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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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Bill No. 119 – The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to introduce ... [inaudible interjection] ... No, not introducing but speaking to Bill No. 119, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act*.

And they're talking about striking out the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology and then substituting Saskatchewan Polytechnic, and it goes through the places where that will have to happen in terms of *The Education Act, 1995* and talking about *The Teacher Certification and Classification Regulations, 2002*. They will be amended in a similar way, where you strike out SIAST, a well-known acronym here in Saskatchewan, and substituting Saskatchewan Polytechnic, which may be more vague for people and not really knowing what that really means. And of course it will be done in French, that the name changes will take place. And there you have it. That's what this is all about: the name change.

And as I've said earlier, that we do support the evolution and the increased capacity for post-secondary education, particularly when it comes to technical training, and whether that means degrees or capacity building and applied research, we know that's an important part of that. And this is in many ways a natural growth that's happening right across Canada. We're glad to see that it's happening here in Saskatchewan.

But I have raised earlier the name change and what that will mean about Sask-a-Poly or Saskatchewan Polytechnic or the abbreviations or what that all will be. We'll listen to see what that will mean and we'll have those questions in committee.

We'll be interested in knowing how they consulted about this. They do have a strong board and I know several people on the board and it's a very active and constructive board. And so it will be interesting to hear from the folks in committee about the kind of consultation they did about this, what they've learned from the British Columbia Institute

of Technology which ... if they have consulted with them and what their plans are for future growth and what organizations did they consult with? The individuals, the students, the post-secondary community?

It is good to see that they are maintaining their relationships at the regional colleges and recognizing the work that they do. That's very important. But we're curious about the kind of consultation they got, the information they got, and the advice they got, and did they listen to their advice —yes or no? What did they leave on the table?

You know, Mr. Speaker, we've said this many times that we're willing to work with this government when it makes sense and when they're open, transparent, and accountable. But this seems like one we'll have a lot of questions about and we need to have more information.

So with that, Mr. Speaker ... I know that this ties very much into the earlier one and, as I said, we have questions about the costs. What is the impact of such a name change when you see across Western Canada other institutions have decided not to change the name but to embrace the idea, the concept of polytechnic? But they didn't see a need to change their name. Here we're going to have something that's going to be ... And I'm going to be curious about whether they're going to keep the names of their campuses or will they be changing them? What will the branding be looking like?

Now the other side may say it's not going to cost anything. There may not need to be any research. They're just going to do it. And I just don't know if that's actually in the spirit of good applied research. The people at the polytechnic may not say, this is how you do branding, this is not how you get yourself known in the committee by not doing the kind of work that needs to be done.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that we have much more work to be done tonight and we want to get as much of that done as possible. And so with that, I will be moving adjournment of Bill No. 119, *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.