



No. 63

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

1:30 p.m.

ABSENCE OF THE SPEAKER

The Clerk advised the Assembly that the Speaker would not be present to open the sitting. Thereupon, the Deputy Speaker took the chair.

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, Morin, 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 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 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)

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.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 142)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 373 to 375 and 377 to 391, they were answered. (See Appendix)

The Order of the Day being called for Question No. 376, the answer was tabled and, by reason of its length, converted by the Clerk to Return No. 47 pursuant to Rule 20(6).

(Sessional Paper No. 236)

RESOLUTION TO REVISE COMMENCEMENT DATE FOR THIRD SESSION

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefoer, by leave of the Assembly:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Rule 3(2) of the *Rules and Procedures* of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, the first sitting day of the fall period of the third session of the twenty-sixth Legislature shall commence on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, and the fall period of the parliamentary calendar shall be adjusted to incorporate 25 sitting days with the fall period being concluded on Thursday, December 3, 2009.

DEPUTY SPEAKER TABLES REPORTS

The Deputy Speaker laid before the Assembly the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer, pursuant to section 286 of *The Election Act, 1996*, Volume II – Campaign Contributions and Expenditures – Twenty-Sixth Provincial General Election, November 7, 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 237)

ADJOURNED DEBATES

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

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Norris: That Bill No. 80 – The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009 – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said Bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Ms. Harpauer, in accordance with Rule 81, Bill No. 80 – The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009 – was committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

On motion of the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:13 p.m. until Thursday at 10:00 a.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:

Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation

Saskatchewan Applied Science Technologists and Technicians

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 2)

By the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:

Subscription Agreement dated February 20, 2009 between Canpages Inc. and DirectWest Canada, Inc.
(Sessional Paper No. 238)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 373, which was answered by the Premier:

To the Premier: (1) Were any third parties (including, but not limited to, law firms) contracted to negotiate any part of any severance packages for any dismissed individual from the government? (2) If so, which third party was contracted? (3) How much was that third party paid in total? (4) How many severance negotiations was that third party involved with? (5) If the third party was a law firm, which individual lawyers were paid?

Answer:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) MacPherson Leslie Tyerman LLP; McDougall Gauley LLP; McKercher McKercher & Whitmore; and Robertson Stromberg Pedersen.
- (3) MacPherson Leslie Tyerman LLP – \$75,053; McDougall Gauley LLP – \$139,384; McKercher McKercher & Whitmore – \$49,781; and Robertson Stromberg Pedersen – \$76,359.
- (4) MacPherson Leslie Tyerman LLP – 15; McDougall Gauley LLP – 7; McKercher McKercher & Whitmore – 9; and Robertson Stromberg Pedersen – 9.
- (5) Payments were made to the law firms, not individual lawyers.

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 374, which was answered by the Premier:

To the Premier: (1) Is the government spending any money on the western branch of the “public policy forum”? (2) If so, how much money is being spent? (3) Which government agencies or Crown corporations are spending money? (4) What is the stated purpose of the spending? Note: For the purpose of this question “spending” includes direct government payments, loans, loan guarantees, grants or any other type of transfer of resources from government to this agency.

Answer:

- (1) At this time, no.
- (2) See response to (1) above.
- (3) N/A
- (4) N/A

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 375, which was answered by the Premier:

To the Premier: (1) Will Garnet Garvin receive any payout, severance or otherwise, as a result of his leaving the employment of the government of Saskatchewan? (2) What will the amount of these payments be and for what purpose? (3) If there is any kind of severance package, please include all details such as pension and benefit payments.

Answer:

- (1) There will be no severance payout. Mr. Garven will be paid out for all unused vacation days and scheduled days off (SDOs) earned.
- (2) The amount will be a normal calculation based on his current salary and the number of days outstanding.
- (3) N/A

Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 377, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: (1) Does the 2009/10 budget include any capital investment for infrastructure as advocated by the Saskatchewan Library Association, for specifically, needed headquarter refurbishments/renovations? (2) Is so, what amount?

Answer:

The 2009/10 budget includes \$7.4M in resource-sharing grants, an overall 2.5% increase in funding to our public libraries. Headquarters' activities, including capital expenditures and improvements, can be applied to these grants and it is up to individual library systems to determine the actual amounts they want to assign to such activities in this fiscal year. The 2009/10 budget also includes the second instalment of \$625,000 out of a total \$5.2M for the single integrated library system infrastructure project which will benefit all libraries in the province, including headquarters. The 2009/10 budget also has an additional \$1M in funding for library CommunityNet connections, for a total of \$1.8M. This infrastructure funding will greatly improve Internet access, and provide upgraded, secure and reliable high speed lines for all library branches in the province, including headquarters locations

Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 378, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: (1) Which school divisions will be delivering technology supported learning courses in 2009/10? (2) 2008/09?

Answer:

- (1) The ministry continues to work with school divisions in 2009/10 to identify which will take over the remaining courses currently offered by the ministry. While it is not yet confirmed which school divisions will offer which courses, discussions are underway with Greater Saskatoon Catholic, Regina Catholic, Regina Public, Good Spirit, and North West school divisions. In addition, it is anticipated that school divisions will continue to make seats available to students from other school divisions in courses beyond those originally and officially offered by the ministry, similar to what happened in 2008/09
- (2) During 2008/09, distance education courses were available through the central hub (www.skdistancelearning.ca) from Horizon, North West, Prairie Valley, Regina Public, Saskatchewan Rivers, Saskatoon Catholic and Saskatoon Public school divisions, as well as from Credenda and from Parkland Regional College.

Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 379, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: (1) In regard to the new technology supported learning programs, recognizing that not all communities or schools currently have the technological infrastructure to take advantage of these programs, is there a timeline for all schools to be able to access these programs? (2) If so, what is that timeline? (3) How many schools are not currently able to access these programs?

Answer:

All provincially funded schools have the technological infrastructure required to access online course delivery. For televised instruction, all schools should have satellite receivers in place by the beginning of the 2009/10 academic year. Individual school divisions may have made decisions to use other technologies for distance delivery within their boundaries (e.g. video conference delivery, or SMARTboard delivery) which may be stressing the bandwidth available to them. As upgrades to the bandwidth on CommunityNet are rolled out over the next three years, many of those issues will be addressed. School divisions are encouraged, however, to consult with the ministry prior to making decisions about which technology to use to ensure that the method chosen is feasible within the current infrastructure

Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 380, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: As it relates to the elimination of the ministry's correspondence and technology supported learning program, has every student in every school had, at minimum, the same access to course offerings as through the previous model of correspondence and distance education?

Answer:

Every student in every school has access to more variety and choice in terms of courses and delivery options than in the past. Many school divisions are offering their classes tied to the semester or academic year; but there are some that are also offering the flexible start and finish times that the ministry offered. School divisions are still examining how to best provide that flexibility within their operations.

Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 381, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: (1) As it relates to budget vote ED03, the School Operating K-12 Initiatives which has received an almost 3.3 million increase, which schools are receiving money? (2) How much money is each school receiving? (3) What is the process a school follows to access the funds?

Answer:

The Ministry of Education does not provide K-12 Initiatives funding directly to schools, therefore, no schools are receiving money.

Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 382, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: How many educational assistants were employed by Saskatchewan school divisions in 2008/09?

Answer:

3,478 full-time equivalent educational assistants were employed by school divisions in 2008/09.

Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 383, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: The P3 Secretariat is currently working on a mandate for the Secretariat. (1) Will educational facilities, including but not limited to schools, be within the scope of any studies or projects by this body? (2) Has the Ministry of Education arrived at any positions or directions with regard to education Public Private Partnerships? (3) Has the Ministry offered any input to the Secretariat? (4) If so, what is the context of that input?

Answer:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes. Dr. Helen Horsman, Assistant Deputy Minister, is a member of this committee.
- (4) As part of the committee, Dr. Horsman has been engaged in discussion and given feedback to the draft policy that is being developed on Public Private Partnerships. The committee has helped to develop a definition, objectives, guiding principles, applicability and scope, potential models, roles and governance models.

Mr. Wotherspoon asked the Government the following Question No. 384, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz:

To the Minister of Education: (1) Does this 2009/10 budget include any assistance to libraries, that have noted their struggles to provide wage equity with other parts of Canada, to recruit and retain the needed library professionals? (2) If so, what amount?

Answer:

The 2009/10 budget includes \$7.4M in funding to the public library systems, an overall 2.5% increase. This increase in funding has been provided to support the increased costs of headquarters' activities, including the salaries needed to recruit and retain library professionals. The Multitype Library Board, a Minister's advisory board, has opened a dialogue with the University of Regina to explore the possibility of establishing a library science program as a support to the recruitment and retention of library professionals within the province. This builds on the Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary, administered by the Saskatchewan Library Association, and initially funded by the Ministry of Education, on the basis of a recommendation by the board. The bursary provides education support to future library professionals who agree to come and work in Saskatchewan.

Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 385, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: How much funding is allocated in the 2009/10 provincial budget for the Northern Enterprise Region in the north western portion of the province?

Answer:

Government is in the process of consulting on the establishment of Northern Enterprise Regions. The Ministry's budget of \$300K for this process will be used throughout the north.

Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 386, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: How much funding is allocated in the 2009/10 provincial budget for the Northern Enterprise Region in the north eastern portion of the province?

Answer:

Government is in the process of consulting on the establishment of Northern Enterprise Regions. The Ministry's budget of \$300K for this process will be used throughout the north.

Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 387, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: How much funding is allocated in the 2009/10 provincial budget for Northern Enterprise Regions?

Answer:

The 2009/10 provincial budget allocated \$300,000 for the development of Northern Enterprise Regions.

Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 388, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: (1) How much provincial government funding was provided to the Woodlands and Waterways Regional Development Corporation in total in 2004/05? (2) 2005/06? (3) 2006/07? (4) 2007/08? (5) 2008/09?

Answer:

- (1) \$48,000.
- (2) \$48,000.
- (3) \$48,000.
- (4) \$55,200.
- (5) \$48,000.

Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 389, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: (1) How much provincial government funding was provided to the Woodlands and Waterways Regional Development Corporation for projects in 2004/05? (2) 2005/06? (3) 2006/07? (4) 2007/08? (5) 2008/09?

Answer:

- (1) None.
- (2) None.
- (3) None.
- (4) \$7,200.
- (5) None.

Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 390, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: (1) How much provincial government funding was provided to the Woodlands and Waterways Regional Development Corporation for operations in 2004/05? (2) 2005/06? (3) 2006/07? (4) 2007/08? (5) 2008/09?

Answer:

- (1) \$48,000.
- (2) \$48,000.
- (3) \$48,000.
- (4) \$48,000.
- (5) \$48,000.

Mr. McCall asked the Government the following Question No. 391, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: How much funding is allocated in the 2009/10 provincial budget for the Woodlands and Waterways Regional Development Corporation?

Answer:

\$24000.