



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**VOTES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

No. 63

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

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: Sarauer, Conway, Love, Ritchie, and Nippi-Albright.

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 reverse the decision to eliminate subsidized housing and restore funding for the 50 units affected at Luther Heights.

(Sessional paper no. 172)

To halt the sale of Crown lands and revise the Duty to Consult framework.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 33)

To take real action to fight climate change.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 68)

To stop the passage of Bill 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021*.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 114)

To commit to a full independent public inquiry into the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 141)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr. Wotherspoon, Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented the second report of the said committee.

(Sessional paper no. 173)

On motion of Mr. Wotherspoon:

Ordered, That the second report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be now concurred in.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The order of the day being called for question nos. 34 and 37, pursuant to rule 21(6), the questions were converted and orders for return were issued. (see appendix)

The order of the day being called for question nos. 35 to 36, they were answered. (see appendix)

SECOND READINGS / DEUXIÈME LECTURE

Bill No. 86 — The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation (Outdoor Public Places) Amendment Act, 2022 Projet de loi n° 86 — Loi modificative de 2022 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard (lieux publics extérieurs)

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Reiter: That Bill No. 86 — The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation (Outdoor Public Places) Amendment Act, 2022 be now read a second time.

L'hon. M. Reiter propose: Que le projet de loi n° 86 — Loi modificative de 2022 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard (lieux publics extérieurs) soit maintenant lu une deuxième fois.

A debate arising, it was on motion of Ms. Sarauer adjourned.

Il s'élève un débat et sur motion de Mme Sarauer, le débat est ajourné.

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

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 3:05 p.m. until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following responses to written questions were tabled by the government:

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?

Answer:

(a) Public Disclosure of Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses can be accessed by visiting Publications Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan.ca. Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses are posted on a semi-annual basis and include the following:

- a. Total travel expenditures for participants
- b. General travel expenditures
- c. Overview of travel and objectives
- d. Travel activity

(b) Public Disclosure of Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses can be accessed by visiting Publications Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan.ca. Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses are posted on a semi-annual basis and include the following:

- a. Total travel expenditures for participants
- b. General travel expenditures
- c. Overview of travel and objectives
- d. Travel activity

(c) Public Disclosure of Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses can be accessed by visiting Publications Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan.ca. Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses are posted on a semi-annual basis and include the following:

- a. Total travel expenditures for participants
- b. General travel expenditures
- c. Overview of travel and objectives
- d. Travel activity

(d) Public Disclosure of Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses can be accessed by visiting Publications Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan.ca. Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses are posted on a semi-annual basis and include the following:

- a. Total travel expenditures for participants
- b. General travel expenditures
- c. Overview of travel and objectives
- d. Travel activity

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?

Answer:

(a) Public Disclosure of Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses can be accessed by visiting Publications Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan.ca. Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses are posted on a semi-annual basis and include the following:

- a. Total travel expenditures for participants
- b. General travel expenditures
- c. Overview of travel and objectives
- d. Travel activity

(b) Public Disclosure of Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses can be accessed by visiting Publications Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan.ca. Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses are posted on a semi-annual basis and include the following:

- a. Total travel expenditures for participants
- b. General travel expenditures
- c. Overview of travel and objectives
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(c) Public Disclosure of Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses can be accessed by visiting Publications Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan.ca. Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses are posted on a semi-annual basis and include the following:

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(d) Public Disclosure of Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses can be accessed by visiting Publications Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan.ca. Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses are posted on a semi-annual basis and include the following:

- a. Total travel expenditures for participants
- b. General travel expenditures
- c. Overview of travel and objectives
- d. Travel activity

QUESTIONS ORDERED FOR RETURN

The following written questions were converted and orders for return were issued:

Return no. 19 (Ms. Ritchie):

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

Return no. 20 (Ms. Wilson):

To the Premier of Saskatchewan and the Minister of Health, (a) the ministry that was responsible for the procurement of the SK Vax Wallet, (b) whether the method of procurement was through RFP or sole-sourced, (c) the tech company the government hired to create the APK for the Sask Vax Wallet, (d) whether the SK Vax Wallet contains original source code owned by the Province of Saskatchewan

or is a white label product purchased from a developer which sells modification and rebranding rights, (e) the tech company or arm of government that published the SK Vax Wallet App to the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store, (f) the tech company or arm of government that 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, the database that was used to populate the individual's information to their individual device, (h) when people's vaccination status changed, the database that was used to update the individual's information to their individual device, (i) the company or arm of government that is responsible for security of the SK Vax Wallet, (j) the system of security protocols that were and/or are in place to ensure the privacy of the people's information, (k) the auditing system of security protocols, if any, that was/is in place to ensure security of the SK Vax Wallet is at industry standard, (l) 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; the entity responsible for maintaining the presence of the SK Vax Wallet on Google Play and the Apple Store and the entity that will be responsible for removing it, and (n) whether the government plans to reactivate the SK Vax Wallet or a develop a similar app.

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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?