



No. 8

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

SECOND SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following Members: Furber, Higgins, 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 immediately invest in growing the capacity of the early childcare community.

(Sessional Paper No. 27)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to undertake a thorough consultation with a broad group of stakeholders, including the policing community, the corrections community, and community agencies and organizations that interface with gangs and understand the risks and challenges gangs offer our communities.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 7)

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 restore funding to the Station 20 project.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 26)

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
(Unparliamentary Language)

Before I call the next order of the day, I wish to rule on three matters that arose during yesterday's proceedings. I have chosen to make my statements at this earlier point in the day in order to allow my rulings to guide the proceedings during Statements by Members and Question Period.

Yesterday while listening to the statements made by Members during Routine Proceedings and later during the debate on the Address-in-Reply, I became concerned over the choice of words and the level of discourse on display in the Assembly. I have reviewed the Hansard from yesterday and wish to highlight two matters of concern.

Firstly, I find that on one occasion during the period of Statements by Members, remarks were made that insinuated untruthfulness on the part of honourable Members. This occurred during the remarks of the Member for Wood River (Mr. Huyghebaert), where he indirectly insinuated that members of the NDP knowingly mislead this Assembly and the public on the Carriere settlement agreement.

Members are well aware that it is not permissible to accuse or suggest that another Member was not being truthful or that they intentionally misled the House. This practice is codified in our Rule 50(f), in paragraph 484(3) of *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules & Forms* (6th ed.) and on page 525 of Marleau and Montpetit's *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*. I call upon the Member for Wood River to withdraw his remarks.

Secondly, I wish to remind Members of their responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner befitting this Assembly. There have been several instances in recent days when the choice of language has given cause for concern. In these early days of a new session, it is beneficial to revisit the guidance found in a ruling of May 29, 2000:

“...Members are responsible for the words that they choose to use. Their words may be enthusiastic ... but that enthusiasm must be tempered by honest beliefs and an absence of insinuations and aspersions levelled against colleagues.”

Previous rulings have often referred to paragraph 491 of *Beauchesne's* (6th ed.) and I find it fitting to remind the House of one quotation from it, namely that the “language used in the House should be temperate and worthy of the place in which it is spoken.”

I now wish to address the point of order raised yesterday by the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Taylor). His point of order concerned the relevancy of certain responses given during Question Period. I also wish to thank the Government Deputy House Leader (Ms. Harpauer) for her remarks.

In stating his point of order, the Opposition House Leader cited Rule 19(3) which requires that “Responses shall be relevant to the question”. This recently adopted Rule codifies a well-established parliamentary practice: While Ministers have a degree of latitude in how they choose to phrase their replies, the answers must nevertheless deal with the subject matter raised. I direct Members to page 431 of Marleau and Montpetit's *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, and to rulings by previous Speakers on December 22, 1986, December 18, 2002 and April 3, 2006 which also dealt with this point.

The exchange at issue can be found on pages 1503 to 1505 of Monday's Hansard. The questions were posed by the Member for Regina Dewdney (Mr. Yates) and centered on public safety and the government's approach in notifying the public when offenders escape from custody.

Two Ministers responded on behalf of the Cabinet. The responses provided by the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (Mr. Hickie) outlined the policy and actions taken by his ministry to address the matter. In contrast, the responses provided by the Minister of Environment (Ms. Heppner) related to the previous government's handling of the Murdoch Carriere settlement agreement.

I find that the Minister of Environment's responses to the questions posed by the Member for Regina Dewdney were not relevant and therefore were not in order. Ministers are advised that their answers must be relevant to the question asked. If they are unable to provide a relevant response, they may decline to answer or they may take notice of the question.

Thereupon, Mr. Huyghebaert withdrew his remarks.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 74 to 85, they were answered. (See Appendix)

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Duncan, seconded by Ms. Schriemer:

That an Humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

TO HIS HONOUR THE HONOURABLE GORDON L. BARNHART
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan, in Session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious Speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present Session.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to on the following Recorded Division:

YEAS – 36

Wall	Stewart	Elhard	Bjornerud	Draude
Krawetz	Boyd	Eagles	McMorris	D'Autremont
Hickie	Heppner	Tell	Gantefoer	Harpauer
Norris	Morgan	Hutchinson	Huyghebaert	Brkich
Hart	Kirsch	Schriemer	Allchurch	Weekes
Chisholm	Wilson	Duncan	Michelson	LeClerc
Ottenbreit	Ross	Reiter	Bradshaw	Harrison
McMillan				

NAYS – 19

Calvert	Harper	Junor	Trew	Van Mulligen
Atkinson	Nilson	Yates	Higgins	Belanger
Furber	Iwanchuk	Forbes	Taylor	Quennell
Broten	McCall	Wotherspoon	Vermette	

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:04 p.m. until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Don Toth
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 74, which was answered by the Hon.

Mr. Wall:

To the Premier: On October 23, 2008, the Premier made the following statement in the House: "I know we haven't had an obviously a perfect record in ten months. We've made some mistakes..." (Saskatchewan *Hansard*, Page 1344) What mistakes was the Premier referring to?

Answer:

The mistakes referenced by the Premier are a matter of public record. In each case they were quickly acknowledged and corrected by the government. These include:

- the consideration to possibly change the Saskatchewan wheat sheaf logo;
- the consideration to raise the government spending threshold before consulting the Provincial Auditor; and
- incorrect statements made by the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing during his news conference on August 27, 2008.

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 75, which was answered by the Hon.

Mr. Wall:

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

Answer:

- (1) \$582
- (2) CMHC Rental Market Report (as of April 2008).

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 76, which was answered by the Hon.

Mr. Wall:

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

Answer:

- (1) \$522
- (2) CMHC Rental Market Report (as of April 2008).

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 77, which was answered by the Hon.

Mr. Wall:

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

Answer:

- (1) \$643
- (2) CMHC Rental Market Report (as of April 2008).

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 78, which was answered by the Hon.

Mr. Wall:

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

Answer:

- (1) \$689
- (2) CMHC Rental Market Report (as of April 2008).

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 79, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:

To the Minister of Health: (1) Of the nurses who were hired based on the government's trip to the Philippines last year, how many required additional training to be eligible to work in Saskatchewan? (2) What was the total cost of that training?

Answer:

- (1) All of the newly recruited nurses are eligible to work under a graduate licence (supervised) once they complete their orientation.
- (2) The Ministry of Health provided \$400,000 for a pilot in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region to orient the first 40 Philippine nurses to practice in that region. A toolkit was developed and provided to other regions for their use as part of that project. Clinical training is provided via the regional budgets, however the Ministry is providing an additional amount of funding to the regions (\$5,000 per nurse they have recruited) to help with pressures created by a large number of international nurses coming into the system in five health regions.

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 80, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:

To the Minister of Health: Of the nurses who were hired based on the government's trip to the Philippines last year, how many have passed their tests to be eligible to work in Saskatchewan?

Answer:

At this time, we understand from the health regions that there are 24 newly recruited Philippine nurses who have passed their Canadian Registered Nurse Exam (CRNE) and are now providing independent service in the health system. The remainder of the nurses are providing supervised service with a graduate nurse licence. The CRNE is only offered three times per year (June, October, and February).

Recruited nurses from the Philippines are provided a graduate nursing licence (supervised) by the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) and begin providing service after their orientation (usually between five and seven weeks after arrival). They must also challenge the Canadian Registered Nurse Exam at the first available opportunity and, if successful, are provided a full licence that enables them to practice independently. Currently we estimate that 106 nurses out of 167 that have arrived (based on arrival information from regions and an estimated orientation period of five to seven weeks) are providing service under a graduate nurse licence or a full licence (24) from the SRNA.

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 81, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many nurses were employed on a full-time basis and on a part-time basis in the Pioneer Village facility in Regina in the calendar year 2005? (2) 2006? (3) 2007? (4) 2008?

Answer:

The number of nurses (registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses and licensed practical nurses) employed by Pioneer Village in Regina as of January 1st of each year:

Nurses employed on a full time basis

	2005	2006	2007	2008
RN/RPN	27	26	29	29
LPN	1	1	1	1
Total	28	27	30	30

Nurses employed on a part-time basis (includes casuals)

	2005	2006	2007	2008
RN/RPN	47	48	47	38
LPN	2	2	2	2
Total	49	50	49	40

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 82, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many beds were available in the Pioneer Village facility in Regina in the calendar year 2005? (2) 2006? (3) 2007? (4) 2008?

Answer:

- (1) Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) reported that Regina Pioneer Village had 390 beds either occupied or available on March 31, 2005.
- (2) RQHR reported that Regina Pioneer Village had 390 beds either occupied or available on March 31, 2006.
- (3) RQHR reported that Regina Pioneer Village had 390 beds either occupied or available on March 31, 2007.
- (4) RQHR reported that Regina Pioneer Village had 390 beds either occupied or available on March 31, 2008.

Regional Health Authorities report bed availability to the ministry on a fiscal year basis and not a calendar year. The above numbers represent the number of beds that were occupied or available of the end of each fiscal year. Throughout the fiscal year the number of beds occupied or available may temporarily vary due to circumstance (e.g. staff shortages or occupant passing).

Mr. Calvert asked the Government the following Question No. 83, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:

To the Minister of Health: Based on the government's trip to the Philippines last year, how many nurses from the Philippines have signed contracts with health districts?

Answer:

The nurses from the Philippines are hired as union employees within the regions. However, all 400 nurses signed an employee contract (as required by Philippine law) with the region when the job offer was accepted. These contracts describe the employer's responsibility to help relocate and settle the employee in Saskatchewan and the employee's responsibilities including the return-in-service requirement to the employer.

Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 84, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

To the Minister of Finance: How many citizens in Saskatchewan earn too much money to qualify for the Saskatchewan Low Income Tax Credit but do not earn enough to pay provincial income tax?

Answer:

There should be no citizen that would earn too much income to qualify for the SLITC and not be subject to provincial income tax.

Mr. Van Mulligen asked the Government the following Question No. 85, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Gantefer:

To the Minister of Finance: (1) How much was spent on the Saskatchewan Senior Supplement in 2006/07? (2) In 2007/08?

Answer:

- (1) The Saskatchewan Senior Supplement amount reduced Saskatchewan income taxes in 2006 by \$9.5 million.
- (2) Saskatchewan Finance estimated that the Saskatchewan Senior Supplement amount reduced Saskatchewan income taxes by \$12.1 million for the 2007 tax year.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

On Thursday:

Mr. Huyghebaert to move First Reading of Bill No. 601 – The Air, Army, Sea and Navy League Cadets Recognition Day Act

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Thursday:

Ms. Ross to move the following motion:

That this Assembly call on Members of the former government, and in particular the Member from Saskatoon Riversdale, the Member from Saskatoon Nutana and the Member from Regina Dewdney, to admit that Murdoch Carriere was never fired and to apologize to the people of Saskatchewan and to Carriere's victims.

NOTICE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

On Thursday:

Mr. Taylor to move the following motion:

That due to this government's spending choices, which are ignoring the government's major responsibility to address the immediate needs of the Saskatchewan people such as high utility rates, high gas prices, high property taxes and lack of affordable housing and child care, this Assembly no longer has confidence in the Premier and his government.

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 5 and are to be answered by day no. 10:

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 87:

To the Minister of Social Services: What were the guidelines or conditions in terms of registrations for the CBO summit?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 88:

To the Minister of Social Services: In terms of the CBOs who registered for the CBO summits this fall, what are the contact names of the organizations?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 89:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many CBOs registered for the CBO summits this fall? (2) What were the names of the organizations that registered? (3) Which ones registered at the door? (4) Which ones registered online? (5) Did any organization attend that did not register? (6) Did any organization register that did not attend? (7) If so, which ones?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 90:

To the Minister of Social Services: In June 2008, the Minister stated that she would hire a senior ministry official to oversee Child and Family Services and review the system in light of the Children's Advocate's concerns. (1) When was the person hired? (2) What is the mandate and timeline for this work?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 91:

To the Minister of Health: Based on the government's trip to the Philippines last year, how many nurses from the Philippines have signed contracts with health districts?

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 92:

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

The following Questions were given notice on day no. 8 and are to be answered by day no. 13:

Ms. Atkinson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 93:

To the Minister of Agriculture: (1) Were there any consultations prior to the announcement of the Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program? (2) If so, who were those consultations with? (3) When did those meetings take place?

Ms. Atkinson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 94:

To the Minister of Agriculture: (1) Is there a limit on how much land one individual or company can purchase under Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program? (2) If so, what is that limit?

Ms. Atkinson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 95:

To the Minister of Agriculture: (1) Is there any criteria that individuals have to meet to participate in the Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program? (2) What is that criteria?

Ms. Atkinson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 96:

To the Minister of Agriculture: Will there be preferential treatment for current lessees under the Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program?

Mr. McCall, to ask the Government the following Question No. 97:

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: Was there any duty to consult meetings or hearings before the announcement of the Agricultural Crown Lands Sale Program?

Mr. Harper, to ask the Government the following Question No. 98:

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?

Mr. Harper, to ask the Government the following Question No. 99:

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many kilometers of highways were reconstructed - how many of those kilometers were reconstruction of road bed and how many were reconstruction of pavement top - in 2008? (2) 2007? (3) 2006? (4) 2005? (5) 2004?

Mr. Harper, to ask the Government the following Question No. 100:

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) How many kilometers of highways were resurfaced with new surface covering pavement in 2008? (2) 2007? (3) 2006? (4) 2005? (5) 2004?

Ms. Junor, to ask the Government the following Question No. 101:

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 that plan?

Ms. Junor, to ask the Government the following Question No. 102:

To the Minister of Health: What is the number of RPNs employed by health regions - per region - as of September 30, 2008?

Mr. Yates, to ask the Government the following Question No. 103:

To the Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission: (1) How many 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 is each contract up for negotiations?

Mr. Nilson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 104:

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

Mr. Nilson, to ask the Government the following Question No. 105:

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

Mr. Calvert, to ask the Government the following Question No. 106:

To the Premier: (1) Has North Sask consumer interviewing been contracted by the government (including Executive Council, ministries or Crown corporations) since November 7, 2007? (2) If so, what were the terms of that contract? (3) How much were they paid?