



FOURTH SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 53

Thursday, April 25, 2024

10:00 a.m.

PRAYERS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

With unanimous consent, the Assembly observed a moment of silence in remembrance of workers killed or injured in the course of their employment.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following members: Teed, McLeod (Lumsden-Morse), Young (Regina University), Burki, and Clarke.

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 pass legislation to improve conditions for Saskatchewan workers.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 17)

To meaningfully address the affordability crisis in Saskatchewan.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 30)

To immediately suspend the carbon tax across the nation of Canada and acknowledge its significant impact on affordability and inflation in Canada.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 155)

To enshrine Duty to Consult into law by enacting meaningful duty to consult legislation.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 161)

To protect the Duncairn Reservoir Migratory Bird Sanctuary from any proposed expansion of irrigation.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 164)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN AND CENTRAL AGENCIES

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

2024–25 Estimates

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

Resolved, that there be granted to His Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2025 the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance	\$280,214,000
For Public Service Commission.....	\$33,764,000
For SaskBuilds and Procurement.....	\$156,740,000

The committee considered the following estimates for which no funds were requested:

Executive Branch of Government

For SaskBuilds Corporation

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 Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation (Statutory)

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)

2023–24 Supplementary Estimates No. 2

The committee considered the following supplementary estimates no. 2 for the executive branch of government and adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved, that there be granted to His Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2024 the following sums:

Executive Branch of Government

For Finance \$1,000

For SaskBuilds and Procurement \$8,995,000

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

Debt Redemption, Sinking Fund and Interest Payments

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. 196)

On motion of Mr. Vermette:

Ordered, That the tenth 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. 156 — The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2024

Bill No. 157 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2024

Bill No. 159 — The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2024

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 Ms. Conway:

That the Assembly calls upon the government to request a special investigation by the Provincial Auditor into the government's use of public funds to pay for motel stays through the Ministry of Social Services.

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. 1, moved by Mr. Bradshaw:

That this Assembly calls upon the Government of Canada to devolve all relevant parts of The Firearms Act to the province of Saskatchewan in order to allow it to administer and regulate legal firearms possession.

The debate continuing, pursuant to rule 27(4), the question was put and it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

YEAS — 41

Moe	McMorris	Reiter	Harpauer	Duncan
Merriman	Tell	Makowsky	Marit	Skoropad
Kaeding	Cockrill	Ross (Regina Rochdale)	Eyre	Harrison (Meadow Lake)
Carr	Hargrave	McLeod (Moose Jaw North)	Bradshaw	Dennis
Ottenbreit	Francis	Young (Lloydminster)	Steele	Harrison (Cannington)
Bonk	Nerlien	McLeod (Lumsden-Morse)	Grewal	Keisig
Lemaigre	Jenson	Beck	Wotherspoon	Teed

Young (Regina University) Burki Clarke Sarauer Conway
Domotor

NAYS — NIL

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

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:41 p.m. until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

*Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker*

RETURNS, REPORTS, AND PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Ms. Eyre:

Bylaws, rules, and regulations of the following professional associations and amendments thereto under provisions of the respective Acts:

- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
- College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan
- College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists of Saskatchewan
- Law Society of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses
- Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers
- Saskatchewan College of Midwives
- Saskatchewan College of Occupational Therapists
- Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals
- Saskatchewan College of Psychologists
- Saskatchewan College of Respiratory Therapists
- Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association
- Saskatchewan League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents
- Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission
- Saskatchewan Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 96)

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following questions were given notice on day no. 49 and are to be answered by day no. 54:

Question no. 10 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, regarding water-related emergency response and planning, (a) please list the amount of inflow into Lake Diefenbaker each year over the past 10 years and as a percent of historic inflows; (b) please provide outflow data (hydro and simple releases through the spillway) through the Gardiner dam for each year over the past 10 years, and as a percentage of historic outflows; (c) what is the projected inflow into Lake Diefenbaker in 2024; (d) what is the present level of the South Saskatchewan River and where does the level stand from an historical perspective (i.e. lowest in the last 10 years, 20 years, etc.); (e) according to the Alberta government, many areas in Alberta are dealing with drought conditions, particularly in the southern part of the province; there are currently 51 water shortage advisories in place in Alberta; on March 6, the flow near the mouth of the Bow River was measured to be 39.9 m³/s, the lowest March measurement in the last 24 years; please provide a record of specific actions the Water Security Agency has undertaken to assure that Saskatchewan will continue to receive its 50 percent share of the water flow from Alberta; (f) in early December last year, the town of Leader declared a state of emergency with respect to its water supply given that the level of the river where the town gets its water had fallen to such a low level that its intake could no longer sustain the community's vital supply; what is the province doing to assist the community to ensure that this doesn't happen again, and what was the reason for the low water supply on the South Saskatchewan River back in December; (g) are you expecting to see flooding in any of the Saskatchewan water basins and, if you are, which basins; and (h) are you expecting water levels to be low on any of the major lakes in the province such that it will cause problems for piers, floating docks, ferries, boat moorings, etc., and, if you are, which lakes would that be?

Question no. 11 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, how many FTEs does the Water Security Agency presently have and how many did you have in each of the past 10 years?

Question no. 12 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, for those portions of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* that the Water Security Agency is responsible, (a) what performance objectives related to the protection of water resources and habitat has the WSA established and undertaken monitoring and reporting, and (b) can you please provide monitoring and reporting results for the past 5 years?

Question no. 13 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, (a) what actions and mitigation measures is the WSA taking to address elevated mercury levels in the Rafferty and Alameda reservoirs, and (b) can you please provide water quality monitoring data for the Rafferty and Alameda reservoirs for the past 5 years?

Question no. 14 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, in 2022-23, the Water Security Agency entered a memorandum with the Ministry of Highways to provide a full range of expertise and advice related to the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project with respect to planning, cost estimating, designing and rehabilitation or construction of all aspects of the project; is that memorandum still in effect and how much money has the WSA paid to the Ministry of Highways for the above services?

Question no. 15 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, in 2021 the Provincial Auditor recommended that the Water Security Agency actively monitor and enforce using technology (e.g., drones, airplane flights, mapping tools) to collect information (e.g., aerial photographs) in high-risk areas specifically to identify and take action on unapproved drainage works; the auditor also noted that not taking timely enforcement action on unapproved drainage works increases the risk of landowners not achieving compliance or not changing the culture; in addition, further damage may occur to surrounding landowners and the receiving water body if compliance does not occur timely: (a) how much did WSA spend on monitoring and enforcement in 2022-23, (b) how much is budgeted for monitoring and enforcement in 2024-25, and (c) how many acres were brought into compliance in 2022-23 as a result of WSA monitoring unapproved drainage?

Question no. 16 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, (a) how many fulltime equivalent employees (FTEs) were in the Agricultural Services and Economic Development Division within the Water Security Agency in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, and (b) what is the budget FTEs for 2024-25?

Question no. 17 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, with respect to irrigation in the province, how much water from a water rights perspective has been allocated in total and by major regions in the province for the years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, and current year 2024-25?

Question no. 18 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, (a) can you advise how many water-related legal claims or legal suites are presently registered against either the Water Security Agency or are managed by the Water Security Agency on behalf of the province, (b) can you please provide a list of claims, the reason for the claims, as well as who registered the claim, and (c) how significant an issue will salinity claims from irrigators be in the future for the Water Security Agency?

Question no. 19 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, WSA recently announced that it will be charging \$1,000 to file drainage complaints, (a) why was this fee introduced, (b) how many complaints have you received since implementing this fee, (c) has WSA undertaken any cost analysis on different methods of handling unapproved drainage works, (d) how many orders did WSA issue in 2022-23, (e) how many drainage complaints are outstanding as of today, and (f) how much does it cost to acquire a drainage license?

Question no. 20 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, it is my understanding that WSA will be piloting the proposed Ag Water Stewardship Policy this year, (a) how much has WSA budgeted in the current 2024-25 fiscal year to pilot the proposed Ag Water Stewardship Policy, (b) how much has WSA budgeted to measure impacts to water quality and habitat loss as part of these pilots, and (c) how much has WSA budgeted to restore wetlands in these pilots?

Question no. 21 (Ms. Ritchie):

To the Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency, (a) can you tell me where in the Growth Plan it states that the proposed almost 2 million acres of new land will be gained through wetland drainage, (b) how much has WSA spent over the past 5 years, either directly or indirectly, supporting farmers to drain wetlands, and (c) how much does WSA intend to spend in the current fiscal 2024-25 year to support wetland drainage?