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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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Bill No. 168 – *The Government Relations Administration Act*

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise on this evening to introduce such an important bill as Bill No. 168, *An Act respecting Government Relations and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*.

And I just want to take a moment to congratulate the member from Nutana on that wonderful contribution to the debates tonight, and it's very important that we have that levity as we're heading into the holiday season. But it's said so well. It's said so well and framed it so nicely. I think I'll have to get a copy of that. It's a beautiful thing. And I think it really does, and I just want to reflect also on that bill just briefly and say, when people can work together, it's a great thing what we can do.

This is an important bill before us and it's the last one of the night. I know we could go on about this last one of the year before we pick it up in the spring. But this is an important bill and I know that it's one, as the minister said, it's how they're working towards framing their work around how to work within the municipalities. And this is a very, very important thing. It talks about doing four key things: the first is working with its mandate, how it reflects to Municipal Affairs, Northern Affairs, Public Safety, First Nations and Métis Relations; consolidating and standardizing the general authorities; third includes some new ministerial authority; and then it will do some consequential amendments.

You know, Mr. Speaker, a bill like this, the key thing that we've got to do is really talk to the stakeholders, find out what do they think. I mean, we can make long speeches here and I'm not sure what the point of that would be, but really we know that there are people out there that have a lot to say about this legislation. And this is how this system is supposed to work. We get the bills in the fall and then we take them out and talk to the stakeholders and say, so what do you think? And if they really like it then we can move quickly on it. But if there are questions that we need to ask and things that have not been incorporated, then we will have questions as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this point I think that we need to take some time, take some time, ask those questions, read this carefully. But tonight I would like to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act, 2014*. Thank you.