



No. 22

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, December 2, 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, Iwanchuk, Forbes, Broten, Wotherspoon, Vermette and Yates.

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 commit to maintaining quality health care services and job security for all public health care providers.

(Sessional Paper No. 58)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to stop tax-funded abortions.

(Sessional Paper No. 59)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining and repairing Highway 123.

(Sessional Paper No. 60)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to immediately add at least 1000 new child care spaces in Saskatchewan.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 33)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to increase funding for post-secondary students.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 35)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to expand affordable housing options for Saskatchewan's senior citizens.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 37)

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 make a critical and substantive investment in neighbourhood and rural schools and halt further closures until such reforms are in place.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 50)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

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

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

Supplementary Estimates, 2008-2009 (November):

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

For First Nations and Métis Relations\$19,643,000

For Justice and Attorney General\$3,455,000

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. 65)

On motion of Mr. Kirsch:

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

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:

Bill No. 42 – The Securities Amendment Act, 2008

The following Bills were reported with amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, they were read the third time and passed:

Bill No. 62 – The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2008

Bill No. 64 – The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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

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

Supplementary Estimates, 2008-2009 (November):

Executive Branch of Government

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

For Advanced Education, Employment and Labour	\$106,311,000
For Corrections, Public Safety and Policing	\$20,846,000
For Education	\$9,405,000
For Health	\$80,000,000
For Social Services	\$11,880,000

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. 66)

On motion of Mr. Hart:

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

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:

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

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 136 to 158, they were answered. (See Appendix)

SPEAKER TABLES REPORT

The Speaker laid before the Assembly the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Legislative Library for the year ended March 31, 2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 62)

SECOND READINGS /DEUXIÈME LECTURE

Bill No. 71 – The Innovation Saskatchewan Act

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Stewart: That Bill No. 71 – The Innovation Saskatchewan Act – be now read a second time.

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

Bill No. 74 – The Miscellaneous Statutes (English) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Morgan: That Bill No. 74 – The Miscellaneous Statutes (English) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

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

Bill No. 75 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008 Projet de loi n° 75 - Loi corrective (lois bilingues) de 2008

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Morgan: That Bill No. 75 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008 – be now read a second time.

L'hon. M. Morgan propose: Que le projet de loi n° 75 - Loi corrective (lois bilingues) de 2008 – soit maintenant lu une deuxième fois.

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

Il s'élève un débat et sur motion de M. Taylor, le débat est ajourné.

Bill No. 76 – The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

Moved by the Hon. Ms. Heppner: That Bill No. 76 – The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2) – be now read a second time.

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

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 3:45 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. 136, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: What are the communication plans for the minister to announce publicly any further changes to her ministry's Income Assistance Modernization Strategy, prior to implementation so staff, stakeholders and clients may be fully aware of the changes?

Answer:

There are no further plans to communicate information about the Income Assistance Modernization Strategy.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 137, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: On April 2, 2008, you issued a news release announcing Cabinet has approved revisions to your ministry's Income Assistance Modernization Strategy: (1) Who are the stakeholders referred to in the press release? Please name them. (2) When were/will meetings be held? (3) Who was/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) Income Assistance front-line staff. Additional representations have been received from landlords and crown utilities.
- (2) Meetings were held as follows:

Prince Albert	July 14, 2008
North Battleford	September 22, 2008
Saskatoon	July 8, 2008
Regina	August 6, 2008
Yorkton	September 25, 2008
- (3) Income Assistance front-line staff.
- (4) Notice was provided to staff.
- (5) Consultations have occurred as described above.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 138, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: What are the firm or tentative dates for implementation of the following services mentioned in the April 2 news release: (1) accelerated work opportunities for clients? (2) enhanced JobsFirst employment linkage services? (3) introduction of parent support workshops? (4) improved accountability and reporting?

Answer:

- (1) Accelerated work opportunities are made up of the enhanced JobsFirst service, the introduction of the Parents Supports workshops and mandatory monthly reporting for recipients of the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA).
- (2) The enhanced JobsFirst service was implemented in June 2008.
- (3) Parents Supports workshops were implemented in November 2008.
- (4) Mandatory monthly reporting for TEA clients was implemented in July 2008.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 139, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: What regulation or policy excludes the Senior Income Plan (SIP) from the income calculation for determining rent amounts in Saskatchewan Housing senior affordable housing units?

Answer:

Saskatchewan Housing Authority Manual – Policy and Procedures Volume II excludes SIP as a source of income for rent calculations under the Social Housing Rental Program. Rents for seniors living in Affordable Rent Housing Program projects are based on a flat monthly rate and therefore are not sensitive to changes in income such as SIP.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 140, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) Is there a Social Services policy or regulation that will ensure that the Senior Income Plan (SIP) increases will be exempt from the income calculation for determining rent amounts in affordable senior housing complexes operated by third party groups such as NGOs, CBOs or faith-based organizations such as St. George Ukrainian Residence in Saskatoon? (2) If so, what is that policy or regulation?

Answer:

- (1) No.
- (2) Seniors non-profit housing projects were developed through several different national and provincial housing programs. Operating agreements signed at the time of housing development establish the basis for seniors housing rents. The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation requires those agencies that fall under the Social Housing Rental Program to follow the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Housing Manual which excludes SIP as a source of income for rent calculations. Some seniors non-profit housing corporations charge flat monthly rental rates that are not sensitive to income changes and some non-profits autonomously determine which income sources are included in rent calculations.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 141, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

To the Minister of Finance: How many people are anticipated to be employed in Saskatchewan in April 2009 that are required to fill out income tax forms, but will not have to pay any income tax?

Answer:

April 30, 2010 is the filing deadline for personal income tax returns for the 2009 taxation year. The processing of these income tax returns by the Canada Revenue Agency will not be complete until the end of 2010. Detailed statistical information on 2009 tax returns will not be provided to the province until August 2011. The Ministry of Finance therefore does not yet have information to respond to this written question.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 142, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

To the Minister of Finance: How many people were employed in Saskatchewan in April 2008 that were required to fill out income tax forms, but did not pay any income tax?

Answer:

April 30, 2009 is the filing deadline for personal income tax returns for the 2008 taxation year. The processing of these income tax returns by the Canada Revenue Agency will not be complete until the end of 2009. Detailed statistical information on 2008 tax returns will not be provided to the province until August 2010. The Ministry of Finance therefore does not yet have information to respond to this written question.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 143, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: What was the usage of each food bank in Saskatchewan in terms of: (1) number of clients? (2) amount of food given out during their last reporting year?

Answer:

- (1) The Ministry of Social Services does not compile statistics for the food banks in Saskatchewan.
- (2) Same as above.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 144, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

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

Answer:

243 – This number does not include regional management or administrative employees, as these positions have shared responsibilities for Income Assistance programs and Child and Family Services programs.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 145, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

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

Answer:

54 – This number does not include regional management or administrative employees, as these positions have shared responsibilities for Income Assistance programs and Child and Family Services programs.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 146, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

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

Answer:

243 – This number does not include regional management or administrative employees, as these positions have shared responsibilities for Income Assistance programs and Child and Family Services programs.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 147, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

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

Answer:

38 – This number does not include regional management or administrative employees, as these positions have shared responsibilities for Income Assistance programs and Child and Family Services programs.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 148, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many total SAP cases were open in each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 22,154
- (2) 22,027
- (3) 21,805
- (4) 21,876
- (5) 21,702
- (6) 21,680
- (7) 21,637

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 149, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many total TEA cases were open in each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 2,897
- (2) 2,940
- (3) 2,752
- (4) 2,710
- (5) 2,483
- (6) 2,422
- (7) 2,304

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 150, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new SAP cases were open in each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 1,115
- (2) 1,066
- (3) 1,052
- (4) 1,203
- (5) 995
- (6) 1,147
- (7) 1,134

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 151, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new families with children received parent support workshops in each region (southeast, southwest, northeast, northwest, center) for each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) None. The service was implemented in November 2008.
- (2) Same as above.
- (3) Same as above.
- (4) Same as above.
- (5) Same as above.
- (6) Same as above.
- (7) Same as above.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 152, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many SAP/TEA cases were open in each of the regions (southeast, southwest, northeast, northwest, center) for each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) Southeast – 1,646, Southwest – 7,659, Northeast – 2,902, Northwest – 2,780, Centre – 7,217.
- (2) Southeast – 1,616, Southwest – 7,626, Northeast – 2,960, Northwest – 2,799, Centre – 7,115.
- (3) Southeast – 1,587, Southwest – 7,466, Northeast – 2,945, Northwest – 2,735, Centre – 6,996.
- (4) Southeast – 1,563, Southwest – 7,409, Northeast – 2,977, Northwest – 2,771, Centre – 7,012.
- (5) Southeast – 1,554, Southwest – 7,327, Northeast – 2,837, Northwest – 2,743, Centre – 6,840.
- (6) Southeast – 1,532, Southwest – 7,341, Northeast – 2,807, Northwest – 2,774, Centre – 6,787.
- (7) Southeast – 1,497, Southwest – 7,293, Northeast – 2,726, Northwest – 2,774, Centre – 6,790.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 153, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new families with children received Income Assistance in each region (southeast, southwest, northeast, northwest, center) for each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) Southeast - 44, Southwest - 169, Northeast - 82, Northwest - 82, Centre - 130.
- (2) Southeast - 54, Southwest - 190, Northeast - 137, Northwest - 93, Centre - 131.
- (3) Southeast - 55, Southwest - 171, Northeast - 128, Northwest - 66, Centre - 148.
- (4) Southeast - 54, Southwest - 170, Northeast - 169, Northwest - 93, Centre - 188.
- (5) Southeast - 45, Southwest - 142, Northeast - 99, Northwest - 72, Centre - 123.
- (6) Southeast - 44, Southwest - 146, Northeast - 100, Northwest - 80, Centre - 160.
- (7) Southeast - 39, Southwest - 151, Northeast - 96, Northwest - 62, Centre - 136.

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 154, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many people were receiving Senior Income Plan (SIP) for each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 10,852
- (2) 10,866
- (3) 10,886
- (4) 9,355
- (5) 9,568
- (6) 9,835
- (7) 9,928

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 155, 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 each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 4,992
- (2) 4,949
- (3) 4,874
- (4) 4,896
- (5) 4,862
- (6) 4,910
- (7) 4,825

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 156, 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 each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 6,045
- (2) 5,977
- (3) 6,021
- (4) 6,099
- (5) 6,088
- (6) 6,057
- (7) 5,916

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 157, 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 each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 13,601
- (2) 13,537
- (3) 13,421
- (4) 13,388
- (5) 13,304
- (6) 13,277
- (7) 13,325

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 158, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

To the Minister of Social Services: How many new TEA cases were open in each of the following months: (1) April? (2) May? (3) June? (4) July? (5) August? (6) September? (7) October, 2008?

Answer:

- (1) 498
- (2) 608
- (3) 456
- (4) 600
- (5) 456
- (6) 568
- (7) 530

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

On Thursday:

Mr. Yates to move First Reading of Bill No. 604 – The Professional Public Service Employees Protection Act

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Thursday:

Mr. Taylor to move the following motion:

That this Assembly expresses its profound disappointment in the Saskatchewan Party government for their complete lack of vision for the forestry sector and for breaking their other promises to rural Saskatchewan, for example; to keep small schools open, pay drought payments to farmers in southwest Saskatchewan, and fix producer support programs for the hog and livestock industries.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

On Thursday:

No. 1 (Government)

Adjourned debate on **Motion No. 1** moved by Mr. Harrison:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan supports the consideration of further value-added development of Saskatchewan's uranium industry including nuclear power generation and recognizes the potential benefits to the growth and prosperity of the people of our province.

Adjourned Once

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Question was given notice on day no. 19 and is to be answered by day no. 24:

Ms. Atkinson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 183:

To the Minister of Government Services: (1) What are the dates and destinations of all air travel for the Premier for 2008/09 to date? (2) Who accompanied the Premier on each trip?