



No. 30

# **VOTES and PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

**SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE**

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**Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

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: Forbes, Morin, Taylor, Broten and Wotherspoon.

## **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 financially assist Duck Lake residents with exorbitant water rates.

(Sessional Paper No. 115)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to significantly increase the provincial portion of education funding.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 12)

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 Government to ensure that government ministers use fuel efficient vehicles.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 64)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to immediately recommit funds and resources for a new hospital at North Battleford.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 111)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to ensure that CBO workers achieve wage equity.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 112)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to immediately expand the Graduate Retention Program to include Masters and Ph.D. graduates.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 114)

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following Bill was received, read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting:

Bill No. 80 – The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009

(Hon. Mr. Norris)

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

Mr. Kirsch, Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice, presented the Sixth 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 (March):**

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

For Justice and Attorney General .....	\$4,500,000
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For Municipal Affairs .....	\$145,422,000
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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. 118)

On motion of Mr. Kirsch:

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

#### **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

Ms. Junor, Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services, 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 (March):**

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 .....	\$26,350,000
For Education .....	\$143,712,000
For Health .....	\$152,800,000
For Social Services.....	\$29,900,000

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. 119)

On motion of Mr. Allchurch:

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

#### **STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

(Ruling on Bill No. 604 – Requirement for Royal Recommendation)

It is the Speaker's duty to review all Bills in respect to Rule 65 of *The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. This rule states in part that any Bill which proposes any new or additional charge upon the public revenue or upon the people ...shall be recommended to the Assembly by Message of the Lieutenant Governor before it is considered by the Assembly.

This Rule is fundamental to our Constitution as it observes the parliamentary principle of the Crown initiative in financial matters including accountability for all public expenditures and initiating legislation that imposes additional charges upon the public.

The practice in this Assembly is for Bills to be introduced and read the first time with their further progress being contingent upon the Speaker affirming that they are in order. I have now had the opportunity to review Bill No. 604.

On December 4, 2008, Bill No. 604 – The Professional Public Service Employees Protection Act was introduced by the Member from Regina Dewdney. This Bill is presently standing on the Order Paper for second readings under the heading Private Member's Public Bills and Orders Item No. 2 on page 5 of the Order Paper. The issue that I must address is whether Bill No. 604 contravenes the parliamentary principle of the Crown initiative in financial matters.

Clauses 3(1) and (2) of Bill No. 604 makes the provisions of the Act applicable to a majority of Saskatchewan public service and Public Service Commission employees. Further Clause 5(2) requires that upon termination of the employment of any employee to whom the Act applies for any reason other than just cause, the employee is entitled to severance in the amount of 24 month's salary. Clause 7 of the Bill specifically binds the Crown. Given the wide ambit of the Act coupled with the size of the public service and the other entities covered by the Act, the obligation of the Government for the cost would be significant to the point where it would be a new and additional charge upon the public revenue.

It is stated in Erskine May, (page 882-883, 23<sup>rd</sup> edition) that "[i]f there is any doubt on the matter and it appears that the new proposal may entail an extension of previously enacted purposes of expenditure or an increase in the expenditure *potentially* liable to be incurred in pursuit of such a purpose (see pp 886-887), a Money resolution will be required" and further that "whereby the Crown would incur a liability or a contingent liability payable out of money to be voted by Parliament" requires a Royal Recommendation.

I would also refer members to the ruling of the Speaker on May 6, 1998 where it was ruled that a Bill seeking to provide compensation to certain individuals with hepatitis C was ruled out of order as it would have required an expenditure of public funds requiring the Royal Recommendation. Similarly, on June 12, 2001 the Speaker ruled that the creation of a Justice System Review Commission clearly constituted an expenditure of public funds requiring the Royal Recommendation. For these reasons, I find that Bill No. 604 requires a recommendation from the Lieutenant Governor. The Member from Regina Dewdney is not a member of Executive Council, therefore I must rule that the said bill is out of order and will be removed from the Order Paper.

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 184 to 252, they were answered. (See Appendix)

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

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The Assembly adjourned at 2:33 p.m. until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

***Hon. Don Toth***  
***Speaker***

**RETURNS, REPORTS AND PAPERS TABLED**

The following papers were laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Mr. Morgan:

Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the following Professional Associations and amendments thereto, under provisions of the respective Acts:

The Chiropractors' Association of Saskatchewan  
Saskatchewan Dental Assistants Association  
Saskatchewan Dental Therapists Association  
College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan  
Law Society of Saskatchewan  
Saskatchewan Society of Occupational Therapists  
Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists  
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists  
The Saskatchewan College of Podiatrists  
Saskatchewan College of Respiratory Therapists

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 2)

By the Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:

Letter regarding corrigendum on Vote number for Ministry of Social Services, dated March 10, 2009

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 110)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 184, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:**

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 2008? (2) 2009?

Answer:

- (1) None. There has never been a waitlist for the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement.
- (2) Same as above.

**Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 185, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:**

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many children came into foster care under the authority of *The Child and Family Services Act* during each month of 2008 and 2009? (2) How many were placed into overflow facilities during each month of 2008 and 2009?

Answer:

- (1) The number of children coming into foster care on a monthly basis is not available as the Ministry's current information management tool does not have the capability of extracting these numbers. The ministry currently tracks the overall number of children in foster care and the net change from month to month.

<b>Average daily count of children in foster care</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Jan	1922	1929
Feb	1924	
Mar	1910	
Apr	1919	
May	1898	
Jun	1918	
Jul	1917	
Aug	1884	
Sep	1891	
Oct	1895	
Nov	1922	
Dec	1945	

- (2) The Ministry of Social Services has a range of care responses to respond to emergency placements of children in care. These responses include emergency facilities, staffed emergency/receiving facilities and as a last resort, hotels. Aside from hotels, the Ministry's staffed emergency care responses provide a response to overflow pressures coming from the foster care system as well as respite and stabilization care for children with complex and difficult to serve needs. As these programs provide a multitude of services, the Ministry is unable to extract the exact numbers of children that were placed purely due to an "overflow" need. The Ministry does not currently track and record information in this manner, and without a case management system this creates additional challenges to maintain and consolidate this information.

Therefore, the numbers included are only those recorded from the use of hotels as these numbers have been consistently tracked and are purely used to respond to an “overflow” pressure.

<b>Number of children placed in overflow facilities*</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Jan	0	0
Feb	1	0
Mar	0	
Apr	1	
May	0	
Jun	3	
Jul	0	
Aug	0	
Sep	0	
Oct	7	
Nov	3	
Dec	0	

\*These numbers include children in care 15 years of age and younger

**Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 186, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:**

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: What was the value of investments held by the SGI Investment Fund as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

There is no SGI Investment Fund.

**Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 187, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:**

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) In 2008, how many drivers' licenses were transferred from each province? (2) Out-of-country?

Answer:

(1) In 2008, the number of licenses transferred from each province was:

Alberta	8,129
British Columbia	2,590
Manitoba	1,426
N. W. Territories/Nunavut	382
New Brunswick	136
Newfoundland	120
Nova Scotia	239
Ontario	2,435
P.E.I.	535
Quebec	324
Yukon	564

(2) 1,079 driver's licenses were transferred from out of country in 2008.

**Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 188, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:**

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: What was the value of investments held by the SGI Investment Fund as of July 1, 2008?

Answer:

There is no SGI Investment Fund.

**Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 189, 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. 190, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:**

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many kilometers of highway were reconstructed in 2008? (2) How many kilometers were reconstruction of road bed? (3) How many were reconstruction of pavement top?

Answer:

Year	Reconstruction of Highways	Reconstruction of Pavement top	Reconstruction of Roadbed
2008	163.0 km	110 km	53.0 km

**Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 191, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:**

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many kilometers of highway were resurfaced with new surface covering pavement in 2008? (2) What was the cost?

Answer:

Year	KM	Cost
2008	396 km	\$73.5 M

**Mr. Harper asked the Government the following Question No. 192, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:**

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: What was the order of priority for highways projects as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

The Ministry has established a rolling five year capital plan. The five year capital plan can be found at: <http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/capitalplan/>

**Mr. Quennell asked the Government the following Question No. 193, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Morgan:**

To the Minister of Justice: (1) Has Kevin Wilson received any remuneration from Executive Government (including Ministers' offices) or Crown corporations since November 7, 2007? (2) If so, what remuneration was given? (3) What were the services that he provided?

Answer:

- (1) Kevin Wilson has not received any remuneration from the Ministry of Justice since November 7, 2007.
- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A

**Mr. Broten asked the Government the following Question No. 194, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour: How many students are currently enrolled in graduate-level programs in Saskatchewan?

Answer:

For the 2008/09 school year, there were 3,837 graduate students enrolled in full-time and part-time studies.

**Mr. Broten asked the Government the following Question No. 195, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour: (1) How many full-time and part-time jobs were there in the province in the year 2008? (2) What source are you citing for these statistics?

Answer:

- (1) There were 512,700 people employed in Saskatchewan in 2008 (for the population 15 years and older). 421,100 were working full-time and the remaining 91,600 were working part-time.
- (2) Source: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

**Mr. Yates asked the Government the following Question No. 196, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Hickie:**

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?

Answer:

- (1) The Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing has a number of policy manuals specific to each area of the Ministry. Numerous changes have been made to policies within each of the manuals since November 7, 2007.
- (2) Changes to the policies within each of the manuals in the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing reflect operational needs.

**Mr. Yates asked the Government the following Question No. 197, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:**

To the Minister of Government Services: What has the government spent on renovations to Ministers' offices since November 20, 2007?

Answer:

No renovations have occurred to Ministers' offices since November 20, 2007.

**Mr. Yates asked the Government the following Question No. 198, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:**

To the Minister of Government Services: What has the government spent on renovations to the Saskatoon Cabinet office since November 20, 2007?

Answer:

Since November 20, 2007, Government Services spent \$5,800 on renovations to the Saskatoon Cabinet office.

**Mr. Yates asked the Government the following Question No. 199, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:**

To the Minister of Government Services: What has the government spent on renovations to the Premier's office in the Legislative building since November 20, 2007?

Answer:

No renovations have occurred to the Premier's office in the Legislative Building since November 20, 2007.

**Mr. Yates asked the Government the following Question No. 200, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:**

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission: (1) Which 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 does each union's present contract expire?

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 9,864 employees and CUPE represents 598 employees (employment statistics are as of February 2009). 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. 201, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Tell:**

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

Answer:

No formal rejection of applications for the Film Employment Tax Credit were recorded for the years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09.

**Mr. Nilson asked the Government the following Question No. 202, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Tell:**

To the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport: (1) How many companies that applied for the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit were denied in the fiscal year 2006/07? (2) 2007/08? (3) 2008/09?

Answer:

No formal rejection of applications for the Film Employment Tax Credit were recorded for the years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 203, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:**

To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: What was the order of priority for municipal projects as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs administers a number of federal/provincial, provincial and federal funding programs. Each program has criteria and a process used to prioritize individual projects which apply for funding.

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 204, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: For all the individuals that were terminated without cause by this government, including government ministries and agencies, Crown corporations, executive council, the WBC and the Labour Relations Board, how long, on average, did it take to finalize the severance packages?

Answer:

16 weeks.

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 205, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: (1) How many individuals have been terminated without cause by this government, including government ministries and agencies, Crown corporations, executive council, the WBC and the Labour Relations Board? (2) How many of those individuals have yet to have finalized their severance negotiations?

Answer:

- (1) 70 employees were terminated as part of the transition process.
- (2) Four.

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 206, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: (1) How many employees in the civil service have been moved to “unclassified”? (2) What is the definition of “unclassified”?

Answer:

- (1) None.
- (2) The “unclassified division” of the public service is defined in *The Public Service Act* as follows:

#### PART III

#### Organization of the Public Service

##### Two divisions

15(1) The public service is composed of two divisions:

- (a) the unclassified division; and
- (b) the classified division.

(2) Subject to subsection 31(3), the unclassified division is composed of the following positions:

- (a) permanent heads;
- (b) members of boards or commissions;
- (c) the Clerk of the Executive Council; and
- (d) those positions designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as positions to be placed in the unclassified division

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 207, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: (1) How many staff members will be assigned to each Legislative Secretary? (2) Will they be housed in ministries or in Ministers’ offices? (3) What are their salaries? (4) What are their roles and responsibilities?

Answer:

- (1) None.
- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A
- (4) N/A

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 208, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: What is the total monthly expenditure on salaries and benefits in Executive Council?

Answer:

The total monthly expenditure on salaries and benefits in Executive Council is \$449,637.

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 209, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: Recognizing that public reporting is required for contracts over \$50,000, how many consulting or personal service contracts over \$10,000, but less than \$50,000 has the government entered into since November 11, 2007?

Answer:

The Government of Saskatchewan follows proper disclosure requirements by reporting payments made for goods and services of \$50,000 or greater in Volume 2 of Public Accounts each fiscal year. Payments made for contractual services by Ministry can be found in Volume 2 of Public Accounts under the heading "Goods and Services".

**Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 210, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:**

To the Minister of Education: How many schools are being reviewed by school boards for possible closure or grade reduction in 2008/09?

Answer:

To date, five schools are under review for possible closure or grade discontinuance effective summer of 2009.

**Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 211, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:**

To the Minister of Education: (1) How many schools are being reviewed by school boards for possible closure or grade discontinuance? (2) Please name each school and indicate if it is full closure or grade discontinuance (and the grades affected) for each school?

Answer:

(1) To date, five schools are under review for possible closure or grade discontinuance.

(2)

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	
Chaplin School	K-12	Closure
Wishart School	K-9	Closure
Morse School	K-12	Closure
Lyndale School (Oungre)	9-12	Grade Discontinuance
St. Peter's School (Unity)	7	Grade Discontinuance

**Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 212, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:**

To the Minister of Education: What was the order of priority for the capital lists for schools as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

The order of priority at this time was based on the 2008 Major Capital Request List. This is available on the ministry website at:

[http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/adx.aspx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=224,134,107,81,1,Documents&MediaID=3811&Filename=2008+-+12+Five+Year+Capital+Request+List+\(APPROVAL+2\)+\(R02\)+June+26%2c+2008.pdf](http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/adx.aspx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=224,134,107,81,1,Documents&MediaID=3811&Filename=2008+-+12+Five+Year+Capital+Request+List+(APPROVAL+2)+(R02)+June+26%2c+2008.pdf).

**Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 213, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:**

To the Minister of Education: What was the order of priority for the capital lists for schools as of January 1, 2008?

Answer:

The order of priority at this time was based on the 2007 Major Capital Request List. This is available on the ministry website at

[http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/adx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=224,134,107,81,1,Documents&MediaID=1576&Filename=cap\\_request\\_list02082007.pdf](http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/adx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=224,134,107,81,1,Documents&MediaID=1576&Filename=cap_request_list02082007.pdf).

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 214, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: (1) What is the average rental cost in Prince Albert? (2) What source are you citing for this information?

Answer:

- (1) This information can be found in the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Rental Market Report.
- (2) CMHC Rental Market Report.

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 215, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: (1) What is the average rental cost in Saskatoon? (2) What source are you citing for this information?

Answer:

- (1) This information can be found in the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Rental Market Report.
- (2) CMHC Rental Market Report.

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 216, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: (1) What is the average rental cost in Regina? (2) What source are you citing for this information?

Answer:

- (1) This information can be found in the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Rental Market Report.
- (2) CMHC Rental Market Report.

**Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 217, which was answered by the Premier:**

To the Premier: (1) What is the average rental cost in Moose Jaw? (2) What source are you citing for this information?

Answer:

- (1) This information can be found in the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Rental Market Report.
- (2) CMHC Rental Market Report.

**Ms. Atkinson asked the Government the following Question No. 218, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:**

To the Minister of Agriculture: How much money has the province provided to the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate since its inception?

Answer:

This question was answered on Day 7, Question No. 23.

**Mr. Trew asked the Government the following Question No. 219, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:**

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: Was the government's share of the proceeds from the sale of SaskFerco disbursed into the General Revenue Fund or to the Growth and Financial Security Fund or was it retained inside Investment Saskatchewan or CIC?

Answer:

Proceeds were retained by CIC.

**Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 220, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:**

To the Minister of Social Services: What was the order of priority for housing projects as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

Priority was, in no specific order, to serve the needs of low to moderate income households including: families with dependents, Aboriginal peoples, youth-at-risk, students, seniors and persons with a disability.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 221, 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, 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. Completed statistical information on 2009 tax returns will not be provided to the Province until August 2011.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 222, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:**

To the Minister of Finance: How many people were employed in Saskatchewan in April 2008, 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 completed until the end of 2009. Completed statistical information on 2008 tax returns will not be provided to the Province until August 2010.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 223, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:**

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

Answer:

This does not fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and should be directed to the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 224, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:**

To the Minister of Finance: (1) How many students will qualify for the graduate tax retention benefit in 2009? (2) What will the total cost of the program be in 2009?

Answer:

This does not fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and should be directed to the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 225, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:**

To the Minister of Finance: What was the value of investments held by the Saskatchewan Health Employees Pension (SHEP) as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

This does not fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and should be directed to the Minister of Health.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 226, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:**

To the Minister of Finance: What was the value of investments held by the Saskatchewan Health Employees Pension (SHEP) as of July 1, 2008?

Answer:

This does not fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and should be directed to the Minister of Health.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 227, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:**

To the Minister of Finance: What was the value of investments held by the SGI Investment Fund as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

This does not fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and should be directed to the Minister of Crown Corporations.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 228, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:**

To the Minister of Finance: What was the value of investments held by the SGI Investment Fund as of July 1, 2008?

Answer:

This does not fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and should be directed to the Minister of Crown Corporations.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 229, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:**

To the Minister of Finance: What was the value of investments held by the WCB Investment Fund as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

This does not fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and should be directed to the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 230, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:**

To the Minister of Finance: What was the value of investments held by the WCB Investment Fund as of July 1, 2008?

Answer:

This does not fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and should be directed to the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Ms. Morin asked the Government the following Question No. 231, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Heppner:**

To the Minister of Environment: How many employees have been dismissed without cause from your ministry or have been bumped or laid off since November 7, 2007?

Answer:

Four employees have been dismissed without cause, one employee has been bumped and 14 employees have been laid off from the Ministry of Environment since November 7, 2007.

**Mr. Iwanchuk asked the Government the following Question No. 232, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour: What was the value of investments held by the WCB Investment Fund as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

The audited financial statements in the forthcoming Workers' Compensation Board 2008 annual report disclose the value of the investment fund as of December 31, 2008.

**Mr. Iwanchuk asked the Government the following Question No. 233, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour: What was the value of investments held by the WCB Investment Fund as of July 1, 2008?

Answer:

\$1,272,897,519 (June 30, 2008)

**Mr. Iwanchuk asked the Government the following Question No. 234, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour: What was the average time between a case being heard by the Labour Relations Board and a decision being made for the year 2008?

Answer:

For 2008, the average time for the current Chair and Vice-Chair to hear a case and render a decision is 35 days.

**Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 235, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:**

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: How many duty to consult meetings have you participated in since November 7, 2007?

Answer:

There has been 81 formal duty to consult meetings.

**Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 236, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:**

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: (1) What percentage of Saskatchewan's work force is Aboriginal? (2) What is the source you are citing for this statistic?

Answer:

- (1) Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan make up almost 10 percent (9.8 percent to be exact) of the labour force.
- (2) This statistic is derived from Statistics Canada's 2006 Census of Canada. Statistics Canada uses the term labour force rather than work force.

**Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 237, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:**

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: For each out-of-province trip that the Minister has been on since November 7, 2007: (1) How many staff from the Minister's office went on the trip? (2) Did the Minister and/or her staff fly coach or business class? (3) Did any officials from the Ministry go on the trip? (4) Did those officials fly coach or business class? (5) What was the total cost of the trip?

Answer:

- (1) Trip number one - none  
Trip number two - one  
Trip number three - one  
Trip number four - one  
Trip number five - one  
Trip number six - none  
Trip number seven - one  
Trip number eight - one  
Trip number nine - one
- (2) All flew coach for all trips.
- (3) Yes, trip two, Deputy Minister Ron Crowe  
Trip five, 3 officials, Sherelyn Caderma, Rusty Gardiner and Anita Jones
- (4) The official flew coach.
- (5) Trip one - \$1,072.10  
Trip two - \$1,383.71  
Trip three - \$3,277.20  
Trip four - \$2,551.89  
Trip five - \$9,590.50  
Trip six - \$688.80  
Trip seven - \$3,260.92  
Trip eight - \$17,672.47  
Trip nine - \$1,941.08

**Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 238, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:**

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: How many out-of-province trips has the Minister been on since November 7, 2007?

Answer:

Nine out-of-province trips since November 7, 2007.

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 239, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many patients were sent out of province for PET scans in 2009? (2) 2006? (3) 2007? (4) 2008 to date?

Answer:

The number of out of province PET scans paid for by the Ministry of Health in:

- (1) the first 2 months of 2009 were 33.
- (2) the calendar year 2006 were 92.
- (3) the calendar year 2007 were 142.
- (4) the calendar year 2008 were 169.

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 240, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: What is the number of RNs employed by health regions per region as of January 31, 2009?

Answer:

The Ministry collects data on nursing from different sources (including Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations [SAHO] payroll and directly from the regional health authorities [RHAs]). The data sources currently available to the Ministry do not provide the ability to accurately break out RN and RPN numbers in the manner requested.

However, the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) and regional health authorities agreed at the Government/SUN partnership table, to use nursing FTEs from the SAHO payroll to measure and track progress on increasing our nursing workforce. The number of all (RN and RPN) SUN FTEs by region for the period from April 2008 to January 2009 is as follows:

- Sun Country – 251.64 FTEs
- Five Hills – 258.75 FTEs
- Cypress – 207.91 FTEs
- Regina Qu'Appelle – 1,756.39 FTEs
- Sunrise – 374.97 FTEs
- Saskatoon – 2,073.9 FTEs
- Heartland – 171.34 FTEs
- Kelsey Trail – 182.25 FTEs
- Prince Albert Parkland – 327.82 FTEs
- Prairie North – 391.06 FTEs
- Mamawetan Churchill River – 32.54 FTEs
- Keewatin Yatthe – 33.01 FTEs

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 241, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: How many RPN vacancies were there as of December 31, 2008 and each month thereafter to date?

Answer:

Based on the results of the quarterly nursing surveys being conducted by health regions, as agreed to by the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) and regional health authorities at the Government/SUN partnership table, as of December 31, 2008 the health regions reported the following number of vacant RPN positions by health region as follows:

- Sun Country – 2 positions totalling 2 FTEs
- Five Hills – 0 positions
- Cypress – 0 positions
- Regina Qu'Appelle – 3 positions totalling 3 FTEs
- Sunrise – 1 position totalling 0.5 FTEs
- Saskatoon – 4 positions totalling 3 FTEs
- Heartland – 1 positions totalling 1 FTEs
- Kelsey Trail – 0 positions
- Prince Albert Parkland – 5 positions totalling 5 FTEs
- Prairie North – 7 positions totalling 7 FTEs
- Mamawetan Churchill River – 0 positions
- Keewatin Yatthe – N/A
- Saskatchewan Cancer Agency – 0 positions

Regional health authorities will complete the next nursing survey as of March 31, 2009.

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 242, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: (1) What is the number of RPNs employed by health regions per region as of December 31, 2008? (2) As of September 30, 2008?

Answer:

The Ministry collects data on nursing from different sources (including Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations [SAHO] payroll and directly from the regional health authorities [RHAs]). The data sources currently available to the Ministry do not provide the ability to accurately break out RN and RPN numbers in the manner requested.

However, the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) and regional health authorities agreed at the Government/SUN partnership table, to use nursing FTEs from the SAHO payroll to measure and track progress on increasing our nursing workforce. The number of all (RN and RPN) SUN FTEs by region for the period from April 2008 to December 2008 is as follows:

Sun Country – 251.63 FTEs  
Five Hills – 258.58 FTEs  
Cypress – 207.37 FTEs  
Regina Qu'Appelle – 1,748.61 FTEs  
Sunrise – 372.54 FTEs  
Saskatoon – 2,067.16 FTEs  
Heartland – 170.85 FTEs  
Kelsey Trail – 181.73 FTEs  
Prince Albert Parkland – 326.45 FTEs  
Prairie North – 390.80 FTEs  
Mamawetan Churchill River – 32.78 FTEs  
Keewatin Yatthe – 32.67 FTEs

The number of all (RN and RPN) SUN FTEs by region for the period from April 2008 to September 2008 is as follows:

Sun Country – 250.50 FTEs  
Five Hills – 259.30 FTEs  
Cypress – 204.83 FTEs  
Regina Qu'Appelle – 1,731.62 FTEs  
Sunrise – 365.73 FTEs  
Saskatoon – 2,055.01 FTEs  
Heartland – 169.72 FTEs  
Kelsey Trail – 178.78 FTEs  
Prince Albert Parkland – 318.51 FTEs  
Prairie North – 383.86 FTEs  
Mamawetan Churchill River – 32.96 FTEs  
Keewatin Yatthe – 32.18 FTEs

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 243, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: How many RN vacancies were there as of December 31, 2008 and each month thereafter to date?

Answer:

The Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) and regional health authorities agreed at the Government/SUN partnership table, to conduct quarterly nursing surveys last fall. As of December 31, 2008 the health regions reported the following number of full time equivalent (FTE) vacant RN positions by health region as follows:

Sun Country – 19.6 FTEs

Five Hills – 5.2 FTEs  
Cypress – 15.2 FTEs  
Regina Qu'Appelle – 133.6 FTEs  
Sunrise – 27.2 FTEs  
Saskatoon – 115.4 FTEs  
Heartland – 11.2 FTEs  
Kelsey Trail – 11 FTEs  
Prince Albert Parkland – 56.2 FTEs  
Prairie North – 24.8 FTEs  
Mamawetan Churchill River – 8.5 FTEs  
Keewatin Yatthe – N/A  
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency – 1 FTE

Regional health authorities will complete the next nursing survey as of March 31, 2009.

As of October 1, 2008 the health regions reported the following number of FTE vacant RN positions by health region as follows:

Sun Country – 18.5 FTEs  
Five Hills – 2 FTEs  
Cypress – 7.6 FTEs  
Regina Qu'Appelle – 175.3 FTEs  
Sunrise – 22.7 FTEs  
Saskatoon – 169.85 FTEs (includes RNs & RPNs)  
Heartland – 12.6 FTEs  
Kelsey Trail – 8.6 FTEs  
Prince Albert Parkland – 45.6 FTEs  
Prairie North – 37.9 FTEs  
Mamawetan Churchill River – 6.6 FTEs  
Keewatin Yatthe – 11 FTEs  
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency – 3.7 FTEs

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 244, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: What have been the administrative costs associated with means testing the government's drug plan for seniors?

Answer:

The administrative costs in 2007/08 were \$240,000.

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 245, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: What was the value of investments held by the Saskatchewan Health Employees Pension (SHEP) as of July 1, 2008?

Answer:

SHEPP determines the market value of its assets at the end of each month. Accordingly, the market values on the first day of a month are not available. SHEPP's net assets available for benefits at June 30, 2008 were: \$2,985,170,504.69. Please note that the amount reported above is unaudited.

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 246, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: What was the value of investments held by the Saskatchewan Health Employees Pension (SHEP) as of January 1, 2009?

Answer:

SHEPP determines the market value of its assets at the end of each month. Accordingly, the market values on the first day of a month are not available. SHEPP's net assets available for benefits at December 31, 2008 were: \$2,499,878,245.93. Please note that the amount reported above is unaudited.

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 247, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: How many Saskatchewan Health Cards were issued and in service as of December 31, 2009?

Answer:

These numbers will be available on June 30, 2010.

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 248, 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 the 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. 249, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: How many seniors have been removed from the senior's prescription drug plan as a result of the means testing since means testing began?

Answer:

Two thousand and three hundred (2,300) seniors had income too high to qualify for the Seniors' Drug Plan.

**Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 250, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:**

To the Minister of Education: How many schools have applied for dedicated funding as schools of necessity as of December 31, 2008?

Answer:

No schools have applied for dedicated funding as schools of necessity. Schools do not apply for funding as schools of necessity.

**Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 251, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:**

To the Minister of Education: How many schools have applied for dedicated funding as schools of opportunity as of December 31, 2008?

Answer:

No schools have applied for dedicated funding as schools of opportunity as of December 31, 2008.

**Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 252, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:**

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many families qualified for Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement (SRHS) in each month of 2008? (2) 2009?

Answer:

- (1) The SRHS consists of two components: the Family Housing Supplement and the Disability Housing Supplement. Some households that receive the Family Housing Supplement also receive the Disability Housing Supplement.

<b>2008</b>	<b>Family Housing Supplement</b>	<b>Disability Housing Supplement</b>
Jan	3029	1005
Feb	3050	1028
Mar	2925	1035
Apr	2913	1063
May	2911	1114
Jun	2743	1124
Jul	2796	1166
Aug	2926	1146
Sep	2884	1211
Oct	3047	1257
Nov	3037	1330
Dec	3265	1446

- (2) The SRHS consists of two components: the Family Housing Supplement and the Disability Housing Supplement. Some households that receive the Family Housing Supplement also receive the Disability Housing Supplement.

<b>2009</b>	<b>Family Housing Supplement</b>	<b>Disability Housing Supplement</b>
Jan	3327	1463
Feb	3377	1502

## NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Thursday:

Mr. Duncan to move the following motion:

That this Assembly recognize the efforts made by the Government of Saskatchewan to keep life affordable for all residents in our province, including taking steps to ensure our economy continues to grow in this time of global uncertainty.

## NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

On Thursday:

### No. 1 (Opposition)

#### SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 603 – The Reporting of Federal Transfers Act

(Mr. Van Mulligen)

## NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The following Questions were given notice on day no. 28 and are to be answered by day no. 33:**

Mr. McCall, to ask the Government the following Question No. 261:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: In advance of the decision to expand hunting to Sunday, what actions were undertaken pursuant to the government's duty to consult First Nations and Métis people?

Mr. McCall, to ask the Government the following Question No. 262:

To the Minister of Environment: (1) What was the process involved in making the decision to expand Saskatchewan hunting to include Sunday? (2) On what date was that decision made? (3) On what date will that decision come into effect?