



No. 35

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, March 18, 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: Higgins, Forbes, Morin, Taylor, Broten, Wotherspoon and Vermette.

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 pave Highway 135 through the community of Pelican Narrows, as committed on August 24, 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 127)

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 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)

TABLING OF ESTIMATES AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

The Hon. Mr. Gantefer delivered a message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor which was read by the Speaker as follows:

March 18, 2009

The Lieutenant Governor transmits Estimates of certain sums required for the service of the Province for the twelve months ending March 31, 2010 and Supplementary Estimates - March 2009 (No. 2) of certain sums required for the service of the Province for the twelve months ending March 31, 2009, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

DR. GORDON L. BARNHART
Lieutenant Governor

(Sessional Paper No. 131)

BUDGET MOTION

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer, seconded by Mr. Reiter:

That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

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

MOTION TO RESUME BUDGET DEBATE

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

Ordered, That debate on the motion "That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government" be resumed on Thursday, March 19, 2009.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:56 p.m. until Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Hon. Don Toth
Speaker

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 33 and are to be answered by day no. 38:

Mr. Broten, to ask the Government the following Question No. 263:

To the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour: (1) How many people have been brought into Saskatchewan under the Immigration Nominee program in 2006? (2) 2007? (3) 2008?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 264:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new single individuals received the Seniors Income Plan in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 265:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new families with children received parent support workshops in the northeast region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 266:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new families with children received parent support workshops in the northwest region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 267:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new families with children received parent support workshops in the centre region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 268:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new families with children received parent support workshops in the southwest region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 269:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many couples received the Seniors Income Plan in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 270:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many vacancies are there in the province of Saskatchewan for registered nurses (RNs) as of January 1, 2009? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 271:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many people were employed in the province of Saskatchewan as registered nurses (RNs) as of January 1, 2009? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 272:

To the Minister of Health: What was the official list for the priority of capital investments into health care facilities projects as of January 1, 2008?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 273:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many vacancies are there in the province of Saskatchewan for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) as of January 1, 2009? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 274:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many people were employed in the province of Saskatchewan as licensed practical nurses (LPNs) as of January 1, 2007? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 275:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many people were employed in the province of Saskatchewan as licensed practical nurses (LPNs) as of January 1, 2008? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 276:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many people were employed in the province of Saskatchewan as licensed practical nurses (LPNs) as of January 1, 2009? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 277:

To the Minister of Health: What was the official list for the priority of capital investments into health care facilities projects as of January 1, 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 278:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many long-term care facilities have been renovated, upgraded or built in the province between the years 1991 and 2007 inclusive? (2) What were the names of the facilities? (3) Where were they located?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 279:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many people were employed in the province of Saskatchewan as registered nurses (RNs) as of January 1, 2008? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 280:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many people were employed in the province of Saskatchewan as registered nurses (RNs) as of January 1, 2007? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 281:

To the Premier: (1) What projects has the \$500 million “economic booster shoot” been spent on? (2) How much was spent on each program?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 282:

To the Premier: What economic analysis has been done on any of the programs being funded by the \$500 million “economic booster shoot” to determine if they would, in fact, create any new jobs?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 283:

To the Premier: (1) How many new SAP cases were open in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 284:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new families with children received parent support workshops in the southeast region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 285:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new families with children received Income Assistance in the northwest region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 286:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new families with children received Income Assistance in the centre region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 287:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new families with children received Income Assistance in the southeast region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 288:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many SAP/TEA cases were open in the northwest region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 289:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many SAP/TEA cases were open in the centre region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 290:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many SAP/TEA cases were open in the southwest region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 291:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many SAP/TEA cases were open in the southeast region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 292:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many people were receiving SIP in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 293:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many SAP cases involved people who were employable were open in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 294:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many SAP cases involved families with children were employable were open in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 295:

To the Premier: It is well understood that public reporting is required for contracts over \$50,000. However, a large number of contracts being signed for just under \$50,000 could be done without any public scrutiny. This question has been asked multiple times and has not received any answer from the government. (1) Without revealing any more details than a single number, how many contracts were signed in 2008 where the amount of the contract was for more than \$40,000 and less than \$50,000? (2) Without revealing any more details than a single number, how many contracts were signed in 2007 where the amount of the contract was for more than \$40,000 and less than \$50,000? (3) Will the government acknowledge that if there was a dramatic increase in these types of contracts that this is in the public's interest to know? (4) Does the government agree that the vague and ridiculous answers to this question when it has been repeatedly asked by the opposition borders on contempt of the legislature?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 296:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new families with children received Income Assistance in the northeast region in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 297:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many TEA cases were open in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 298:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many SAP cases were open in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 299:

To the Minister of Social Services: On November 24, 2008 the ministry issued a press release concerning support for those living with disabilities that said, "The first phase of the new income plan will be implemented in 2009/10, following consultations with the disability community." Based on this statement, please provide answers to the following questions: (1) When are these consultations taking place? (2) In which communities are the consultations being held? (3) Will the public be allowed to attend the consultations? (4) Will all those receiving some form of disability benefits from the Ministry of Social Services receive notice of these consultations?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 300:

To the Minister of Social Services: What actions is the government of Saskatchewan undertaking to ensure the quick ratification and full implementation by the Saskatchewan government and the federal government of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 301:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) What is the number of individuals who lived in independent living situations paid by the Community Living Division for each month of 2007? (2) 2008?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 302:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) What is the number of individuals who lived in group living homes for each month of 2007? (2) 2008?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 303:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) What is the number of individuals who lived in group homes for each month of 2007? (2) 2008?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 304:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) What is the current range of cost of care, the current median cost of care and the current average cost, paid by the Community Living Division of care for group home spaces? (2) Group living homes? (3) Independent living situations?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 305:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many SAP cases involved people living with disabilities were open in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 306:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many single individuals received the Seniors Income Plan in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 307:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new couples with children received the Seniors Income Plan in November 2008? (2) December 2008? (3) January 2009? (4) February 2009?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 308:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: (1) How many people were employed in the province of Saskatchewan as police officers (not including RCMP) as of January 1, 2007? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 309:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: (1) How many people were employed in the province of Saskatchewan as police officers (not including RCMP) as of January 1, 2008? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 310:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: (1) How many people were employed in the province of Saskatchewan as police officers (not including RCMP) as of January 1, 2009? (2) What source are you citing for this statistic?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 311:

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: In the answer to Written Question No. 196, you acknowledged changes to the policy manual in your ministry since November 7, 2007. (1) Exactly how many changes have been made to the manual that deals with escaped prisoners? (2) Which sections of the policy manual have been changed? (3) When were those sections changed?

Mr. Trew, to ask the Government the following Question No. 312:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) Is there any RFP or other process in place for contracting out of any service or component of SaskPower? (2) If so, which services or components?

Mr. Trew, to ask the Government the following Question No. 313:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) Is there any RFP or other process in place for contracting out of any service or component of SaskTel? (2) If so, which services or components?

Mr. Trew, to ask the Government the following Question No. 314:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) When the decision was made to sell EZ Finder Phonebooks by SaskTel, was a third-party review undertaken? (2) If so, by what company?

Mr. Trew, to ask the Government the following Question No. 315:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) Is there any RFP or other process in place for contracting out of any service or component of SaskEnergy? (2) If so, which services or components?

Mr. Trew, to ask the Government the following Question No. 316:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) When the decision was made to sell EZ Finder Phonebooks were the shares in Canpages purchased by SaskTel or were they given freely by Canpages? (2) If they were purchased by SaskTel, what was the price-per-share valuation? (3) Who performed this valuation?

Mr. Trew, to ask the Government the following Question No. 317:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) Is there any RFP or other process in place for contracting out of any service or component of SaskWater? (2) If so, which services or components?

Mr. Trew, to ask the Government the following Question No. 318:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) When the decision was made to contract out e-mail provision by SaskTel was a third-party review undertaken? (2) If so, by what company?

Mr. Trew, to ask the Government the following Question No. 319:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) When the decision was made to contract out the conference calling capabilities by SaskTel was a third-party review undertaken? (2) If so, by what company?