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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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Bill No. 123 – *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013*

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 123, *An Act to repeal miscellaneous obsolete Public and Private Statutes and to make certain consequential amendments*. And of course this is important stuff that we have before us. And you know, it is interesting as we enter into passing of bills and how they get managed or mismanaged, however we decide this may be. And I know there are fingers pointing . . .

The Speaker: — I wonder if members could take their conversations outside of the Chamber, please. It's difficult to hear the debate. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. So I continue my comments on Bill 123, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013 (No. 2)*. And I think it's important that we take some time to reflect on these things.

Of course the big issue is, when we see these kind of bills before us, what are the unintended consequences? Obviously we will have a lot of legislation that often sits on the shelf because for whatever reason they become obsolete, irrelevant, maybe not having the appropriate type of language for the day. But it's important that we take the time to have a fulsome debate about this.

And while we could be in committee today and this government, in its management of whatever, it's missed some opportunities and clearly that's before the House right now.

So I want to take a moment to talk about what the minister, back on December 2nd, when he came to his feet and talked about amendments to certain public and private statutes and they would include *The Dental Care Act*. And I know I could go at length in terms of how important that legislation is and what the implications are. We'll have questions about that in the House, in the committee, at the appropriate time, the time at which we

usually rely on the government side to put out the list of bills that we'll be taking . . . put on the agenda for the committee. *The Dental Care Act, The Medical and Hospitalization Tax Repeal Act, The Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Associations Act, and The Senior Citizens' Heritage Program Act* — they are all repealed. And then of course we have consequential amendments including *The Dental Disciplines Act, The Health Information Protection Act, and The Insurance Premiums Tax Act* are all amended in various ways. And *The Pharmacy Act* part of it, section 19(1)(d) is repealed as well.

Going through as we see that there's an Act to validate a certain agreement with regard to Lady Minto hospital at Edam, and that is completely repealed. The French version of the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame, that is also repealed. The repeal of *An Act to provide for Tax Exemption of Certain Property of Sisters of Charity, Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw*, and then we go through the list of a variety of hospitals right across Saskatchewan.

And I know for example that it's important to clean up the records and make sure our legislation is as fresh and as current as possible. That is the job of the legislature here. But it is also to make sure that when we do these, that the proper consultation has been done and that these organizations, some of which may not be in existence today . . . Some may very well be continuing to do their good work, and so I think it's important that the consultation has been done, they've been contacted or the attempt to contact them is done. But it may be a course of history where they're no longer relevant and that in fact it's best to purge them and repeal them and get them off the record. So there will be lots of questions about this. It's always interesting to know the history behind these certain pieces of legislation.

And when I look at the minister's comments, the 14 private Acts that are connected to community organizations, in particular many religious congregations, and they have played — and I agree with the minister in this case — significant roles in our province's health care system, and it's very important that we acknowledge that. So if these have no more direct impact on our health care delivery, then we need to make sure that they're repealed, that there is no ambiguity left, that this is the task before us. So the minister puts this forward for us to take a look at. And of course we do have questions for them. And I think it's important we continue to have those conversations.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move adjournment of Bill 123, *An Act to repeal miscellaneous obsolete Public and Private Statutes and to make certain consequential amendments*. I do so move.