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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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Bill No. 142 – *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise on this Bill No. 142, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Archives and Public Records Management Act*. That's quite a long title, considering it's a pretty short piece of legislation. And really it's the companion piece to Bill 141, which hopefully we'll get to later tonight at some point as I continue with my remarks on that piece of legislation.

But this one is relatively straightforward because it's an enabling piece of legislation that makes amendments to other pieces of legislation. Specifically *The Education Act, 1995*, section 369 is amended and allows the Provincial Archives to deposit any of its non-current documents with the Provincial Archives for preservation in the archives, which is an important piece of legislation because, as we know, people get more and more into genealogy and curious about their families.

And you know, I think one thing about Saskatchewan particularly, as we've worked through the evolution of the education of students in Saskatchewan, you know, from the one-room schoolhouse and the idea that if, I think the number was if you had 12 children in three families, you could form a school board. And that was the initial basis because so much of Saskatchewan was rural. But the key thing was, and it's a wonderful thing when we think about it, that schools were set up to make sure kids were educated. That was a priority of our pioneers and of people who'd gone before us. And it's really key.

And in fact in many of them it was also a way to learn English. You know, we think of schools now as English as a second language is a new issue. It's not new at all in Saskatchewan. In fact it's an age-old issue, learning English. And whether you were Ukrainian or French, Métis or First Nations, English was not your first language, and so schools were set up with that in mind. So it's a good way to have a set of records, and this is the enabling piece of legislation for that.

And of course then *The Evidence Act* is amended by striking out *The Archives Act, 2004* and putting in the new archives and public records management Act. And I think it's relatively straightforward.

What isn't as straightforward is the companion Bill No. 141, of which I'll have much more to say. And I think at that point I'll be raising the concerns and issues, but I will because we will want to make sure and it's our responsibility.

You know, when you run for election, you don't know what side of the House you're going to be. But if you're in opposition, you have to make sure you hold the government accountable for its actions, and that is particularly for the legislation. And so while this may seem relatively straightforward and we have no flags going off right away on this particular piece of legislation, we definitely will have questions, and we'll have, as I said, for its companion piece, the one that's driving this one forward.

It is odd tonight that we're doing 142 before we do 141, but that's sort of the way it goes. It's kind of, you know, put the cart before the horse, but that's the way it is tonight. We've got the cart before us. So I'll just park it until we could find that horse. And so I know it will come up soon.

But, Mr. Speaker, with that I would like to move adjournment of Bill 142, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Archives and Public Records Management Act*. I do so move. Thank you.