



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 61

Thursday, May 12, 2022

10:00 a.m.

PRAYERS

**STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
Ruling on a Point of Order
(Impugning Character of a Member)**

Yesterday, May 11, 2022, the Government House Leader (Hon. Mr. Harrison (Meadow Lake)) rose on a point of order. He stated that during question period, the member from Regina Douglas Park (Ms. Sarauer) made an unfounded personal attack on the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety (Hon. Ms. Tell). I have reviewed *Hansard* and am now prepared to make my ruling.

The member from Regina Douglas Park's statement can be found on page 2438 of *Hansard*. In responding to an answer by the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, the member stated:

“ . . . a minister who has faced disciplinary measures in her previous career for the misuse of sensitive data.”

Members should know by now, given numerous rulings from the Chair during this session, that remarks which impugn a member's integrity, honesty, or character are out of order. *The House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, 3rd edition 2017, p. 624, states that the Speaker takes into consideration the intention of the member speaking and the person to whom the words at issue were directed. I think the answer to that question is sufficiently clear. In her comment, the member attempts to call into question the character of the minister.

I find the point of order well taken and ask the member for Regina Douglas Park to withdraw and apologize.

Thereupon, the Member from Regina Douglas Park withdrew her comment and apologized.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following members: Sarauer, Conway, Ritchie, Beck, and Bowes.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to order and pursuant to rule 16(7), petitions from residents of the province of Saskatchewan, requesting the following action, were read and received:

- To halt the sale of Crown lands and revise the Duty to Consult framework.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 33)
- To introduce and pass paid sick leave legislation.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 59)
- To take real action to fight climate change.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 68)
- To immediately address the inadequate condition of Highway 9.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 105)
- To stop the passage of Bill 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021*.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 114)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

Mr. Dennis, Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies, presented the committee's fourth report, which is as follows:

2022–23 Estimates

The committee considered the following estimates for the executive branch of government and adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved, that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2023 the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance	\$256,839,000
For Public Service Commission.....	\$33,722,000

For SaskBuilds and Procurement \$178,642,000

For SaskBuilds Corporation \$29,600,000

The committee considered the following estimates for which no amounts were required to be voted:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance — Debt Servicing (Statutory)

Lending and Investing Activities

For Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Power Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation (Statutory)

For Saskatchewan Water Corporation (Statutory)

For SaskEnergy Incorporated (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)

2021–22 Supplementary Estimates No. 2

The committee considered the following supplementary estimates no. 2 for which no amounts were required to be voted:

Lending and Investing Activities

For Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan (Statutory)

Debt Redemption, Sinking Fund and Interest Payments

For Debt Redemption (Statutory)

The 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. 170)

On motion of Mr. Dennis:

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

The following bills were reported without amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, they were read the third time and passed:

Bill No. 83 — The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2022

Bill No. 82 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022

Bill No. 44 — The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021

The following bill was reported without amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, it was read the third time and passed, on division:

Bill No. 84 — The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

The order of the day being called for the following motion for a seventy-five minute debate, it was moved by Mr. Jenson:

That this Assembly acknowledges and supports small modular reactors (SMRs) as a safe, reliable, zero-emissions energy source to complement renewable energy by providing stable, baseload, clean energy capable of powering Saskatchewan's growing economy and population while creating new opportunities to export Canadian knowledge and expertise around the world.

A debate arising and the period of seventy-five minutes having expired, pursuant to rule 25(5) the Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

Bill No. 606 — The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Sick Days) Amendment Act, 2021

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Ms. Bowes: That Bill No. 606 — The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Sick Days) Amendment Act, 2021 be now read a second time.

The debate continuing and in accordance with rule 54(3), the mover of the motion closed debate. Pursuant to rule 27(4), the question was put and it was negatived on the following recorded division:

YEAS — 10

Meili	Wotherspoon	Sarauer	Conway	Love
Ritchie	Beck	Mowat	Bowes	Young (Regina University)

NAYS — 39

Stewart	McMorris	Reiter	Merriman	Harpauer
Morgan	Duncan	Tell	Wyant	Makowsky

Docherty	Cheveldayoff	Bradshaw	Ross (Regina Rochdale)	Eyre
Harrison (Meadow Lake)	Hindley	Marit	Buckingham	Fiaz
Lambert	Bonk	Kirsch	Steele	Ottenbreit
Francis	Young (Lloydminster)	Ross (Prince Albert Northcote)	Lawrence	Skoropad
Meyers	Friesen	Grewal	McLeod	Goudy
Keisig	Jenson	Harrison (Cannington)	Domotor	

Accordingly, the bill was removed from the Order Paper.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Harrison (Meadow Lake):

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:34 p.m. until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS, AND PAPERS TABLED

The following return which was ordered by the Assembly on November 16, 2021 was laid upon the Table:

Return no. 6 asked by Ms. Sarauer

(Sessional paper no. 171)

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following questions were given notice on day no. 58 and are to be answered by day no. 63:

Question no. 34 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister of Health, (a) in Saskatoon, how many hospital beds are dedicated to neurology-, stroke-, and/or seizure-related care, (b) in Saskatoon, how many patients have received in-hospital neurology-, stroke-, and/or seizure-related care since January 1, 2022, and (c) in Saskatoon, have neurology-, stroke-, and/or seizure-related hospital beds or resources been utilized for COVID surge capacity, and if so, when and to what degree?

Question no. 35 (Ms. Young (Regina University)):

To the Minister of Trade and Export Development, for each of the minister's international trips, from January 1, 2022 to present, (a) what was the total cost, (b) what was the minister's itinerary, (c) what were the anticipated outcomes, and (d) were any anticipated and/or realized agreements reached abroad and if so, please provide details?

Question no. 36 (Ms. Young (Regina University)):

To the President of the Executive Council, for each of the Premier's international trips, from January 1, 2022 to present, (a) what was the total cost, (b) what was the Premier's itinerary, (c) what were the anticipated outcomes, and (d) were any anticipated and/or realized agreements reached abroad and if so, please provide details?

Question no. 37 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Premier of Saskatchewan and the Minister of Health, (a) which ministry was responsible for the procurement of the SK Vax Wallet, (b) was the method of procurement through RFP or sole-sourced, (c) which tech company did the government hire to create the APK for the Sask Vax Wallet, (d) does the SK Vax Wallet contain original source code owned by the Province of Saskatchewan or is it a white label product purchased from a developer which sells modification and rebranding rights, (e) which tech company or arm of government published the SK Vax Wallet App to the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store, (f) which tech company or arm of government is responsible to keep the SK Vax Wallet updated and in compliance with the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store, (g) when people downloaded the SK Vax Wallet, what database was used to populate the individual's information to their individual device, (h) when people's vaccination status changed, what database was used to update the individual's information to their individual device, (i) what company or arm of government is responsible for security of the SK Vax Wallet, (j) what system of security protocols were and/or are in place to ensure the privacy of the people's information, (k) what auditing system of security protocols, if any, was/is in place to ensure security of the SK Vax Wallet is at industry standard, (l) what was/is the total cost to procure, develop & maintain the SK Vax Wallet, (m) although decommissioned, the SK Vax Wallet App remains visible on the App Store and Google Play; who is responsible to maintain the presence of the SK Vax Wallet on Google Play and the Apple Store and who will be responsible to remove it, and (n) does the government plan to reactivate the SK Vax Wallet or a develop a similar app?

The following questions were given notice on day no. 59 and are to be answered by day no. 64:

Question no. 38 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health, (a) at any time, were residents of long-term care facilities required to be considered "fully vaccinated" to continue residing in the facility and/or participating in activities within the facility, and if so, who was responsible for this decision, (b) was Saskatchewan data collected and analyzed regarding restrictions

of visitors and interactions amongst residents in long-term care homes and its efficacy on reducing transmission of COVID-19, and if so, where can the public view this data, and (c) was Saskatchewan data collected and analyzed regarding vaccination mandates in long-term care facilities and its effects on reducing transmission of COVID-19, and if so, where can the public view this data?

Question no. 39 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, regarding adverse events to vaccination, (a) how many without prejudice settlement agreements has the Saskatchewan government and/or its agencies entered into with Saskatchewan citizens, including confidentiality agreements, who have suffered one or more AEFIs from 2017 to present, (b) what is the amount of such settlements entered into in each of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, (c) what is the total amount of money paid as part of said settlements in each of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, and (d) what is the breakdown of lump sum settlements and settlements that are paid out monthly?

Question no. 40 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, regarding mental health/detox facilities, (a) what policies/work standards/procedures are in place to ensure that a person is psychologically stable, cognitively mature and free from any form of duress so as to ensure they can adequately provide informed consent, (b) how many vaccinations were administered in adult and youth acute mental health facilities and detox centres in Saskatchewan, (c) what was the legal status of those patients at the time — voluntary or involuntary — under the Saskatchewan mental health Act at the time of vaccination, and (d) what are the work standards/policies/procedures for vaccine administration on voluntary patients on a mental health in-patient unit for adults and youth?

Question no. 41 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, there are multiple reports of doctors being disciplined, pressured, or coerced for deviating from the established COVID-19 narrative, including Saskatchewan's own Dr. Francis Christian, (a) what role did the SHA play in ensuring Saskatchewan's doctors spoke only in a manner consistent with the established narrative regarding COVID-19, (b) what communications occurred between the SHA and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan to ensure that doctors would not spread "misinformation" about COVID-19, (c) who decides whether any duly licensed doctor's medical opinion is "misinformation," (d) what communications were sent to doctors regarding granting medical exemptions for masking and vaccinations with respect to COVID-19, and (e) what communications were sent to doctors regarding 90-day exemptions or any other exemptions from testing after a person recovered from COVID-19?

Question no. 42 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, informed consent for medical procedures, (a) what guidelines were/are in place to determine informed consent, has this changed since January 2020, and if so, in what way(s), (b) what information was/is provided to the people administering COVID vaccines to assist them with providing informed consent, both orally and in the form of documentation, has this changed since and during the rollout of the vaccination program, and if so, in what way(s) and where can the public view this information, (c) is this information uniform across all the people administering the vaccines, and (d) do prospective recipients of a vaccine have to first consent to being a subject in a clinical trial, and if not, why not?

Question no. 43 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, regarding funding pertaining to COVID-19, (a) what payments or fees do hospitals receive relating to COVID-19, has this changed over time, and if so, how, (b) what payments or fees do doctors receive relating to COVID-19, has this changed over time, and if so, how, (c) what payments, funding, and/or incentives did the province receive from the federal government in relation to COVID-19, (d) how much funding did the government receive from pharmaceutical companies in 2019, 2020, 2021,

and to date in 2022, and (e) has the government been paid fees and/or incentives from pharmaceutical companies for administering PCR tests between 2019 and 2022, and if yes, please provide details?

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

Question no. 44 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, regarding metrics and guidelines during COVID-19, (a) what recommendations or guidelines were used to determine the CT value which is used in determining a positive PCR test, (b) has the recommended CT value changed over time, since December 2019, and if so, how, (c) were the CT values the same whether test samples were taken from vaccinated or unvaccinated individuals, (d) why did the government start distinguishing between incidental COVID hospitalizations and deaths from “non-incidental” cases, (e) what metrics or guidelines were used to determine how deaths were/are classified as being “caused” by COVID-19, and (f) what role do comorbidities play in determining the cause of death?

Question no. 45 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, guidelines and policies for pandemic response, (a) did the Saskatchewan government have a pandemic response plan in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, (b) if so, where can that plan be viewed, (c) did the Saskatchewan government and/or health authorities follow any pre-existing pandemic plan, and (d) if not, who made the decision to disregard the existing plan, and under what authority?

Question no. 46 (Ms. Mowat):

To the Minister of Health, by health facility, how many beds in Saskatchewan are dedicated to providing the following: (a) neonatal and infant care, (b) pediatric care, (c) coronary and cardiac care, (d) surgical care, (e) intensive care, (f) oncology care, (g) rehabilitative care, (h) burn care, (i) trauma care, (j) neurological care, (k) mental health care, (l) emergency care, (m) urgent care, and (n) all other care?

Question no. 47 (Ms. Mowat):

To the Minister of Health, by health facility, how many full-time equivalents (FTEs) in Saskatchewan primarily provide the following: (a) neonatal and infant care, (b) pediatric care, (c) coronary and cardiac care, (d) surgical care, (e) intensive care, (f) oncology care, (g) rehabilitative care, (h) burn care, (i) trauma care, (j) neurological care, (k) mental health care, (l) emergency care, (m) urgent care, and (n) all other care?

Question no. 48 (Ms. Young (Regina University)):

To the Minister for SaskBuilds and Procurement, from estimates, the minister indicated that \$600,000 was budgeted for “property security enhancements in the PCC” and specified that it would be used for the Legislative grounds; can the ministry provide further details on: (a) what types of security and/or property enhancements are expected to be procured with this allocation, and (b) has the Ministry of SaskBuilds or Central Services allocated funds for security and/or property enhancements in the past, and if so, when and, specifically, what for?

Question no. 49 (Ms. Young (Regina University)):

To the Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission, annually, from 2017 to present, (a) how many tickets, fines and/or charges were issued within Wascana Centre, (b) how many tickets, fines and/or charges were issued by Wascana Centre Community Safety Officers, (c) what type of tickets, fines and/or charges were issued within Wascana Centre, and (d) what type of tickets, fines and/or charges were issued by Wascana Centre Community Safety Officers?

Question no. 50 (Ms. Young (Regina University)):

To the Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission, from estimates, the Minister for SaskBuilds indicated that \$600,000 was budgeted for “property security enhancements in the PCC” and specified that it would be used for the Legislative grounds; can the ministry provide further details on: (a) what types of security and/or property enhancements are expected to be procured with this allocation, and (b) has the Ministry of SaskBuilds or Central Services allocated funds for security and/or property enhancements in the past, and if so, when and, specifically, what for?

Question no. 51 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, scientific data to inform policy, (a) did the SHA conduct their own analysis of the scientific literature relating to transmissibility of COVID-19, and if so, which peer-reviewed studies were relied upon, (b) did the SHA conduct their own analysis of the scientific literature relating to naturally acquired immunity, also described as the immunity conferred from previous infection, and if so, which peer-reviewed studies were relied upon, and (c) did the SHA conduct their own analysis of coverings as a preventative measure to reduce transmission of COVID-19, and if so, which peer-reviewed studies were relied upon?

Question no. 52 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Minister of Health, regarding marketing and pandemic, (a) how much was spent on the advertising budget for pandemic-related messaging in the years 2020, 2021, and 2022, (b) how much money was allocated to marketing and promoting COVID-19 vaccines and what source(s) did the funds come from, (c) what amount of the budget was for quantitative testing and focus groups in each fiscal quarter of 2020, 2021, and 2022, (d) where can the public access the poll results, and (e) were the advertising opportunities tendered?

Question no. 53 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister of Environment, what is the projected revenue of the Saskatchewan Technology Fund per annum over the first five years of operation?

Question no. 54 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister of Environment, regarding the Saskatchewan Technology Fund, (a) has the fund been operationalized, (b) have initial or subsequent payments been deposited into the fund since it was established, (c) was the advisory committee appointed in 2020, as per the 2019/20 annual report, and if so, what is its composition, (d) was a memorandum of understanding developed between Innovation Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Energy and Resources in 2020, as per the 2019/20 annual report, (e) has the Ministry of Environment undertaken its statutory requirement to submit an annual report on the business of the fund to the Legislative Assembly in the fiscal year of 2020/21, (f) will the Ministry of Environment meet its statutory requirement to submit an annual report on the business of the fund to the Legislative Assembly for the fiscal year of 2021/22, and (g) since the tabling of the 2019/20 annual report, what action has been undertaken by the fund to drive innovation and reduce GHG emissions?

Question no. 55 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, regarding Sask911, (a) what is the target wait time to be connected to a 9-1-1 call taker, (b) what is the current average wait time to be connected to a 9-1-1 call taker, (c) what is the current 90th percentile wait time to be connected to a 9-1-1 call taker, (d) what is the current 10th percentile wait time to be connected to a 9-1-1 call taker, (e) in 2022 to date, how many of each type of emergency call were received by 9-1-1 call takers, and (f) for every year since 2016, how many call takers were employed by Sask911?