



No. 38

# VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FOURTH SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Monday, March 28, 2011

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, Junor, Forbes, Broten, Morin, Iwanchuk, Quennell and Wotherspoon.

## READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to Order, the following Petitions were favourably examined and pursuant to Rule 16(7) read and received:

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to develop a poverty elimination strategy.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 3)

Of the citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to manage the provincial finances more responsibly.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 6)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to enact some form of rent control to protect Saskatchewan renters from unreasonable increases in rent.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 29)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to devote the necessary resources for the construction of an elementary school in Hampton Village.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 77)

Of citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to withdraw Bill No. 160 and hold public consultations.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 78)

Of the 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. 86)

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 898 to 903, 905 to 908, 927 and 928, and 941 to 950, they were answered. (See Appendix)

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 904, 909 to 926, and 929 to 940, the answers were tabled and, by reason of their length, converted by the Clerk to Return Nos. 47 to 77 pursuant to Rule 20(6).

(Sessional Paper Nos. 88 to 118)

### BUDGET DEBATE

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Krawetz, seconded by Ms. Heppner:

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

and the proposed amendment thereto moved by Mr. Wotherspoon, seconded by Mr. Trew:

That all the words after “That the Assembly” be deleted and the following be added:

condemns this government for a budget that ignores Saskatchewan people and families, and furthermore;

That this government no longer has the confidence of this Assembly and of the people of Saskatchewan because, despite a record level of revenue, this budget is doing nothing to help people and families deal with the rising cost of housing, it does nothing to implement rent control, it does not help struggling families deal with the growing cost of living, it does nothing to improve the province’s education system, it fails to get a fair potash royalty deal for Saskatchewan people, and it is not telling Saskatchewan people that this government is actually increasing the province’s debt.

The debate continuing on the motion and the amendment, the Assembly recessed from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The debate being resumed on the motion and the amendment, it was moved by the Hon. Mr. Harrison:  
“That this Assembly do now adjourn.”

The question being put, it was agreed to and the motion for adjournment of the debate was deemed to have been made.

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The Assembly adjourned at 10:00 p.m. until Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

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

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Ms. Junor asked the Government the following Question No. 898, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. McMorris:**

To the Minister of Health: (1) How much money has the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations spent on leaflets, posters, as well as radio, television, newspaper, and other public advertising about contract negotiations with the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan in 2009/10? (2) 2010/11?

Answer:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) \$118,051.54

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 899, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:**

To the Minister of Agriculture: (1) How much is the comparative land sales data search fee per individual for 2010/11? (2) 2011/12? (3) What is the 2011/12 increase in the comparative land sales data search fee?

Answer:

	(1) 2010/11	(2) 2011/12	(3) Increase
<b>Search Fee (online)</b>	\$8.00	\$20.00	\$12.00
<b>Search Fee (offline)</b>	\$20.00	\$35.00	\$15.00

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 900, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:**

To the Minister of Agriculture: (1) How much is an individual community pasture grazing fee for 2010/11? (2) 2011/12? (3) What is the 2011/12 increase for an individual community pasture grazing fee?

Answer:

	(1) 2010/11	(2) 2011/12	(3) Difference
<b>Cows (\$/day)</b>	0.38	0.45	.07
<b>Calves &amp; Colts (\$/season)</b>	18.00	20.00	2.00
<b>Bulls (\$/day)</b>	0.50	0.63	0.13
<b>Horses (\$/day)</b>	0.48	0.58	0.10
<b>Sheep (\$/day)</b>	0.09	0.10	0.01
<b>Bulls Wintered (\$/season)</b>	600.00	675.00	75.00

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 901, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:**

To the Minister of Agriculture: (1) How much is an individual brand inspection fee for 2010/11? (2) 2011/12? (3) What is the 2011/12 increase for an individual brand inspection fee?

Answer:

	(1) 2010/11	(2) 2011/12	(3) Increase
<b>Individual Brand Inspection Fee (Cattle &amp; Horses)</b>	\$1.65/head	\$1.80/head	\$0.15/head

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 902, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:**

To the Minister of Environment: (1) What is the total dollar value for an individual fur royalty for 2010/11? (2) 2011/12? (3) What is the 2011/12 decrease for an individual fur royalty?

Answer:

- (1) Fur royalties are paid by the individual trapper and vary according to the number and type of pelts sold. The table below shows the species of fur animals and the royalty rate attributed to each animal. The 2010/11 trapping season is ongoing so individual fur royalty totals are not available.

Species	Rate	Species	Rate
Arctic Fox	\$0.30	Marten	\$1.30
Badger	\$0.40	Mink	\$0.90
Bear	\$1.60	Muskrat	\$0.05
Beaver	\$0.40	Otter	\$1.40
Bobcat	\$1.50	Raccoon	\$0.20
Coyote	\$0.70	Squirrel	\$0.05
Fisher	\$1.20	Weasel	\$0.10
Red Foxes	\$0.04	Wolf	\$3.00
Lynx	\$2.00	Wolverine	\$4.50

- (2) The 2011/12 royalty structure will be removed pending necessary regulatory changes.  
 (3) The decrease for individual fur royalties for 2011/12 is expected to be 100%.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 903, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:**

To the Minister of Environment: (1) What is the cost for an individual non-resident waterfowl licence for 2010/11? (2) 2011/12? (3) What is the 2011/12 increase for an individual non-resident waterfowl licence?

Answer:

- (1) \$113.83  
 (2) \$113.83  
 (3) No change.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 905, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Morgan:**

To the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General: What is the price of an individual international investment fund managers fee for 2011/12?

Answer:

An investment fund manager is required to register under *The Securities Act, 1988*. The initial and annual fee for registration is \$750. International investment fund managers currently are operating under a temporary exemption from this registration requirement. Under the temporary exemption, no fee is payable by an international investment fund manager.

Securities regulators have commenced a process of amending the registration rule (in Saskatchewan the rule takes the form of a commission regulation) that will lead to a permanent registration exemption for international investment fund managers. However, under the permanent exemption, it is proposed that an initial and annual fee of \$750 will be charged to mirror the amount charged to a domestic investment fund manager. The amendment to the rule is anticipated to occur in 2011/12.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 906, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer:**

To the Provincial Secretary: (1) How much is an individual certificate of authentication fee for 2010/11? (2) 2011/12? (3) What is the 2011/12 increase for an individual certificate of authentication?

Answer:

- (1) The fee for an individual certificate of authentication for 2010/11 is \$25 per certificate.
- (2) In 2011/12 the fee for an individual certificate of authentication will be \$50 per certificate.
- (3) The increase for 2011/12 for an individual certificate of authentication will be \$25 per certificate.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 907, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:**

To the Minister of the Public Service Commission: What is the increase in cost recovery for individual human resource service fees for 2011/12 over 2010/11?

Answer:

During 2011/12, the Public Service Commission will increase its revenue by \$35,000 for human resources services to external agencies.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 908, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:**

To the Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority: (1) How much is an individual water power rental charge fee for 2010/11? (2) 2011/12? (3) What is the 2011/12 increase for an individual water power rental charge?

Answer:

- (1) The 2010/11 water power rental fee is \$4.0743 per megawatt-hour increasing to \$4.27802 per megawatt-hour on January 1, 2011.
- (2) The 2011/12 water power rental fee is \$4.27802 per megawatt-hour increasing to \$4.47053 per megawatt-hour on January 1, 2012.
- (3) The increase to the water power rental fee for 2011/12, effective January 1, 2012, is 4.5%.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 927, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Harrison:**

To the Minister of Enterprise: (1) What are the purchase cardholder transaction and monthly limits set by the ministry? (2) Are there any exceptions to the maximum transaction limits approved in 2009/10 and 2010/11? (3) To what cardholders were the exceptions approved for 2009/10 and 2010/11?

Answer:

- (1) Purchase cardholder transaction limits are set at \$5,000. Our monthly limits are set at \$10,000, with the exception of five cardholders with \$20,000 limits and one at \$30,000.
- (2) 2009/10 – one exception.  
2010/11 – three exceptions.
- (3) 2009/10 – Marketing Manager.  
2010/11 – Marketing Manager (2), Marketing Co-ordinator (1).

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 928, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Harrison:**

To the Minister of Enterprise: How many credit cards and purchase cards have been issued in 2009/10 and 2010/11 by the ministry to employees of the ministry?

Answer:

Cards issued in 2009/10 – 15. Cards issued in 2010/11 – 12.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 941, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Ross:**

To the Minister of Government Services: (1) What are the purchase cardholder transaction and monthly limits set by the ministry? (2) Are there any exceptions to the maximum transaction limits approved in 2009/10 and 2010/11? (3) To what cardholders were the exceptions approved for 2009/10 and 2010/11?

Answer:

With respect to the government's purchase card program, please refer to the Minister of Finance's response to Written Question No. 933. With respect to Government Services' Central Vehicle Agency fleet cards:

- (1) The Central Vehicle Agency has set a policy for its customers that fleet cards may only be used for fuel purchases and/or the purchase of miscellaneous vehicle services up to a value of \$50. The fleet cards are only usable at fuel service stations and are not usable at retail stores.
- (2) The Central Vehicle Agency does not approve exceptions to the stated policy.
- (3) N/A.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 942, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Ross:**

To the Minister of Government Services: How many credit cards and purchase cards have been issued in 2009/10 and 2010/11 by the ministry to employees of the ministry?

Answer:

With respect to the government's purchase card program, please refer to the Minister of Finance's response to Written Question No. 934. With respect to Government Services' Central Vehicle Agency fleet cards: not applicable. The fleet cards are assigned to vehicles rather than to employees.

**Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 943, which was answered by the Hon. Ms. Draude:**

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) On the community-based organizations review conducted between Jan. 1 and Feb. 28, 2011 by Meyers Norris Penny LLP, which CBO or CBOs were reviewed? (2) Which groups or organizations were consulted? (3) Who ordered the review? (4) What was the reason for conducting the review? (5) Which individuals were consulted as part of the review? (6) How much of the \$98,000 maximum was actually charged by Meyers Norris Penny LLP for the review? (7) Is the report complete? (8) If it is complete, what are the findings of the report? (9) If it is not complete, when is it due to be completed? (10) Was the contract with Meyers Norris Penny LLP to do the review sole-sourced or tendered?

Answer:

- (1) Welfare Rights Centre.
- (2) To date, no groups or organizations have been consulted.
- (3) The Deputy Minister of Social Services.
- (4) The review was initiated to complete a financial review of the trust accounts for Ministry of Social Services clients, to provide financial oversight to the Welfare Rights Centre's operations for the period ending February 28, 2011, and to develop a framework of internal ministry control and financial management best practices related to trustee services.
- (5) To date, the Welfare Rights Centre Board of Directors and Executive Director, and Crown Solicitor, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General have been consulted.
- (6) The review is not yet complete.
- (7) No.
- (8) The review is not yet complete.
- (9) The contract with Meyers Norris Penny LLP is for the period up to March 31, 2011. A report is expected by March 31, 2011.
- (10) The contract was tendered through an invitational process.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 944, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) With the closure of the SaskPower office in Assiniboia in 2010, what savings resulted for SaskPower from these reductions in service? (2) How many employees were affected? (3) Have any job losses resulted from this office closure? (4) Was this office owned or leased by SaskPower? (5) If it was owned, has it been sold or listed for sale? (6) If leased, have any funds been committed to maintaining an existing lease after the closure?

Answer:

- (1) \$558,000/year considering all 6 locations. Average \$93K/year per location.
- (2) 1 part-time customer services representative. Employee was provided options and opted for retirement over placement/bumping.
- (3) No.
- (4) Owned.
- (5) No, it is still occupied by SaskPower Transmission & Distribution service personnel.
- (6) N/A.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 945, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) With the closure of the SaskPower office in Biggar in 2010, what savings resulted for SaskPower from these reductions in service? (2) How many employees were affected? (3) Have any job losses resulted from this office closure? (4) Was this office owned or leased by SaskPower? (5) If it was owned, has it been sold or listed for sale? (6) If leased, have any funds been committed to maintaining an existing lease after the closure?

Answer:

- (1) \$558,000/year considering all 6 locations. Average \$93K/year per location.
- (2) None.
- (3) No.
- (4) Owned.
- (5) No, it is still occupied by SaskPower Transmission & Distribution service personnel.
- (6) N/A.



**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 946, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) With the closure of the SaskPower office in Humboldt in 2010, what savings resulted for SaskPower from these reductions in service? (2) How many employees were affected? (3) Have any job losses resulted from this office closure? (4) Was this office owned or leased by SaskPower? (5) If it was owned, has it been sold or listed for sale? (6) If leased, have any funds been committed to maintaining an existing lease after the closure?

Answer:

- (1) \$558,000/year considering all 6 locations. Average \$93K/year per location.
- (2) 1 part-time employee. Employee is on long-term leave.
- (3) No.
- (4) Owned.
- (5) No, it is still occupied by SaskPower Transmission & Distribution service personnel.
- (6) N/A.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 947, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) With the closure of the SaskPower office in Kamsack in 2010, what savings resulted for SaskPower from these reductions in service? (2) How many employees were affected? (3) Have any job losses resulted from this office closure? (4) Was this office owned or leased by SaskPower? (5) If it was owned, has it been sold or listed for sale? (6) If leased, have any funds been committed to maintaining an existing lease after the closure?

Answer:

- (1) \$558,000/year considering all 6 locations. Average \$93K/year per location.
- (2) None.
- (3) No.
- (4) Owned.
- (5) No, it is still occupied by SaskPower Transmission & Distribution service personnel.
- (6) N/A.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 948, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) With the closure of the SaskPower office in Rosthern in 2010, what savings resulted for SaskPower from these reductions in service? (2) How many employees were affected? (3) Have any job losses resulted from this office closure? (4) Was this office owned or leased by SaskPower? (5) If it was owned, has it been sold or listed for sale? (6) If leased, have any funds been committed to maintaining an existing lease after the closure?

Answer:

- (1) \$558,000/year considering all 6 locations. Average \$93K/year per location.
- (2) 1 part-time customer services representative. Employee was provided options and opted for a position in a different location.
- (3) No, the employee was provided with a position in Saskatoon.
- (4) Owned.
- (5) No, it is still occupied by SaskPower Transmission & Distribution service personnel.
- (6) N/A.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 949, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: (1) With the closure of the SaskPower office in Weyburn in 2010, what savings resulted for SaskPower from these reductions in service? (2) How many employees were affected? (3) Have any job losses resulted from this office closure? (4) Was this office owned or leased by SaskPower? (5) If it was owned, has it been sold or listed for sale? (6) If leased, have any funds been committed to maintaining an existing lease after the closure?

Answer:

- (1) \$558,000/year considering all 6 locations. Average \$93K/year per location.
- (2) None.
- (3) No.
- (4) Owned.
- (5) No, it is still occupied by SaskPower personnel.
- (6) N/A.

**Ms. Higgins asked the Government the following Question No. 950, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Norris:**

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: What administration fees does SaskPower pay to financial institutions for collection and processing of SaskPower bills?

Answer:

On average, approximately 0.05¢ per transaction.

## NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The following Questions were given notice on day no. 35 and are to be answered by day no. 40:**

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 970:

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many families qualified for the Saskatchewan Family Health benefits in each month of 2007? (2) 2008? (3) 2009? (4) 2010? (5) January 2011? (6) February 2011?

Mr. Forbes, to ask the Government the following Question No. 971:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) How many new housing units has Saskatchewan Housing Corporation built or contributed funds to in 2007? (2) 2008? (3) 2009? (4) 2010? (5) How many are expected to be completed in 2011? (6) For each year: (a) what is the project name? (b) what type of housing (social/affordable or seniors) is each project? (c) how many units in each project? (d) what is each project's location (community and street address)? (e) on what date was each project first announced? (f) on what date was each project tendered? (g) on what date was each project completed? (h) what is the value of each project (i) how much did Saskatchewan Housing Corporation contribute to each project? (j) what is the name of the trust fund utilized for funding each project?