



No. 63

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FOURTH SESSION – TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

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: Forbes, Vermette, Belanger, Chartier, McCall, and Sproule.

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 stop ignoring schools and start prioritizing students.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 153)

Of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan humbly praying that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to invest in a new long-term care facility in the Creighton/Denare Beach area.

(Addendum to Sessional Paper No. 225)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

Ms. Ross, Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice, presented the Eighth Report of the said committee, which is as follows:

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

Main Estimates, 2015-2016:

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2016, the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Government Relations	\$472,385,000
For Justice	\$590,330,000
For Parks, Culture and Sport	\$97,766,000

Supplementary Estimates, 2014-2015 (March):

Resolved, That there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2015, the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Government Relations	\$24,369,000
For Justice	\$4,622,000

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. 219)

On motion of Ms. Ross:

Ordered, That the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be now concurred in.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 934 to 938, 940-943, and 945, they were answered.
(See Appendix)

The Order of the Day being called for Question Nos. 939 and 944, pursuant to Rule 21(6), the questions were converted and Orders for Returns were issued:

Ms. Chartier, for Return No. 684 showing:

To the Minister of Health: (1) The amount that was spent on the evaluation of lean methods in health care for 2013. (2) 2014. (3) 2015 (to date).

Ms. Chartier, for Return No. 685 showing:

To the Minister of Health: The information reported to the Ministry of Health regarding baseline data (both quantitative and qualitative) for the first phase evaluation of Saskatchewan's lean health care transformation.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

Bill No. 179 – The MRI Facilities Licensing Act

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Duncan: That Bill No. 179 – The MRI Facilities Licensing Act – be now read a second time.

The debate continuing, it was on motion of Mr. Belanger, adjourned.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

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

Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ms. Chartier asked the government the following Question No. 934, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:

To the Minister of Health: How many health regions have strategic planning and business intelligence units or lean offices in addition to their kaizen promotion office?

Answer:

Two.

Ms. Chartier asked the government the following Question No. 935, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:

To the Minister of Health: (1) For each health region that has a strategic planning and business intelligence unit or lean office in addition to their kaizen promotion office, what are the expenditures and FTEs for these units/offices for 2013? (2) 2014? (3) 2015 (to date)?

Answer:

Saskatoon Health Region

Fiscal year ending	Paid FTEs	Total costs for the Saskatoon Health Region, strategic health information and performance support department
31-Mar-13	9.63	\$721,252
31-Mar-14	8.27	\$713,734
31-Mar-15	9.67	\$815,066

This department has existed for years, and provides services that are separate from the normal functions of the kaizen promotion office.

Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region

Fiscal year ending	Paid FTEs	Total costs for the strategic planning and business intelligence unit functions
31-Mar-15	4.5	\$457,188

No new dollars have been invested in the strategic planning and business intelligence unit. All budget and positions were realigned from other areas. Work for which the unit is accountable was done previously in other parts of the organization and has now been brought together to ensure better integration of these activities. Among other responsibilities, the unit is accountable for providing leadership and support to the work of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and senior leadership team in leading development of the Region's multi-year strategic plan and yearly business plan, supporting the region's monitoring and reporting of progress, leading the development of the region's enterprise risk management framework and accreditation coordination.

Ms. Chartier asked the government the following Question No. 936, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:

To the Minister of Health: What percentage of the overall health budget for 2015-16 is dedicated to mental health services and mental health promotion?

Answer:

Regional Health Authority (RHA) Board approved budgets are not available as of the date of this question.

Ms. Chartier asked the government the following Question No. 937, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:

To the Minister of Health: (1) What percentage of people could access their primary health care team for care on the day of their choice in 2012? (2) 2013? (3) 2014? (4) 2015?

Answer:

The primary health care patient experience survey is provided to patients in primary health care clinics to gauge their experience. Survey results started being reported in September 2012. To the question “Considering only your preferences, was today your first choice of day to see your doctor/care provider?” the proportion of patients responding in the affirmative, “Yes, today was my day of choice” from:

- (1) September to December 2012 was 83.2%.
- (2) January to December 2013 was 79.4%.
- (3) January to December 2014 was 91.8%.
- (4) January to February 2015 was 92.5%.

Ms. Chartier asked the government the following Question No. 938, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:

To the Minister of Health: (1) What methods are used to determine the percentage of people that can access their primary health care team for care on the day of their choice? (2) How many patients are surveyed to collect this information?

Answer:

- (1) The health quality council has developed a patient experience survey which asks the question “Considering only your preferences, was today your first choice of day to see your doctor/care provider?” that is used to determine the percentage of people that can access their team for care on their day of choice.
- (2) The patient experience survey is available to all primary health care teams in Saskatchewan. Decisions are made locally at each primary health care team regarding the number of surveys handed out each month to patients. From January 2012 until December 2014, a total of 29,306 patients have been surveyed.

Ms. Chartier asked the government the following Question No. 940, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:

To the Minister of Health: (1) To date, what are the total costs of the emergency flow initiative? (2) How are the targets of this initiative monitored? (3) What are the most recent statistics for these targets?

Answer:

- (1) To date \$8.4M has been invested in the emergency department waits and patient flow initiative (The Initiative). In 2015-16, the total investment is \$4.7M. That investment will be apportioned to Saskatoon Health Region (\$2.294M), Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region (\$1.6M) and Prince Albert Parkland Health Region (\$806K). For the 2014-15 year, the government invested \$1.7M in The Initiative. That investment was apportioned to Saskatoon Health Region (\$680K), Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region (\$680K) and Prince Albert Parkland Health Region (\$340K). In addition, \$2.0M multi-year investment was provided to health quality council (HQC) for the operational administration of the emergency department waits initiative. The administration for the initiative is provided by the emergency department waits provincial kaizen operations team (ED-PKOT).
- (2) The targets are reported and discussed quarterly at the provincial leadership team (PLT) strategic visibility wall. In addition, the targets are reported monthly on the senior leadership team (SLT) strategic visibility wall at the Ministry of Health. Regional health authorities also monitor their performance on this initiative at visual management walls.

- (3) The most current data available from Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert, indicates that in December 2014:
- The provincial average for time waiting for a physician initial assessment (PIA) for *urgent, less urgent, and non-urgent (CTAS 3, 4, and 5)* patients was 97 minutes.
 - The provincial average for emergency department length of stay (ED-LOS) for *urgent, less urgent, and non-urgent (CTAS 3, 4, and 5)* patients was 5.5 hours.
 - 90% of all patients requiring admission from their emergency department visit were transferred to an inpatient bed within 19.8 hours.

Ms. Chartier asked the government the following Question No. 941, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:

To the Minister of Health: (1) What are the total numbers of advanced practice physical therapists working in each health region for 2015 (to date)? (2) 2014? (3) 2013? (4) 2012?

Answer:

Regions reported as of 2015, they do not have any advanced practice physical therapists. In 2012, 2013, and 2014 Saskatoon Health Region reported they had one advanced practice physical therapist employed in the region. The remaining 12 regions reported they did not employ any advanced practice physical therapists during those years.

Ms. Chartier asked the government the following Question No. 942, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:

To the Minister of Health: (1) For each year since 2007, what are the recorded rates for each health region of work place incident reports? (2) Work place incidents in publically funded special care homes? (3) Employee needle stick injuries? (4) Employee exposure to bodily fluids? (4) Employee exposure to bodily fluids where a post exposure preventative (PEP) kit was provided? (5) Employee exposure to bodily fluids where ongoing PEP was provided?

Answer:

N/A

Ms. Chartier asked the government the following Question No. 943, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Duncan:

To the Minister of Health: (1) Do home care recipients receive range of motion exercises? (2) If not, what is the rationale behind excluding these exercises from home care?

Answer:

- (1) Therapies may provide range of motion exercises specific to the client's assessed need through the home care program.
- (2) Some clients do not receive range of motion therapy through the region's home care program as they do not meet the assessed need.

Ms. Sproule asked the government the following Question No. 945, which was answered by the Hon. Mr. Boyd:

To the Minister of Energy and Resources: The spill database (that shows more than 15,000 spills since 1990) has not been updated since 2013, when does the ministry plan to update it?

Answer:

The subject spill database is no longer being updated and has been removed from the website, as the Ministry of the Economy will be replacing the old spill database system with a web-based system as part of the process renewal and infrastructure management enhancement (PRIME) project. During the new system development, it is necessary to freeze the data so that proper clean-up and conversion can take place so that tens of thousands of data elements can be uploaded to the new system. During this data freeze period, we are not able to extract data for internet posting. The new database should be ready in late 2015 or early 2016. The public and licensee can have access to spill information during

the freeze period. The Ministry of the Economy has posted a complete set of information on its website. Anyone can access the entire digital copy of all the spill information the Ministry of the Economy holds in its files. Every spill that has been recorded by Ministry of the Economy dating back decades is available in .pdf and searchable by legal land description on the ministry website. This information is available at: <http://www.er.gov.sk.ca/Spills>.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Thursday:

Mr. Bjornerud to move the following motion:

That this Assembly supports the government's initiatives to keep Saskatchewan's economy strong through record infrastructure investments and keeping taxes low, and its work to assist entrepreneurs in achieving a business environment that has had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada for the last 19 consecutive months.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

No. 1 (Opposition)

Not submitted – Item of business determined pursuant to Rule 24(4).

No. 2 (Government)

Not submitted – Item of business determined pursuant to Rule 24(4).

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following questions were given notice on day no. 60 and are to be answered by day no. 65:

Ms. Sproule, to ask the government the following Question No. 956:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: What is the definition of what is referred to by SaskPower officials as “hot sockets”?

Ms. Sproule, to ask the government the following Question No. 957:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: What is the definition of what is referred to by SaskPower officials as “overheating”?

Ms. Sproule, to ask the government the following Question No. 958:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: How many replacement meters experienced “hot socket” issues?

Ms. Sproule, to ask the government the following Question No. 959:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: How many replacement meters experienced “overheating” issues?

Ms. Sproule, to ask the government the following Question No. 960:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: Of the 10 smart meters that failed, how many had “hot sockets” as a contributing factor?

Ms. Sproule, to ask the government the following Question No. 961:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: Of the 10 smart meters that failed, how many had “hot sockets” as a main cause?

Ms. Sproule, to ask the government the following Question No. 962:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: Of the 10 smart meters failures, how many of these failures were a result of or were contributed to by issues extended to the meter specifically?

Ms. Sproule, to ask the government the following Question No. 963:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: What were all the specific contributing factors, internal or external, to the 10 smart meter failures?

Ms. Sproule, to ask the government the following Question No. 964:

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: How many of the 10 smart meter failures were caused exclusively by internal issues within the meter (i.e. moisture and dirt)?

Mr. Belanger, to ask the government the following Question No. 965:

To the Minister of Government Relations: (1) Was a request for proposals or a request for services sent out for the contract to plan, coordinate, and assist in the delivery of financial management software, hardware, and training to northern hamlets? (2) Who won the contract? (3) What was the total cost to the Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA)? (4) What was the total cost to the Ministry of Government Relations?

Mr. Belanger, to ask the government the following Question No. 966:

To the Minister of Government Relations: How many certified administrators are there presently working in the northern municipalities according to the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS) guidelines?

Mr. Belanger, to ask the government the following Question No. 967:

To the Minister of Government Relations: (1) Was a request for proposals or a request for services sent out for the contract to build administrative capacity in northern Saskatchewan? (2) Who won the contract? (3) What was the total cost to the NMTA? (4) What was the total cost to the Ministry of Government Relations? (5) How many certified northern municipal administrators were there prior to the program being initiated?

Mr. Belanger, to ask the government the following Question No. 968:

To the Minister of Government Relations: How many northern municipalities had adopted official community plans and zoning bylaws prior to the northern planning for growth program?

Mr. Belanger, to ask the government the following Question No. 969:

To the Minister of Government Relations: To date how many northern municipalities have adopted official community plans and zoning bylaws?