



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

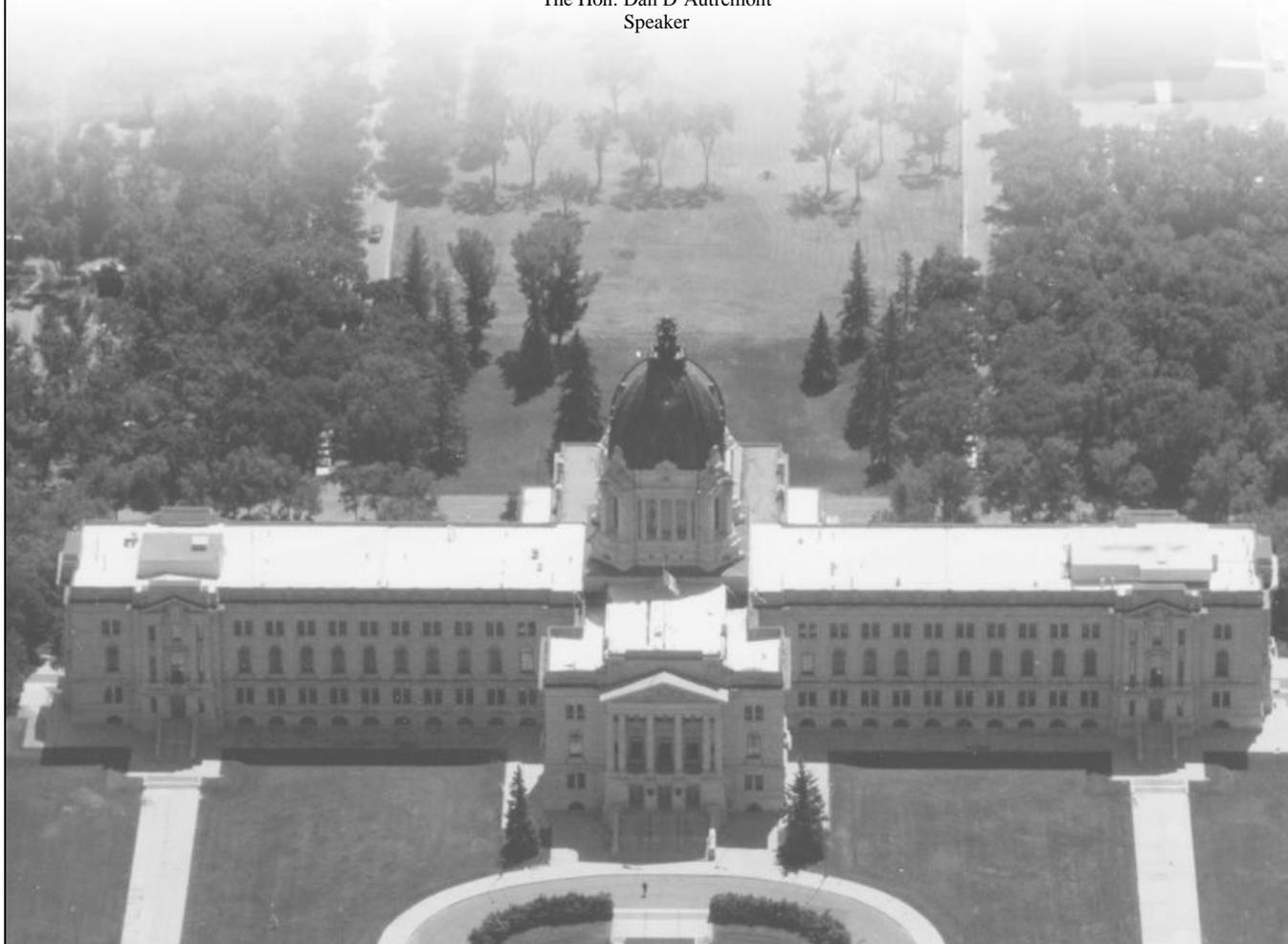
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Dan D'Autremont  
Speaker



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Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — John Nilson

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Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
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Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
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Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

**EVENING SITTING**

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It now being 7 o'clock, I'll call the Assembly to order and invite the Clerk to call the next item.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 71**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 71 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on commenting on Bill 74, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2012*.

There's quite a bit of, I guess, changes that the government's introducing. But one area, and I mean, we didn't go on, but I think before a person even gets into the changes, I want to talk about some of the challenges that people are being faced with alcohol. And we see some of the changes that the government's introducing and with those changes . . . And if you're making alcohol more easily accessible to our young people or to, I guess, community members, then you may have some of those challenges. And I know they talk about a review. Now if there was a review, they might have talked with industry. I don't know who all they discussed, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Who was a part of that committee? Was it just business, was there MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly]? Was it individuals from the ministry?

But having said that, they've come up with some changes that they're going to propose, and I believe that there's about 70-some changes in regulations that this government is introducing and I know the minister announced.

Now I just want to talk a little bit about, I guess, the concern from individuals who would face challenges when it comes to alcohol. And we talk about our young people. And we're going to have time to discuss this one because I think this warrants some serious conversation, some time, and put some time into some of the challenges that I think people are facing, whether it's our young people with addictions, whether community members are struggling with addiction when you make alcohol more easily accessible to individuals.

Now having said that, I know there was a group and I believe it was the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute in the province is the name. They came here and did a presentation. And we had a

meeting with them downstairs in the MLA's dining area, and I remember the minister was there from Social Services, the minister. There was a number of MLAs who joined the youth and talked to them and tried to see some of the videos and the pictures they showed. And they did a presentation about fetal alcohol syndrome. They talked about youth and binge drinking and the damage that it's doing. And they showed some pictures that were pretty, pretty scary, and I think some hard facts that they go around and share at schools, and they show them what can happen when you're binge drinking or individuals decide to try drinking. And some of them, whatever.

If you look at the videos and I guess some of the pictures and the information and just the conversations we had that day with them, you know, you reach out to young people. And it's good to see, not only from a staff point that work for the institute, Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, and what they're trying to teach young people about alcohol and, I guess, the damage that it can do.

There's social drinking. No one's opposed to that. Some people can social drink and no big deal. They don't end up with an addiction. It doesn't cause them any grief in their life, and they . . . Very well, and that's great.

Unfortunately, I know from my own family the challenges alcohol has done and the damage it has done. It is not . . . It's tough sometimes to deal with because you see the damage it does to people that you love, you respect, and you see the damage that it does. Truly, it takes a toll on families and communities. And there are some very special people out there. They are. You don't give them alcohol and you couldn't ask, and I mean, for better individuals. But sometimes you add alcohol and the two just don't go together for some people. It's almost like there's an allergic reaction to it. And that's the sad reality of it and, I mean, the damage.

We talk about incarceration and how many people, and I'm going to go over some of the numbers from Prince Albert and we're going to get a chance . . . But there is a story here about the damage that alcohol does, and sometimes we forget about that.

And sometimes when government wants to, maybe there's regulations they want to change, amendments they want to do to legislation like they're proposing, you have to also be prepared to deal with the damages that it will cause and the changes you are making, proposed making, to understand. Could there be? I don't know.

But I'm hoping that . . . I don't have all the answers, and I don't think the government does. And I don't think the committee would have all the answers, but I know there are many challenges when it comes to dealing with alcohol, and whether you're running a restaurant, a licensed restaurant or a sports lounge, whatever, a hotel that has an off-sale or that it has an area where you can have a few drinks, and that's great and wonderful, and sometimes it's managed well. Some individuals are trained when to cut somebody off, to say that's enough. And there is training.

And I want to talk about that too because that's important, that

there is training. And I know it's voluntary, and some hotels and some of the business people, they do an excellent job of making sure that their employees are trained. I know that. They make sure that they have the training and how to deal and how to learn to handle the cutting individuals off — when to. And that's great. And for those businesses that establish that on a voluntary basis, I commend them and say, you are being responsible, and you're doing your best. And we can't expect more from them in that way. But that's voluntarily.

But also there are some, to be honest, out there that I'm sure that people don't get training. They're just doing a job. They get paid. And they're going to go out to the business where they work, and they're going to apply, and they get a job. They just serve the liquor, and that's their job there whether they're a waitress, a waiter. There's bartenders. The man that owns the business or a family owns a family-run business, they operate it. They're just trying to make a living. And I understand, and no one's against that. We understand that, but there has to be also balances.

And I guess the liability on somebody operating a facility like that and your staff, you are responsible at the end of the day. And we see that more and more being challenged when we see impaired driving and individuals that get in the vehicle after they've left a facility, and they've been served too much alcohol — we know that — and for whatever reason. The investigations prove that, and it comes back. So there's this liability.

But here, you know, whether it's training . . . So there's going to be a lot of different things to look at, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the challenges.

Sometimes we look at the violence and the alcohol that's causing in some of our communities. And it's not just in Aboriginal communities. It's not just in northern communities. It's not in rural communities. It's not in just the big urban centres. Alcohol affects a lot of different communities. And we see it's not just First Nations communities, not Métis communities. It's throughout in the province. And I think the numbers will show that there are issues. And these are serious issues we're dealing with, and we see the violence and you see the violence.

And you know, to talk to somebody, and I have, to talk to somebody who has gone out and actually killed somebody while they were drunk, blacked out. They had no idea what they did. And you know, this guy's telling me what he did and, you know, he has no clue. He got arrested. He woke up in the morning, they told him, well. He thought he was going to be let out of cells because he got arrested for drinking. And he thought, oh well I just drank too much. And they said, well no, you're not getting out. And he said, what do you mean? I'm sober now, I'm ready to go. No, no, no — you actually murdered somebody.

So there are the sad realities. The man didn't even know. So that's sometimes the side effect of the alcohol. And I say this, it's truly, what do you say to somebody in tough times that go through that? So having said stories like that, and there are individuals who truly . . . whether they're driving, there are so many challenges that are affecting our Saskatchewan people. And you look at the numbers in Saskatchewan and you look at

the comparisons to the rest of the province, you know, in Canada and some of the communities, and you look at the other provinces and Saskatchewan has the worst record of drinking and driving fatalities. And we know that, and we're looking at some of the stats. I'm going to talk about some of those stats because I think it warrants some serious looking at this.

And we can change regulations. The government can say, well yes we're going to, you know, change certain regulations. And some of these might be housekeeping, and I'm not saying that they aren't and you don't need to review them. But I hope at the end of the day when you're gone through those reviews and you think you've done what's best, I hope that at the end of the day we're providing the addictions treatment and the resources that the government has an obligation. You're making alcohol more easily accessible. I hope you will make the addictions treatment just as easy and accessible to individuals when they're ready to look for help.

And I know individuals that have tried to get help, and the front-line workers do their best. And they do, they do an excellent job trying to help individuals. When someone says, I'm at the end and I need help and I can't do it anymore, we have to be there as a government. And we have to make sure there's the proper treatment centre, that they are there. Whether you live in a small community and in rural Saskatchewan, whether you live in a big city that's urban or the North, whether you live in a First Nations community or a Métis community, to me it doesn't matter. If you live in the North, the South, wherever, when it comes to that point and you're asking for help, we've got to make sure the doors are there and we're willing to help those individuals who are saying they need some help.

And unfortunately sometimes addiction treatment centres, they're full to the capacity. There isn't that opportunity when you have somebody who's coming in and saying they need help. And I think the government has to do definitely a better job of the treatment.

And we know, we're going to talk about, I am going to talk about different groups. We look at our young people. And you know, where government does something that's good, whether it's a treatment centre for youth, I commend that. I do. I'm not here to play politics with it. I think it's a serious matter, and it warrants a serious look. And it deserves the attention of all 58 members in this House to make sure that we're providing the best service, addictions treatment service for individuals when they get to that point.

I've said earlier, there is social drinking and some people handle it fine. They're not addicted to it. They handle it fine and that's fine. And some people and some of the regulations that are talking about in here . . . And I'll just go a little further into that. You see some of the stats in Prince Albert of the public drunkenness that individuals . . . You know, you're in a public place and you're drunk and you're arrested and you're put into cells. The numbers are alarming for Prince Albert. They're talking about it and some of the stats in here are truly alarming. They are. They're worse than anything. I think they're 40 per cent worse. So when you're looking at some of the numbers that we're talking about, there is a problem.

Now having said all this, government has the power and government has the budgets for treatments. Government has the power. And I mean they're changing the provisions right now, their mandate. And this is their mandate; they're making provisions.

What I find really frustrating to me is . . . We had this group that come to the legislature, and I want to talk about that because I think it's important. We had a group come here and a lot of MLAs went downstairs, and I give credit. We showed our support to hear issues about, you know, binge drinking on our young people in the schools. And this institute, Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, they go to the schools and they're going up North. And I commend the young staff that they have with them, the volunteers, the youth that came with them. Again I want to talk about the . . . Because I think that's so important.

Here they are. They're meeting with us. They're telling us the struggles and what they see and how they're reaching out to the communities, whether it's in Pelican Narrows, I believe they were going up in some of the northern communities. I commend that group. They were going to be in the South. They're going all over to talk about the addictions and binge drinking and what it does to young people. And if you look at some of the information they shared with us, some of the stories, it was amazing the challenges that are facing our young people. We know that there's a lot of challenges.

But when I also see that they're here on the morning — and, you know, this is alarming — and we meet with them and it's all great and all sides . . . And no sooner than we get them out of this building and they're on their way out, we're announcing changes to the legislation and regulations, 70-some changes.

To me the timing, I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was just about all I could take. It's like I just was so frustrated. I could not believe that you would meet with a group of individuals who are sharing tragedy, you know, and life — loss of life — and stories that impact so many people in our province and the challenges. And just listening to it, it was so frustrating to me to announce later, here we have the minister announcing all these changes after these young people and an organization working hard to deal with fetal alcohol syndrome and all the different things that are going on with our young people and addictions and just trying to bring awareness, that we would be announcing all these changes within an hour of them leaving here.

I just found it totally . . . I have to be honest with you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I found it totally disrespectful. I thought it was, what timing — like come on, couldn't you wait a day or two? We're talking about the week and prevention and, you know, Addictions Awareness Week. The timing of it was terrible. It was just, I don't know who decided, but to me it was wrong. It was the wrong message to send.

And I looked at those volunteers and I looked at those people working hard to bring that awareness. It's almost like, you know, for me I felt almost insulted for them. But how you would do that after they just leave here? We met with them and you go and announce these things. Give it some time. Like give it a week. You could've waited till, you know, the week was over, to roll this all out. Was it that important to roll it out hours

after they leave here? Like to me it just didn't, it just didn't look right. It didn't feel right for me as a member, you know, in a 58-member sitting in this Legislative Assembly. I truly am glad I had time to think about it because had I of spoke to this bill at that time, honestly I think I'd of been more frustrated and angry about it and more insulted.

[19:15]

But having said that, I want to commend that institute and the good work that the young people are doing. They've asked me, they want — I'm going to be contacting them — they would like to talk a little further for some of the things they're doing, the challenges. And I'm going to work with them as much as I can to try to help individuals, and if there's anything I can do with them to understand and educate myself on the issues.

But having said that, government is going to go ahead with the changes, and they're going to introduce them and they're going to go ahead with that. I understand that. They have the members and they'll vote this thing and it'll go through. But I say this and that's a caution: I caution, the changes that are coming here, I realize some of them might be simple housekeeping items but some of these might impact people's lives. And you know what? It might impact some of your grandchildren or community members or your family members. This may have harsh consequences. I don't know that, but I just know what alcohol can do, the damage it can do and it has done to many communities and to many individuals' lives. This has totally taken some communities away.

And to watch some of the tragedy that has happened to individuals and families and people in our province and all over . . . Alcohol, you know, if it's accepted in a social way, it's fine. Some people can handle that. I've said that. But we have to make sure that we have laws that protect individuals. And it's about safety.

And I know, I realize we have an all-members committee that are going to get together and, you know, for safety, to look at numbers and a committee that will go around having hearings to deal with. And I'm going to be a part of that. And it is an honour when I heard that: you know, would I accept it? But having to say that, we'll see where it's going to go. We have to work some of the details out. I realize that. Are we going to always agree on everything? Maybe not, but I sure hope at the end of the day we do what's right for Saskatchewan people, not just in the South, not just in the North. We make sure this is right throughout — not just the urban. We make sure it's rural. We make sure First Nations communities get a chance to have hearings in their communities. This thing has to go out.

So I mean, I look at this as a committee that will do some hearings and make recommendations by the end of August. So there are some challenges, and I realize we're not going to always agree on this. But talking about many of these changes that are in here, and it's challenging and I think it will be challenging to many families.

And when you sit . . . And probably most, I hope most people have realized and seen situations where the alcohol, and whether it's a function, a dance, whether it's, you know, gone to a social and you see not everyone handles the alcohol the way

we say is acceptable. Some people may be a little bit too boisterous when they're drinking. Some people get too physical. Some people, they assault people. It's the nature of that alcohol sometimes. It just takes over. And you feel for those individuals. But unfortunately the law is the law, and you can't . . . just because you're drinking doesn't mean you can physically harm someone or do damage and not pay consequences for that.

But having said that, we better make sure that we are putting in provisions — and I'm making this very clear — that are protecting individuals. And I am saying this to all members of this House: you have to make sure that if you're going to make alcohol more easy, accessible to people in different ways . . . And I mean they're talking about bringing your own wine in. Some of those things might be fine, you know, bring your own wine in. Maybe that's what the restaurant owners want and the industry wants. That's fine. You bring your alcohol in. You bring it. If you have some left over, well they'll cork it for you, recork it, and you can take it home. I assume that's what's going to happen, or if it stays there. I'm not sure of those details. I mean nobody has shared that, and maybe that's going to be worked out in the fine details.

And sometimes when we pass legislation, the regulations do come out later in the details and, you know, it's worked out. We don't always have, you know, all that information shared with us, and sometimes we need to find that out. So that's just one area I want to talk about because I've heard some people talking about that. Some said that doesn't make any sense, and some people are saying, well there's nothing wrong with that, if they want to. So those are some of the details that have to be worked out.

But having said that, I think some are talking about mandatory training for people who serve alcohol to the public. And maybe it's time to do that. And you know, anyone who's lost a loved one, and we talk about people who are serving alcohol to underage. I mean those challenges come up, you know. It's a sad situation to see a young person, somebody has supplied alcohol to them and, you know, a loss of life because of that, whether it's alcohol poisoning or the young person ends up choking on their own vomit because, you know, they're on their back, whatever. I've seen that. I know that for a fact.

It hit families and it does hit families. And it's when you see a family that lost a loved one because of that — a person so young, sometimes 15 years old — it is, it's amazing. Because you thought, man, they were just going to go out and have a little fun. And that's what the thinking is, and that's how dangerous sometimes this can be. So I say this with caution, any time we're going to change regulation that it's going to impact, and it can be safety.

And we look at, you know, the fatalities with drinking and driving in this province. It's the worst of any province. It's the worst. There should be alarm bells ringing. And maybe that's why we're coming together with a committee to look at whether it's impaired driving, whether it's speeding. And I know we're going to look at things and, you know, we're going to have a chance. But we're going to be looking at the safety side of it and the alcohol. And those might be some of the information community members share with the committee in the hearings.

We might find out about, well here's some of the challenges with the drinking. Here's some of the challenges with an impaired driver that maybe killed a loved one of someone. And they're going to come to the hearings and they want to be heard as parents. And that's going to be hard to hear some of the stuff and go through some of those challenges, and sometimes it needs to happen.

But those are the sad realities and those are the harsh things that happen with alcohol. And I think we have an obligation as a government to set the rules, but also to make sure that we've done all we can. And at the end of the day, the people ask us to do the best thing we can, the best we can for them to protect them, to protect the public from impaired drivers. And we know that we have, you know, you can dial a number and you can turn in impaired drivers. If you suspect somebody of drinking and driving, turn them in. Call. Don't let them go out there and operate a vehicle. I know sometimes we feel, well we shouldn't get involved and maybe some people feel that way.

But these are changes that are coming. And I mean there are so many of them, and you look at them and there's different ones. And I realize the minister was interviewed quite a bit on these and, you know, she talked to some media about the handling. And I guess we're talking about going into and having a striptease now as well. And the minister talked about that. And if that's covered in these regulations that . . . And I mean she handled that as best she can. But then you also hear some people saying they're concerned about when you have this type of, I guess, dancing going on in a club you might bring in some attention from, whether it's a gang. And I think some people think, is it drugs? There's different things. So you're hearing different discussions about that. And I don't know if it has a chance to do worse, make things better.

But anyway having said that, the government is changing some regulations to allow certain things. And some people will question, you know, I guess the motives behind that. Why now? And maybe there's a reason why. That's up to the government to answer and the ministry to discuss what their reasons are. Here we're going to be talking about some serious matters and things that will impact Saskatchewan people. And we have an obligation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to make sure that we're asking some tough questions in committee and we're going to have to go through this. But for now, this is quite a bit of regulations that we're seeing and changes that are coming forward.

But I want to go back to the seriousness of how families are impacted and to watch individuals have to go through the challenges that they go through and, you know, when you have families and communities that are impacted by impaired driving and a family being wiped out by an impaired driver and just to see what that family goes through. And whether it's a young child left and their parents have both been killed in a car accident because somebody decided to get into a vehicle and drive and whether they were blacked out or whatever, they got in that vehicle and operated that vehicle.

And I know our police try to the best job they can do, and I know some people, we encourage them to turn those individuals in if you suspect somebody driving. And there are people who get away with driving and they get away too many times. And there are situations where you hear stories about individuals,

you know, who get away. And that is a sad thing. Some get charged and some have, I guess, dealings with it. And some, I don't know for whatever reason, get off and it doesn't make sense to me sometimes. We don't understand the whole story.

But there is different ways it's being dealt with, and whether it's 24-hour suspensions. Some probably don't get anything and some get a lot. You're hearing different things. I know individuals that have gone through the courts and they're losing their driver's. I mean there is talks about, do we seize their vehicles? You know, if you're suspected at a certain level, we're going to seize your vehicle. Like these are all things that might come out, and we'll have to see. Those are opportunities that we have, and I think the work of a committee and the safety committee can look at those things. Like who knows what's going to all come out of this? And I guess the ministry can come out working with highways, with enforcement and finding out what are the best ways to curb . . . And what are other provinces doing in Canada to deal with this issue? It's a serious issue.

What are other provinces doing? What are they doing what we're not doing because our record is terrible. When it comes to impaired driving and fatalities, our record clearly, when you look at the numbers, if you look at it, what's causing such a high number in Prince Albert with public intoxication? To see the challenges and addictions all over — whether it's in urban, whether it's in rural, whether it's in the North — if the numbers are so much higher and if that numbers are telling us that we have a problem, then I think government has an obligation to make sure that we have the facilities to deal with the addictions when individuals are saying, that's it, I've had enough. I need help. I want help. And when you see individuals turned away and they have no facility to go to because they're, for whatever reason, they don't have any beds available or the treatment centre is not available because it's full to capacity. Then what are we doing? Are we looking at out-of-province? Are we looking at that? Are we going to provide more services?

So if you're going to make alcohol more easily accessible to everyone in this province, and that is clear. And I'm glad that the government, you know, I was really concerned when the SaskParty at their convention . . . And you know, I talked to a lot of people about the SaskParty's convention when they looked at lowering the age to 18. It wasn't that the idea came up — and that's fine. Some people said to me, it happens. People talk about that, and that's fine. What was really alarming to individuals and people that have shared this with me — and even to myself, I have to say — the Sask Party's convention, was that they actually passed that resolution. That was the scary part.

It wasn't that it came up as a discussion item, and somebody brought it forward and said, I'd like to move a resolution. The sad reality, Mr. Deputy Speaker: it passed. It passed. They passed that. That was really alarming to a lot of people. And I know the government said, oh we're never . . . We're not interested in changing. But to me the point is it passed at their convention. Their members said it was okay. It should be lowered.

Well that's within their party, and that's their area. I'll leave that with them. I know I would not support that, not seeing what

it has done to community members, as far as I'm concerned. So that's another area and, you know, we'll leave that alone.

But having said this, and I'm going to because I think it's so important, I want to say this last bit about this bill. I mean there is more I could say, and I know we will in committee. We're going to ask a lot of questions, and I know we'll all be in there because I'm prepared to make sure that we take the time that warrants the seriousness of alcohol and the damage it's done to so many communities.

And I look at northern Saskatchewan. When I visit some of the communities, I do outreach. And you hear some of the stories that I have to be shared to me. It's sad to listen to some of them — the mushom, the kohkom, and the mom and dad. And the tragedy, you know, somebody's being charged with an offence. They don't even know what they did. That to me is a tragedy. And that to me, it touches your heart to see a family deal with that and those that . . . You know, the loss of a loved one to violence because somebody was drinking, and it took over. And they're at a party and somebody gets . . . you know, the violence. And we realize that. And when you have alcohol and some people lose control, you have so much more chance of the violence and of something going wrong than you do with just out there socializing and everything else.

So we have to be careful what we're doing, and we have to make sure we're doing it with cautions to public safety, with cautions to individuals for treatment to make sure that we have that. And that's the seriousness of this topic and, I guess, a bill like this and alcohol in general.

I'm not opposed to social drinking. I'm not opposed. That's fine. I mean that's okay if it's handled the right way. To me it's making sure that if an individual is not a social drinker and they have a problem, if they say they have a problem, then we better make sure and this government better make sure that if you're going to change and make it easier accessible, you had better make darn sure that there's treatment centres available. Because when those treatment centres aren't there for those individuals, then I hope we come forward and let this government know clearly with those individuals, and as an opposition and members on that side that maybe see it as some challenges. And they're facing it in some of their communities to say, no this is wrong. And it doesn't matter if you're a minister, if you're a backbencher in the Sask Party. If those are issues facing your communities, you will fight and bring those concerns forward too as well, should we have to.

[19:30]

So I'm hoping with this bill that at the end of the day we will make sure . . . Yes we're changing; some of them are housekeeping. But we will make sure that we're providing the services that are going to need it to people that are saying, these changes have impacted me in a negative way. Is there provisions to make sure that I have a place to go for treatment or supports, whatever I need? Will I have that? And I hope these provisions will provide that. So I remind the government, yes this is your legislation.

These are challenging times for some communities, some families and, you know, at the end of the day, Mr. Deputy

Speaker, we know clearly that there will be challenges from what's being proposed here in these changes. I don't know all of them, but for those, you know, individuals that are going to suffer some of the negative consequences of these changes coming in . . . Because we don't all know. We don't all know what we're doing. We're thinking these are good housekeeping. We think these are good changes, but after the fact when somebody, whether it's loss of life or something happens serious to a family or to whoever in this province, then this lies back on the government because it's their legislation. It's their changes that they're bringing forward and they are responsible to take care of the safety of the public. And I leave that on their shoulders, and like I said, I think there's going to be definitely more questions in committee, but at this point I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 71.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 71, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 72

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 72** — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Good evening, Mr. Speaker. It's with a great deal of interest that I rise to participate in the debate this evening on Bill No. 72, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2012*.

Of course this piece of legislation came forward in the wake of a tragedy that occurred in our province in the South, a work zone collision that cost a young flag person, Ashley Dawn Richards, her life. And I guess, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you can't bring forward decent legislation or take steps to improve the situation or to ameliorate the danger in the wake of something as tragic as that, then, you know, what are we here for? And I haven't been around this legislature as long as some or perhaps yourself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I have been here long enough to see both sides of the House work together when something very much like this comes to the attention of the Assembly.

I think of the work that had been done by the then member for Coronation Park, Kim Trew. The Minister for Highways at the time was the member from Cypress Hills. And the way that work was able to be done in an expedited fashion to correct a shortcoming in the safety regime for, in that case, highways workers that were out on the road doing that work and with the heightened risk that comes with that; and the way that this Assembly was able to work together to get the legislation changed and to get the appropriate safeguards in place as was highlighted by a tragic circumstance that occurred northwest of

this city, Regina, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I guess those are things that give you some hope in terms of our ability to recognize issues of great importance for what they are and to give them the seriousness that is their due, and to make those changes. And it was certainly that circumstance that was on my mind when I heard about this legislation coming forward. And certainly I think this is very much the right thing to do in terms of this piece of legislation.

And that the survey that had gone into trying to improve the safety of workers out on the road and improve the traffic safety on our highways, you know, Saskatchewan being what it is, there's a lot of road for our million-plus people and everybody has some experience with the orange zone or perhaps has family that have worked on highway crews. I know myself my father, when he was quite a bit younger, used to work on a road crew and they had the circumstance where they'd be working at night and after — as my dad recounts the story — they had, you know, the cars come whipping into the work zone, they'd finally gone to the foreman and said, you know, look, you've got to at least give me a flashlight or some reflective gear or some darn thing. And so because he had spoken up, he got the flashlight. But the next night they're out on the job and at the other end of the work zone, because the other worker hadn't spoken up about it, no flashlight for that worker. So then, you know, it took him another day to get that sorted out.

But there are some things that are very common sense in terms of people doing some very, what can be very dangerous work on our highways, and it shouldn't be, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So as the circumstances come to light, as common sense is unable to dictate to people, if you're approaching a work zone, slow down, and if those things can't be done by common sense, then we as the state or we as government, the people need to step in.

So put me on record, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as being glad to see this legislation coming forward. And again it will be given its due debate in this Chamber, but then we'll certainly have questions in the committee stage of this. But from where I sit I think there's some fairly practical, helpful measures in this legislation, and if they can save one more life, Mr. Speaker, or spare one more family the kind of agony that this young woman actually, Dawn Richards, her family went through, then that's a good piece of work. That's something that we should be doing as legislators in responding to those issues that arise.

As going through the suite of measures proposed in the legislation — the better use of rumble strips, gates to narrow the approach to work zones, making sure that that 60 kilometres per hour is better enforced — you know, those would seem to be practical suggestions. In terms of the increasing of fines, tripling the base fine, again on the face of it that seems to be a helpful and appropriate measure. To make sure that the, you know, possibility of photo radar in the work zones, again you'd hope that common sense would preclude some of these measures being adopted. But if that's not the case and the incidents pile up on the other hand, then I think that it is high time that something like photo radar was given a try in these regards.

In terms of the changes that need to be made to section 280, wherein referencing the minister's second reading speech:

Section 280 currently gives law enforcement the ability to seize any vehicle if the officer believes it is being driven unlawfully or poses a danger to other drivers . . . [wherein] the intent was for this section to be used only in rare or extenuating circumstances when offences are urgent or dangerous or when the owner of the vehicle is not available and the vehicle poses a threat to other drivers. However, vehicle seizures under the section of this Act have increased significantly since 2005. Often these seizures are related to impaired or distracted driving offences.

Well you know, it's . . . I hear the member from Indian Head-Milestone speaking from his seat and again, you know, you'll have plenty of opportunity to participate in these debates. And I think he'd be interested to note and maybe he was too busy talking to his colleagues, but earlier in my remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was actually talking about work that he was directly involved in and the worth of it in terms of improving the legislation of this province.

But you know, with reasonable people you can reason, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And if members on that side want to pick fights or something like that when we're talking about something like we're talking about here today, you know, I don't understand how you respond to that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But back to the bill. This is on the face of it a pretty decent piece of legislation and something that we'll have more questions to ask about in committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Traffic Safety Committee that is yet to come, again we're very interested in how that does, how the work of that committee is conducted. We're interested in the scope of that committee. We're interested in making sure that if we're going to use that committee vehicle, that it gets out across the province, that it talks to communities where traffic safety issues are a huge concern. And you don't have to take my word for it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You can go to those communities and you can see the crosses by the side of the road and know the importance of traffic safety to those communities.

And if there are measures that can come forward there or if there are measures that should be expedited, that should occur to us as legislators in need of expedited action, I would hope that the good sense would prevail in terms of being able to move quickly but thoughtfully but to make sure that those steps that can be taken are taken.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again it's Bill No. 72, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*. It's a bill worthy of consideration in this Chamber. I'll go again on record saying I am glad to see this piece of legislation coming forward. I think that it's got a lot of merit to it, and we've got . . . You know, it raises more questions for us that we'll certainly ask, to do our job of scrutiny in this stage of the bill's life and in committee. But again I'm glad to see it come forward.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 72, the highway traffic safety amendment Act.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina

Elphinstone has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 72, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 73

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 73 — *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to weigh into the discussion tonight on *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2012*.

I think the one thing that I'd like to start out by saying is municipalities are . . . You look at the different levels of governance: municipalities, provincial government, and federal government. But with respect to municipalities, that really is where the rubber hits the road, where politicians of the local variety are hearing day in and day out about the things that impact people on a daily basis, whether it's the potholes, garbage collection, recycling, bike lanes in Saskatoon, all kinds of things.

And I know often I'll get calls into my office, or door knocking you'll hear from people who don't distinguish between the various levels of government. But they know when they have a concern that impacts them, they need to talk to someone. But often concerns at the municipal level really are the ones that are impacting you. You really feel it in your day-to-day life. My neighbour is a former city councillor, and it's interesting having discussions with her. I like to think that I'm fairly accessible and open as a provincial politician and I'm always happy to chat, but I know it's interesting as a municipal politician. The things that impact people in a day-to-day life, really you get questions about everything as a city councillor in Saskatoon. I know that that's the case. It's your first point of contact with an order of government.

[19:45]

With respect to Bill No. 73, *The Municipalities Amendment Act*, I think my point about the earlier discussion, I think when we're setting up a legislative framework, with respect to setting up a legislative framework, it's very important to ensure that we get it right. This is about making sure we get it right for municipalities and for ultimately our constituents. There's only one constituent of all, basically of all of us. We represent different orders of government but setting up a legislative framework that works is absolutely imperative. So it's important that we get it right.

The minister here, just going to his second reading remarks, some of the things that this bill, Bill No. 73, *The Municipalities Amendment Act*, the minister says or is proposing, one of them

is around improving processes related to the boundary alterations or annexations for municipalities involved for the Saskatchewan Municipal Board. So what often, as Saskatchewan has grown or populations have shifted, I know annexation is an issue. And one of the things the minister has said here is that the legislation is setting a new time limit on how long a municipality must wait for a response to a proposed annexation application from the other affected municipality before the process is considered disputed. So I suppose what could happen in a case like this is with a longer time limit or no time limit, a way to scuttle an application perhaps is to delay and delay and delay. So this is putting in the framework or the parameters in terms of a time limit.

I know that it also is requiring mediation before the Saskatchewan Municipal Board hears and decides an application for annexation. Which I think, whether it's in your personal life or in professional life or dealings with people, I think mediation is always a good and reasonable way to go prior to pursuing more vigorous and sometimes less helpful ways of dealing with disputes. I'm a big believer actually in mediation, as I said, whether it's around marriage breakups . . . We saw that in a piece of legislation last year actually, or in relationships between various councils, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This Bill also, the minister has said, responds to specific requests from SUMA, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities]. And these are the bodies that deal with municipalities and it's always good to hear where the people are closest to, where the elected representatives are closest to the people, what they have to say.

And the minister in his second reading speech talks about, with respect to SARM, the request is “. . . the authority for RMs to establish additional service areas.” As we know, “Many rural municipalities are seeing the development of areas that require more urban-type services which are different than the typical agricultural areas.”

So residential developments are more common now throughout RMs. Many people want to relocate to acreages or little parcels of developed lots. There's a desire to not necessarily be in a large urban centre for many people.

The minister pointed out that “. . . ratepayers throughout the RM may be paying for services in these residential developments that most of the RM ratepayers do not access or require.” So this legislation will be providing areas to be taxed and serviced at different levels. But the one thing the minister points out, which I think is good that there are some safeguards in here, the minister says:

I'd like to point out that the proposed provisions related to additional service areas also establish important safeguards within the legislation. For example, additional service areas cannot be established to specifically target an individual, residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural property or be specific to a business or business activity.

The second piece of this change is SUMA and involving “. . . greater flexibility to address issues related to municipal debt

limits.” We always have a . . . This is a request from SUMA, and the minister goes on to say that “The ministry is aware of the discussions that SUMA has initiated within the sector as to what constitutes own-source revenue as it relates to determining a municipality's debt limit.” So these amendments, the minister says, “. . . are proposed to ensure authority to define own-source revenues and regulation for municipal debt limit purposes and establish alternate procedures for determining a municipality's debt limit.”

So those are a few of the things. There's another piece here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, around trade agreements actually, the New West Partnership Agreement and the Agreement on Internal Trade. And we've had some debate here in this legislature on some of those agreements, but the reality is we are in those partnership agreements. And what will happen here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the amendments enable municipalities to establish and enter into the voluntary intermunicipal business licensing arrangements and the common issuance of overweight vehicle permits with other municipalities. So it enables intermunicipal business licensing and provides municipalities with discretionary authority to recognize business licences, permits, and approvals issued by other municipalities, including those in other jurisdictions.

And the last main area of this Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is by and large housekeeping and administrative matters such as the signing of council meeting minutes, consistent terminology regarding service or filing of assessment appeal notices, and adding contact information for appellant agents to assessment appeal notices.

Apparently the minister has said that these were first proposed amendments to *The Cities Act* but to ensure consistency among the municipal Acts, these amendments are also included in this Bill and *The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act* which we are also debating in this House, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But again I just want to emphasize that when it comes to our municipalities, the place where it really is the first contact for our constituents, that we make sure that we get a legislative framework right that works both for the municipalities that administer services but also ultimately for the people who we represent at all levels of government, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So with that I do know I have colleagues who will wade in the debate, and I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has adjourned debate on Bill No. 73, *The Municipal Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 74

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 74** — *The Cities Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and speak to Bill No. 74, *An Act to amend The Cities Act, 2012*. And as we know, this Act is amended on a regular basis so that we can deal with issues that arise during the year. Usually they're brought forward to the legislature by the minister on behalf of municipalities or the cities that have specific concerns. And my perception here is that that's how the types of amendments that we have in this particular bill do relate to particular problems that have arisen that are now to be corrected by the legislation.

And so one of the first items raised relates to the whole issue of boundary alterations or annexations that are made by cities. And this is quite an interesting topic because it relates to the nature of a city. Cities normally will grow and they can't very easily grow within the boundaries that they have. Now we have some cities in the world that are limited by their natural boundaries. I'm thinking about Vancouver and mountains and Burrard Inlet, or Hong Kong where they're on an island and little piece of land on the shore. But in Saskatchewan all of our cities have relatively easy expansion into their neighbours' territory. But the question becomes, how do you do that expansion? How are decisions made about that?

Now what we know is that in the city of Regina they have to work with the rural municipality of Sherwood to identify land which they may require 10, 20, 30 . . . I think they actually have a 50-year plan. Most of the cities in the province have at least 50-year plans about possible annexation of land from their neighbours, and this causes some interesting questions around regional planning and around how our laws should be organized to deal with planning on a broader basis. Unfortunately our rules are not maybe as far developed as they should be because we still have issues that arise.

And we know that another piece of legislation that we have in this session relating to the Global Transportation Hub takes kind of a sledgehammer approach to the issues around disputes between cities and rural municipalities by imposing a provincial land base or piece right on top of the city and the rural municipality, then basically saying that the rules will be such as designed by the provincial government in that area that's the Global Transportation Hub. This legislation is the place where maybe the solution should have been found rather than this overriding of *The Cities Act* and the other municipal legislation. So we have the issues around Regina, and they relate to who gets to develop the land, who gets the taxation, how is the infrastructure developed. In the case around Regina, it's to accommodate trucks and trains and vehicles because it's going to be an important commercial activity in that area.

But on a smaller scale, they have the same issue in Yorkton where there is development of industrial land and residential land, all of those things that relate to building. The same thing in Weyburn and Saskatoon. And so what we have in this legislation is an ability to make some alterations and have the matters be dealt with by the appropriate boards within the whole situation, but it doesn't necessarily deal with all of the issues around these kinds of things that happen.

Now what I'm specifically talking about now is the addition in the new section 43.1, and this is a new procedure. And effectively what the legislation will do is add mediation into the process so that before a matter goes for an adjudicative or judicial kind of decision from the Saskatchewan Municipal Board, there has to be a discussion between the parties to see if the matter can be resolved. And that's normally a good process to put in place, and so I don't necessarily have any problem with it, but what it does require is that the parties have an ongoing relationship.

Now it's not dissimilar to the use of mediation in many other circumstances. Some of the first community mediation, the term that was developed out of Denver, Colorado actually, related to the putting of power lines through ranching areas where there was a lot of concern around the benefit of getting the power to some communities that didn't have power and then not causing major disruption for the ranching industry. And also in Colorado there were many environmental issues and tourism issues that impacted that.

[20:00]

And out of the Denver school — I guess if you'd call it that — of mediation, there developed quite a few techniques of community meetings that were public. Community meetings are then very organized mediation meetings to deal with specific groups, whether it was groups of ranchers or groups from the state or groups from some of the environmental groups or some of the environmental organizations. And so as a result, they developed some techniques that they then were able to teach right across North America.

And so many of the earliest mediators in Canada and in Saskatchewan were trained in the Denver school, not necessarily always in Denver, but in places like Vancouver or Toronto or other places. And so what we now, 30 years later, have this legislation being brought forward, which in a way assumes that everybody knows what mediation is and how you can resolve some of these kinds of issues through the process of mediation.

Now what happens when a city decides that it wants to annex territory to expand the city is that it does change the relationship with the rural municipality. And when there are disputes that have been ongoing between a rural municipality and a city, it can be quite difficult to come to reasonable solutions to allow the city to expand. I know that this legislation, the wording of the legislation is designed to facilitate that type of meeting, but I think that we all recognize that this may not be the panacea that it appears in the legislation.

So what we have — and it's not just in *The Cities Act*; it's also in all three of the municipal Acts and *The Municipal Board Act* — is to have this mediation process put into the legislation. And, on the face of it, it's a good thing but I don't think it'll solve all of the problems. There still will be cases where the city and the rural municipality will not agree and it will have to go to the Municipal Board for a decision.

Often the decisions are resolved by a fair allocation of resources, in other words sufficient money to the rural municipality to help them deal with other issues. That, you

know, obviously isn't in the legislation but it is part of a process. And other times both the city and a rural municipality can benefit by a solution that they work out, and sometimes it's the sharing of city water or city services like libraries or schools or other things like that that can make for a broader regional situation.

Now one of the issues we still have in Saskatchewan, which is a challenge for businesses that come to our province and for businesses that are here and also for people who want to develop parts of our province, is that we don't necessarily have very good regional planning or a bigger perspective on how planning should be done.

I know one of the issues for Saskatchewan right now is the planning from, well, effectively where the North Saskatchewan and the South Saskatchewan River join all the way down the South Saskatchewan River to the Alberta border because this has become prime residential area or recreational residential area. And there aren't necessarily clear rules as you go through the various rural municipalities and cities and towns all the way along that stretch that will protect the water and the habitat, but also deal with these kinds of particular issues. And so this legislation goes . . . I mean it has some solutions for some of those issues that are going to rise, but it doesn't get at the bigger issue of regional planning in Saskatchewan.

In Alberta we know that they've had a major attempt to actually have regional planning cover the whole province. There are a lot of start-up difficulties with that, but they have done the initial steps about having regional planning for the whole province. I think that Saskatchewan is in need of that, and it's something that should be looked at in a more formal way. When that type of a perspective comes forward, some of the kinds of changes around boundary alterations and annexations might not be as difficult as they are presently with the different pieces of legislation.

Now another issue that's in this legislation that's, I guess, been requested relates to some of the fees and licences. And I thought it was quite interesting that the wording has allowed for some cities to basically charge for permits an amount that would be beyond what's available for licences. So this is going to be corrected or stopped, and that's not necessarily a bad thing because it's better to have clear rules and have it the same for everybody across the province.

Another area that's interesting, and it's part of the result of the Premier's decision and leadership to go into the New West Partnership, relates to — and also then the subsequent, or not subsequent, but simultaneous, I guess, Agreement on Internal Trade — is that business licensing and municipal procurement rules need to be harmonized across the three western provinces. And this is something that I think will come as a surprise in some communities, especially around the advertising of contracts and who has the ability to bid on these contracts. And I'm not sure whether some of our cities are as keen on this as maybe others within the province are, so we'll have to watch that one as well.

So it's basically the procurement process being changed by provincial legislation in a way that, you know, the idea obviously is to get more reasonable contracts, contracts that are

cheaper for the taxpayer. But we'll have to see whether that's the actual result of what happens.

So now the other areas that are in this legislation are administrative really, and I don't think they necessarily are ones that we need to spend a lot of time talking about because practically they have been brought forward by the cities, or actually by cities or towns or the rural municipalities because usually changes that are made in *The Cities Act* are also matched by changes in the other pieces of legislation. So I think that after looking at those major items, I am not sure that it is necessary that I would spend a lot of time looking through a lot of the other provisions that are in this legislation.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that there's a couple other of my colleagues that would like to speak to this bill, so I will adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 73, *The Municipalities Amendment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 75

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 75 — *The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm sorry. I just sneezed here so I'm trying to get myself together.

This bill was introduced on November 27th, and the minister indicated in his opening comments a number of items that they're attempting to accomplish with this Act. As I go through the amendments, there is actually a significant number of amendments in this Act to amend the northern municipalities Act, and it's quite an extensive change to a fairly new bill. It was passed originally in 2010 and it looks like there's a wholesale change, a whole lot of changes that are being made to this bill. It's a long bill to begin with, with over 450 sections. And if you go through the proposed amending Act, there are a large number of changes that have been proposed, many of them clerical, many of them administrative, and none that are hugely substantive, although the minister did point out in his comments some of the things that he feels the government is attempting to achieve here with this amendment Act.

As he indicated, *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010* provided a legal framework for governance and administration of northern municipalities, and so what this Act is trying to do is tune it up a little bit and make a few changes that are going to enhance the municipalities' ability to do business and to carry out their legislative requirements.

So he indicated that the bill serves a number of purposes. First of all, it's to support the government's competitiveness and growth strategy related to business licensing, overweight vehicle permitting, boundary alteration, and municipal procurement. So there is a number of changes within the amending Act that are attempting to do that, Mr. Speaker.

Then the second change he highlighted was to provide northern councils with greater ability to deal with inactive municipal development corporations, so I'll have a look at that. Also clarifying provisions regarding northern hamlet incorporation and northern settlement dissolution and make terms of office for members appointed to the Northern Municipal Trust Account Management Board consistent with those for municipal councillors. So just a number of items that are being cleaned up and looked after.

And then finally . . . or third, he says he wants to make changes to address other requests from across the sector to clarify wording and improve consistency. So first he said to support growth and enhance competitiveness, amendments to the business-licensing provisions will help municipalities to establish and enter intermunicipal agreements and arrangements that reconcile business-licensing requirements. He said the intent of these is also to help reflect agreements such as the New West Partnership Agreement and the Agreement on Internal Trade to encourage municipalities to reconcile their licensing regimes similar to what Saskatchewan has done in partnership with Alberta and British Columbia.

Again, well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that that's something that needed to be foisted on northern municipalities at this point because there is probably no legislative need to do that, but the changes are there and I'll highlight some of them as we go along.

So he said there's also amendments to overweight vehicle permitting provisions, and we'll look at some of those, and then amendments to the boundary alteration provisions to expedite annexation . . .”

So I don't know how many northern municipalities there are and if there is annexation actually happening at this point in time, but the provisions are there and the minister's indicated the goal is to improve economic growth and remove barriers to impede economic growth. All right, so if we want to get into the changes in the bill, I won't do them all, but I'll highlight a few of them.

[20:15]

There's a new clause after subsection 18(1) where it talks about vehicle weights. So if we look at the original section 18 . . . Actually I want to grab one other piece of paper here, if I can find it. So the existing 18, what the changes are trying to do there is clarifying that if the council intends to establish or adopt a system related to vehicle weights or route designation, it must be done by way of bylaw. So the new section just provides for the council to pass a bylaw to establish this new system for vehicle weights.

The next one is a new section 21.1, reciprocal agreements. One moment please. And this one here, the new section provides

municipalities with explicit authority to enter into an agreement that would allow for an overweight permit issued by one of the municipalities that is part of the agreement to be recognized in the other municipalities that are part of the agreement. It says current legislation doesn't prohibit these kinds of systems but the amendment is required since these are regulatory powers and they should help encourage municipalities to reconcile their respective permitting regimes.

So I don't know a whole lot about overweight permits but it sounds like this is going to help out and encourage them to be reconciled across from one municipality to the next. And the comments here indicate that this new provision is to respond to efforts of government to remove barriers impeding economic growth. And we know that that's something that will be helpful in other municipalities.

There's a lot of chatting going on. It's kind of sounding interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I'll keep trying to focus on what's going on here in the bill.

The next new provision that we could look at is found in . . . Sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Oh there's section 18, 21. It's a big bill and there's lots of changes. 22(4.1) is new. The indication there is the amendments to section 22 allow the municipality to apply to a court to get a stop order preventing they haven't entered into a road maintenance agreement with the municipality and yet continues to haul. So we see now there's a new (4.1) and that reads:

“If a person contravenes subsection (4), or the terms and conditions of an agreement mentioned in subsection (1), the council may apply to a judge of the court for all or any of the following:

- (a) an order compelling the person to comply with subsection (4) or the terms and conditions of the agreement;
- (b) an order enjoining the person from proceeding contrary to subsection (4) or the terms and conditions of the agreement.

And then there's a number of other subclauses that follow that. That's the changes there in section 22.

Now there's a new subclause being added in section 23(9) and this section 23 is regarding road maintenance and the determination of issues in road maintenance. The new subclause is (iii.1) and here it directs either party to provide any compensation that the board considers appropriate in the circumstances.

And if we're looking at the comments here, the amendment was requested here by the Saskatchewan Municipal Board. What it does is it clarifies their authority to direct either party to a road maintenance agreement dispute to provide compensation that the board considers necessary and reasonable. So this is being made both to this northern municipalities Act and *The Municipalities Act*. So that's just more consistency amongst all the clauses.

Now again this Act is too long — 34, 35. Here we go. There's

an interesting change to section 32(1), Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'm not sure how this would work at law but the amendment is being by adding the words "or a tenant" after the word "owner." So what we see now is that, if the person to whom a public utility service is supplied is the owner or a tenant of the land or building to which a public utility service is supplied, it goes on to say the sum payable is a lien against the land and the building. I'm not sure you can put a lien on land if it's a tenant, so the explanation that we have here is that the amendment was made for consistency with the provisions of section 389 and was being made to all three municipal Acts. And the explanation goes on to say that if a tenant has utility charges they can be added to the tax roll of the owner of the property. Now that makes sense, but this seems to suggest that it's also something that you can register a lien against, so that would be something I would want to look into a little bit more if I were the minister in this particular situation.

And in the interests of moving this along, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's page after page of comments that probably should be looked at more closely in committee. Certainly I could take a lot of time to go through them all and highlight them here, but I would encourage the public to take a close look at these, and if there are any questions — again, there's a number of changes that are being proposed — to take a good look at them and perhaps provide comment if there's any concerns that are highlighted on their part. As far as I can tell, the majority of them are clerical in nature. I would think when this bill was passed initially it may have been done in a hurry and that there's a number of corrections that are now needed, because it was passed in 2010 and it's already back before the Legislative Assembly in 2013. So I think as it got developed we could see that there were a few changes that were needed.

I guess one of the ones I did want to talk about a little bit was the changes to dissolution of northern boards, and I think that's found in section 73(2). So what's happened here is that there is a new subsection there, (2.1), and in that one the minister now can declare a northern settlement be dissolved without an initiative on the part of the northern settlement itself. And prior to that, under subsection (2), the minister could, on his own initiative or her own initiative, dissolve the northern settlement if the population was less than 30 or if there was a failure to elect a local advisory committee. This just goes a little bit further now and says that if those conditions exist, the minister can just declare it to be dissolved. There was no provision for that previously.

And I know there's another Act that probably has the same kind of situation, and that's the conservation and development authority Act, and I remember working on that a few years ago. And one of the problems with that is the same situation where you had a conservation and development authority established and then for whatever reasons they didn't elect a new board. It could be that the new municipal council just didn't get around to it. But there's no way to dissolve a conservation and development authority. So perhaps the minister — I think would be the same minister responsible for that Act — might want to take a look at that and see if there's ways to dissolve some of those defunct conservation and development authorities as well.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know other of my colleagues will

want to provide some comment on this bill and at this point in time I propose that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 75.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved adjourned debate on Bill No. 75, *The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 76

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 76 — *The Municipal Board Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — [Inaudible] . . . debate on Bill No. 76, *The Municipal Board Amendment Act, 2012* gives some I guess comments about the role of the Municipal Board and what they do and provisions that are in here in legislation. And currently from what I can see, you have an order in council and the Lieutenant Governor that goes through their order in council to appoint permanent board members.

They're asking for provision in here to allow the minister, I don't know if it's to continue or if it will be a new provision in there, but what it'll do part-time and appoint part-time board members. And it talks about some of the roles and outlines provisions when they're appointed as a part-time board and whether it's referring to some of the pension and different things, some of the coverage. So you look at this one here. Clearly they've asked for some provisions to allow the minister some flexibility I guess to appoint part-time board members and whether that was something that was already happening or if it's new provisions, if it's housekeeping or if it's clarification on some of the . . . But in that section that's where it was asking, giving some power. There's two areas where they refer to that.

But having talking about that, just looking through some of the I guess the wording that they're using and some of the role of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board and the powers that they had, whether they were hearing appeals, there's about four different areas where they used to, and this was established many years ago, and this board actually replaced, I guess, they brought it to under one umbrella a number of different powers that legislation allows this board to operate. And they have some tools and they have some regulations and some legislation that gives them the power to deal with some of the . . . whether it's disputes, whether it's some of the challenges municipalities are having.

If you look at some of I guess the areas that they look at, and if you look at your tax notice, municipalities send out a tax notice whether you live in an urban, rural. And you disagree with your tax notice assessment — for some reason you're not feeling that it's right. And when I sat on council, there was a number of

times where those provisions were used by residents who disagreed and there was a process to handle that. And they would come into your community and there were certain times, and they would provide I guess the expertise and provide that service to municipalities to hear an appeal from individuals. And whether it was a reassessment or whatever, they would determine whether or not you were truly . . . your property was assessed at the proper value. You had that option to have it appealed if you disagreed.

So there's a number of different areas where these provisions provided, I guess, and they talk about some of the jurisdictional stuff that they deal with, whether administration stuff. And they go through and I guess in some details and there's quite a few different areas where they are proposing some changes, whether they're totally changing or what they're asking for provisions in legislation to be changed to give more power to give, I guess, to operate on a day-to-day that the Municipal Board deals with certain issues and claims.

And truly you will see in here . . . And I guess one of the areas where they're asking for . . . and I had said this about the qualifications of part-time individuals who would apply, and there's different strengths and provisions that you have. And you want a balance, and I guess this is what this opportunity provides for the minister to appoint part-time board members with certain strengths and abilities. And there are some provisions here with the skills that individuals have, whether those individuals come into their expertise in different ways. And there would be many areas, whether it's through university, whether they're life-long learners, there's different challenges like that where they're experienced dealing with I guess situations where, whether it's accounting, whether it's legal, you might have some board members who bring that expertise to the table. You might have some individuals that have sat on council, you know, whether they're mayor and council. So they had some experience, and they could bring that strength to the table.

And it might be individuals, whether they have I guess guidance, wisdom, and sometimes we have individuals who have been in our province a long time and have seen a lot of things and have learned. And maybe they haven't learned in a classroom, but they have learned lifelong learning from just living and coping in this world, so they have some skills and strengths to bring forward. And I know they try to find a balance, you know, that there is that balance in these individuals. So you'll want to try to see, as they bring their skills that they have, their expertise, but also you might have individuals from different, I guess . . . You want to make sure that we have a balance of women versus men with different skills.

So there are those provisions in there to make sure. And we hope that the government uses those skills and provisions to allow that so that it's not all one-sided. We have to make sure that there is a balance here. So I'm hoping that, you know, this board has a balance, and not only when they look at skills versus female to male that it's balanced. And I think that's really crucial and needs to happen more and more. That apparently needs to happen.

So having said that, with some of the other provisions that are

in here they're asking about, they might be just, like I said, simple housekeeping items that they want to clear up. And I know that there's a lot of this stuff needs to be asked in committee, and I know we'll work through that when we go to committee to ask certain details. But because there is a lot of areas here where we're just not sure whether those were existing, if they're expanding, and they're just trying to give some explanation to some of those items, I know we will work through those details in committee point by point as we go through.

Here's an opportunity to share just some opening comments about what legislation is coming forward. And I know colleagues before me have spoke. I will speak on, to this one. So at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill No. 76.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — The member from Cumberland has moved adjourned on Bill No. 76, *The Municipal Board Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 77

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 77 — *The Horse Racing Regulation Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to weigh into the discussion on Bill No. 77, *The Horse Racing Regulation Amendment Act, 2012*.

I have to say the thing that I love about this job is the opportunity to learn about things about which you perhaps didn't know, you weren't an expert in prior to this job. The reality is you have to know a little bit about everything. I know we all come to this place with some expertise and certain skills in certain areas, but the reality is you do have to learn and know a little bit about everything. So I would confess that I am not an expert in horse racing and horse racing regulations.

My personal and professional experience goes back to being about a nine-year-old going to Marquis Downs with my mother and her best friend. Actually the one pivotal moment in my childhood is when I placed a \$2 bet on a horse called Danny's Luck, and I came home with \$14, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It was a proud moment, and I still remember that day with my mother. It was a fun evening out.

And I actually, I have to chuckle too that I have a nephew and his partner are big fans of thoroughbred racing in Saskatoon, and that's a regular outing for them. They make small or minimal bets, but they have a lot of fun going out and cheering on their picks. And it can be quite a fun Friday evening entertainment, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But what we're talking about here, what we're talking about here, I think that there's some context that we need here. So this particular bill . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . There's some interesting, there are always interesting evening comments that happen in this place, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But one thing — context, context here, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

What this Bill proposes doing is it will be removing, getting rid of the 10 per cent parimutuel tax from each wager placed on horse racing in the province. So this tax applies to wagers made in Saskatchewan teletheatres on horse races conducted outside of the province. But from my understanding, this will only have an impact on thoroughbred racing — so Marquis Downs.

I know that the standardbred, the Saskatchewan Standardbred Horsemen's Association has some huge concerns about this bill and about changes that have taken place in their history, 100 years of history in standardbred racing. I'm just looking at a news release from 2009 that this current government issued and were very proud to tout their support for standardbred racing in Saskatchewan, providing grants for standardbred or harness racing to horse racing tracks in Yorkton and Saskatoon.

But the one thing that happened this past . . . a year ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that funding was cut to the standardbred organizations, which has a huge impact. So although this cut to the parimutuel tax will help thoroughbred racing, it does nothing to support standardbred racing. In fact I have a letter from Glenn LeDrew, the President of the Saskatchewan Standardbred Horsemen's Association, who actually has some . . . It's not that this amendment is a bad thing in and of itself, but I think the government is ignoring the role that the standardbred racing has played here in this province. And Glenn LeDrew points out that the new Act, I'd like to quote:

As it stands today, the new Act will be of most benefit to Prairieland Park, Marquis Downs race track, the thoroughbred horse racing program in Saskatoon. They currently hold the home market area licence for the entire province, which expires March 31st, 2013. For 2013 three race tracks — including Prairieland Park, West Meadows Raceway standardbred track in Regina, and Yorkton Exhibition, which is also a standardbred track — have all applied for a home market area licence for 2013. As far as I know, the two standardbred tracks have not yet been advised if they will be granted a home market area as applied for.

So what the home market area is, it was created by the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency so that race tracks with a licence to operate a minimum of 10 live race days could generate much-needed other industry-related revenue or off-track betting in their assigned area to support live racing at the track in that home market area. But if there's no home market area license granted to these other two tracks, West Meadows in Regina and the Yorkton Exhibition, the standardbred industry will be shut down after more than 100 years of existence in Saskatchewan.

So the removal of the parimutuel tax, the 10 per cent, is good for the thoroughbred industry, but I think the Saskatchewan Standardbred Horsemen's Association is expressing some concerns or lack of support for their industry, of which they're incredibly proud of the 100-years-plus history here in this

province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So they're hoping that aside from the grant that was cut last year in last budget, that the government will see fit to restore home market areas to enable standardbred racing or harness racing to be able to survive here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I do know I have colleagues who would like to weigh in on this discussion as well, and to that end, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved adjournment on Bill No. 77, *The Horse Racing Regulation Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — Carried.

### Bill No. 78

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Draude that **Bill No. 78 — *The Social Workers Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I am pleased to rise this evening to speak to Bill No. 78, *An Act to amend The Social Workers Act*. This is a fairly straightforward piece of legislation, and I think I understand the intent of the minister on this one, although I'm not entirely familiar with the workings of social workers, although my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale certainly is and would be our expert on that. So again, we find ourselves speaking to things that we don't have a lot of familiarity with, but we certainly have resources within our caucus and within the party to provide adequate comment to these bills as they come through the House.

This particular bill is one that is putting something back that was in the Act a few years ago, and changes came about to where it was removed, and now it's being reinstated. And in particular, it's an endorsement to the licence authorizing a practicing member of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers to engage in the practice of diagnosis. And as I understand, this is at the request of the Association of Social Workers to replace something that was taken away back in 2002.

The diagnosis provision is something that the minister is indicating is necessary, mainly because of a capacity of services in the area of diagnosis from other professionals. And as she indicated in her opening comments that only 78 psychologists and 36 psychiatrists work throughout the province, so that's just over 100 of those physicians, psychologists and psychiatrists, that are working in mental health outpatient services. And the Association of Social Workers indicated that there are about 50 within their organization who qualify to perform these diagnoses and so that will allow increasing capacity of the system. And apparently this is a practice that's working in Alberta and British Columbia as well and Ontario to a certain

degree.

So there's many advantages from the minister's perspective in terms of these amendments. It may mean earlier access to treatment and greater flexibility in how providers can be used to diagnose treatment in mental health orders.

Of course the idea of diagnosing is only the first step along the path of treatment, and if the treatment services aren't available it really won't progress the needs of the patients any further, but at least a diagnosis can be obtained and that's one step along the path of improving the system, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I guess the main impetus behind this is because of the lack of mental health services in smaller health regions and rural and remote areas of the province.

So that's the intent of the bill. As the minister indicated, there's just over 100 people who are working in the mental health sector right now. It's not enough to meet the growing demand for diagnostic services. So the idea is to add this capacity within *The Social Workers Act* and it may add another 50 or so qualified social workers to increase the capacity.

So if we want to look at the bill itself, there's just a few changes that have been made. First of all the idea of endorsement is a new definition being added as (d.1), and what that clause reads is "endorsement" means an endorsement to a licence authorizing a practising member to engage in the practice of diagnosis." So I'm assuming that would be something that would just be added to the licence of the particular social worker and that the association would determine who is in fact qualified to do that kind of diagnosis.

And then the other definition that's being added in section 2 is the definition of practice of diagnosis, which means "... the communication of a diagnosis identifying, as the cause of a person's symptoms, a neuropsychological disorder or a psychologically-based psychotic, neurotic, or personality disorder." So we're talking about some fairly complicated and serious mental illnesses, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And this practice of diagnosis that's being defined is something that the association will determine who's qualified to do.

The next change that's being added is in clause 16(1). And in that case, that's the bylaw making section. So the Association of Social Workers has extensive bylaw authorities made under section 15 and 16, and section 15 is the procedure for passing the bylaws. They all have to be gazetted and there's a number of the provisions. And then section 16 deals with the types of bylaws that can be made and there's a very extensive list of those types of bylaws.

[20:45]

So what we're doing in clause 16(1)(l) is adding "endorsement" after "licensing" so that would be the fees payable for having that diagnosis or having the ability to make the diagnosis or the practice of diagnosis. And then clause 16(2) is also being amended slightly by adding the granting endorsements in subsection 16(2)(a). So not only will the bylaws prescribe the qualifications, standards, and tests of competency for the registration of persons or any category of persons as members, or the issuing of licences, but also now will be extended to the

granting of endorsements.

The same with clause 16(2)(g), there's a new (g.1) that's being added. And this is:

prescribing the requirements that must be met and criteria that must be satisfied to obtain and continue to hold an endorsement, including standards of training and education and additional and continuing training and education requirements.

And I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the key clause to this entire bill because the public needs to be assured that the social worker has the proper training and education in order to make these kinds of diagnoses which are for serious mental illnesses, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so that the Association of Social Workers is responsible for setting out the requirements that have to met and the criteria that the social worker has to obtain to get this endorsement on their licence.

So that's, I think, the nub of this particular bill is that ability to pass bylaws to determine who will be able to make those endorsements. As a professional association, they best know the skills that are required for these types of activities, and it's up to this independent body to make that determination and be responsible to its clientele.

Section 18 is also amended, 18(2), and this is just the section of the Act dealing with memberships and licences and registration. So there's an additional clause now. 18(1) says the council can admit persons, (2) says they can issue licences, and now there's a third subclause that says the council "... may grant an endorsement to a practising member's licence." So that's another change.

Section 21 is also a fairly detailed change, and this is where the Act will now list the requirements for endorsement. So section 21 is talking about who would be registered. They will register and get an annual licence to someone who has paid the prescribed fees. They have to be of good character and they have to comply with the bylaws with respect to registration. They have to meet the membership criteria prescribed in the bylaws, and they have to have a certificate or a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in social work from a university that's approved in the bylaws, and they have to apply within three years of the coming into force of this section.

So the new subsection is 21.1, and this goes on to say that it's called requirements for endorsements. So you are registered but now there's also a requirement to be endorsed. And that reads that the council can grant an endorsement to a practising member authorizing that member to engage in the practice of diagnosis if they produce evidence satisfactory to the council that he or she has paid the prescribed fees, is a practising member. And then the third subclause ties us back to the one where the bylaws are passed, and so they have to comply "... with the bylaws with respect to the requirements that must be met and criteria that must be satisfied for the granting of an endorsement." So that kind of ties it all together.

The final change in the Bill is prohibited practice, and section 24 is being repealed entirely. And the way it reads right now is that "No person other than a member shall engage in the

practice of social work by using the title 'social worker.'" So that's very clear in the Act. If you hang up your shingle without being endorsed by the association, it's illegal and it's prohibited.

And I know that's something that's important to all professional bodies, is having the ability to determine who can and who cannot practise with that designation. I was approached earlier this year by members of the Saskatchewan professional music teachers' association, and they were very concerned because they had been informed by their relevant ministry that their entire Act was about to be repealed. And I have to say it was a relief to see that that was not on the legislative agenda this fall because, again, they are the ones who are self-determining. They're the ones who decide who will be people entitled to have RMT, which is registered music teacher, after their name. And what the suggestion was from the ministry is that they just form a non-profit corporation. But as you can imagine, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's not really something that would be suitable for that, and obviously it's not the case for social workers as well.

So section 24 now reads that "No person other than a member shall engage in the practice of social work by using the title 'social worker.'" So that remains, but then there's also the additional clause where:

[no one] . . . shall engage in the practice of diagnosis unless the person:

- (a) is a practising member who has been granted an endorsement by the council; or
- (b) is authorized pursuant to another Act to engage in the practice of diagnosis.

So two conditions there for doing the diagnosis. One is through the process set out here, and then if there are other Acts which allow the practice of diagnosis and they're authorized under that Act, they could also do that in the same way.

And then there's a new subsection following that called:

**"Practice of diagnosis**

24.01 Notwithstanding any other Act, if a member has been granted an endorsement pursuant to this Act and the bylaws, the member may engage in the practice of diagnosis".

So that's the extent of the changes that were proposed under this bill. Now we do have some feedback and concerns that have been raised, and the view from some of the people that we received comments from is it's all fine and dandy to allow the diagnosis to be made, but unless there's provision for treatment in the rural areas, it really isn't going to address the problem at all. So the services are very important and diagnosis is only one step towards treatment. So there's various things that are required in order to make this work properly, and this is really only the beginning of the changes that are required.

So without resources and all the attendant medical supports that would be needed, this bill is really only the beginning of this,

the problem. And indeed a complete and comprehensive mental health strategy would be what's required here in order to make this as effective as possible.

So at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know other of my colleagues are going to want to comment on this bill, and I'm prepared at this point to adjourn debate on Bill No. 78, *An Act to amend The Social Workers Act*.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved the adjourned debate on Bill No. 78, *The Social Workers Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — Carried.

**Bill No. 79**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 79 — *The Representation Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on debate on Bill No. 79, *The Representation Act, 2012*, I guess there's some provisions in here with boundaries. And let's get right into, I guess, the meat and potatoes of this bill. You've proposed some changes in boundaries but also the way we use a formula to develop the boundaries. And we used to use all citizens in Saskatchewan, whether you were a newborn to 18 years old, right through. There was no difference.

But now we have a government proposing and making changes, and people have asked, why these changes? Why take out anyone under the age of 18 out of the formula to have representation to figure out your boundaries? And it's interesting, especially at a time when you have such a growing Aboriginal population. There's some questions behind this and I know people are asking questions. I know we need to ask these questions and that is the concern.

Why would that be? Would you, at this time, try to take a certain age group out of the formulas that would actually impact some of the rural areas? Because the First Nations communities, the Métis communities, the Aboriginal population is growing. We know that. And if you look at the ages of 19 and under, myself I have 17 that are under 19 and under — grandchildren. So I really . . . very concerning when you look at the Aboriginal population with individuals that are Métis, First Nations. So there are some real concerns with that. Why? Why that change and the way they are doing it? Who requested this? Who asked them?

It's just like we're going to get into this, the bill. And we'll discuss more politicians, three more MLAs. And I mean we're going have a time to really, tonight, go through this thing and show exactly what it is, what the government was trying to do and how they are trying to manipulate a situation for their benefit. And we're going to show some of the numbers. And I

think this bill clearly shows that the lack of consultation the government is willing to do when it has its agenda, and what it wants to do and how it wants to manipulate with three more politicians and the way they are going to manoeuvre.

It's pretty sad at the end of the day to see a government heavy-handed pushing ahead on their agenda. And we see that, and we'll go through that. And I think the numbers talk about that very clearly. When we use other provinces and the number of constituents versus MLA, it'll be very clear what's going on. And you know, I'm going to use I guess some of the, some areas.

And maybe some will say, well we want to, because of the size of some of the boundaries in the rural communities, we want to . . . And I mean some of the members opposite have talked about that, I think, in the press and different things, comment and saying how, you know, they are an hour and a half, some of them two hours to travel to some of the constituents to deal with serious issues. And I agree. They are serious issues. And to have three hours, you know, I understand that. But they have to travel in their constituency to go out and do outreach to try to deal with some of the rural areas, some of the communities, municipalities to have meetings.

But let's be honest. I think, clearly there are some issues because if you look at half of our province, and we'll talk about the land base, half our province clearly has two MLAs representing the North — Athabasca and Cumberland. Two MLAs that represent. Yes, we look at the population. We realize it's a small population when you look at the size. It's spread out, our population. We have some bigger municipalities. We have some large First Nations communities. We have smaller municipalities. But the point is, you look at the land and the travel. For myself, sometimes to travel it's eight and a half hours to travel to one of my constituents at Cumberland House, for instance, from La Ronge. You look at the time.

So when I hear the concerns of two to three hours or an hour travel time — well, hello, some of us have to deal with that on an everyday basis, dealing with outreach and when we're out in our communities trying to make sure constituents have that contact.

And I try my best to represent the community that I represent. Whether they're First Nations, Métis, whether they're municipal communities. I try to represent everyone. And whether they're young children in the school or the high school, whether they're in daycare, I represent them all if there's an issue you have. So I don't see where all of a sudden we want to take out anyone under the age of 18 out of the formula because we don't want to use them.

So we know that there's manipulating of those numbers because of course you might have some First Nations communities or Métis communities with a large young population. We know that. The numbers are just unreal. But we see this government's lack of support to First Nations and Métis when it comes to education, when we see the supports for a growing young population for training. We don't see the commitment when you look at the unemployment rate. So we see that our numbers are coming up as Aboriginal people. We don't see the

government's commitment to working with us to have a better quality of life for young Aboriginal people, young Aboriginal families coming into the age to work and to have training. They want that. They don't want to sit and be on assistance or whether it's band welfare, whether it's provincial welfare. They want to have an opportunity, a fair opportunity. They want an opportunity to train. They want to have more support to graduate so that they can graduate grade 12.

We look at the numbers, and it's alarming and shocking and it's pretty sad under this current administration. You see the programs that they have cut from the Aboriginal population where you look at the employment development program, Aboriginal employment development program, you look at that program alone that was cut. We had so many people, industry, commenting on how good it was.

[21:00]

So here again we see what the government has done with Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal people in this province. And one day, one day they're going to pay a price for that. Trust me on that one — one day. And you know, when we talk about a movement . . . And I'm going to go back to this because I think this is important. I want to show examples of Aboriginal population.

The Idle No More movement, some people may not pay attention. They might not take it serious. I do. I give a lot of respect. When I see the families working hard and interesting, you know, some of the communities that are bringing awareness about roles of conservative governments, what they're doing — Harper's government — what the conservative government here in Saskatchewan is doing. Well they call them the Sask Party, but like I've said before, so many of them are card-carrying Conservative members we don't know the difference. It's hard to figure them out.

But having said that, having said that, we'll soon have the numbers for 2012 here how many were card-carrying Conservatives. We'll find that out. We'll know that shortly. Stay tuned and I'll tell people. Hopefully by the time the session's done we'll have those numbers.

Now having said that, I know previously in 2011 there was just about, before the election, there was just about half of them were card-carrying Conservative members, so I look at that very closely. Very closely I look at that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Isn't it amazing? You talk about Conservatives and you get, you know, you get some voice coming back from them. They either don't like it or they do like it. I don't know. But if that's what you are, that's what you are. You have a choice whether you're a card-carrying member, but they can yell out the way they want. That's their decision.

But having said that, going back to this bill and being . . . Very clearly it's about the boundaries. It's about taking groups of people, Aboriginal people, young population out of the formula. For what reason would that be? And people are asking questions, and they want us to ask these questions. And they want us to share that. And that's why today we're going to debate this bill and we're going to have some discussions about the items, and whether we go through this item by item or that

we have discussions that we want to talk about and get clarification. And I know there's going to be lots of work in committee because this has to continue.

And I know my colleagues before me have expressed this very clearly, but very concerned about the way the manipulation is going on with the boundaries. And at the end of the day, let's be clear. When you start taking out such a large population, people are wondering, why would take those individuals that are under 18 out now? I think because you get to manoeuvre on how your boundaries will look because if you're supposed to be based on the numbers and you take the 18, the boom of the young Aboriginal population, you get to take them out, you don't get the same boundaries. They're going to change. So they might . . . There is something going on there and we need to work this out, and I think the people want us to work this out. They want to ask clarification — why is that? So if you look at the boundaries and clearly, the way they're manipulating them, and that's why they're manipulating them. But having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, very clearly, very clearly, it shows where the government is going to take this out.

Now we'll get into . . . They want three more politicians. They want three more MLAs, you know, at millions of dollars to this province, the cost. And some people are asking, you know, and I know some of the members have heckled and they'll say whatever. When they were campaigning in the 2011 election, did they say to the people on the door? Not one, and we've asked that. Not one did you talk about that you were going to do this. Surprise. Well, guess what? Surprise, surprise. Here you go.

We've got millions for more politicians, but we're going to cut other areas and this . . . We're going to have a budget coming here on Wednesday and let's see exactly who gets to decide. What was the priority of that government? Is it more politicians, millions for that, versus what the issues are with our seniors with drug costs? And we see what's happened to our seniors with more, \$5 more per prescription. We see some of the cuts to education. We see some of the cuts to organizations. We see some of the organizations — Aboriginal, First Nations, Métis — the programs that have been cut when you should be improving quality of life for Saskatchewan people. Whether you're saying affordability, you look at the rents in this province. They're out of balance and there is no way. People cannot afford it. You have working families that are middle class trying to make ends meet and they're struggling; and then you have a government who's prepared to say, but we have millions for more politicians.

You know what's really interesting? Their priorities. They have more money for hardwood floor in the Premier's office than they do to helping our seniors. What does that say? That's their priority? That's a government who has talked about a growth plan. The problem is they can't manage the growth plan, they can't manage the province, the growth plan. Truly, they cannot. They can spin it the way they want and they can try, but clearly the people will talk about this. And at the end of the day, it's individuals that are suffering.

So when you see a government coming out with this type of legislation for boundaries and they want more politicians — that's their priority — people are asking, who asked for more

politicians? And if you look clearly, if you look at the numbers, and I'm going to go over the numbers because I think it's important we talk about the numbers from other provinces to the numbers in Saskatchewan versus constituents versus MLA, the representation that's there.

Let's talk about that and let's make sure we look at the numbers because I think that's important. But this government's priority says, well no, no, we want to focus on more MLAs. We want to focus on more millions for those issues that we want, but we don't want to focus on some of the challenges that working families . . . Working families are struggling out there. And you know, you have a government who talks about being humble. They have no clue what that means. And I've talked about this. They better hope that their Premier stays a long time, because if he should decide to leave them I think that you're going to see a lot of those backbenchers are going to be feeling pretty sad because the people will send the message because of the way . . . your priorities.

You're prioritizing more MLAs. You're taking out the Aboriginal population. You're trying to get rid of it. That today is what we're talking about. Those are some of the challenges. And when I say this, you look clearly, how is it that a government that's supposed to have so much . . . And you know, the budget's coming out and we'll see on Wednesday. What will be this government's priority? It's going to be interesting to see, really going to be interesting to see what this government's priority is. More politicians. It's about hardwood floor. It's about everyone else getting prepared to tighten your belts. The government's asking . . . and they run advertising, \$92,000 worth of advertising is the number we're being told to tell people to get ready.

Now either it's not going to be as bad as they think or the public is oh, it's going to be bad and then it's not as bad so they'll say, the government can spin it saying, oh see, it wasn't that bad. Or truly the government has lost its priorities. And then we look at the waste of money that government has wasted. And we're talking about some of those challenges. The public is wondering, how about our tax dollars? Are you doing right with the tax dollars? The government . . . You've been handed an opportunity again to look after, and people want their tax dollars looked after. They want to make it very clear. They want to make it very clear. They do not want their dollars . . . And people want to share in this boom in the economy. That's the unfortunate thing that's going on right now. So many people are not. They're not insiders with the Sask Party. They're not friends of the Sask Party. And if you're not there, you don't get the benefits that so many are not feeling right now. There's a lot of working men and women in this province, middle class, that are struggling to make ends meet. Do they think that government cares about them? Not with the cost of living the way it's going up, to provide for their families. No. They do not feel that from that government. And you know, you can have so many members . . . And I guess like I've said, a little humble pie? No way, not them. Can they ever admit they're wrong? No, it's always somebody else's fault. So who are they going to blame for this boundaries? Is it going to blame somebody else that they chose to prioritize three more MLAs versus our seniors, versus education? So when you see a government doing that, who are they going to blame for that? It's going to be interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to see who do they blame,

who do they say, it's their fault why we had to do this.

But I want to get into the numbers now and a little bit about the bill. And clearly, let's look at some of the numbers because I think this is worth for the record. We've got to make sure this is for the record. You look at the following, you know, population. And Ontario, 13.373 million residents, constituents; 107 MLAs. They represent per MLA and constituent 124,981 per MLA. Wow, that's amazing. Now Quebec, 7.9 million constituency; 125 MLAs. Well 63,838 constituents per MLA. Wow, if you look at those numbers. Now British Columbia, 4,773,300 and they have 85 MLAs; 53,804 constituents per MLA for British Columbia. Now Alberta, 3,779,400 constituents, 87 MLAs; 43,441 constituents versus MLA. That's amazing if you look at Alberta. Manitoba, 1,250,600; 57 MLAs. Wow, 57 MLAs; 21,940 constituents per MLA. That in itself . . . Now you look at Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, look at Saskatchewan: 1,057,900; 58 MLAs. You have 18,240, the lowest. The numbers that I talked about are the lowest. So there's some questions about this. There's some questions and some concerns.

What and where has anyone shared with the government that they wanted more politicians, more MLAs in this province when you look at these numbers? Is the Sask Party going to share that? Are they going to share those numbers with constituency? I don't think so. They don't want the public to know this stuff. But we're trying to share this with the public so the public sees what's going on, what this government is doing and what they're trying to get through. And it's pretty sad to say that the government that talks about its having the finances coming in so good and all the money to spend and everybody's going to do well, to see that they're prioritizing three more MLAs, more politicians which will cost millions to the province, to the taxpayers. And that's the kind of questions that are going on. So that's a little surprising to the people.

So having said that, you know, we look at the numbers. And how can a government have that as its priority versus over everything else that's going on, whether it's K to 12 education, whether it's daycares, whether it's seniors, whether it's . . . You know, you look at the middle class just trying to make ends meet. You know, they're trying their darndest to keep things going. They're trying to make sure they cover the bills: they cover the rent; they cover the mortgage; they cover the vehicles. The activities they want their kids involved — let's face it, kids today, it's expensive to be involved in activities whether it's sports, after-school stuff. And some of the schools do a great job. We know that. But you know what? That's a sad reality that this government doesn't have that as its priority. It doesn't. It doesn't have that as a priority. It doesn't. It has more MLAs. That's where they want to go with millions.

I don't know how you guys are going to sell this one because you're going to have to answer to that and you're going to get the public asking. And I think we've had a lot of people asking, how come? Why? And at the end of the day, you know, you look at the MLAs, and the backbenchers clearly have to be looking at this because I can't see how at the end of the day they can support and say, yes this is our priority of our government. I realize that they're not in the in and . . . [inaudible] . . . you know. Members that are in the backbenches, you know, they're not in the in, and I realize that. But clearly,

clearly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they should be because there's certain things they can get.

They can't get P.A. a second bridge. We've seen that. That doesn't help. So the backbenchers can't do that so we'll bring up, as certain issues are brought forward to us, as the opposition and different communities, we'll bring clearly to this House how come the MLAs are not fighting for the constituency when they're raising the . . . whether it's Moose Jaw, whether it's Prince Albert. We saw some of the challenge in Moose Jaw that's coming forward. So how come this government isn't dealing with those issues? That's right.

And at the end of the day we know the rural communities, the farms . . . and you know you talk about farms and representation, they want their MLAs to represent them. But I think if they look at the numbers, if they look at the numbers — and I don't have all the facts on this, but I've heard some of the numbers — we're losing a lot of farm families out there. If you look at the province, how many have we lost in the last five, six years, farm families that have left the farm? Where's the numbers? And we need to talk about these challenges. They're struggling out there.

[21:15]

Yes there is the big farm companies. We understand that the big farmers are doing well. We see that, and we've seen some of the numbers when we talk about that, the subsidies that are out there. And they're doing quite well. There's nothing wrong with that. And business needs to do well.

But let's be clear, let's be clear: we need to be talking with individual farmers, the small-farm families. I don't think they're finding it as good. I think they're struggling too. You know, maybe the mom and dad farm, and the mom's working to try to keep things going. So they're struggling. There's a lot of challenges, and I can feel for what's going on. So at the end of the day, I'm just saying we need to look at those communities, and we need to look at the farm community and see how small-farm families are doing on the farm.

And have they been leaving? And we'll get the numbers. We need to find that. So we'll find out. I'm hearing some different numbers. It's almost like somebody had said . . . I think at one time we heard a number — and I don't know if this is the facts, but we need to look at it — but it's just about 5,000 families have left the farm, the small farms. Where have they gone?

So you know, you see less and less families on the farms, on the homestead, and stuff like that. So that's interesting. As you see that happening, what happens to the rural communities? And it's the small communities that rely on that, the small community who has the store, the grocery store who's trying to make it, the restaurant. They're trying to make ends meet within a small community. So there are those issues.

So government's priority is clearly more politicians because for whatever reason they want . . . Well because they have to travel sometimes an hour. And that's the priority of the Sask Party with 49 members because they don't have enough members; they've got to have three more. They hope they're going to get them. We don't know that they'll elect them. They would like

to get them. But you know, that's fine. Humble yourselves as you usually do because you're probably the . . . As we've heard, you're such a humble government. And the people see that. The public sees it.

But having said that, we go through the different numbers and where we're going. So for now, this government and this bill, Bill 49 . . . or Bill 79 — sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker — clearly is asking the people of the province to spend, to trust us. Trust us; we're the government. We know we need three more MLAs. Trust us. We want to take anyone under 18 out of the formula. Trust us. We're prepared to spend millions for more politicians. Trust us with your dollars because we're the government you can trust. Well that's fine. Just keep saying that. Maybe if they say it enough and the PR [public relations] spin, that people, they think, will buy it. But I think the people are starting to ask questions.

They are no longer a young government. Let me make it very clear. They are not a young government anymore. It's time that they are going to have to start dealing with some of the damage for the years that they have served this House, and this is one of the bills that they're going to have to deal with, one of the bills. They have a priority as three more politicians at millions. They've got \$22,000 worth of hardwood floor in the Premier's office as a priority. That's what the people are being asked. So there's the trusting. I think it's going to be interesting when the public has this.

And then you talk about, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the trust. You look at what my colleagues have been raising about, I guess, situations at the universities, the way of handling. And it's insiders and individuals who are getting some of the sweetheart deals, dealing with the government. Those are the challenges that people are frustrated with and wondering what's going on. It's about accountability and it's about trust. And when you take that trust for advantage, we've seen . . . Who did they mentor under? Who did the Premier mentor under? What government? I think, you know, when you look at that in the '80s, who did they mentor under? Clearly we see that.

So having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's very clearly at this point we have raised the concerns on behalf of the people. Why was your prioritizing three more politicians at millions? Some of the areas. So having said that, I'm prepared at this point to adjourn on Bill 79.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 79. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 80

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Boyd that **Bill No. 80 — *The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2012*** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor):** — I recognize the member

from Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to speak to Bill No. 80, *An Act to amend The Power Corporation Act*. This legislation that's being brought forward today has a whole number of provisions that relate to expanding the power of cabinet to deal with the power corporation, the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, and I'm going to have to go through them I think in detail to explain all the different changes.

But one of the most substantial changes will show up a little later, which is increasing, increasing the borrowing limit from \$5 billion to \$8 billion. In the explanatory notes and in the comments from the minister, it appears that the borrowing requirements for the corporation in the next seven or eight years are actually going to be \$11 billion, so it's not entirely clear why the request is only for 8 billion at this time. But it's also interesting to note that the present limit of 5 billion was brought forward by the government into the legislature in 1987 and that that limit has worked for almost 30 years.

So let's go through the bill. I think it's worth, if anybody at home wants to follow along, you can go and look into the government website and find the bill. But basically the amendments that start in this particular bill relate to a whole number of issues. The very first section amended is section 3 is amended. And what's going on here is that the government is asking for some changes to the protections for the corporation and for the minister and for the board members and the employees. So they're asking to put in a new section in this particular legislation that would effectively allow for a limitation of class action nuisance lawsuits brought against emitters.

Now this must relate to the fact that in Saskatchewan we still have a great portion of our electricity produced by burning coal. We know that that's changing because of the price of natural gas, so there are more opportunities to use natural gas to produce power. But what this particular legislation is doing is asking that the power be given to provide a limitation on the lawsuits that may be brought forward. And so this is an interesting protection. It basically says that if a whole group of people are damaged by activities by SaskPower, that the ability to sue them is not there in this particular legislation. So now it says effectively that there's still a responsibility on the corporation to exercise reasonable care, but it does limit this ability of a group of people who may be injured or damaged by the emissions from a power plant or any other activity to recover legally in the courts. So those are damage claims that are causing problems.

Now the rationale is that in British Columbia they have a similar clause for BC Hydro, which has been in place for a while. I think that may relate to the fact that they have more experience with class action lawsuits in BC [British Columbia]. But this is a change, and I think the public needs to know about it. And it is justified in the legislation or by the minister as being something that will protect SaskPower now. So that's a new section added, 3(2.2).

There's another new section that's being added which removes the personal liability of the minister, directors, and officers from

damage claims where they've been acting in good faith or under the authority of the Act. Now this is another protection that's being added in place to deal with the fact that directors, ministers, CEOs [chief executive officer] of corporations have been held liable for damages to people as a result of the operations of power production. And it's here. It does provide this protection of SaskPower as far as it goes here, but what we need to make sure is that the public understands that the right to sue has been limited.

Now the next clause is an interesting clause because it relates . . . This is a change to clause 8, section 8 of the Act. And it only adds, you know, one or two words to this whole legislation but it adds the term reliability. Now what we know is that SaskPower over the years has had a very reliable system because it was effectively a closed system. It still is kind of a closed system in that we only have tie lines with our neighbours in a very small amount. Maybe 10 to 15 per cent of our power is tied in with our neighbours.

But in North America there's a . . . standards are set by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation which establishes these reliability standards. They're especially crucial in the States because so many power corporations trade power back and forth between different agencies. The most dramatic example of what can happen is when there was a power shutdown in production on the southern side of the Great Lakes, which actually then came around both the US [United States] and the Canadian side of the Great Lakes and basically generated a great concern in Ontario and in Ontario Hydro about the reliability of their system.

One of the results of that particular circuit breaker, kind of, sense of the power being shut down all around the Great Lakes was that the highest priority in Ontario Hydro became having many smaller sources of power so that there would be power available even if the main system shut down. And that's one of the rationales in Ontario for the development of many of their small hydro projects, many of their wind projects, and they actually paid a huge premium on the electricity produced in those projects which then made them economically viable because reliability became the number one issue for them in setting up their power system.

In Saskatchewan as more interconnection happens with our neighbours but also as there's more wind power on the system, as there are more small power systems, as there's less or rather as there are more private generators added into the system, reliability becomes a question. And so what this particular provision is doing is it allows for a standard for reliability to be added in to the provisions in the legislation. And this is important because it then allows for an independent auditor, this North American Electric Reliability Corporation, to assess how SaskPower is doing on its reliability. Now this is a whole new area for SaskPower because it hasn't been required before, and one of the questions then becomes, how are these assessments made of SaskPower and its reliability?

[21:30]

Now many parts of the province have complaints different times in the year around the power outages that happen within SaskPower. This may actually be able to assist in dealing with

some of those issues, although most of the power outages in Saskatchewan relate to weather-related incidents or sometimes animals and other things that deal with the power lines.

The next provision in this legislation then relates to how we can set up the auditors to assess the compliance with the standards, and it's the standards of basically the design and operation and reliability of the whole system. And this provision allows for that to be done independently or outside of SaskPower. That hasn't been the way that they've done it for many, many years so this requires that there be some new provisions put in place. And once again, these will be contract auditors to do this kind of work. Now it also, in this same area in section 8, goes to effectively allow for other facilities to be brought into the system and to make sure that they're complying with the reliability standards. And the subsection then allows for SaskPower to bill those institutions or other corporations to get the cost back to them.

Now probably the biggest example of this would be the Northland Power project that's at North Battleford. We still have not received full information as to how much that's going to cost Saskatchewan taxpayers either in the short term or in the long term. And some of these provisions directly relate to trying to bring those type of private projects into the system and do it in a way where there can be an independent audit of it. So we should, we need to watch this pretty carefully and see what's going on.

Now the next section is clause 6 of the bill, and this section relates to market activities. And it indicates that this is a whole new section for the legislation. And, Mr. Speaker, this is something that I think all of us should be quite wary of and carefully examine what is happening here.

Effectively what this legislation, this section 6 — which is a new section, 8.4, in *The Power Corporation Act* — it allows for market activities to take place. Now what happens is that SaskPower's traditional role has been to provide power to Saskatchewan people and do it in an efficient way and in a way that makes sure that resources are being used appropriately. But what this particular section does, appears to authorize SaskPower to have a section of it or contract with somebody to be involved in buying and selling electrical energy, buying and selling natural gas and any other products — we know that from some of the plants they have the fly ash which is sold as a business transaction — but that these transactions and this marketing is being directly authorized in the legislation, and protection's being put in place to do this particular activity.

Now it states very clearly in the notes that are here that the purpose in doing this would be for SaskPower to get involved in these markets with the goal of making a profit. Well that's always the goal when you're going into a market. But what we also know is that this is the kind of difficult area where BC Hydro is still being sued by some of the southern California electrical companies over deals that they made in buying and selling power during some of the heights of power trading, and they've created some fairly substantial liabilities on BC Hydro.

And so what . . . We don't know for sure what is intended here in this provision, but it is taking SaskPower away from its core business of providing power for the people of Saskatchewan.

And so what this legislation is specifically doing is giving SaskPower the capacity to enter into these contracts.

I know that within the community of people who understand SaskPower and how it's working, that this issue has actually been raised, that there has been a lot of gas trading, electricity trading, and other activities which are not fully able to be scrutinized by the public, and that there are some issues around that. Now this may be legislation here that's going to attempt to create some of the legal basis to allow this to be an activity at SaskPower. But my advice, after many years following this file, is that this is an area where we need to be very careful because what can happen is that you can make some money but you also can lose much more money very quickly and this money will be at the expense of Saskatchewan people. And we need to have full disclosure on what the intention is as it relates to this particular part of this legislation.

So SaskPower's going into the marketing business. Who are they going to sell it to? What kinds of operations are they going to be involved with? Are they going to be buying power in other parts of the world and selling it to other areas or are they only going to be selling their own power? Are they going to be buying natural gas in places where they're basically just trading in natural gas futures? Or what are they going to do?

So I think there are quite a number of questions as it relates to this. We'll obviously have a chance to ask more questions when we get into committee about this, but if it's an attempt to legalize things that they've been doing outside of their mandate, we need to know that. If it's an attempt to go into a whole new business because they think they can make a bunch of money, well then we need to know who are the people that are going to be running this or who is SaskPower going to contract with to do this type of activity because when you're trading in this whole very volatile world of commodities — electricity, natural gas, and other things — and using public money to do that, we need to be very careful watching that.

So now the next clause is a clause related to, and it's a change, to section 10(3). And effectively what this says right now is if SaskPower is involved in buying or selling real property of a value of more than 150,000, it has to be approved by Lieutenant Governor in Council. And the importance of this is that that becomes a public record, and it's a document that we can see on a regular basis. And we monitor the orders in council as it relates to buying and selling of property on a very regular basis.

This legislation appears to want to change that amount of 150,000 to an amount that . . . Well we're not quite sure what it'll be. It says, and I'll read subsection 10(3):

Where the purchase price or sale price of real property included in one transaction entered into by the corporation exceeds the amount fixed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the corporation shall obtain the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council . . .

Right now the limit is 150,000. It's in the legislation. We know that that's the rule, and we get full disclosure of the purchase and sale of land. What this does is gives the Lieutenant Governor in Council the ability to set the amounts from time to time and in effect hide transactions from the public. And so we

would say that this is not a very smart or transparent way of amending this legislation, and it may be one that the Premier would want to check with the minister about changing that so that we're not obscuring the buying and selling of real property in this Crown corporation. So it's another example of where it appears they want to hide some things in this legislation.

Now the next section relates to the power to expropriate. And the rationale here for this particular legislation is that they want to replace the present power to expropriate with something that more closely aligns with the present expropriation Act. And right now I don't think there have been any major problems related to this, but maybe there are some issues that have generated this particular change. But practically, when land is being expropriated, it should be done in the most transparent way available. And I think that that's one of the issues that's here. So this is another one that we need to watch very carefully and understand exactly why this change is being made. It's probably not possible to tell from the legislation itself, and so we may end up then having to ask questions about, what are the particular circumstances that generated this change?

But I think practically that SaskPower needs power to expropriate in appropriate circumstances. So it is a traditional power that they've had to make sure that their power lines or pipelines or anything else are operating appropriately. I know that there are some issues with underground cables and other types of cables that they put in place where this may be a required change that we have. So expropriation is one of the things.

Now the next section also relates to this whole issue of expropriation, and this one has been amended to effectively make it clearer by how it's being drafted. And practically we can ask questions about this section 15 amendment when we are asking questions about section 14.

[21:45]

Now the next provision of this legislation is clause 10 of the bill and it relates to section 23 of the Act and it's effectively a dictionary type change where they're making sure pipelines, the word pipeline, is one word and it's spelled the same everywhere in the Act. So I don't really have too much difficulty with that particular provision there or in section 11 which relates to section 24 of the Act.

Now the next section, clause 12 of the bill which is an amendment to the section 29, this one ends up clarifying that *The Homesteads Act* doesn't apply. Now anybody who's bought or sold property in Saskatchewan knows that there's a declaration that you have to put on or swear if the non-owning spouse is involved with the disposition of a homestead property, and the corporation Act gives an exemption where these lands or easements are required for power lines or pipelines. This particular section here will add the words "poles, structures, wires, conduits or pipelines." So it adds a whole number of other words that clarify how this applies. I suspect that this must have come out of a specific situation where they were having some difficulty getting the acquisition of land and there was a homestead involved. But we can get a chance to ask about that when we get into the committee.

Now the next change relates to the repeal of section 30.1 and I guess both . . . and 30.2. And both of these changes relate to a time not that long ago, I guess about 12 years ago when the land titles system was being changed and so there was a time when, during that transition where we had both the land titles automated network development project operating and the old land titles system, and this wanted to make sure that any SaskPower transactions during that time would be fully dealt with in an appropriate fashion. That's no longer a requirement, and this will just remove those clauses from this bill.

The next section in this bill once again is just a minor change around the change in the name of the Highways department. And so then we're getting close to the end of the bill, which is I think a good sign.

And what comes then in section 17 is once again adding the provisions around all of the related structures that go to transmission and distribution lines, so it's related structures: wires, conduits, communications equipment, cable, or pipes. And so that's all included in the bill, and also there are some changes around getting easements for that.

Now the next section 18 or clause 18 of the bill relates to section 43 of the Act, and this is where the borrowing power is increased from \$5 billion to \$8 billion. This is an interesting change that's being requested. And the difficult part is that we know that the Minister of Finance and the Premier have been taking money from the Crowns, including SaskPower, to apply those funds in other areas, and so we're concerned that this may be another part of that.

We do recognize that there are many capital projects that are under way at SaskPower over the next period of years. But unfortunately the way that the monies have been moved from SaskPower over the last few years raised concerns that were set out — it's now over 20 years ago — with the Gass report when what he and his committee of people had to do was go in and try to figure out for the Crowns whether the debt that they actually had in the Crowns was related to the corporation or related to the operations of government. We sincerely hope that that's not the track that we've been going down the last few years but unfortunately there are comments from the auditors, comments from other people, who are raising questions about this. And so this particular clause facilitates borrowing more money in the Crown, and we need to watch that.

And as I stated at the outset of my comments, the last time this amount, this borrowing limit was increased was 1987 and we all know kind of what happened with the finances of the province just a couple of years thereafter. And so we're concerned about that particular situation.

Now then clause 19 of the bill is replacement of a relocation easement power, and also emergency powers about electricity or electrical energy. The provision around relocation looks like it's pretty straightforward. But when we get to the other clause around the delivery of electrical energy, I think all of us should be watching this one carefully. This follows the discretionary power provisions in *The Manitoba Hydro Act* and it talks about what a power emergency is. And so when you look at — in this definition, this is going to be the new section 59.02 of the power Act — it talks about, and I'll quote:

In this section, 'power emergency' means an emergency by reason of:

- (a) damage to, or destruction, failure or breakdown of, any of the corporation's transmission or distribution lines or apparatus, equipment or other facilities;
- (b) waste of electrical energy;
- (c) a demand for electrical energy in excess of the corporation's electrical energy resources; or
- (d) any other matter that restricts or may restrict the delivery of electrical energy by the corporation.

And so then in subsection (2) of that legislation, it goes on to say that:

Notwithstanding any other Act or law, if, in the opinion of the corporation, there is a power emergency or a power emergency may reasonably be expected to occur, the corporation may do all or any of the following:

- (a) allocate and distribute electrical energy between different customers or classes of customers, and, for that purpose may establish preferences and priorities between different customers or classes of customers; [or]
- (b) interrupt or decrease delivery of electrical energy or cut off the supply of electrical energy to any customer or class of customers in order to effect the most economical, efficient and equitable use and distribution of electrical energy; [or]
- (c) regulate, restrict, prohibit and control the corporation's generation, transmission, distribution, supply and use of electrical energy".

So these are powers that are new. This is a new provision that's giving powers to SaskPower to make some very crucial decisions about how electricity is distributed in the province.

Now what we see here is that it gives them the right to ration, to cut off power. How it's done in other parts of the world is, when there are clauses or powers like this, it may be that — and I think we have it in some of the supply contracts with our largest users in Saskatchewan — is that if there's a huge demand because of weather or whatever or a problem with some of the generation, generating capacity, you can reduce power to a particular industrial site to make sure that there's power in people's homes. Or I know in other countries they often will shut off the power in the middle of the night, and so you'll have power off from, say — I don't know — 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. And everybody just knows that's part of how the power system works. But this is a type of activity which we're not used to in Saskatchewan because we have capacity to cover our power needs.

But clearly there's a concern within the Power Corporation that we're pushing the limits of our ability to generate sufficient power for the province. And so here in this legislation, there's a provision which will provide those emergency powers and

make some, you know, have SaskPower make some very difficult choices. Now we don't quite know how this is all laid out or what the process would be to deal with this, but those powers are given in this new section and it may be that we need to have much more detail on how this would happen. But we can clearly imagine that there are situations where the amount of power available would have to be rationed or curtailed, and that's something that we should all keep in mind.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this legislation is a whole series of amendments to *The Power Corporation Act*. They have quite significant effect on individuals, on corporations, on the ability to sue the corporation, to sue the minister, to sue people when there's damages from some of the emissions. There's a whole array of changes that we need to look at very carefully. I know that some of my other colleagues here would like to speak to this bill as well and so at this time I will adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 80, *The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 81

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Boyd that **Bill No. 81 — *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act*** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to talk tonight to Bill No. 81, *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act*. This bill sets out to do a few things, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The first thing it does is it changes the Global Transportation Hub from a treasury Crown, which was established as a treasury Crown in 2009, to a statutory corporation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And one of the other things it will be doing, it will be moving the Global Transportation Hub from municipal to provincial jurisdiction, so taking the jurisdiction from the city to the province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And the Global Transportation Hub, I'd actually just like to read no. 19(1) into the record here:

Notwithstanding *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act* or *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the authority has the exclusive authority to grant all approvals required for a development within the transportation logistics hub, and neither the city nor any other municipality within which the transportation logistics hub is located shall restrict or in any way control development within the transportation logistics hub.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the authority is hereby designated as an approving authority within the meaning of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, and has the exclusive authority to exercise any

power and grant any approval or make any decision that an approving authority or council can make pursuant to *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, including approving the subdivision of or development of land located in the transportation logistics hub.

[22:00]

So that piece, Mr. Deputy Speaker, sets out how the Global Transportation Hub will become the regulatory body for its master land use plan, inclusive of all the Global Transportation Hub or GTH land planning, zoning and bylaws, infrastructure design and development standards, and subdivision approvals and building permits.

And I know earlier in the fall here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there were some issues around jurisdiction with the RM [rural municipality] of Sherwood and the city. And the province had some issues ironing some details out around Kal Tire coming to Saskatchewan.

So I don't know, is this the evolution? I know the minister said basically that this bill is the evolution of the Global Transportation Hub, but I think some of our questions on this side of the House and just people in general in Saskatchewan will ask the question: is this structure in fact better for the Global Transportation Hub and for the people of Saskatchewan with respect to the inland port operation? Will this help grow our warehousing and logistics sectors?

And how . . . I think a question that needs to be asked is how will the GTH work with both the city of Regina and the RM as well? Those are important questions to ask, especially when we're moving a body from one jurisdiction to the next.

Obviously I think a question too: there's been a great deal of public investment in the GTH and it shows great promise where we've got the road, railroad, the airport all lining up to support this inland port operation, and is it living up to its potential?

I think we've seen some issues that have arisen. Actually just last week here in this House we saw an issue around land expropriation. Sue Ailsby and her family have taken this issue to the courts after they have alleged and believe that the government has misled them and made false promises and failed to consult. So we've seen this jurisdictional mess in the fall around Kal Tire coming. We've seen some of the issues around land expropriation and some difficulty with management. I know actually in June 2012 the president and CEO John Law was replaced by Chris Dekker, so there's been some management issues. So I think the question here, is this the right structure to maximize use of this facility?

It's interesting, I'm a Saskatoon girl, born and bred. I live two blocks from my childhood home. But I haven't had much opportunity to head sort of west of Regina but I have, just a few months ago, that was the first time I've been that direction and it is quite something to see, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know actually the first time I had opportunity to see an inland port basically was probably about 15 years ago driving to California to visit my in-laws, and I can't remember if it was Utah or Idaho but seeing this huge, huge structure. It was quite amazing actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's great to see that kind of

development happening here. But you of course want to make sure that the structures that we put in place are going to support the continued growth and development of that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I think that there's one other issue that I'd like to flag here, and I know the Information and Privacy Commissioner has raised this, that the opposition was cc'd [carbon copy] on a letter to the minister and the Information and Privacy Commissioner flags the concern and asks if it's the government's intention to add the Authority, the Global Transportation Hub Authority to the list of government institutions for the purposes of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. And he goes on to say that, because of the important role played by the Authority in the economic life of the province and the expenditure of public funds contemplated in this particular bill, the Information and Privacy Commissioner is submitting that the Authority should be as transparent and accountable as possible with all, as is the case of other ministries, Crowns, boards, commissions and agencies. So I think that question we need to ask is, will the Global Transportation Hub Authority fall under this Information and Privacy Commissioner's purview, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So as an opposition and as residents here in Saskatchewan, we will be keeping an eye on this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and continue to ask this question: is it the right structure to move the Global Transportation Hub forward?

But I do know I have colleagues who will also be interested in discussing the Global Transportation Hub. And with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 81, *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 82

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 82** — *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with pleasure to speak to Bill No. 82, *An Act to amend The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act*. This legislation is relatively straightforward. When it was introduced in December, the Minister of Finance indicated that he was attempting to modernize or update this particular legislation to make sure that it served people well. I know that the Saskatchewan Pension Plan has been of great benefit to people right across Saskatchewan for many years — I guess it's getting close to 30 years right now. And what it does do is provide a way for people who have irregular income or have income that comes in different ways that they can

participate in a pension plan savings arrangement.

It has changed in the last couple of years. I think there were changes that this government brought forward in December of 2010 which changed the Saskatchewan Pension Plan from being very unique in Canada. In other words, people could put their savings in there without having to deal with the federal *Income Tax Act*. But changes were made then in 2010 so it really is much the same as a registered retirement savings plan and, therefore, there have been some adjustments that have been made to it.

This particular legislation just does a couple of pretty straightforward things. What it does is make sure that the rules around survivors' benefits are the same as set out in *The Pension Benefits Act*, and so that's important.

It also will allow members to transfer funds from registered pension plans or locked-in retirement accounts into the Saskatchewan Pension Plan. And so this is a good thing in the sense that people that have money in a few different places can bring it into this plan which has very reasonable charges and allows for perhaps a better investment policy to go.

So another amendment that's here relates to the fact that after 30 years of operation, this particular plan has run into some situations where people who have contributed to the plan have disappeared and they don't know where the people are. And so this is putting in a provision whereby those people who have money invested who can't be located, that their share of the fund can be transferred to the General Revenue Fund in their name and kept there in case the person ever shows up again. This is similar to what happens with the dead accounts at banks and credit unions right now, and so this is just adding that provision to this particular legislation.

So other than some small language changes, that's the extent of this legislation. And it's adding some special or extra provisions to legislation which I think is good legislation for Saskatchewan people. And so with that I will adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 82, *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2012*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 83

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Boyd that **Bill No. 83** — *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act* be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Glad to rise and join debate on Bill No. 83, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*.

Again referring to the minister's second reading speech, wherein setting out in legislation "... to protect foreign workers and immigrants from exploitation by recruiters, immigration consultants, and employers while being recruited to Saskatchewan or are in the process of immigrating to our province." Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, pretty reasonable intent on the face of it.

And certainly there's been a lot of exciting things happening in the past decade as regards immigration in the province of Saskatchewan. I think there's some thanks due to people like then MLA Pat Lorjé from Saskatoon Southeast, who'd done a pretty interesting study on the importance of an immigration policy. That particular piece of work borrowed a lot from the example of Manitoba and the success that had been had with the immigrant nominee program in that province. And certainly the immigrant nominee program served as a real model for Saskatchewan up till this present day, Mr. Speaker.

Where it gives us concern in terms of what has been a successful approach ... And certainly the minister references in his second reading speech going from 200 nominations under the SINP [Saskatchewan immigration nominee program] in '05-06 to 4,000 annually now. Again it's something that bears closer examination. But also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the importance of the family class to that success and again the way that we've seen the federal government taking, pulling the rug out from their federal cousins across the way and the way that the family class was rather arbitrarily shut down.

Again, so broader sort of strokes we're talking about in terms of the history of the program, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But for the legislation in and of itself and the five basic principles that they're seeking to build the legislation on, referring the second reading speech from the minister, first, to serve employees, the bill acknowledging that:

... employers need the services of recruiters and immigration consultants to help with foreign workers to allow them to immigrate to our province. Second, it will ensure employers pay for the costs of recruiting their foreign workers. Third, this legislation will make the recruiting and immigration consulting market transparent and open. Fourth, it will require recruiters, immigration consultants, and employers to act ethically.

And the fifth and final principle, that "... the bill will inform and enforce by educating stakeholders on their obligations under the proposed legislation, and if they fail to comply, by establishing enforcement measures."

[22:15]

Again, Mr. Speaker, these seem to be pretty reasonable measures on the face of it but the proof, as is often the case with this government, will be in the pudding and how this actually plays out and is enforced and is enabled. Again we have questions certainly from this side of the House in terms of, what is the incidence of unscrupulous or dubious behaviour on the part of the recruiters or immigration consultants? What is the incidence of that kind of behaviour? And again what are the, you know, in the volume that the minister is able to reference in the second reading speech, if he can talk about the volume of

immigration, certainly there must be some more precise understanding of what sort of abuses or wrongdoings have gone on. And again as with anything involving the service of fellow humans, there should be that regulation. There should be that oversight. And again we want to make sure that the oversight regime is commensurate with what's happening in the field, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So serving employers — that's fine and good. Certainly employers, as they set out to engage these services to bring workers to the province, there's a reasonable expectation of, you know, you've paid the fee and you should get the service. And what sort of guarantees or assurances are there around quality of those services? And again when you're dealing with people moving from literally around the globe to Saskatchewan, both in terms of the employers' side of the equation but also for the employees, there's a huge responsibility that comes with that kind of impact on people's lives. So again it's fair and good to serve the employers who have paid for these services, who have paid for these temporary foreign workers, but also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to ensure that there's some fairness and adequate oversight for the foreign workers themselves.

And again you talk about people that are in vulnerable working conditions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for people coming from around the world to Saskatchewan and being very, very cautious about making sure that their rights are being upheld in the workplace. And this is where it's incumbent not just on, you know, the oversight for the consultants or for the immigration representatives, but as this becomes a larger and more complex feature of the labour force in Saskatchewan, again that need for adequate oversight and enforcement is also increased, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So if you haven't got that, then you've got people that can be in vulnerable circumstances and putting up with things that should ought not be going on. And if you don't have again that education, that awareness on the part of temporary foreign workers as to what their rights are as people gaining a wage here in Saskatchewan and in Canada, then again there's an education and an oversight job that is being done for the one part of the system, but you need to make sure that you've got that for the workers in the employment that they have landed here in Canada.

So first principle being that it will serve employees, second that it will ensure employers pay for the cost of recruiting their foreign workers. Again it would be interesting to see how it works out in terms of how skills are assessed and how what constitutes adequate pay is ascertained. Again you hear different things anecdotally, but you've not had the factual analysis presented here, and perhaps that will come to committee. But what is the range in terms of fees that people are paying for these services? And again are there abuses that have gone on in this regard where inflated or exorbitant fees have been charged, and what indeed constitutes a fair cost for this service?

The third principle of legislation, making "... recruiting and immigration consulting market transparent and open," again sort of a motherhood and apple pie statement. It seems quite agreeable. But how that is played out and how the actual information that rises or falls upon is made available to the

public, made available to the legislature, will be the test of that particular measure.

Fourth, requiring “. . . recruiters, immigration consultants, and employers to act ethically.” Again that’s pretty straightforward, Mr. Deputy Speaker, pretty straightforward. But again how these things are assured and secured will be the test of this.

And again that fifth principle, “. . . the bill will inform and enforce by educating stakeholders on their obligations under the proposed legislation, and if they fail to comply, by establishing enforcement measures.” So what is that education program, Mr. Deputy Speaker? What is that education program? What does it consist of? You know, you get the pamphlet together and hand that out and has the job been done? Or, you know, what does that consist of? And by developing enforcement measures, of course that is punted presumably to a future date. Well you know, you think that that would be brought forward at this time, but perhaps they’ve got more surprises for us yet to come.

The second reading speech also talks about consultations that have gone on with stakeholders, one in 2011 and one earlier in the year. And again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you wonder about the consultation that had gone on with the community, and how genuine that consultation was.

And again this is a government that passed along federal marching orders as regarded the family class of the immigrant nominee program. And again a way that that impacted a lot of people’s lives that moved literally from around the globe to here in Saskatchewan, made monumental decisions around business and family to set up a new life here in Saskatchewan based on an understanding that had been given to them by the province of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan government, and the way that that was arbitrarily reneged upon by the provincial government — again the provincial government points the finger at the federal government, but you wonder what kind of fight was put up. You wonder what kind of effort was put into making sure that the good name of Saskatchewan wasn’t drawn into question as it was in this case. And again you have people that moved from literally around the globe to Saskatchewan based on an understanding of what their possibilities for uniting family, bringing family to Saskatchewan under the then family class of the legislation, and the way that that was reneged upon. Again a black mark beside the good name of Saskatchewan out there in the world and again I would venture the kind of behaviour that is sort of anticipated in this legislature.

In this legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, wherein if immigrant consultants or recruiters went and promoted one deal and then got people to Saskatchewan and then said, well you know, guess what, terms of the deal have changed, how would this very legislation reflect upon the behaviour of the Government of Saskatchewan when they arbitrarily change the family class albeit blaming the federal government? But the impact on people’s lives is there nonetheless.

The minister in the second reading speech also states that the legislation will position Saskatchewan as having the:

. . . most comprehensive protection for newcomers of any province in Canada. No other jurisdiction has protections

for both recruitment and immigration consulting services that compare to these proposals. Mr. Speaker, I’m confident that this bill is good for Saskatchewan, good for foreign nationals coming to live and work in Saskatchewan, and good for Saskatchewan employers hiring foreign workers. And, Mr. Speaker, I’m also confident this legislation is good for recruiters and immigration consultants who are prepared to provide their services fairly and ethically.

Well again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, until the boat’s in the water, I guess we’ll have to take the minister’s word for it and see how this actually works out. But past is prologue and we’ve seen again this government go out around the world and promote one bill of goods to people making decisions about businesses and families and inviting them here to Saskatchewan, and then when those families got here to Saskatchewan, changing the terms under which they had made their decision to come to this province in the first place. So it’s something we’ll be watching closely as the days go on and as the legislation unfolds. And certainly we’ll have more questions for the minister as this piece of legislation moves to committee, as to the particulars upon which this legislation will be based, and what’s going to happen with the enforcement measures, how that would be rolled out.

I know that other of my colleagues are interested in participating in this debate and certainly I’m very happy to have joined in the debate tonight and will be following it as it reaches committee. Certainly in Regina Elphinstone-Centre, we’ve been beneficiary of people coming from again quite literally around the globe and, you know, reflected quite well in growth of things like the Sikh temple or the Krishna hall or the Vietnamese Buddhist temple; the way that different communities in their faith expression they’ve experienced growth which they’re quite proud of and quite pleased with.

So again to make sure that all sides of this equation are fair and equitable, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we’ll be watching to see that this legislation lives up to its billing from the minister and whether or not it does the job of protection and oversight for people engaged in an immigration consultancy or recruiting.

But with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and noting that I’ve got other colleagues that would like to participate in this debate and noting the hour of the evening, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 83, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 83, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved to adjourn, that this House does now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of

the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — That's carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 22:29.]

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