



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 61

Thursday, May 11, 2023

10:00 a.m.

PRAYERS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following members: McLeod, Teed, and Ritchie.

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 introduce pay equity legislation.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 28)

To ban the practice of conversion therapy.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 31)

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

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 52)

To provide adequate and equitable SAID rates.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 110)

To call upon the Government of Canada to immediately end the federal carbon tax.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 123)

To provide adequate, sustainable, and predictable operating funds for Saskatchewan's 27 public and separate school divisions.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 155)

To immediately recruit an appropriate complement of pediatric gastroenterology specialists and adjunct services.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 195)

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. Love:

That the Assembly calls upon the government to use windfall revenues to provide cost-of-living relief for Saskatchewan families.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion no. 2, moved by Ms. Young (Lloydminster):

That this Assembly supports the four-point Health Human Resources Action Plan that is assisting in the recruitment, training, incentivization, and retention of healthcare workers in the province of Saskatchewan. And that the HHR Action Plan is showing results in the hiring of internationally and domestically educated healthcare workers who will support a strong provincial healthcare system into the future.

The debate continuing, it was moved by the Hon. Mr. Harrison (Meadow Lake):

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.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:33 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 15, 2022 was laid upon the Table:

Return no. 40 asked by Ms. Wilson

(Sessional paper no. 201)

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. 93 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) what are the current wait times for a survivor of sexual assault in the northern part of Saskatchewan to first speak to a counsellor, and (b) what is the wait time for subsequent appointments?

Question no. 94 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) what is the client load per counsellor for all sexual assault service organizations, by location, and (b) how many people are on the wait list to see a counsellor for all sexual assault service organizations, by location?

Question no. 95 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) what is the current rate of turn over for Crown Counsel (Prosecutors), and (b) what is the rate of turn over for Crown Counsel (all others beside Prosecutors)?

Question no. 96 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) how many Crown Counsel lawyers are over 10 years of call (Prosecutors and all others as separate numbers), and (b) how many Crown Counsel lawyers are under 5 years of call (Prosecutors and all others as separate numbers)?

Question no. 97 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) how many Crown Counsel lawyers are at Crown Counsel level 4, and (b) what are the qualifications for Crown Counsel level 4?

Question no. 98 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, what is the cost per case using Prosecutorial Agents vs. Crown Counsel Prosecutors?

Question no. 99 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, how many Gladue reports were done over the past year?

Question no. 100 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, is the Ministry considering creating a Saskatchewan Sexual Violence Action Plan?

Question no. 101 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) what is the status of the criminal justice review program, (b) what were the outcomes, and (c) what recommendations have been made and which have been implemented, and how much did this cost?

Question no. 102 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) how much is allocated in the 23/24 budget for interpersonal violence transportation, and (b) how often was it used in the past year and how much money was spent?

Question no. 103 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) what is the status of the Family Intervention Rapid Support Teams, and (b) how much is this project costing?

Question no. 104 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, what is the status of Family Matters?

Question no. 105 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, has the Ministry invested in services and safe spaces to keep in line with the year over year increases in Interpersonal Violence that the RCMP has reported in Saskatchewan?

Question no. 106 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, does the Ministry have a strategy to address the staggering number of IPV incidents in Saskatchewan?

Question no. 107 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, does the Ministry have a strategy to address the rates of violent crime against young women and girls in Northern Saskatchewan?

Question no. 108 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, does the Ministry have a strategy to address the disproportionate amount of violence against Indigenous women?

Question no. 109 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, does the Ministry have a strategy to deal with femicide?

Question no. 110 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) how many requests have been made to utilize the process outlined in Claire's Law since it was passed, and (b) are all detachments now providing access to this information?

Question no. 111 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, what are the numbers for times that the provision regarding lease breaking for survivors of intimate partner violence was used?

Question no. 112 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, what is the length of time to trial for all court locations and circuit court points (provincial court)?

Question no. 113 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, last budget it was announced that there would be 12 FTEs hired in public prosecutions to form a major cases unit; since that announcement, (a) have all of those positions been filled, (b) do they remain filled, and (c) were they external or internal hires?

Question no. 114 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, (a) what is the Ministry doing to answer the calls of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and (b) what specific actions has the Ministry done with respect to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission over the past year?

Question no. 115 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, what is the plan to expand videoconferencing for the courts in this budget year?

Question no. 116 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, is there a plan to expand the therapeutic courts?

Question no. 117 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, regarding Legal Aid, (a) what is the average file load of a legal aid lawyer, per office, (b) what are the wait times to have an initial meeting with a legal aid lawyer, per office, (c) what are the wait times to have a subsequent meeting with a legal aid lawyer, per office, (d) what is the average length of time for file conclusion, per office and (e) how many people are being denied, and what is the breakdown per reason?

Question no. 118 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, regarding the Office of Residential Tenancies, (a) how many applications for in-person hearings have been made (broken down by year) since the office moved to phone hearings, (b) how many applicants or respondents did not appear on their matters since the office moved to phone hearings, (c) how many tenant claims have been filed each year since 2019 to present, (d) how many hearing decisions have been appealed, (e) how many hearing decisions have been overturned, and (f) why are decisions no longer being anonymized?

Question no. 119 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, regarding the Public Complaints Commission, in the past year, (a) how many complaints were referred out of the PCC, (b) how many were referred back to their home police detachment, (c) how many complaints have been made against CSOs, against Highway Traffic Officers, and anyone else that has been a part of the rural crime strategy, (d) how many times were firearms deployed last year in Saskatchewan, (e) how many taser deployments, (f) how many referrals to the AG or ministry have resulted in criminal charges, and how many have not, (g) is there a tracking of multiple complaints by the same officer or detachment, and what happens if a pattern is discovered, (h) what other changes have been requested by the PCC to the government in their legislation or funding, and (i) when a complaint is deemed 'unfounded', what information is provided to the complainant?

Question no. 120 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, regarding the Human Rights Commission, over the past 3 years (broken down annually), (a) how many inquiries have come in, (b) how many complaints have been made, (c) how many complaints have been dismissed, and what were the reasons why, (d) how many complaints have gone to mediation and what were the results, (e) how many complaints have gone to investigation, (f) how many complaints have been referred to court proceedings and (g) what is the average length of time between each step in the process?

Question no. 121 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, what is the Ministry doing to forward their commitment to Indigenous policing?

Question no. 122 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, (a) how is the Ministry advancing the calls of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and (b) what specific work has the Ministry done with respect to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the past year?

Question no. 123 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, what is the “new technology to increase the effectiveness of bail supervision” mentioned in the Business Plan?

Question no. 124 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, what actions have been taken in the past year and what are the plans for this budget year with respect to the Gang Violence Reduction strategy?

Question no. 125 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, what is the annual cost of (a) the Protection and Response Team, (b) the Crime Reduction Team, (c) the Sask Trafficking Response Team, (d) the Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team, (e) the Community Safety Office Program, and (f) the Provincial Drug Task Force?

Question no. 126 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, what happened to the HUB model?

Question no. 127 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, how much money was spent in the past year to transport inmates who were being released?

Question no. 128 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, does the Minister have a strategy to increase inmates’ access to addiction counsellors?

Question no. 129 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, (a) what is the turnover rate of nurses within custody facilities, and (b) how many vacancies are there currently?

Question no. 130 (Ms. Sarauer):

To the Minister of Corrections and Policing, what programming is currently available for inmates on remand?

Question no. 131 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister of Labour, (a) how many women in Saskatchewan are currently working for minimum wage, (b) how many Saskatchewan people are currently being paid less than \$16.89/hour, (c) how many Saskatchewan people are currently being paid less than \$16.23/hour, (d) how many women in Saskatchewan are working more than full-time and holding multiple jobs, and (e) how much less, on average per hour are Saskatchewan women earning versus Saskatchewan men?

Question no. 132 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister for the Status of Women, how many women are working in leadership roles within non-traditional sectors in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) in Saskatchewan?

Question no. 133 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister of Justice, how much money in total has been invested by your Ministry to date on the “Face the Issue” campaign and what is the breakdown of this spending?

Question no. 134 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister of Advanced Education, how much interest was collected on student loans in each of the last 5 years?

Question no. 135 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister of Advanced Education, for each program offered at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, how many people are currently on the waitlist?

Question no. 136 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister of Advanced Education, when will the next review of the regional colleges be scheduled, given that the Ministry has not been meeting its statutory obligations for reviews?

Question no. 137 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister of Advanced Education, has any formal evaluation of the Graduate Retention Program's efficacy been undertaken by the Ministry since this program's inception?

Question no. 138 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission, for each of the last 5 years, (a) what turnover has occurred at the Assistant Deputy Minister and Deputy Minister levels, (b) what turnover has occurred at the Executive Director level, (c) how many Assistant Deputy Minister and Deputy Minister positions were filled each year and, of these, how many were advertised and filled through competition, (d) how many out-of-scope employees were severed, broken down by ministry, (e) what is the total severance paid for out for each year, broken down by ministry, (f) how much has been invested in professional development, and (g) what was the voluntary turnover rate across the Government of Saskatchewan?

Question no. 139 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission, regarding the development of an integrated, cloud-based human resource, financial and procurement system and the detailed business case that was completed in the summer of 2021, (a) what person or entity developed the business case, (b) how much money did the government – through Cabinet and/or Treasury Board – originally approve for this project and what was the original time frame for this project, (c) is there a contract in place to design, develop, test and deploy the new solution and, if so, who is it with and what is the value of the contract, and (d) is this project on track to be delivered on time and on budget?

Question no. 140 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission, what were the rates of sick leave utilization for each ministry in each of the last 5 years?

Question no. 141 (Ms. Bowes):

To the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission, regarding the Executive Talent Inventory, (a) how many employees are currently a part of the inventory, (b) what are the criteria that qualify an employee for the inventory, and (c) are people added to the inventory immediately promoted?

Question no. 142 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, what are the recent historical annual electricity demand figures for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, according to customer category (potash, pipeline, northern mining, other power account, oilfield, commercial, residential, farm, reseller, SaskPower internal, losses) and expressed in GWh/yr?

Question no. 143 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, what are the forecasted annual electricity demand figures, itemized according to customer category (potash, pipeline, northern mining, other power account, oilfield, commercial, residential, farm, reseller, SaskPower internal, losses) and expressed in GWh/yr for each of the years 2023 to 2035 inclusive, and, for 2036 to 2050 inclusive?

Question no. 144 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, what are the historical and forecasted figures for power exports and imports in GWh/yr for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 to 2035 inclusive, and, for 2036 to 2050 inclusive?

Question no. 145 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, what are the historic and forecasted peak and minimum demand loads for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 to 2035 inclusive, and, for 2036 to 2050 inclusive – for peak winter demand, for maximum summer demand, and for minimum annual demand, expressed in MW, with each of these figures itemized according to the customer category (potash, pipeline, northern mining, other power account, oilfield, commercial, residential, farm, reseller, SaskPower internal, losses) and expressed in GWh/yr?

Question no. 146 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, what is the annual-average capacity factor for each SaskPower power station in 2022?

Question no. 147 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, what are the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) figures for the SaskPower grid for 2012 to 2022 inclusive?

Question no. 148 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, what are the planned closure dates for each currently operating power station?

Question no. 149 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, what is the average net energy conversion efficiency for each of the following source categories: coal without CCS, coal with CCS, gas-fired cogeneration, gas-fired combined cycle, and gas turbine?

Question no. 150 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister of Agriculture, in reference to the 4R's Program, the program sets a target that 25 per cent of Saskatchewan cropland will be under the 4R program by 2025, (a) is the government on track to meet that target, (b) what is the current status towards achieving the 25 per cent target, and (c) what is the government's strategy for ensuring that it will be able to meet that target?

Question no. 151 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, (a) what are the Government's plans to fund Lake Diefenbaker irrigation project (the Project), (b) what are the cost projections associated with constructing the Project, (c) who has the Government approached as funding partners and what is the status of those discussions, (d) what delays from the original timeline has the Project encountered in finalizing the Project plan, including any Provincial or Federal regulatory requirements, engagement with stakeholder and rights holders, engineering design and determining project costs and determining financing, (e) are there any costs associated with any of the delays, (f) what has been done to respond to the concerns expressed by citizens about the environmental impacts of this project, (g) what has the Agency done to consult with First Nations and Métis communities affected by the project, (h) how much money has been spent so far on the Project, and (i) can the Water Security Agency explain how it justifies splitting the project into three phases and assessing project impacts in isolation, rather than as a single project?

Question no. 152 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, (a) why are waterworks system assessment reports no longer publicly available on the Sask H2O website, (b) why are citizens required to file an FOI to receive a report, (c) how does the Minister justify withholding information that is in the public interest and that the public has a right to know, and (d) in the interests of transparency and public safety, will the Minister consider resolving this so that public citizens can easily access the reports?

Question no. 153 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, (a) by what means will the Ag Water Management Policy consider the value of keeping water on the landscape rather than removing it, (b) how is the WSA engaging in good faith community engagement with the public in terms of receiving feedback for the development of this water mitigation policy, (c) what stakeholders have been consulted so far, (d) how does the WSA decide which stakeholders to invite to the consultation meetings, (e) does the WSA intend to include a wetlands component within this policy or develop a stand-alone wetlands mitigation policy, as identified by the Provincial Auditor, and (f) when does the Minister intend to comply with the Auditor's recommendation?

Question no. 154 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister of Government Relations, (a) for the past five years, how many disputes have been brought before the Saskatchewan Municipal Board for resolution, (b) of these, how many have been resolved, (c) how many are currently pending, (d) what is the median and mode timeframe for resolving issues brought forward, (e) what is the minimum and maximum duration, (f) what actions is the Minister taking to reduce the both the frequency and the timeframes for these activities, (g) by what process and under what qualifications are SMB members selected, (h) how are conflicts of interest by members avoided, and (i) what assurance mechanisms does the Ministry employ to ensure a fair, robust and timely dispute resolution process?

Question no. 155 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, (a) does the Minister have any intention to address security concerns and rising amounts of violence occurring on Saskatchewan's municipal public transit systems, (b) why or why not, and (c) would the Minister consider engaging with municipalities to design and implement concrete actions that may help resolve these emerging issues?