



No. 13

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Monday, November 17, 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: Furber, Higgins, Iwanchuk and Broten.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to Order, the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel 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 immediately invest in growing the capacity of the early childcare community.

(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 commit to indexing Saskatchewan minimum wage.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 34)

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. 59 – The Election Amendment Act, 2008

(Hon. Mr. Morgan)

Bill No. 60 – The Senate Nominee Election Act

(Hon. Mr. Morgan)

Bill No. 61 – The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2008

(Hon. Mr. Hutchinson)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 93 to 106, they were answered. (See Appendix)

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 58 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer: That Bill No. 58 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2) – be now read a second time.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. Taylor, adjourned.

Bill No. 57 – The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2008

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: That Bill No. 57 – The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. Nilson, adjourned.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

Bill No. 48 – The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2008

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer: That Bill No. 48 – The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2008 – 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. Ms. Harpauer, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 48 – The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2008 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 43 – The Trespass to Property Act

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Morgan: That Bill No. 43 – The Trespass to Property Act – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing, it was on motion of Ms. Higgins, adjourned.

Bill No. 9 – The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2008

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer: That Bill No. 9 – The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing, it was on motion of Mr. Trew, adjourned.

Bill No. 46 – The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act, 2008

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Stewart: That Bill No. 46 – The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing, it was on motion of Mr. Yates, adjourned.

Bill No. 49 – The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2008

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. McMorris: That Bill No. 49 – The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing, it was on motion of Mr. Broten, adjourned.

Bill No. 53 – The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. McMorris: That Bill No. 53 – The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing, it was on motion of Mr. Broten, adjourned.

Bill No. 45 – The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2008

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Morgan: That Bill No. 45 – The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing, it was on motion of Mr. McCall, adjourned.

Bill No. 44 – The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Amendment Act, 2008

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Morgan: That Bill No. 44 – The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Amendment Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing, it was on motion of Mr. Nilson, adjourned.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:58 p.m. until Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Don Toth
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ms. Atkinson asked the Government the following Question No. 93, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:

To the Minister of Agriculture: (1) Were there any consultations prior to the announcement of the Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program? (2) If so, who were those consultations with? (3) When did those meetings take place?

Answer:

(1) Yes.

(2) Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Energy and Resources
Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
SaskWater
Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations

(3) **Contact**

Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Ministry of Energy and Resources
Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
SaskWater
Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations

Date of Consultation

February 25, 2008
March 27, 2008
March 26, 2008
June 3, 2008
June 6, 2008
June 4, 2008
June 3, 2008
June 5, 2008
June 9, 2008
June 4, 2008
June 9, 2008

Ms. Atkinson asked the Government the following Question No. 94, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:

To the Minister of Agriculture: (1) Is there a limit on how much land one individual or company can purchase under Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program? (2) If so, what is that limit?

Answer:

(1) No. Lessees will be able to purchase any or all of their eligible lands.

(2) N/A

Ms. Atkinson asked the Government the following Question No. 95, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:

To the Minister of Agriculture: (1) Is there any criteria that individuals have to meet to participate in the Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program? (2) What is that criteria?

Answer:

(1) Yes.

(2) Individuals must be agricultural Crown land lessees. The lessee must have all accounts with Lands Branch, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation and Financial Programs Branch in an acceptable status.

Ms. Atkinson asked the Government the following Question No. 96, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:

To the Minister of Agriculture: Will there be preferential treatment for current lessees under the Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program?

Answer:

All agricultural Crown land lessees will be eligible for the program.

Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 97, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: Was there any duty to consult meetings or hearings before the announcement of the Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program?

Answer:

There were no duty to consult meetings or hearings with the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations.

Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 98, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) What was the average cost per kilometer of the reconstruction work in 2008? (2) 2007? (3) 2006? (4) 2005? (5) 2004?

Answer:

Year	Average/KM
2008	\$ 613,997
2007	\$ 499,145
2006	\$ 514,339
2005	\$ 187,322
2004	\$ 231,481

Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 99, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many kilometers of highways were reconstructed - how many of those kilometers were reconstruction of road bed and how many were reconstruction of pavement top - in 2008? (2) 2007? (3) 2006? (4) 2005? (5) 2004?

Answer:

Year	Reconstruction of Pavement top	Reconstruction of Roadbed
2008	110 km	53.0 km
2007	51 km	16.0 km
2006	46 km	14.0 km
2005	111 km	19.4 km
2004	168 km	19.4 km

Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 100, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many kilometers of highways were resurfaced with new surface covering pavement in 2008? (2) 2007? (3) 2006? (4) 2005? (5) 2004?

Answer:

Year	KM
2008	393 km
2007	229 km
2006	245 km
2005	313 km
2004	301 km

Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 101, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many seniors are covered under the prescription drug plan? (2) What is the average cost to cover a senior under that plan?

Answer:

- (1) During 2007/08, 136,784 individuals aged 65 or older were covered under the prescription drug plan.
- (2) The average benefit provided to the 136,784 seniors was \$1,001.

Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 102, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:

To the Minister of Health: What is the number of RPNs employed by health regions - per region - as of September 30, 2008?

Answer:

The Ministry collects data on nursing from different sources (including SAHO payroll and directly from the RHAs). The data sources currently available to the ministry do not provide the ability to accurately break out RPN numbers distinct from other registered nurse numbers in the manner requested at this time. However, as of March 31, 2008 the number of active RPNs (provincially) reported by the Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Association was 881.

Mr. Yates asked the Government the following Question No. 103, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:

To the Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission: (1) How many unions does the government of Saskatchewan currently collectively bargain with? (2) How many employees are represented by each of those unions for bargaining purposes? (3) When is each contract up for negotiations?

Answer:

- (1) The unionized (in-scope) employees of executive government are represented by two unions: the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU) represents all of these employees, except for those in the Community Living Division of Social Services and some government services employees working in Community Living Division facilities who are represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 600.
- (2) For the purpose of this bargaining, SGEU represents 11,397 employees and CUPE represents 622 employees (employment statistics are as of August 2008). These include in-scope public service employees working in permanent full-time, permanent part-time, labour service and non-permanent assignments.
- (3) Both current collective agreements expire September 30, 2009.

Mr. Nilson asked the Government the following Question No. 104, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Tell:

To the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport: (1) Were there any companies that applied for the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit in 2006/07 that did not receive that credit? (2) 2007/08? (3) 2008/09?

Answer:

This question was answered on Day 7, in Question No. 73.

Mr. Nilson asked the Government the following Question No. 105, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Tell:

To the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport: How will the government of Saskatchewan measure the increased participation of children ages six to 14 in sports, cultural and recreation activities as a result of the Active Saskatchewan Families Benefit?

Answer:

The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport and the Ministry of Finance will work with the Canada Revenue Agency to develop measures to evaluate the program in terms of annual program payouts and numbers of children benefited from the program.

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 106, which was answered by the Premier:

To the Premier: (1) Has North Sask consumer interviewing been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, ministries or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007? (2) If so, what were the terms of that contract? (3) How much were they paid?

Answer:

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

On Wednesday:

Hon. Mr. Morgan to move First Reading of Bill No. 65 – The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2008

Hon. Mr. Hickie to move First Reading of Bill No. 66 – The Witness Protection Act

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 11 and are to be answered by day no. 16:

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 109:

To the Premier: (1) Has Graham Construction been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, ministries, or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007? (2) If so, what were the terms of that contract? (3) How much were they paid?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 110:

To the Premier: (1) Has Graham Construction been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, ministries, or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007? (2) If so, was any contract they were given sent out for tender or was it awarded directly to the company?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 111:

To the Minister of Health: (1) For patients that were send out of province for PET scans in 2007 and 2008, what was the cost per patient? (2) What was the total cost in 2007? (3) What is the total cost to date in 2008?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 112:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many patients were sent out of province for PET scans in 2006? (2) 2007? (3) To date in 2008?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 113:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) Has Bob Chartier received any remuneration for his work on the CBO Summit? (2) If so, what remuneration was given?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 114:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) Has Ted Merriman received any remuneration for his work on the task force on Affordable Housing? (2) If so, what remuneration was given?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 115:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) Has Bob Pringle received any remuneration for his work on the task force on Affordable Housing? (2) If so, what remuneration was given?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 116:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many children came into foster care under the authority of *The Child and Family Services Act* and were placed into overflow facilities during each month of 2007? (2) 2008?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 117:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many families were on the waiting list for the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement (SRHS) in each month of 2007? (2) 2008?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 118:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many families qualified for Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement (SRHS) in each month of 2007? (2) 2008?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 119:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: On October 29, 2008, the Minister made the following statement in the Assembly: “as minister, I identified the policy that I felt needed to be followed - namely, inform the public immediately when an offender is unlawfully at large. The ministry has responsibility for implementing the policy. This includes communicating the policy and developing the appropriate procedures for use throughout the system.” What “appropriate procedures” were developed?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 120:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: On October 29, 2008, the Minister made the following statement in the Assembly: “as minister, I identified the policy that I felt needed to be followed - namely, inform the public immediately when an offender is unlawfully at large. The ministry has responsibility for implementing the policy. This includes communicating the policy and developing the appropriate procedures for use throughout the system.” (1) When was this policy communicated to front line staff? (2) How was this policy communicated to front line staff?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 121:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: On October 29, 2008, the Minister made the following statement in the Assembly: “as minister, I identified the policy that I felt needed to be followed - namely, inform the public immediately when an offender is unlawfully at large. The ministry has responsibility for implementing the policy. This includes communicating the policy and developing the appropriate procedures for use throughout the system.” (1) When was this policy communicated to the Deputy Minister? (2) How was this policy communicated to the Deputy Minister - by email or by some other method?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 122:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: On October 29, 2008, the Minister made the following statement in the Assembly: “as minister, I identified the policy that I felt needed to be followed - namely, inform the public immediately when an offender is unlawfully at large. The ministry has responsibility for implementing the policy. This includes communicating the policy and developing the appropriate procedures for use throughout the system.” When was this policy enacted?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 123:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: On October 29, 2008, the Minister made the following statement in the Assembly: “as minister, I identified the policy that I felt needed to be followed - namely, inform the public immediately when an offender is unlawfully at large. The ministry has responsibility for implementing the policy. This includes communicating the policy and developing the appropriate procedures for use throughout the system.” (1) How were the “appropriate procedures” communicated to staff (including the Deputy Minister)? (2) When did this communication take place?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 124:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: (1) Have there been any changes to the policy manual in the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing since November 7, 2007? (2) If so, what were those changes?