



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS
AND
ORDERS OF THE DAY**

No. 54

Monday, April 29, 2024

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

QUESTION PERIOD

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS (See Appendix A)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Estimates:

Vote 10 Executive Council

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

1. On the proposed **motion no. 2** moved by Mr. Wotherspoon:
That the Assembly calls upon the government to suspend the collection of the provincial fuel tax from gasoline and diesel for a period of six months in order to help families struggling with the high cost of living.

(Ms. Conway)
To be voted

2. On the proposed **motion no. 3** moved by Mr. Bonk:
That this Assembly supports the Government of Saskatchewan's policies that have resulted in the attraction of \$17.1 billion in capital investment to Saskatchewan in 2023, and are estimated to increase to \$19.6 billion in 2024, including the development of international trade offices; and further,

That this Assembly denounces the provincial NDP for their abysmal record of attracting capital investment to the province under their poor leadership, and for overseeing the decline of Saskatchewan's population.

Adjourned once

3. On the proposed **motion no. 4** moved by Ms. Conway:
That the Assembly calls upon the government to pass legislation to improve accountability and transparency in Saskatchewan with regards to lobbying, electoral finance, conflict of interest, and freedom of information.

(Ms. Young (Regina University))
Adjourned once

SECOND READINGS

1. Bill No. 613 — The Saskatchewan Employment (Fairer Workplaces, Better Jobs) Amendment Act, 2023
(Ms. Sarauer) PRINTED
2. Bill No. 614 — The Public Participation Act
(Ms. Sarauer) PRINTED

3. Bill No. 615 — The Comprehensive Wetland Conservation Policy Act

(Ms. Ritchie) PRINTED

4. Bill No. 616 — The Duty to Consult Act

(Ms. Nippi-Albright) PRINTED

APPENDIX A

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

1. 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?

2. 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?

3. 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?

4. 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?

5. 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

6. 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?

7. 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?

8. 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?

9. 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?

10. 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?

11. 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?

12. 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?

APPENDIX B**IN STANDING COMMITTEES****STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY****Committed after Second Reading:****Specified Bills: must be voted on before Completion Day*

*Bill No. 158 — The Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive (Patent Box) Amendment Act,
2024

(Hon. Mr. Harrison (Meadow Lake))

*Bill No. 160 — The Immigration Services Act

(Hon. Mr. Harrison (Meadow Lake))

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSE SERVICES**Estimates:**

Vote 76 Advocate for Children and Youth
Vote 34 Chief Electoral Officer
Vote 57 Conflict of Interest Commissioner
Vote 55 Information and Privacy Commissioner
Vote 21 Legislative Assembly
Vote 56 Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner
Vote 28 Provincial Auditor

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE**Estimates:**

Vote 73 Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
Vote 92 Firearms Secretariat
Vote 30 Government Relations
Vote 3 Justice and Attorney General
Vote 27 Parks, Culture and Sport
Vote 88 Tourism Saskatchewan

Supplementary Estimates:

Vote 73 Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
Vote 30 Government Relations
Vote 3 Justice and Attorney General
Vote 27 Parks, Culture and Sport

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS**Committed after Second Reading:**

Bill No. 906 — The Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute Amendment Act

(Mr. Ottenbreit)

APPENDIX C

LIST OF BILLS AWAITING ROYAL ASSENT

Bill No. 149 — The Franchise Disclosure Act

Bill No. 150 — The Securities (Saskatchewan Investors Protection) Amendment Act, 2023

Bill No. 152 — The Protection From Human Trafficking (Coerced Debts) Amendment Act, 2023

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