Saskatchewan from 1990/91 through to 2006/07?

Answer:

Considering the grade 10 students from 1996 to 2005, the number of First Nations and Métis students who graduated within three years of entering grade 10 increased from 26.2% to 30.3%. From 1996 to 2003, the number of First Nations and Métis students who graduated within five years of entering grade 10 has increased from 38.4% to 43.6%.

These figures include students in provincially-funded schools, independent schools, and First Nations schools who have self-declared First Nations/ Métis ancestry. Students who continued schooling in other provinces would be considered as non-completers in this analysis. (Before 1996, the number of students self-declaring was too small to produce meaningful rates.)

By comparison over the same period, the graduation rates for the total Saskatchewan student population increased from 71.9% to 74.6% for those completing school within three years of starting grade 10, and from 77.7% to 78.9% for those completing within five years of starting grade 10.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 686, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: What is the Minister's interpretation of the most recent PISA results?

Answer:

In the 2006 PISA, Saskatchewan scored 508 in reading, 507 in mathematics, and 516 in science. These results put our province at or above the international average, but significantly below the Canadian average in each subject area.

These international test results are corroborated by recently released national test results which show Saskatchewan student outcomes as below the Canadian average. These PISA results continue trends that were evident in the 2003 round of international testing. They also show shortcomings that were observable in previous studies conducted since 2000.

To address this issue, which is central for the growth agenda of this province, the ministry will:

- take the advice next year of a 40-member Provincial Panel on Student Achievement which was struck this past January to make recommendations for enhancing student outcomes. This panel includes teachers, parents, administrators, school board members, academics, and First Nations officials from across the education sector;
- complete within the next three years the renewal of Core Curriculum to focus on outcomes;
- expand testing in schools with the Assessment for Learning Program to include Science in 2010; and,
- continue introducing the Continuous Improvement Framework as an accountability initiative with Saskatchewan's 28 school divisions. Schools and school divisions will focus on improved student achievement as their number one priority.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 687, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: How many schools that have been closed in the past 16 years will be re-opened in 2008/09?

Answer:

The ministry has not been advised by any board that they are re-opening a school in 2008/09 that was closed.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 688, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: (1) When was Eagle's Nest opened? (2) When did it start delivering services?

Answer:

- (1) The special needs independent school was registered on January 1, 2008.
- (2) Educational service began in January 2008.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 689, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: (1) How is Eagle's Nest organized? (2) What services do they provide?

Answer:

Eagles Nest Youth Ranch Inc. operates a residential treatment centre for youth through the Ministry of Social Services and is registered as a special needs independent school with the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 690, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: How much is budgeted for Eagle's Nest for 2008/09?

Answer:

\$200,000 is budgeted by the Ministry of Education for educational programming.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 691, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: How much funding did Eagle's Nest receive from the Ministry of Education in: (1) 2006/07? (2) 2007/08?

Answer:

- (1) Eagle's Nest Youth Ranch Inc. did not exist in 2006-07.
- (2) Eagle's Nest Youth Ranch Inc. received \$60,000 in 2007-08 from the Ministry of Education for educational services.

Mr. Belanger asked the Government the following Question No. 692, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: (1) What is the governance structure of Eagle's Nest? (2) Which individuals occupy positions?

Answer:

- (1) Eagles Nest Youth Ranch Inc. is incorporated with a board of directors (Terry Goodwin (Chairperson), Brigitte Krieg, Ellen MacNeill, and Marlene Bear). It is registered and conditionally accredited by the Ministry of Education. It is supervised by the Ministry of Education.
- (2) Susan Luedtke is the director. A teacher is also employed to provide the educational services.