



No. 55

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FOURTH SESSION – TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, May 3, 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: Junor, Forbes, Broten, Furber, Morin, Quennell, Wotherspoon and Chartier.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

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 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 address the funding inequity between Regina Catholic Schools and Regina Public Schools.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 85)

Of the citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government to commit to maintaining quality health care services through retention and recruitment.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 87)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

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:

Bill No. 149 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2010

Bill No. 150 – The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2010

Bill No. 170 – The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2011

Bill No. 171 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2011 (No. 2)

Mr. Kirsch, Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies, presented the Twelfth Report of the said committee, which is as follows:

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

Main Estimates, 2011/2012:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2012, the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance	\$201,903,000
For Government Services.....	\$45,905,000
For Information Technology Office	\$19,659,000
For Office of the Provincial Secretary	\$3,579,000
For Public Service Commission.....	\$36,743,000

Your committee reviewed the following Estimates for which no funds were requested or required to be voted:

Fund Transfers

For Growth and Financial Security Fund (Statutory)

Lending and Investing Activities

For Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)

For Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Power Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Water Corporation (Statutory)

For SaskEnergy Incorporated (Statutory)

Change in Advances to Revolving Funds

For Advances to Revolving Funds (Statutory)

Debt Redemption, Sinking Fund and Interest Payments

For Debt Redemption (Statutory)

For Sinking Fund Payments – Government Share (Statutory)

For Interest on Gross Debt – Crown Enterprise Share (Statutory)

Supplementary Estimates, 2010/2011 (March):

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2011, the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Office of the Provincial Secretary \$60,000

Your committee recommends that upon concurrence of its report by the Assembly, the sums as reported and approved shall be included in the Appropriation Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.
(Sessional Paper No. 203)

On motion of Mr. Kirsch:

Ordered, That the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

**STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
(Appropriateness of Statement by Minister)**

On Monday, May 2, 2011, the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Yates) raised a point of order regarding the Ministerial Statement made by the Minister of Energy and Resources (Hon. Mr. Boyd). He did so very shortly after the minister began speaking. The Opposition House Leader indicated that the Ministerial Statement contained previously announced information dated March 7 and did not contain a new idea, program or public policy, but rather something that had been in the newspaper for more than two months. The Deputy Government House Leader (Hon. Mr. Harrison) responded to the point of order by stating that the minister had no opportunity to provide information on the new announcement before the intervention. It became apparent that the Opposition House Leader based his point of order on the basis of the minister having provided an advance copy of the announcement to his opposition critic.

In accordance with previous rulings of the Speaker, I advised the Assembly that the minister should have the opportunity to make his Ministerial Statement as it is difficult to determine the appropriateness of a Ministerial Statement as it is being delivered. I committed to review the details and specifics of the Ministerial Statement. I have done this and I am now prepared to rule on this matter.

The Ministerial Statement made by the Minister of Energy and Resources can be found beginning on page 7427 of *Hansard*. The minister outlined that the company Paper Excellence will be accelerating the restart program of the pulp mill in Prince Albert, new funding to train new mill workers, new pension plan agreements and a new timeline for major forest activity. The Opposition House Leader is correct that the Prince Albert pulp mill reopening was previously announced in a news release and a Ministerial Statement on March 7, 2011.

Reviewing the record, I find that the Ministerial Statement appears to announce new initiatives that Paper Excellence itself has undertaken. The Speaker could not determine what, if anything, in the statement might be a new government program or initiative. In future, I would ask that Ministerial Statements clearly articulate new government initiatives, direction, policy and programmes.

This case once again highlights the confusion that exists over what constitutes a proper Ministerial Statement. This latest example highlights the need for members to clarify and define the proper content for Ministerial Statements through the Standing Committee on House Services.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question No. 1048, it was answered. (See Appendix)

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

The Assembly, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Finance to consider Estimates for Executive Council.

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2012, the sum of \$12,102,000 for Executive Council (Ordinary).

Progress was reported and the Committee given leave to sit again.

On motion of Mr. D'Autremont:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 6:21 p.m. until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Don Toth
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS AND PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Ms. Draude:

Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2010, including Supplier, Grant and Other Payments for 2010, and Consolidation Schedule, Corporate and Housing Authority Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2010.

(Sessional Paper No. 204)

By the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Clarence Campeau Development Fund for the year ended December 31, 2010, including Payee List.

(Sessional Paper No. 205)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Forbes asked the Government the following Question No. 1048, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Draude:

To the Minister of Social Services: (1) Which housing authorities serve the north through its northern operations (Treeline Region)? (2) How many rental units does each authority administer? (3) How much rent has each authority collected in January 2011? (4) February 2011? (5) March 2011?

Answer:

- (1) Beaver River Regional Housing Authority; Buffalo Narrows Regional Housing Authority; Northeast Regional Housing Authority; Cumberland House Housing Authority; Ile a la Crosse Housing Authority; La Loche Non-Profit Housing Corporation; La Ronge Regional Housing Authority.
- (2) Beaver River Regional Housing Authority – 320 units; Buffalo Narrows Regional Housing Authority – 150 units; Northeast Regional Housing Authority – 210 units; Cumberland House Housing Authority – 127 units; Ile a la Crosse Housing Authority – 157 units; La Loche Non-Profit Housing Corporation – 299 units; La Ronge Regional Housing Authority – 167 units.
- (3) Beaver River Regional Housing Authority – \$88,277; Buffalo Narrows Regional Housing Authority – \$58,899; Northeast Regional Housing Authority – \$80,401; Cumberland House Housing Authority – \$46,886; Ile a la Crosse Housing Authority – \$61,903; La Loche Non-Profit Housing Corporation – \$119,439; La Ronge Regional Housing Authority – \$49,475.
- (4) Beaver River Regional Housing Authority – \$105,608; Buffalo Narrows Regional Housing Authority – \$73,879; Northeast Regional Housing Authority – \$120,363; Cumberland House Housing Authority – \$48,655; Ile a la Crosse Housing Authority – \$55,453; La Loche Non-Profit Housing Corporation – \$129,605; La Ronge Regional Housing Authority – \$57,638.
- (5) Beaver River Regional Housing Authority – \$130,335; Buffalo Narrows Regional Housing Authority – \$35,247; Northeast Regional Housing Authority – \$60,820; Cumberland House Housing Authority – \$50,452; Ile a la Crosse Housing Authority – \$63,807; La Loche Non-Profit Housing Corporation – \$126,922; La Ronge Regional Housing Authority – \$83,389.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

On Thursday:

Hon. Mr. Morgan to move First Reading of Bill No. 174 – The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2011

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Thursday:

Ms. Eagles to move the following motion:

That this Assembly recognize the positive steps taken by the Ministry of Health in regard to moving forward with innovative initiatives such as surgical wait times, the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS), a non-profit life saving organization, and other third party health care delivery options within the public health care system.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

On Thursday:

No. 1 (Opposition)

Not submitted – Item of business determined pursuant to Rule 23(3)

No. 2 (Government)

Not submitted – Item of business determined pursuant to Rule 23(3)