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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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Bill No. 153 – The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It will be my intention to send this bill to committee after my brief comments. So I think that I have thought about this piece of legislation, and it's so important, you know, as I was just saying earlier. And this is Bill No. 153, *An Act to amend the Statute Law*. And it's one that really I think about, that really shows the clarity of the work that we do in terms of meaning what we say and say what we mean.

And we've gone through this, and clearly this is an issue that this government has some difficulty with. Because when we get into some of the spin that they have, and it shows up in the legislation and then we're back just very quickly thereafter to really correct mistakes — intentional or unintentional — that we really have to do better than that.

And you know, it reminds me of a saying that I've just heard, and I think that it's one that I think a lot about with this government, that ink never . . .

As I was saying, that there is a phrase out there that really represents this government and it's one that goes, ink never refuses paper. And I think . . . Ink never refuses paper. And I think when you think about that, and they're saying we'll be into the season where we're going to be reading a lot about what this government really thinks, what its priorities are, and what it really intends to do. And when we think about a bill, like as simple as *An Act to amend the Statute Law*, that we get it right. We get it right and we be as straightforward, with clarity, as much as possible. And I think that's an important thing.

And as we look through some of the changes that have happened here — whether we talk about “lunatic,” “insane,” “mental incompetent” becomes “lack of capacity,” “lacking capacity” — we want to make sure that that actually does mean what it's supposed to mean and the varying degrees of those terms.

I worry about that and I worry about some of the changes that we have before us. But having said that, I know that we've struggled hard and I think it's important that we get it

right. I have talked on this before, at length, but it's my intention now with these two Acts . . . but I think with this one we've all had a chance, a good go at it, and we think we'll have more questions in committee on this. So it is my intention now to move Bill 153 to committee.