



No. 42

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, March 31, 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: Yates, Iwanchuk, Taylor, Broten 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 invest in the planning and construction of new long-term care beds in La Ronge.

(Sessional Paper No. 142)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to reverse its decision to means test seniors and ensure that all seniors continue to have access to affordable prescription drugs.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 13)

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)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause government ministers to 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 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)

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.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 115)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS / DÉPÔT DE PROJETS DE LOI

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

Les projets de loi suivant est reçus, lu une première fois, et la deuxième lecture en est fixée à la prochaine séance:

Bill No. 87 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2009

(Hon. Mr. Gantefer)

Bill No. 88 – The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2009

(Hon. Mr. Gantefer)

Bill No. 89 - The Education Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 3)

Projet de loi n° 89 - Loi n° 3 de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation

(Hon. / L'hon. M. Krawetz)

Bill No. 90 – The Miscellaneous Statutes (Education Property Tax) Repeal and Amendment Act, 2009

(Hon. Mr. Krawetz)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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

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

Supplementary Estimates, March 2009 (No. 2):

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

For Education \$39,100,000

Your committee recommends that upon concurrence of its report by the Assembly, the sum as reported and approved shall be included in the Appropriation Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

(Sessional Paper No. 143)

On motion of Mr. Hart:

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

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE
COMITÉ PERMANENT DES AFFAIRES INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES ET DE LA JUSTICE**

The following Bills were reported without amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, they were read the third time and passed:

Les projets de loi suivants sont rapportés sans amendement et avec la permission de l'Assemblée de passer outre au renvoi au Comité plénier, sont lus une troisième fois et adoptés:

Bill No. 52 – The Trustee Act, 2008

Bill No. 56 – The Trustee Consequential Amendments Act, 2008

Projet de loi n° 56 – Loi de 2008 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Trustee Act, 2008

Bill No. 65 – The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2008

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

Bill No. 75 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008

Projet de loi n° 75 - Loi corrective (lois bilingues) de 2008

SPEAKER TABLES REPORT

The Speaker laid before the Assembly the Detail of Expenditure under *The Election Act, 1996*: Provincial Constituencies for the fiscal year 2006/07.

(Sessional Paper 144)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 320 to 326, they were answered. (See Appendix)

MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (NOT DEBATABLE)

The Order of the Day being called for Motion for Return (Not Debatable) No. 42, it was transferred to the Motions for Returns (Debatable) classification.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Summary of Resolutions adopted:

GENERAL REVENUE FUND

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2008-2009

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

EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

1. For Education \$39,100,000

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

Resolved, That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009, the sum of thirty-nine million, one hundred thousand dollars be granted out of the general revenue fund.

The said Resolution was reported, read twice and agreed to, and the Committee given leave to sit again.

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2009 (No. 2)

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer, by leave of the Assembly: That Bill No. 91 – The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 2) – be introduced and read the first time.

The question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read the first time.

By leave of the Assembly and pursuant to Rule 72(2), the said Bill was then read a second time and third time and passed under its title.

ROYAL ASSENT / SANCTION ROYALE

2:34 p.m.

His Honour the Administrator, having entered the Chamber, took His seat upon the Throne.

Son Honneur l'administrateur fait son entrée dans le Chambre et prend place au Trône.

The Speaker addressed His Honour:

Le Président s'adresse à Son Honneur:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

QU'IL PLAISE À VOTRE HONNEUR:

This Legislative Assembly at its present Session has passed several Bills which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour and to which Bills I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent.

Cette Assemblée législative, au cours de la présente session, a adopté des projets de loi que je présente à Votre Honneur, au nom de l'Assemblée, et que je demande respectueusement à Votre Honneur de sanctionner.

The Clerk of the Assembly then read the titles of the Bills that had been passed severally as follows:

Le Greffier de l'Assemblée a donné lecture des titres du projets de loi adoptés comme suit:

Bill No. 52 – The Trustee Act, 2008

Bill No. 56 – The Trustee Consequential Amendments Act, 2008

Projet de loi n° 56 – Loi de 2008 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Trustee Act, 2008

Bill No. 65 – The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2008

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

Bill No. 75 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008

Projet de loi n° 75 - Loi corrective (lois bilingues) de 2008

His Honour the Administrator then replied: "In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these Bills."

Son Honneur l'administrateur alors a répondu: "Au nom de Sa Majesté, je sanctionne ces projets de loi."

The Speaker addressed His Honour:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

This Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the Government to defray the expenses of the Public Service. In the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour the following Bill, to which Bill I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent:

Bill No. 91 – The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 2)

His Honour the Administrator then replied: "In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill."

His Honour then retired from the Chamber.

2:37 p.m.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:38 p.m. until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Don Toth
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Trew asked the Government the following Question No. 320, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) What is the debt/equity ratio as of January 1, 2009 for SaskTel? (2) SaskEnergy? (3) SaskPower? (4) SaskWater? (5) SGI? (6) STC?

Answer:

- (1) Using the date December 31, 2008, which is year end for the Crowns, SaskTel's debt/equity ratio is 27.3%.
- (2) SaskEnergy's debt/equity ratio is 66.5%.
- (3) SaskPower's debt/equity ratio is 60.7%.
- (4) SaskWater's debt/equity ratio is 55.2%.
- (5) SGI has no debt, therefore no debt/equity ratio.
- (6) STC has no debt, therefore no debt/equity ratio.

Mr. Trew asked the Government the following Question No. 321, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) What is the expected debt/equity ratio after all borrowing in the 2009/10 budget is taken into account for SaskTel? (2) SaskEnergy? (3) SaskPower? (4) SaskWater? (5) SGI? (6) STC?

Answer:

- (1) Using the date December 31, 2009, which is year end for the Crowns, SaskTel's projected debt/equity ratio is 36.6%.
- (2) SaskEnergy's debt/equity ratio is 65%.
- (3) SaskPower's debt/equity ratio is 63.4%.
- (4) SaskWater's debt/equity ratio is 68.8%.
- (5) SGI has no debt, therefore no debt/equity ratio.
- (6) STC has no debt, therefore no debt/equity ratio.

Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 322, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: Was the Ministry of Justice or a third party asked to perform a constitutional analysis as to the validity of the new property tax regime as it applies to separate school divisions?

Answer:

Yes.

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 323, which was answered by the Premier:

To the Premier: (1) Was any outside communications firm given a mandate as part of a current contract to obtain coverage on CNN for the news story that was covered about Saskatchewan? (2) If so, how much was paid for this purpose?

Answer:

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

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 324, which was answered by the Premier:

To the Premier: (1) Was any outside communications firm contacted for the specific purpose of obtaining coverage on CNN for the news story that was covered about Saskatchewan? (2) If so, how much was paid for this purpose?

Answer:

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

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 325, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:

To the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour: (1) Which employees were affected by the change in FTEs in the 2009/10 budget for Occupation, Health and Safety? (2) Please provide job titles and positions without revealing names.

Answer:

- (1) No employees in Occupational Health & Safety were affected.
- (2) N/A

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 326, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Elhard:

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many expropriations of land (not negotiated settlements) were there in 2006? (2) 2007? (3) 2008? (4) 2009 to date?

Answer:

- (1) 1
- (2) 1
- (3) 4
- (4) 0

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Thursday:

Mr. Taylor to move the following motion:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan supports the consideration of the further value-added development of Saskatchewan's energy industry including energy conservation, nuclear, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal and other alternative power generation, and as part of that consideration (which would obviously involve extensive public consultation) recognize not only the potential benefits to the growth and prosperity of the people of our province but also the social and environmental impacts of all of the options.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

On Thursday:

No. 1 (Government)

Adjourned debate on the proposed **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.

(Mr. Huyghebaert)
To Be Voted

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 41 and are to be answered by day no. 46:

Ms. Junor, to ask the Government the following Question No. 329:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many out-of-province trips have the Minister of Health, the Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health and/or ministerial or departmental staff taken from January 1, 2008 to March 27, 2009? (2) What were the trip destinations/locations? (3) What was the purpose of each trip? (4) Who went on each of the trips? (5) What were the travel and accommodation costs of each trip?

Ms. Junor, to ask the Government the following Question No. 330:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many out-of-country trips have the Minister of Health, the Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health and/or ministerial or departmental staff taken from January 1, 2008 to March 27, 2009? (2) What were the trip destinations/locations? (3) What was the purpose of each trip? (4) Who went on each of the trips? (5) What were the travel and accommodation costs of each trip?

Ms. Junor, to ask the Government the following Question No. 331:

To the Minister of Health: How many HIV and/or AIDS cases have been diagnosed by the staff in the mobile bus in Saskatoon since it started operation?

Ms. Junor, to ask the Government the following Question No. 332:

To the Minister of Health: How many HIV and/or AIDS cases have been treated in the mobile bus in Saskatoon since it started operation?

Mr. Trew, to ask the Government the following Question No. 333:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) Was any of the cost of providing 100 percent cell phone and high-speed internet service to Saskatchewan provided by the federal "Building Canada" fund? (2) If so, how much? (3) What percentage does that amount represent?

Mr. Wotherspoon, to ask the Government the following Question No. 334:

To the Minister of Education: What proportion of the \$103 million for education property tax relief in the 2009/10 budget will be allocated to agricultural property tax reductions?

Mr. Wotherspoon, to ask the Government the following Question No. 335:

To the Minister of Education: What proportion of the \$103 million for education property tax relief in the 2009/10 budget will be allocated to commercial property tax reductions?

Mr. Wotherspoon, to ask the Government the following Question No. 336:

To the Minister of Education: What proportion of the \$103 million for education property tax relief in the 2009/10 budget will be allocated to residential property tax reductions?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 337:

To the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation: (1) What was the amount of sponsorship did Enterprise Saskatchewan pay for the EnerCan conference recently held in Saskatchewan? (2) What other forms of support (financial and in kind) did Enterprise Saskatchewan provide for the EnerCan conference?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 338:

To the Minister of Crown Corporations: (1) What amounts of sponsorship did SaskPower, SaskEnergy or any other Crown pay for the EnerCan conference recently held in Saskatchewan? (2) What other forms of support (financial and in kind) did CIC or any of its Crown corporations such as SaskPower and SaskEnergy provide for the EnerCan conference?