



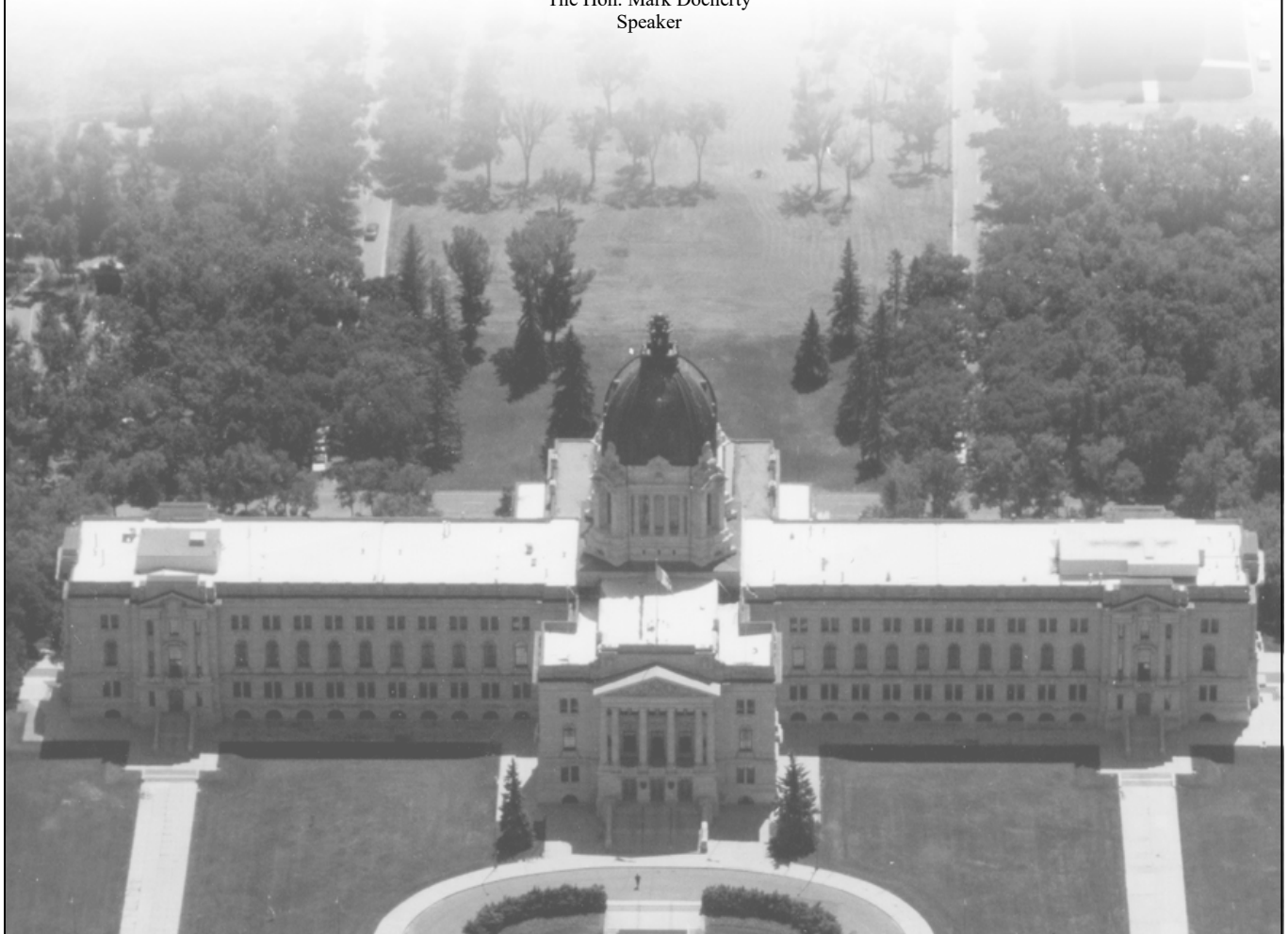
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
4th Session — 28th Legislature

Speaker — Hon. Mark Docherty
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres
Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	Vacant — Saskatoon Eastview

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 46; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13; Vacant — 2

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Buriannyk

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery I have two classes from the Regina Christian School which is located in my constituency, both a grade 8 and a grade 12 class, Mr. Speaker. They're accompanied by their teachers, Tammy Flaman and Jennifer Kramer, as well as some parent chaperones, both Lori and Yolanda. I'm really looking forward to spending some time with these young, bright faces later this morning. Please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens, businesses, and communities all across Saskatchewan with respect to the Sask Party's hike and then expansion of the PST [provincial sales tax] as it relates to things like construction labour.

This is the epitome of a job-killing tax. The results sadly speak for themselves. Permits are down all across Saskatchewan. Projects have been shelved. So many hard-working tradespeople have lost employment in this sector. Sadly, so many of those skilled workers have had to find employment in other provinces and leave this province, and that's certainly a loss for us when those workers are needed to build Saskatchewan.

This PST has hit households hard. In fact the average household, we've learned, in just over a four-year period is now paying over \$800 per year more on PST. This hurts those families and their households and their finances, but it hurts our economy, Mr. Speaker.

The prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to stop saddling families and businesses with the costs of their mismanagement and immediately reinstate the PST exemption on construction and stop hurting Saskatchewan businesses and families.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Melville and Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal carbon tax has been described as taxpayer economic pain and no

measurable environmental gain. Our government has a climate change strategy called Prairie Resilience that is made in Saskatchewan. To quote our Environment minister:

Our climate change strategy is about protecting our people and communities as much as it is about working with industry and others to reduce emissions here in Saskatchewan. This plan is broader and bolder than a single policy such as carbon tax, and will achieve better and more meaningful outcomes over the long term.

So I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose an unfair and ineffective carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the Sask Party government to call by-elections in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview. The people signing this petition want to bring to our attention the following facts: that the seats in the Legislative Assembly for Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview are currently vacant. And that's because, Mr. Speaker, a loophole in the Legislative Assembly, by-elections are not legally required to be called in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview because former MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] did not resign before August 6th, 2019. They in fact resigned one month later.

Unless a by-election is called, constituents in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview will go without representation for nearly 14 months until the provincial election is held on October 26, 2020. And, Mr. Speaker, I would add that today, the day we have the vote on the Throne Speech, those two seats sit vacant without representation; and that the Premier has the power and the authority to call by-elections in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview even though the Legislative Assembly does not require it.

Mr. Speaker, I'd read the prayer now:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the Premier to call by-elections in the constituencies of Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview.

And as it is, Mr. Speaker, people signing this petition today come from Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview. I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today to present a petition calling for the government to save our swales. The folks who have signed this want to bring to our attention many, many items. As you know, the Ministry of Highways is planning a four-lane, high-speed highway around part of Saskatoon and through the swales. And, Mr. Speaker, it appears that the area for the highway has already been fixed and decided, despite a number of severe concerns about environmental degradation, Mr. Speaker.

The northeast and small swales of Saskatoon provide food, habitat to a number of endangered and declining species, and many other species not yet listed as endangered. They're part of our shared natural heritage and it includes rare fescue grassland and high-quality, functional wetlands. A lack of adequate protection on these wetlands is leading to a decrease in many types of wildlife habitat, declines in species, and a loss of biodiversity.

Highways impact ecosystems through fragmentation, but unfortunately the assessments of the environmental impacts are only done for site-specific boundaries and ignore the cumulative impacts of these highways.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan do four things: call on the provincial government to suspend planning for the Saskatoon freeway and development around the swales until a regional cumulative effects assessment has been completed; secondly, update *The Wildlife Act* and expand the list of wild species protected by provincial regulation; thirdly, recognize the swales as an important ecological habitat, designate them as protected areas; and fourthly, ensure adequate long-term funding for research, management, and enforcement to protect those important swales for generations to come.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people who have signed this petition today come from the fine city of Saskatoon. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition from concerned residents of our province who are wanting to see renewable energy expanded in our province. Mr. Speaker, these residents wish to bring to our attention that an unprecedented number of residents of Saskatchewan want to take part in renewable energy opportunities, that SaskPower's net metering program had been very successful, and unfortunately it caused SaskPower to shut it down early in September rather than expanding it. Now, Mr. Speaker, I note that that program only cost our provincial treasury \$2 million, so less than \$2 a resident for the program for the year. And so it was a very affordable way to expand our renewable energy options in the province.

Mr. Speaker, they also wish to bring to our attention that this government's failure to consult with the industry and abruptly shutting down the program caused a number of jobs to be lost — up to 800; that the government's failure to plan for transition

from a carbon-intensive economy to a low-carbon economy is both short sighted and detrimental to our economy and our future; and that the NDP's [New Democratic Party] Renew Saskatchewan energy transition program would expand net metering to reduce emissions and save people, businesses, and municipalities money on their power bills.

Mr. Speaker, in the prayer, the petitioners:

Urge the Sask Party government to act to address climate change by restoring the SaskPower net metering program and introducing the Renew Saskatchewan energy transition program.

I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place today to present a petition for a second bridge for Prince Albert. The individuals that signed this petition wish to draw the following points to your attention: the Diefenbaker bridge in Prince Albert is the primary link that connects the southern part of the province to the North; with no other crossing, heavy truck traffic must be rerouted, adding a significant amount of costs for the businesses in and around Prince Albert in terms of losses and added expenses; that current residents, businesses, and tourists in Prince Albert and northern communities require safe and efficient transportation infrastructure that includes adequate bridges; that the Sask Party government refuses to stand up for Prince Albert in this crucial infrastructure issue; that local municipal governments have limited resources and require a second bridge to be funded through federal and provincial dollars and not a P3 [public-private partnership] model; that the support of the people and municipal governments of Prince Albert and neighbouring communities for a second bridge is overwhelming and has been joined by support from industry groups, the Saskatchewan association of regional municipalities, and many others in the province; and that the need for a second bridge for Prince Albert has never been clearer than it is today.

Prince Albert, communities north of Prince Albert and businesses that send people and products through Prince Albert require a solution.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan ask that the Sask Party government stop stalling, hiding behind rhetoric and refusing to listen to the people calling for action, and begin immediately to plan and then quickly commence the construction of a second bridge for Prince Albert using federal and provincial dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition come from the community of Saskatoon. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Maple Creek Toy Run

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer Maple Creek held a second annual Toy Run. The Toy Run was created and ensures every Maple Creek child gets a present under the tree this year at Christmas. All the toys donated and funds raised go towards the Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, motorcyclists from across the province and Alberta collected toys and teddy bears to deliver to Maple Creek. The motorcyclists met at the middle point and convoyed into the city, and with their lights on and the police escort.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most exciting parts of the day was getting a visit from a little girl named Layna who brought smiles to everyone's faces in the crowd. Layna is only 22 months old and she has been receiving treatments in the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary for a tumour that she has in her chest. The crowd was updated that Layna's tumour has been significantly reduced and that she is doing great.

It never ceases to amaze me how generous the people of the province can be in supporting those in need, Mr. Speaker. I ask all the members to join me in congratulating the organizers of the second annual Maple Creek Toy Run. Job well done.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

[10:15]

Women Entrepreneurs Saskatchewan Celebration of Achievement Awards

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 22nd I attended the Women Entrepreneurs Saskatchewan Celebration of Achievement Awards Gala in Saskatoon. The focus of the event is to give recognition to female business leaders for their contributions to the economy and the community.

This particular evening paid tribute to Jess Tetu, who was presented with the Celebration of Achievement Award as an exceptional entrepreneur whose business has made a significant impact in this province. Ms. Tetu's ventures include four day spas in Saskatchewan and Alberta, founder and CEO [chief executive officer] of Lia Reese Canada, and the co-founder of E306 Business Consulting. She's not only a very active businesswoman, she has also created a not-for-profit charity that assists individuals and families dealing with addictions.

The Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year Award went to Kimberly Parent. The Growth & Expansion Award went to Colleen Haussecker. The Community Involvement Award went to Shelley Gordon, and the Innovation Award went to Alisha Esmail.

WESK [Women Entrepreneurs Saskatchewan] empowers entrepreneurial women in Saskatchewan to succeed at all stages of business. Since 1995 WESK has helped thousands of women start, purchase, and expand their businesses. The organization has nearly 800 members whose businesses span almost every imaginable industry that creates jobs and fuels our economy.

This is truly an inspiring event. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all

members to recognize the work of WESK, as well as the significant and diverse contributions of female entrepreneurs in our province. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Protective Services Medal Recipients From Moose Jaw

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's incredibly important that we take time to recognize the courage and dedication that emergency professionals demonstrate each and every day. Tuesday I had the honour of attending the Protective Services award ceremony here in Regina. Mr. Speaker, the Protective Services award honours personnel with 25 years of service in the emergency services field, including police services, fire services, emergency medical services, federal and provincial corrections, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, two recipients are constituents of mine: Constable Chad Scheske and Sergeant Dave Hovington. Constable Scheske was actively involved as a part-time soldier from 1992 before he joined the Moose Jaw Police Service. Mr. Speaker, Constable Scheske continues to serve the Moose Jaw community as the canine unit coordinator, where he ensures all four canine units are properly trained and readily available for duty. Sergeant Hovington is the fire inspector for all of Saskatchewan, based out of our 15 Wing Moose Jaw.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that all members of this Assembly join me in thanking Constable Scheske, Sergeant Hovington, and all others who received their medal for their sacrifice and selfless dedication to their communities and our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

60th Anniversary of the Prince Albert Community Players

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 5th I had the pleasure of attending the 60th anniversary celebration of the Prince Albert Community Players. The event included a banquet, program, and a dance.

Prince Albert Community Players has provided countless hours of entertainment in our community. Dozens of performers have been trained and guided over the years. To create the type of entertainment provided by the Prince Albert Community Players takes an enormous number of volunteers, everyone from actors, set designers, and support people behind the scenes to board members. It also requires an audience, and Prince Albert Community Players has never had a problem drawing a crowd.

Earlier this year, Prince Albert Community Players was inducted into the Prince Albert Arts Board Hall of Fame for its contribution to the arts in the city. During the program, Prince Albert Community Players acknowledged several long-time members and supporters. Bev and Carl Klarenbach were inducted as honorary lifetime members. Also inducted as honorary lifetime members were Phyllis and Roger Williams. Both couples have a long history with this organization. The

Klarenbachs have been involved for over 50 years, and the Williamses have been involved for over 40 years. Mr. Speaker, one of Prince Albert's most generous donors was also acknowledged at the event. Malcolm Jenkins has been a sponsor of the Prince Albert Community Players for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating the Prince Albert Community Players on their 60th anniversary and wishing them continued success.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Carrot River Athlete Signs With the Saskatoon Blades

Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the spring session, members may remember when I stood to speak about the Tisdale Trojans and their bronze medal win at the Telus Cup. Jayden Wiens from Carrot River was one of the Trojan players that helped secure this victory. This young man was the Trojans' leading scorer at the championship, with 8 points in seven games.

I'm happy to report that big things have happened for Jayden in mere months, Mr. Speaker. Jayden has become somewhat of a celebrity in not only our community but indeed around the province, as this 16-year-old has been signed to play with the Saskatoon Blades for this season. At just the age of 16, that's quite a feat playing in the WHL [Western Hockey League]. We are very excited to be seeing number 9 light up the ice in the upcoming season.

Mr. Speaker, in less than two years Jayden will be preparing for his NHL [National Hockey League] draft, and I am confident I will be rising in this House once again to update members on Jayden's progress and where he will be continuing his hockey career. I ask all members to rise with me in congratulating Jayden and his advancement to the Saskatoon Blades. Good luck for the remainder of the season. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rochdale.

Girl Guides of Canada Youth Recognition Ceremony

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last Sunday I attended the Girl Guides of Canada 2019 Youth Recognition Ceremony here in Regina. The youth recognition awards celebrate the many accomplishments of the members of the Saskatchewan Girl Guides. These awards celebrate the young women who have demonstrated leadership within their communities across the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we want every girl here at home and around the world to have the opportunity to succeed. We know that young women everywhere, they can accomplish anything they put their mind to. Here in Saskatchewan we want to do our part to help girls reach their full potential. Here girls are able to attend school, get an education, and choose their own path, but in other parts of the world this isn't so. And that is why it's so important to champion and support organizations that support girls. The Girl Guides of Canada's mission is to help girls develop the skills and confidence to step into leadership roles and the courage to make a difference in the world.

I now ask all members to join me in congratulating all the deserving recipients of the 2019 Girl Guides of Canada youth leadership awards. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Willowgrove.

Saskatoon Youth Holds Charity Pumpkin Sale

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the spirit of Halloween, I rise today to speak about my favourite spot to buy pumpkins in Saskatoon, Eli's Pumpkin Patch. Each year 11-year-old Eli Kearley holds a charity pumpkin sale to raise money for the Saskatoon Crisis Nursery. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon Crisis Nursery is a safe haven for families in crisis and in need of supports. Eli actually grows the pumpkins himself with the seeds from last year's pumpkin crop and a helping hand from his grandfather and grandmothers, and parents, John and Lori.

Pumpkins of various sizes were available to purchase at his annual sale in Saskatoon, and any extra pumpkins were donated to the Saskatoon Food Bank. Mr. Speaker, because of a tough growing season, some of the pumpkins were still green this year, but Eli simply called them Rider pumpkins and they were quick sellers. I've had the opportunity to support Eli and purchase my family's pumpkins from him for the last four years, and I know the member for Saskatoon Southeast has done the same.

I am pleased to tell the House that this year Eli was able to raise \$2,666 for the crisis nursery. To date, including a \$10,000 donation last year from Tim Hortons, Eli has raised well over \$20,000 to support an organization that provides a safe haven for children in our community. Mr. Speaker, what an outstanding accomplishment for this young man. I ask all members to join me in recognizing Eli Kearley and his family for their dedication to our community. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Welcome, Olivia.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Provision of Emergency Health Care

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll maybe keep the desk-clapping to a minimum, not to get any tears on this side. I mean there's tears on this side from time to time.

Well yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I had a number of questions for the Premier about health care, but in the spirit of Halloween he ghosted on every single one. Instead of ignoring important questions, Mr. Speaker, or pointing fingers to distract from his record, will the Premier rise today to tell the people in this province, who are being let down by overcrowded, overstressed, and underfunded emergency rooms, what plans he has to fix the problem?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the investment of the Government of Saskatchewan over the last number of years, in particular this last year, Mr. Speaker, has been unprecedented.

The investment not only in capital facilities across this province, Mr. Speaker, of which we have had the opportunity to discuss on the floor of this legislature, but also the investment in the people that are offering services to people in communities right across this great province, Mr. Speaker.

And the Minister of Health referenced yesterday the increase in the number of physicians, over 900 physicians that are working in our communities, Mr. Speaker, and the structure that has went behind bringing those physicians in by previous Health ministers in years gone by, changing the SPPA [Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment] program, for example, increasing the training seats at the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, of which we are going to see the fruition of that work very, very shortly with those students now coming out, being recruited by our Saskdocs organization to remain in the province of Saskatchewan.

You add to that, Mr. Speaker, the initiatives and the efforts that have went to increasing our nurse complement of all designations in our facilities across this province. I acknowledge there is more work to do, Mr. Speaker, but we must also acknowledge the work that has been done to date, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to continue with our investment in health care on behalf of the constituents that we represent across this province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Status of Saskatchewan Telecommunications

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member from Regina Rosemont has asked repeatedly which members of the cabinet were on this government's secret committee to sell off SaskTel. He's received zero answer thus far. Now that the Premier has found his feet again, I wonder if he can tell us. To the Premier: were you a member of SaskTel's secret sell-off committee?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I answered his question yesterday, and I answered it exceptionally slowly so that each word would be able to sink in to some of the members opposite. But I'll do it again today.

SaskTel is quite simply, Mr. Speaker, something that is not for sale. Mr. Speaker, SaskTel is something that is valued by all of the citizens in our province. It provides great services through SecurTek, through SaskTel Max, through the various cellphone carriers, and a variety of other services that are provided across the province and elsewhere in Canada.

An Hon. Member: — More information from a SaskTel dial tone than this.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite want to talk about dial phones. Maybe that's the level of their technological skills. That may be the level of their mentality, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, the people in this province want to have new services. They want to have high-speed internet. They want to have 4G. They want to talk about 5G. There's a variety of things

that they're doing. Mr. Speaker, we're moving ahead. We're moving on with what the citizens want. SaskTel is not for sale.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, when a government won't answer a simple yes or no question, it makes it very clear that they have something to hide. So my question is: now that we can only assume that the Premier was on that committee, what did he discuss while he was at that table?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we'll discuss things at this table, and one of the things we'll discuss is that SaskTel is not for sale. We passed a piece of legislation taking it off the table. So to the citizens of this province I can say this: SaskTel is not for sale. We're not looking for things that are hidden because it's Halloween or whatever else. We're doing the things that the citizens asked us to do. They asked us not to sell SaskTel; we passed a piece of legislation for that purpose.

Mr. Speaker, we're continuing to do the things that our citizens have asked us to do. We're now expanding fibre through the service through the Infinet program. Now that service is existing in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Weyburn, Estevan, Yorkton, The Battlefords, Emerald Park, Martensville, Rosthern, Warman, and White City. We've got more communities coming, Mr. Speaker. The next round will be Humboldt, Melfort, Melville, Nipawin, and Tisdale, Mr. Speaker. That's what the citizens of this province want to talk about. That's what's important to them and, Mr. Speaker, that's what we're doing.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Funding for Health Care

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan want a government that's going to be straight with them, that's going to answer questions directly. We've got no yes; we've got no no. We can only assume that the Premier was involved in that committee, and that he still harbours those same plans, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

Yesterday the Saskatchewan Medical Association welcomed what they called the small amount that this government was committing to surgical wait times. They also took care to emphasize, however, that the challenges in our health care system are system wide. Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly, former SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] president Dr. Siva Karunakaran said that this initiative "doesn't mean we can overlook other areas that are in need of funding and services." He specifically emphasized mental health, addictions, and seniors' care.

In a health care system that has a \$3.3 billion infrastructure deficit, where emergency rooms are overcrowded and wait times have been growing in surgical care and specialist care, we've got a government that is obviously desperate to show they're doing something on health care. But that same government is unwilling

to make the system-level changes required to make a real difference. So it's clear they're far more interested in the showing than they are in the doing.

Mr. Speaker, beyond this very limited surgical initiative, does the Premier have any plan to fix the real problems that have developed in health care under his watch?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet with the two doctors from the SMA that were here yesterday. In fact I'll be meeting with them again later this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, the \$10 million injection into the surgical wait times initiative was never meant to be at the expense of anything else in the health system. I have reassured the doctors that. They understand that, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows, the health care system is very integrated. We've been having discussions at this floor over the last number of days about ER [emergency room] wait times. That also has a connection to the surgical wait times, Mr. Speaker. People with chronic conditions that are waiting for surgeries often end up in emergency rooms.

Mr. Speaker, this is not at the expense of any other area. I think our record clearly shows that. Our last budget showed, for example . . . The Leader of the Opposition mentioned mental health spending. Mental health spending and addiction spending was up substantially in the last budget, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Prince Albert Hospital

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, this weekend New Democrats from across Saskatchewan will gather in Prince Albert for our annual party convention. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering what I'm supposed to tell them when it comes to their local Premier, his Throne Speech, and his broken promise to Prince Albert, like his promise of a new hospital. In September of 2017, before becoming Premier, he promised a new hospital. Then a year later, in 2018, he says it will be a redevelopment. Again we see last week in the Throne Speech, “. . . the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital redevelopment project will be entering their final planning stages.” To the Premier: why have you broken the promise you repeatedly made to Prince Albert? How did the promise of a new hospital all of a sudden become a repair?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole premise of that question is just wrong. What's being looked at right now is whether it will be an entirely new project or a redevelopment and addition to the existing one, Mr. Speaker. What we're dealing with, Mr. Speaker, is an over-capacity hospital. That has been known for some time that it needed to be done, Mr. Speaker. The Premier has clearly indicated because of demands, because it's the main service centre for the North, Mr. Speaker, that the local community will not need to put in the share that would typically be done in a hospital, Mr. Speaker.

The entire amount will be allocated from the provincial

government. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised, because the citizens of Prince Albert and area know that this hospital is coming now, Mr. Speaker. I think they're very happy and excited about it, Mr. Speaker. I'm surprised the member would even raise it, because this is another example of the government getting this done when the NDP didn't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, that question was directed to the Premier, and the people of Prince Albert and area want a clear answer from this Premier. Is Prince Albert getting a new hospital? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Here's what we can tell the members, all of the people in the city of Prince Albert, the people throughout northern Saskatchewan, and the people in communities in the surrounding area of Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker, of which I happen to be. You can tell them, Mr. Speaker, although it's Halloween, they don't need to be scared. They don't need to be scared because the NDP isn't coming to town to close the Holy Family Hospital like they did a number of years ago.

Mr. Speaker, here's what we can tell the people of Prince Albert and the people of northern Saskatchewan is, we're going to build them a new hospital, Mr. Speaker. We're going to build them a new hospital that has more capacity, that has more services, Mr. Speaker, and the province is going to pay for that hospital.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Prince Albert Bridge

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Premier . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. I recognize the member.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The great people of Prince Albert have been waiting also for a new bridge. The Premier has also talked to the people of Prince Albert about getting a new bridge. To the Premier: will you promise a new bridge for Prince Albert? When can the people of Prince Albert expect a second bridge?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — You know, Mr. Speaker, every previous Highways minister before me has made the same commitment that we made for years now, Mr. Speaker, that we are committed to a bridge in Prince Albert. We've got our commitment there for a three-party partnership with the federal government, us, and the city, Mr. Speaker. And the commitment stands, Mr. Speaker.

But I will point out I looked at some former quotes from the NDP former Highways minister. His government wouldn't part with

one thin dime on this project, Mr. Speaker. What did this government do? We committed to 100 per cent funding of maintenance and repairs on this bridge, when the NDP left it to rot.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Status of Crown Corporations

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has been using the same tired lines all week with respect to their Crown sell-offs, as if Saskatchewan people have any reason to believe them on this matter anymore.

You know, history speaks for itself. Less than nine months after the Minister Responsible for STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] called it a valuable service and said “it is safe,” this government announced selling it off. This minister promised that the private sector would fill the gaps, but we know that simply hasn’t been the case. This government has let people down, left people stranded in communities all across our rural and vast province.

Why won’t this government just admit that this was a big mistake and work to restore rural and intercity transportation all across Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I’ve said many times in this House, it was a tough decision to wind down STC. But, Mr. Speaker, it was losing so much money, \$18 million almost a year, Mr. Speaker. That money could be better spent. They complain that we’re not spending money in certain other areas, Mr. Speaker. That 18 million can be spent in other places.

Mr. Speaker, just this morning in a letter to the editor, you know, a person writes in:

No longer being a fan of winter and night driving, I’ve often stressed over how to get to Regina for winter medical appointments and such, but now we have the two-month-old Beam Shuttle Service.

Mr. Speaker, it goes on to say:

I recently used it and was very impressed. I felt totally relaxed, safe, comfortable. So I would like to recommend the service to others. The service is offered by an experienced driver who was a European tour bus driver, a long-haul trucker, a five-year shuttle service operator from Dublin, Ireland. He impressed me as a devoted family man and a newer, proud Canadian whose family moved here eight years ago. He’s trying hard to accommodate our Weyburn community. [Mr. Speaker, she goes on to say] So I urge fellow residents to use Beam Shuttle Services.

We have to use it or lose it, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — That minister knows full well . . .

[inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, I sort of cringe when I hear him talk about using it or losing it, Mr. Speaker. That minister knows full well that STC was an essential service in our province. And you know, if he doesn’t, he only needs to chat with a grandparent that can’t visit their grandkids anymore. Or he needs to chat with people that are missing appointments with medical specialists, Mr. Speaker. Or he needs to chat with somebody who’s experiencing domestic violence that’s trying to flee a situation and find security, Mr. Speaker. That’ll give him an understanding of why this is a vital service. And we don’t need one-off, piecemeal programs as the minister’s talking about.

A recent report affirmed what we told the Sask Party when they axed this program: it’ll hurt seniors; it’ll hurt the most vulnerable; it’ll hurt people living with disabilities. What options can the minister offer to people he’s left in the cold and on the side of the road for necessary travel all across Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite should be thinking about that from when they closed a bunch of the lines, Mr. Speaker. They reviewed and thought about shutting down STC when the subsidy was only \$6, not when it was \$94, Mr. Speaker. All they have to do is look back a little bit at their history. As it was, Mr. Speaker, STC only serviced half the communities in the province, Mr. Speaker.

This money, Mr. Speaker, this \$18 million a year, is being spent in education. It’s being spent in our health care system and our social services, Mr. Speaker. This is money that’s valuable. Those people in those communities are getting in. They’re using other services, Mr. Speaker, that are out there. And we just want them to continue to support that.

I would ask the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. They should be supporting these small businesses that are trying to get this started so that people in these communities can get into town and help it out. All they have to do is support these small-business owners.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Actions speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker. This government broke their word and they left money on the table on this front. It defies common sense. Saskatchewan people are now entering their third winter with no safe, reliable public transportation and this government seems just fine with the risks that they’re taking with people’s lives.

Today is the first anniversary of the shutdown of Greyhound Canada services in Western Canada, and ATU [Amalgamated Transit Union] Canada is calling on all levels of government to develop a strategy to rebuild a new transit service for future generations. Why won’t this government, this Sask Party government, simply do the right thing, commit to getting to the table, doing this work to connect our rural and vast province, to stop leaving Saskatchewan people behind?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is the one-year anniversary since Greyhound shut

down. And why did they shut down, Mr. Speaker? A lack of ridership. Nobody was riding the bus, Mr. Speaker, and that was what was happening, Mr. Speaker. Unaffordable, Mr. Speaker, is what was happening in . . . [inaudible] . . . Greyhound.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a number of these private entrepreneurs have started up businesses, Mr. Speaker, that have run in a lot of these same routes, Mr. Speaker, and are struggling to stay afloat, Mr. Speaker, because of the same issue — lack of ridership, Mr. Speaker. So we're optimistic that they will continue. And we would encourage people to use the services that are out there, and we'd encourage the members opposite to maybe start supporting those services that are out there and supporting those services to help people with their transportation needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech was loaded with back-patting about investments this government made a decade ago, but there was nothing new to address the crisis in our schools today.

The Regina Public Schools accommodation review paints an alarming picture about the challenges that that division will face over the next 10 years, challenges that this government has no plan to address. Thirteen schools, Mr. Speaker, will exceed their capacity in less than a decade. Harbour Landing School is already over 134 per cent capacity, and Wascana Plains is anticipated to exceed over 130 per cent capacity this year.

Mr. Speaker, has the minister seen this report? And what is he planning to do to address the growing problem of overcrowding in Saskatchewan schools?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we've had . . . There's been a record, Mr. Speaker, investment in capital in this sector, Mr. Speaker, by this government over the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker — 46 new schools, Mr. Speaker. And that member only has to go out into her community, Mr. Speaker, to see the commitment that this government has made with the construction of a new joint-use school right in the middle of Lakeview, right in the middle of the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we continue to assess. We continue to assess, Mr. Speaker, the capital needs in this province, Mr. Speaker. Just in last year's budget, Mr. Speaker, we announced the consolidation of four schools in the city of Moose Jaw. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to look at the capital requirements that the school boards present to us, Mr. Speaker. We'll always do that in the context of a balanced budget, Mr. Speaker. But making sure that students in our classrooms have proper facilities in which to learn, Mr. Speaker, is a priority of this government, and it will continue to be a priority of this government.

[10:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, one line of that report stands out: newly opened schools in Regina's growing suburbs will not be able to accommodate projected student numbers. This government is providing school divisions with \$400 less per student instead of making education the priority that it needs to be. Instead of accepting responsibility, this minister blames school divisions for his decision to shortchange students by nearly \$70 million.

Mr. Speaker, later today we're voting off a Throne Speech that contains nothing, nothing to address the growing crisis in our classrooms. When is this government going to get serious about fully funding public education in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — I find it kind of amusing when the member opposite starts talking about capital, Mr. Speaker, because they routinely vote against the schools that we have in our budgets, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, we're committed to ensuring that we support the children in our classrooms. A record investment in public education, Mr. Speaker, in last year's budget, and we're going to continue to look to ensure that we're supporting children in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker. I've said this on the floor of the Assembly before.

We're moving forward, Mr. Speaker, with an urgent consultation around the issue of class size and composition, Mr. Speaker. I'll be announcing the terms of reference within the next couple of days, Mr. Speaker. It aims at finding a path forward to ensure that we address the issues that are facing our classrooms. Mr. Speaker, a request that the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] has made for a process, Mr. Speaker, we're giving them that process, Mr. Speaker. And we know it's going to have the results that we need, Mr. Speaker, because supporting the kids in our classrooms, the future of our province, Mr. Speaker, is of utmost importance to this government.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister asked us for solutions. Well here's a solution that the minister could try: to give our school divisions the resources that they need to fully fund education. Ferguson, Seven Stones, Glen Elm, Walker, Bryant, Arcola, McVeety, Hanna, McDonald, Harbour Landing, Connaught, Wascana Plains — each of these elementary schools, Mr. Speaker, is projected to be over-utilized in just a few years, and the Sask Party has no plan to address those pressures. When is this government going to come up with a real plan to address overcrowding in our classrooms and make sure that students and teachers in those schools will not be left behind?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — I'll give the member opposite a number, Mr. Speaker — \$2.48 billion. That's this government's investment in public education in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the largest in the history of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, school divisions on an annual basis — the member is a former school board trustee; she knows how this works — submit their budgets to us, Mr. Speaker. And as we move forward in the development of our budget, Mr. Speaker,

we'll take into account the needs of those school divisions, not just from an operating perspective, Mr. Speaker, but from a capital perspective, ensuring that we're providing the right resources, providing the right supports to teachers in classrooms, Mr. Speaker, to support the children in those classrooms.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in every school, Mr. Speaker, every school's different. Every classroom's different. And so there's no question, Mr. Speaker, that it's not a one-size-fits-all solution. That's why on a very, very complex issue, Mr. Speaker, we want to make sure that we get the input from those people that can help us provide the proper path forward, Mr. Speaker. And you'll be hearing more from the government on this issue.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Call for By-Elections

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this very important day, today when we vote on the Throne Speech in this legislature, thousands of Saskatchewan citizens will be intentionally not represented here. This is a shame, Mr. Speaker. They will have their democratic right taken away because of a loophole that we could have fixed last year. Will the Premier do the right thing today and call by-elections in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, our legislation is abundantly clear. A by-election for a vacant seat is not required if a seat has become vacant within the first 40 months after a general election. This avoids burdening the taxpayers with the additional expense of this . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Who passed that legislation? It goes back to the NDP days, Mr. Speaker. That's the way things are, Mr. Speaker. The law is there. They created it.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 174 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 174, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2019*, a bilingual bill, be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 174 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 175 — *The Marriage Amendment Act, 2019* *Loi modificative de 2019 sur le mariage*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 175, *The Marriage Amendment Act, 2019*, also a bilingual bill, be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 175 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 176 — *The Fiduciaries Access to Digital Information Act/Loi sur l'accès des fiduciaires à l'information numérique*

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 176, *The Fiduciaries Access to Digital Information Act*, also a bilingual bill, be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 176 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 177 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Electronic Register) Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 177, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Electronic Register) Amendment Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 177 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 178 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 178, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 178 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 179 — *The Apiaries Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 179, *The Apiaries Amendment Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No.

179 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 180 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations – Transfer of Gas, Electrical and Plumbing Functions) Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 180, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations – Transfer of Gas, Electrical and Plumbing Functions) Amendment Act, 2019* now be introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 180 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. D'Autremont, seconded by Ms. Ross, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Ms. Sarauer.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to rise today to respond to the Speech from the Throne, to be in this

House, a great honour and importance here on Treaty 4 land, homeland of the Métis and the city of Regina.

And I do want to, before I get started on my reflections on the Throne Speech, give a few notes of recognition and of thanks, first of all to the people in this room and in this building who keep things running: the folks at Hansard who manage to figure out just what it is we say into the microphone, folks on the video who never quite seem to capture our good side, the Clerk's table and the very important work you do to make sure that we're staying in line and keeping up with the procedures as they should.

The young folks here as Pages, I hope you're having a good experience. I hope you don't spend too much time rolling your eyes at what we're up to, and I thank you for the work you do and the patience you show us. And of course everyone else who works in this building, our security staff, the staff who do tours. They do an amazing job of making sure that this is a place that is welcoming and representative of the work that we do in this House and the people that we're here to represent.

I do of course want to thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have an unenviable role at times, trying to keep this lot in order, and we do test your patience as well. I thank you for that and I thank you as well for the way that you represent us in the community as Speaker, out in the community as often and as visibly as you are.

Given of course that this is the Speech from the Throne, I'd be remiss not to mention the Lieutenant Governor, including Lieutenant Governors past and that most immediate Lieutenant Governor past, Mr. Tom Molloy. It was a great honour to get to know Tom during his time. As Leader of the Opposition you wind up spending some time in the green room before events and getting to chat. And Mr. Molloy was an incredible fellow — his experience, his wisdom, his intelligence, his curiosity about all manners of life, but particularly his commitment to reconciliation, the leadership he showed with the establishment of Nunavut, with the establishment of the Nisga'a Treaty. He's given a great deal to Saskatchewan and to Canada and to the world. And it was a great loss to see him leave that position so early. And we extend our sympathies once again to his family and to the entire province.

But I do believe that Tom would have appreciated seeing his successor and would have seen Russ Mirasty as a very worthy person to be in this role, both for his leadership in law enforcement but also the way that, as a member of Lac La Ronge Indian Band, as someone from northern Saskatchewan, he brings a new face to the treaty relationship. As someone whose people signed treaty long ago to now be here as the representative of the Queen is quite a remarkable moment. And I firmly believe that he will continue to advance us on the cause of reconciliation. There are symbolic elements, but there's also real work to be done that I know Mr. Mirasty, our new Lieutenant Governor, is very much committed to seeing done.

I do want to thank as well the Premier and all of his colleagues on the government side. I know we're scrapping with each other often and we disagree on a great deal, but I have nothing but respect for each of you for being here, for having put your names forward to represent the public. And I know that it's a busy and difficult job for all of us, and I thank you. Once in a while we get a little chippy here across the floor, but there's also a great deal

of moments where we ignore the differences in party and reach out to each other in friendship and collegiality. And I thank you for that.

[11:00]

I also want to thank of course the people of Meewasin, who have given me the opportunity to represent my constituency. I always think about those communities, about North Park and Richmond Heights, River Heights, downtown Saskatoon, and City Park and Kelsey-Woodlawn, about the time spent in those communities on doorsteps and at events, and also about the name of a community, Meewasin, the Cree word for beautiful or good. And I always try to remind myself of that concept. I've been elected, as we all have, to represent the good, to try to achieve what is in the best interests of Saskatchewan people, to try to get as close to good as we possibly can in this imperfect world.

In that representation of the people of Meewasin I'm assisted by my constituency assistants, Nancy Morrison and Liz Donison. I've now known Nancy for a few years. She helped me out in the campaign as my campaign manager in Meewasin and has come back to work as my constituency assistant. We have a great time in that office. She's great fun, and she's also a great representative. And has a new person: Liz Donison has been helping her out with some of the key tasks of casework and reaching out to the community. And I'm very pleased and happy to have that kind of support in my office.

Here in the legislature, of course, we have our caucus staff as well. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention Adrienne King, our new chief of staff, who has come over and is doing an incredible job working with our staff. She's got a great team. And they're the reason we're looking like such a sharp opposition these days, keeping focused and keeping this government on its toes.

Mr. Speaker, also we all take a bit of time to recognize the role that our families play in the work in this House as well. It is absolutely a sacrifice for Mahli and Abe and Gus to have me on the road and in this House as much as I am. Mahli, as you know, is a busy pediatrician that works in the children's hospital on the ward. She works at her downtown clinic. She runs the refugee clinic. She flies to Ile-a-la-Crosse and La Loche and Stony Rapids to do remote clinics, and also works with Sanctum as their in-house pediatrician for the newborns there.

And with that long list you can see that we're a busy household, and we are also . . . So we're always a bit stretched, but we find every moment we can to spend with Abe and Gus, our little old men.

Abraham is 8. And it's Halloween today. He's going to be a goblin, which is reflective of his love for reading. He's deep into a book every chance he gets — history, fantasy, mythology. He's a pretty interesting kid to talk to. If you sat down with him, Mr. Speaker, he might ask you what your favourite ancient civilization was. That's the sort of conversationalist he is.

Gus is two, so his comments are a little less erudite perhaps, but he's a great load of fun. And he's going to be a lion roaring at people's doors, asking for candy this evening while we're out trick-or-treating.

So that's the folks that surround us. There are many more of course, and it would take too long to mention everyone. But I have to talk about this team, this team of MLAs that I get to work alongside — colleagues, friends, people who do an incredible amount of work for their communities, who are committed to truly putting people first.

And as we look at this Throne Speech, I thought about what my fellow MLAs might have been looking for as they got that document embargoed and were having a look at what might be in there. And when we look for a Throne Speech, we're looking for a forward-looking document, something that casts the eye on the horizon, gives us a vision of what it is that we can achieve as a province. Unfortunately when we got to this document, I don't think a lot of that was found by my colleagues here. We all got this sense of the people of Saskatchewan being very likely to look at this Throne Speech and say, well what have you done for me lately? Because it was all casting back a dozen years.

As my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale pointed out, it's a pretty good test when it comes to evaluating what this government's really talking about. If they're pointing back at 2007, if they're throwing numbers at us of investments that don't account for population growth, don't account for increases in costs with inflation, then it's pretty likely they're hiding the mess that they've created in the last five years, that they're not wanting to acknowledge what's gone on under this Premier, the failures to address those key issues. They want to cast back to the time before the boom and get credit for everything that was spent in that time, but they fail to recognize their own failures in recent years which are causing real stress in Saskatchewan communities.

So when my fellow members looked at this Throne Speech . . . I haven't asked them directly but I've listened to their speeches and I've, you know, surmised a little bit. My colleague who's my seatmate here from Regina Douglas Park, well with her guest today, she might be thinking about the lack of mention of child care in the Throne Speech. There certainly was no commitment to addressing the major gaps in affordability and availability of child care.

But as a critic for Justice, I know that she would have been looking for something to address the crystal meth crisis — and those words didn't show up at all in this Throne Speech — a crisis that is driving higher volumes in our emergency room, higher volumes in our primary care clinics, in no way being met by the addictions services available, and driving higher crime rates. We're seeing increase in petty and property crime, increase in violent crime in rural and urban communities directly related to the scourge of crystal meth.

And I believe my colleague would also have been looking for some acknowledgement of the overcrowding and lack of services, lack of rehabilitation supports for inmates in corrections, and would have been looking to see some investments to make sure that when people are found guilty of their crime, we help them to not return to a life of crime — that it's not just about locking people up in increasingly difficult conditions — but that we're actually looking to help people chart a path to a better life.

When I look to my colleague from Elphinstone-Centre, I imagine

that he would have been asking some of the same questions because his community has been deeply affected by the crystal meth crisis. He's seeing friends and neighbours finding their family members in situations of addiction and situations of violence and of crime. And he, as we well know, has spent his entire career advocating for the people of inner-city Regina, and we will miss him in this House, and the people of Elphinstone-Centre will miss his voice on behalf of his community.

He's also of course critic for Advanced Education, and I believe he would have been looking for some acknowledgement of the failures in that file. We've seen millions of dollars cut from Advanced Education, from our colleges and universities in the last three years. We are millions of dollars below where we were, 4 per cent below where we were in 2016, despite hundreds of students more seeking opportunities in those institutions, Mr. Speaker.

And if we want a strong economy 10 years from now, the last thing we want to do is pull away from those institutions that are the key to innovation, to research and development: the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], the U of R [University of Regina], SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]. In poor economic times, in the difficult economic times that the Sask Party has led us into, the worse thing we can do is undermine the agents of recovery. And those universities and colleges are absolutely among those key facilities.

I look to my colleague from Nutana, a critic for, among other things, the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] and the bypass. She would have been looking for some acknowledgement of the past errors, acknowledgement of the failure to have even the curiosity to get to the bottom of just what happened with the corruption around the GTH, that we would have some curiosity about why 400 million ballooned to \$2 billion when it came to the bypass and who benefited from that and why we saw that project balloon out of control to a \$2 billion project. When we have so many other important things that we need to be investing in education, in health care, \$2 billion could have been much better used.

Mr. Speaker, I think that member would also, as critic for SaskPower, have been wanting to hear something about a vision beyond vague numbers when it comes to actually moving to renewable energy in this project. I don't think she would have been looking for silence on the fact that this government looked at an industry that was growing, that was succeeding, where new jobs were being created, new companies were being formed, where businesses were thriving in our province, and this government said, you know what, that's going too well. This net metering is getting too popular. Too many people want solar power. Let's kill that industry. Let's cut that program to the bone and kill that industry right now.

No, I think instead the member for Saskatoon Nutana would have wanted to see us go down the road of Renew Saskatchewan, where we actually take an imaginative, ambitious program to invest in the transition to renewable energy, a program that would reduce people's bills, lower people's bills by making that opportunity to have energy-efficient retrofits or solar panels on their roof more available. Lower people's bills and at the same time make that move to clean energy.

Yes, those bills that have risen by 50 per cent in SaskPower under this government, bring those bills down and at the same time put thousands of people to work, not put hundreds out of work in the existing companies, but actually put thousands of people to work with a program that will pay for itself, because it's a pay-as-you-save program. That upfront loan, get rid of that, upfront costs that limits people getting into the process, getting into the market in the first place. Get anyone who wants to be able to make that move to renewable energy able to do so, and in the process lower our bills, put lots of people to work. Mr. Speaker, I know that's what the member from Saskatoon Nutana would have been looking for.

The member from Saskatoon Centre, who is the critic for Labour, you know, I think he would've been looking for some acknowledgement that we have the lowest minimum wage in the country, the lowest minimum wage in Canada, and it's indexed in such a way that it's going to continue to be. The people are going to continue to work full time and still require the food bank, still live in poverty. He would've wanted to see a commitment to a \$15 minimum wage, a commitment to a \$15 minimum wage so that people are lifted out of poverty and so that that money is circulating in our communities, allowing local small businesses to thrive.

And while we're happy to finally see, after months and months of demanding some attention to what's going on in Estevan and Coronach, we're happy to see some money for economic development there, and that's a positive thing. I know that the critic for Labour would have liked to hear some discussion of the actual workers involved because there was no mention of the working people who were about to lose their jobs. No mention of training for them. No mention of making sure that SaskPower is ready to hire those folks back in other facilities, No plan to make sure that the workers in Estevan and Coronach are the top priority, that they are what's really on your mind. Now, Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Centre didn't hear those things.

And I know the member for Athabasca would have been looking to have some mention of the North at all, some mention of northern Saskatchewan, some mention of the challenges faced by people who are out of work in uranium mines and who are now unemployed, some acknowledgement of the need for northern economic development, for governance that involves northern Saskatchewan people. Instead, absent, 100 per cent missing was any acknowledgement that there is a need to get people back to work in mining but also to look for other opportunities, sustainable economic development in northern Saskatchewan.

Continuing with the North, our member for Cumberland, our member for Cumberland spoke from his seat with passion about the young people who have been losing their lives in northern Saskatchewan, about the rates of suicide, astronomical rates of suicide among young men and women, among the people he knows in his communities, families he knows well. And nowhere in this Throne Speech, nowhere is any mention of that suicide crisis. And nowhere is a commitment to that very simple demand that we have made over and over again, that the member from Cumberland has made from the bottom of his heart on behalf of his community, for a suicide prevention strategy that will make a real difference, that will save lives in northern Saskatchewan. Where was that in the Throne Speech? That's a simple thing, Mr.

Speaker, and it was nowhere to be seen.

[11:15]

We think of the member for Saskatoon Fairview and what she might have been looking for as Health critic when in a time when our emergency rooms are overcrowded, when we consistently have ambulances showing up and waiting and waiting because they can't offload patients. And we have hundreds of people in Saskatoon alone in the last year who have not received an ambulance when they called for one because there wasn't one available. We've got rooms in our hospitals that aren't rooms; they're just spaces in the hallways but they've been there for so long that they've tacked numbers onto the walls because hallway medicine has become not unacceptable, as the minister said, but the standard of care under this government. She would have liked to see the word "emergency rooms," even a notion that that might be on the minds of this government. But apparently there's no urgency on the part of the Sask Party when it comes to addressing the problems in our emergency room. When it comes to their triage, that's nowhere on the list.

And I know that she would also have wanted to see some mention of pharmacare. This is a national discussion going on. Right now we have an opportunity to have a national pharmacare, first-dollar, universal, publicly funded pharmacare program. This government should be spending every health advocacy ounce of activity that it has to push the government to get us that kind of program so that we can stop the situation we're seeing every day, where people in this province are choosing between paying the rent, paying for groceries, or paying for the medications that they need to stay healthy, where one in five Canadians are not filling prescriptions because they can't afford to. In the Throne Speech that prescription went completely unfilled.

As for the member for Regina Lakeview, we know that she talks all the time to teachers, to parents, to school boards, to students, and she hears over and over again about the crisis in our classrooms, the crisis in our classrooms that is being driven by class sizes that have grown, and by composition of classes that is much more complex than we've seen in the past. We've got more kids with special needs; more kids with English or French as an additional language; more kids struggling with mental health troubles, anxiety, depression; more kids who are coming to school from lives of poverty; more children who are coming to school hungry or tired because they can't get a good sleep where they live. We've got \$400 less per student in our classrooms. We do not have anywhere near the 400 EAs [educational assistant] that the Premier promised when he was running for leader. Mr. Speaker, there is no acknowledgement of that crisis in this Throne Speech and there was no commitment to make any meaningful change to address that in any effective way.

The member for Prince Albert Northcote, as our critic for Social Services, is also concerned about poverty in our classrooms, poverty in our communities. And she's wondering why in this Throne Speech we saw a doubling down on a poor decision, this new social income support program that goes in exactly the wrong direction. We've got people who now no longer have the option to make sure that their rent is paid, no longer have a letter of guarantee for landlords to make sure that those landlords will receive a rent cheque, which means they're not going to be able to find a place that will rent for them.

And I know the minister doesn't want to hear from me or the critic on this, but he should be hearing from the front-line workers that we are hearing from. Every organization we've talked to about this is frantically worried about the homelessness that's going to spike this winter as we see people unable to afford rent.

And we see a government that has decided that the best way to help people is to give them less money, less options for support, and at the same time give them a motivational interview; that that's the answer, that if they talk to them the right way they're going to solve poverty. Less money, less options, less support, but a motivational interview — that's the answer. And frankly, Mr. Speaker, it's very clear that the critic for Social Services and the member for Prince Albert Northcote is completely dissatisfied with that.

The member from Saskatoon Riversdale, who gave us a heartfelt speech the other day, told us the story of her dad. And I want to thank her for sharing that story. And we miss Rusty. He was a great guy. I got to know him well a few years ago when I was in medicine and starting out in my connections with politics, and he was such a neat guy. And so my condolences to you and your family on that loss, and thank you for sharing your story and your passion for seniors' care and what you were looking for in this Throne Speech.

I know what my colleague was looking for was some commitment to ending the understaffing in seniors' centres, where we have nowhere near the capacity to deal with the challenge of seniors who are again coming with more complex, more challenging needs. The ability of staff to spend time with them is nowhere near what's necessary to keep up care, and as a result, the turnover in our long-term care facilities, the stress on those workers, is beyond the pale.

And as mental health and addictions critic, she too was looking for some notion that when it came to opioid and crystal meth crisis, that this government had even noticed it was going on; that they were willing to put any serious efforts into making sure that upstream we prevent people from winding up in situations of addiction; that in primary care, that the supports are there so that when people come forward and say, I'm ready to make a change, I need help, that we are able to get that in a timely fashion so we avoid crises; and that in a time of crisis in the emergency room, we have that dedicated, appropriate emergency support that gives people coming with mental health and addictions needs the support they need that fits the real challenges they're facing and also relieves some of the pressure on our emergency rooms so that we are able to make sure that everyone, regardless of their need, gets the appropriate and right kind of care.

Mr. Speaker, there's one more of my colleagues that I want to mention, and that's the member for Regina Rosemont who is the critic for Finance and associate critic for Economy and jobs. And as he travels the province, he's been hearing about the real economic stresses that people are facing, that people don't know if they're going to have enough money to make it to the month. And he's looking at the numbers. The high, high level of people who are facing losing their homes because their mortgages are in arrears or unable to pay their power bills. He's got that on his mind.

I almost forgot a member that was hiding. There's more of us now. I'm going to come back in a moment to the member from Regina Rosemont. But there's the member for Regina Northeast, the new guy. He's been here awhile now. He's not really the new guy anymore, but he's the critic for Environment and Agriculture. And I know that he was looking at the Throne Speech, wondering if this government was going to give any indication that they actually believe in climate change in any meaningful way, that they were going to put forth any targets of the emissions reductions they were willing to achieve, that they were going to take that problem seriously at all. He didn't see that.

He also didn't see any indication, as critic for Agriculture, of any relief for farmers that are facing increased bills, increased bills for grain drying because of the Trudeau carbon tax which this government has done nothing effective to prevent coming in. This was a completely foreseeable and avoidable problem. And every farmer, every farmer, every farmer who's getting a bill for grain drying should send that bill directly to the Premier of Saskatchewan and say thank you to that member. Because he is the one to failed to come up with an alternative to the Trudeau carbon tax. He failed to come out with a plan that worked for Saskatchewan. And as a result those bills . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He failed to come up with an alternative, failed to work alongside farmers, industry, and the people of Saskatchewan, the experts of Saskatchewan to come up with a model that works for this province. Instead we have a program designed in Ottawa that doesn't work for Saskatchewan. We saw no plan to fix that circumstance, no backup plan whatsoever from this government that has been completely unwilling to be reasonable and come up with a decent plan on that front.

We also saw no indication that this government, who likes to pick fights with Ottawa, is willing to fight for farmers when it comes to their right to save seeds and replant them. That is something we've got no commitment from this government. Farmers across the province are talking to the member from Regina Northeast, talking to our Agriculture critic about that, but they're getting no response from this government, just a flip-flopping or failure to even give any commitment whatsoever. I don't believe he was satisfied with what he saw in the Throne Speech.

And neither, as I return to the member from Regina Rosemont, was that member as he looked and hoped that there would be some relief when it came to the PST on construction, a decision that . . . This government saw an economy that was slowing down, saw an economy that was slowing down and said, hey, how can we pump the brakes even more? How can we make things even worse? And they slapped PST on restaurant meals, on construction labour. They made the economy even worse. And we hear it in every town and city we go to, that building has dropped, that the investment in construction has dropped, that people are leaving the profession, that the number of apprentices has plummeted, and that the number of new workers in that field that are sticking around for more than a year or two has gone into

the basement.

And as a result we have a real problem. This is a huge engine of a recovery, a huge engine in our economy, and yet we are uncertain whether we're going to actually have the workforce to be able to respond if times do improve. If we get rid of this government and the economy gets better, will we actually have the workers around to do the job that needs to be done? What was wanted, what this member wanted, what I wanted, what we all wanted to see was a vision for the economy, a vision for the future.

And we heard. I'll give you credit. I'll give you credit on one thing. We saw some lofty goals: 100,000 new jobs, 1.4 million people. Those are lofty goals and it's admirable to dream big. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? A goal without a plan is simply a wish. And at this point all we see is a wish. We see a government that's hoping the prices will return, that the commodity super cycle will come back, and they'll be able to fall into money the way they did when they were elected back in 2007.

You can't count on that happening. You can't just hope that it's going to get better. You can't just wish to see the economy grow. You have to have a plan. So a smart plan, a real plan would embrace innovation; would show leadership; would be investing in higher education, in post-secondary education; would be supporting the growth in technology, in agriculture, in the tech sector, throughout our environment; would be looking to make those investments and embracing innovation; would be looking to expand our access to markets around the world, making sure that we're not dependent on a small number of markets; but also here at home increasing the value-added production so that more of what we produce isn't just a raw product but actually gets value added to it. So that more of it is consumed here in Saskatchewan and Canada and North America as we try to make sure that we're more resilient to changes in trade circumstances, changes in trade relationships, changes in commodity prices.

A plan for this economy that would work for the long run would also be a plan that would build up Saskatchewan workers and companies, that would make sure that when we're building our roads, our hospitals, our schools, our power plants, with our tax dollars, that we do so with our companies and our workers. Not what we've seen from this government which is the vast majority of any major project going to out-of-province and out-of-country companies and very little of that money staying in this province, Mr. Speaker.

We'd also make sure that along with keeping us working that the economy would work for us . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . 74 per cent. That's the fact check. 74 per cent of that \$5 billion. We'd also make sure that the economy works for us with fair labour laws, with pay equity, and with a \$15 minimum wage so that more of that money stays in people's pockets and is circulated in our community instead of leaving the province and leaving the country.

Mr. Speaker, a true growth plan would also make sure that we involve all Saskatchewan people in our success. Because right now we still have too many people living in poverty in this province. The biggest item of growth under this government has been inequality. And we see 100,000 people living in poverty costing us over \$4 billion a year in increased health costs, social

service costs, justice costs, not to mention decreased economic activity, Mr. Speaker.

And when we look at the problems, the areas that this government is failing on — in education, in health care, in justice — the root cause of that is poverty, and the failure to have any concern or interest in growing inequality or willingness to address poverty is exactly at the root of the biggest challenges we're facing as a province. Because, Mr. Speaker, at the foundation, the biggest thing that has to be at the heart of an economic plan is a long-term vision, an understanding that it's not enough to float big numbers and lofty goals to try to win an election. We need to be focused on the next generation. We need to go beyond a wish and have a real plan if we're going to achieve those goals. There is a path to growth for us, but it's a path to development.

I mentioned earlier my wife works as a pediatrician. She saw a kid when they were three and saw that same child again when they were four. She wanted to make sure that that child had grown, that they were bigger than they were a year ago. But she wouldn't be satisfied if they'd just gotten bigger and they didn't have a few more words and be able to have better motor skills and have developed somewhat.

[11:30]

There is a difference between simple growth and growth that actually develops us as a province, that builds us up and creates the long-term path to success. And what we know, Mr. Speaker, is that you cannot cut health and education and have sustainable development, have actual growth that will work for us.

This plan, what we see from this government so far, is a plan maybe to have 100,000 more jobs, but also to have 100,000 more people living in poverty, to have 50,000 more people in our jails and corrections system, to have more people addicted to crystal meth. That's the kind of plan we see because it's not a plan that does what we need to do, which is to have a plan that puts people first. Mr. Speaker, we need a plan that puts people first, that builds local strength, that focuses on poverty reduction, that invests in education, that is focused on economic diversification.

If we do that, if we make those choices, then we're not so dependent on what happens with the commodity cycle. We build in the resilience that allows us to succeed if times are tough, despite tough times, and we build in the readiness that allows us to take full advantage of the opportunities that are presented if things do go better. Mr. Speaker, that's the balanced, smart way to have a plan to growth that actually leads to development.

We've seen the Sask Party do the obvious. We've seen the Sask Party show us that they can squander a boom. We've seen the Sask Party show us that they can scramble and panic and make a downturn worse. We've seen them show us that they're unable to lead on the economy. And now, Mr. Speaker, it's time that we show them the door.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to once again thank my colleagues. I want to once again thank everyone in this room for the work we're doing. But I want to emphasize: we can do better. We can do better, but we can't do better with these guys. We can do better and we can do better than these guys, Mr. Speaker. And

that's why I will be supporting the amendment. But when it comes to this weak-sauce, thin-soup, uninspiring, unambitious, backward-looking Throne Speech, no thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I want to begin by just taking this opportunity to thank our newly appointed Lieutenant Governor, his wife, Donna, for Her Honour, for agreeing to serve, to serve this province, serve this nation, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank them for taking on that responsibility. And I know they'll just do a wonderful job, given the history of both of them, their commitment to their community, commitment to their province, and commitment to the nation, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to take this opportunity to again, once again extend condolences to a friend of many on both sides of this House, to the family of the late Tom Molloy, the previous Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Speaker. And to Cori, to Kathryn, to Jennifer, and to Alison: I just once again want to extend our condolences and extend our best wishes and love to your family in the loss of a friend to so many in again this province and this nation.

Mr. Speaker, I'll lead off by thanking the member from Cannington for moving the Speech from the Throne here this year. The member from Cannington has been around some time in this Assembly, sat in many chairs, Mr. Speaker, including the one that you currently reside in, Mr. Speaker. Being elected in 1991, grew a great, rich history the member from Cannington has, not only in his constituency, not only in these hallways, Mr. Speaker, but he was also a founding member of the Saskatchewan Party.

Throughout those years in government, Mr. Speaker, I've been made aware that this particular member has not moved a Throne Speech in all of those decades that he has served in this House, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank him very much for moving this particular Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, in the year that he will be retiring, and wish him the very best in all that his life brings him in the future.

I do want to take the opportunity as well, Mr. Speaker, to thank members on both sides of this Assembly for their input, their opinions, their speeches on their views of the Speech from the Throne that was delivered the other day. I know although we don't always agree, Mr. Speaker — maybe sometimes even on the same side of the House from time to time we don't agree, Mr. Speaker — this most certainly is a place for debate. And I want to thank members on both sides of the House for their speeches from the, from the speeches in their reply to the Speech from the Throne. Pardon me. That's the words I'm looking for. And I most certainly want to thank each and every one of these members, not only for what they have done this past week in this Assembly, but for how they serve their constituents, how we collectively on both sides of the House serve the people of this province each and every day, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to take a moment to thank all of the constituency assistants. Because without the hard work that they do in our respective constituencies, Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that we would be nowhere near as effective as we are as a government and as an opposition, Mr. Speaker. We would be nowhere near

as effective as we are in serving the constituents in our constituencies across the province.

And I do want to single out my constituency assistant, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Sally Fitch, who works hard for the constituents of Rosthern-Shellbrook despite her MLA not being home quite as much as maybe he once was, Mr. Speaker. She is there each and every day and, as I always say, thankfully is the ears, the eyes, and most thankfully the face of Rosthern-Shellbrook when people pass in our office door.

I want to thank Rhonda Romanuk and Launa Birnie who keep our office open here in Regina, the Premier's office in Regina. They do a wonderful job, and I can truly say it's a highlight of my day, each and every day, when I walk in and they both greet me with a smile. It most certainly gets even the most challenging days off on the right foot, Mr. Speaker. And they are just a tremendous support not only to myself, but through myself to members of caucus and all of the people in the province of Saskatchewan.

Last but certainly not least I want to, as many members I'm sure have, thank my family. I want to thank my wife, Krista, for all of the support that she provides and allows me — and truly does allow me as she has the veto vote in our family, Mr. Speaker — but she does allow me to do what I do each and every day and serve with such a wonderful group of friends and colleagues, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank my oldest son, 26 years old, my oldest son, Carter, a mechanical engineer in the city of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. He has an uncanny habit of just making those short comments from time to time that really keep life real. They really do, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank him for that and I just want to thank him in advance for continuing to do that.

And I want to thank our youngest child, our daughter Taryn, who'll be 21 years old here in just a matter of a couple of weeks, Mr. Speaker. She's attending school in Minot and I want to thank her not only for the advice she provides me, as she is a little bit of a political wonk and a policy wonk, but I also want to thank her for dressing me each and every morning because what you see here doesn't just happen by the choices that I make, Mr. Speaker. And I often joke that it could be quite a train wreck if I got up and she didn't answer her text on what I could actually wear that particular day.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to just make a few comments as well with respect to the holiday seasons that we have. And we view them as holidays, but they're a time for us to celebrate as family. We have Halloween today, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that everyone stays safe. I also encourage everyone to participate in Halloween if you choose to do so, Mr. Speaker, participate, as the kids I know most certainly enjoy the candy. Sometimes the parents that are handing out the candy enjoy it just as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would say however that I think on this particular Halloween, that our Deputy Premier is really engaging with the children. I think he's going to be dressing up as a cat, if I'm not mistaken. And there'll be potentially, according to rumour, a kindergarten class that may be painting the whiskers on his face, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — In permanent marker?

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Yes, I do hope they don't use a Jiffy marker, Mr. Speaker. It may be an interesting week next week.

Mr. Speaker, very shortly after the enjoyment of family and friends with Halloween, we will be into Remembrance Day on November the 11th. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll have opportunity to provide other comments, but I think it's always incumbent on us to mention the veterans that have served, the armed forces that continue to serve, and particularly remember those families that have lost loved ones, paid the ultimate sacrifice in honour of defending our country, Mr. Speaker, and defending the democracy that we at times may take for granted in this Assembly each and every day, Mr. Speaker. And they are truly our heroes in this nation, and there isn't a day that goes by, in particular November 11th, but there isn't a day that goes by in the year when we should not pay them our respects.

Mr. Speaker, we are entering our legislative session this year and we have a robust session. We have over 30 different pieces of legislation that will be introduced. But I do want to enter a few comments, not only to the Speech from the Throne, but to a document that we will be introducing as we go through this legislative session, Mr. Speaker, and that will be an update to our plan for growth here in the province of Saskatchewan. And if you are familiar with the previous plan for growth that we had in this province, it was a strategic document, a forward-looking document that looked out past, if you will, the election cycles, Mr. Speaker. It was a document that was formed by consultation with people across the province. I remember myself reaching out with mailers as well as meetings across the constituency, so that the people that I represent had a hand in forming that initial document, Mr. Speaker.

In that initial document we set targets. We set bold targets in many cases, Mr. Speaker. Some of those targets we were able to meet. Some we met quite quickly. Some we are getting very close to and may meet by the year 2020, Mr. Speaker, and some, there remains a little bit more work to do. But the fact remains that we were courageous to set those targets on behalf of the people that we represent, Mr. Speaker. They're all targets that will stimulate and continue to ensure that the people know that we intend to keep growing this province and growing the services that the provincial government provides. And we most certainly have that very same intent as we look out now in approaching the year 2020, and look out to that next decade here in the province of Saskatchewan.

And I would put forward one of those targets, Mr. Speaker, that we maybe, not yet, but we may fall just a little bit short of, and that's the population target that we had of 1.2 million people. Mr. Speaker, that is a target that we are going to have to really turn on the burners, if you will, if we're going to achieve that 1.2 million by the year 2020.

But I would also say that that is likely the largest success coming out of the targets that were set in the plan for growth, quite likely the largest success in our province over the course of the last decade. We have now more than 1.172 million people that are living in this province, Mr. Speaker. Over 170,000 people have moved here from over 140 countries all around the world.

Our communities look very different today than they did not that long ago. In fact we have added the equivalent of four Moose Jaws, two Humboldts, and a Swift Current since 2007, the largest sustained population growth for the last 80 years in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and something most recently our industries, our communities can be proud of. Mr. Speaker, employment in our communities . . . And that's where the employment occurs. It isn't just in the province. It's in our communities. It's up 83,000 people over the course of that time, Mr. Speaker.

And to support that growth, we have and we continue to make record investments in infrastructure, Mr. Speaker: over \$12 billion in executive government, over \$30 billion in infrastructure made across government as a whole, Mr. Speaker, infrastructure like the Regina bypass, which we had the opportunity to open just this last week, Mr. Speaker.

The Regina bypass, of which I know that one of the members from Regina had been on his feet many times asking for trucks to get out of, off of Dewdney Avenue, I believe, was the street, Mr. Speaker, but was really focused in, in not only getting those trucks off of . . . getting them out of downtown Regina, Mr. Speaker, but getting those trucks to quit making turns, if you will, Mr. Speaker, stopping and disrupting the flow of traffic, Mr. Speaker, so that those trucks could go in a continuous flow around the city as they are on their way on the national highway system we have, Mr. Speaker. But most importantly, what that investment represents is an investment in safety and our families that are getting on and off our No. 1 Highway here, our national highway corridor, and getting in and out of our capital city.

[11:45]

Mr. Speaker, there are fair questions that can be asked about that investment. There are fair questions that can be asked about the method in which that investment can be made. There are no questions as to why that investment was made, Mr. Speaker. That investment was made most certainly to enhance the safety of our families in this province. That was highlighted, I think, on opening day, and I think you'll see that highlighted in the days and weeks ahead, Mr. Speaker.

And I point to the comments from the fire chief, from Randy Schulz out at White City, who said, "Not only is the number of accidents down, the severity of those accidents are down out on the east side of Regina." And he'd indicated that he had not used the jaws of life for two years now. Mr. Speaker, that is a worthwhile investment.

Mr. Speaker, we heard on the radio this morning from Sarah Mills. She says, "I love the bypass. It's convenient. It will save lives, and it will keep some of the truck traffic off that busy Victoria Avenue East." Most certainly that is the case. We've heard various truckers say how much easier it is going to be for them to get around and get into the city where they need to get in, Mr. Speaker.

But the comments that resonated with myself and I hope resonated with everyone that was at the opening and continue to resonate across this province were made by Wanda Campbell, who lost her son Lane in 2013. And if we were to listen to anyone

on the investment in that infrastructure, I think it's incumbent on us to listen to Lane. She said this, Mr. Speaker:

There's a trail of crosses, a trail of heartbreak and broken lives connected with this part of the highway and something needed to be done. You cannot put a price on life or a price on what has been lost because of catastrophic injury.

Mr. Speaker, Wanda went on in an article to say that they had been advocating for stoplights and turning lanes, and she'd indicated that she had gotten so much more in the construction of this bypass.

Mr. Speaker, we can discuss how this bypass was built. We can discuss all of the details with respect to how the investment was made. I will never apologize for the decision that members on this House made in an investment in some of the safest highway infrastructure, not only in Regina, but traditional investment right across this province in our highway system, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, that investment goes far beyond just our highways. And we have the opportunity in here to talk about, and fairly so, about the Saskatchewan Hospital, in North Battleford and that replacement of that 100-year-old facility for our families and our loved ones. The Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon, an investment not only in children's medicine and children's care, Mr. Speaker, but an investment in emergency services and emergent care in the city of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker.

We have schools that we have built, 46 new schools across this province. I see one coming up in the community of Rosthern, a growing community, a community most certainly in need of a school, Mr. Speaker. These are the benefits, these are the benefits of a growing community, a growing province, and most certainly are paid for through a growing economy. We are only able to make those infrastructure investments because of the growth of the Saskatchewan economy.

And in the first growth plan, we had talked quite a bit about the Saskatchewan economy and set targets with respect to where we were going to see our province and our communities out to the year 2020. And we also indicated quite clearly that this growth was not just for the sake of growth. This growth was for the sake of being able to invest in those services that people expect their provincial government to invest in.

And I think as we approach 2020, we are seeing the fruition of that growth, the fruition of that investment, Mr. Speaker, in investments like the Regina bypass, in investments like the children's hospital in Saskatoon, in investments like the Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford, a Moose Jaw hospital, an upcoming Weyburn hospital, a new Prince Albert hospital that will be built in the next number of years, Mr. Speaker, 46 new schools.

This is investment that the people of this province expect, and this is investment that we will continue to foster our economy so that we can continue to make just that kind of an investment — not only next year, not only in five years, but set up the opportunity so that next generation, our children, will be able to make that investment for years into the future. That's the goal of the members on this side, Mr. Speaker. I believe that's the goal of everyone in this House. And I know it's the goal of the people

of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the opportunity to release some of the targets that have been widely consulted by members on this side of the House with industry, with people in our communities, with community groups, with community-based organizations, Mr. Speaker, we are going to release a new growth plan this fall. Mr. Speaker, we have already started to take some steps as to where that growth plan is going to land in the way of population. And we are going to do everything we can to continue to foster that population growth in our communities right across Saskatchewan, do everything that we can to ensure that by the year 2030 this province will be a province of 1.4 million people.

Mr. Speaker, in order to do that, the recipe of success in this province is not that complicated. We need to create another 100,000 jobs. We need to create those jobs in yes, the traditional industries that have created jobs in this province like mining and energy and agriculture and manufacturing, but we need to continue to look to the jobs of the future in innovation and in technology and in research and development, Mr. Speaker. We most certainly are going to be now making decisions so that we are able to achieve those 100,000 jobs, so that we can achieve that number of 1.4 million people in our province of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, what's most exciting, what's most exciting in this province — and this is something that is often missed by others in the nation, and I'm informing our Prime Minister of this at the first opportunity that I have to sit with him once again — but it's often missed often by people even in this province, Mr. Speaker, that as we grow our opportunities and as we grow our jobs, we are doing so more sustainably than anywhere else in the world. And that's something we should be proud of in this province, Mr. Speaker.

We are lowering our emissions here in the province of Saskatchewan. We're doing it through a plan of Prairie Resilience that was introduced by this Environment minister, Mr. Speaker. It's a plan that was consulted on with industry, that recognizes the investments in emissions reductions that have already been made, but it's also a plan that realizes that we need to go further as we go years into the future. Mr. Speaker, it is a balanced plan that will not only have emissions reductions, but will ensure that the industries that are creating jobs for the people that live here can continue to live here.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we are hearing a conversation, in light of the federal election that occurred not long ago, about who should be, for instance, in a federal cabinet. Who should be in a federal cabinet that should represent the people of Saskatchewan and likely Alberta? And I would say this: the question is not who should be in the federal cabinet. The question is, who should be in Canada?

Mr. Speaker, I would say all of the people that work for the Encana Corporation that announced today that they are going to be moving to the United States should remain in Canada. I would put forward that all of the people that work for the TransCanada Corporation that are in the process of changing their name and relocating to the United States should remain in Canada. Those that work with Devon Energy, Mr. Speaker, I believe they should remain in Canada, just like the Prime Minister believes that the

people that work for SNC-Lavalin and the people that work for Bombardier should remain in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, there are policy directions that need to change with our federal government, Mr. Speaker. And a good start in this province would be for the members opposite to realize that and quit supporting him in some of those policies that are destroying some of the industries that are leaving our province as we speak today.

Mr. Speaker, we look no further than the policy of carbon taxation, Mr. Speaker. And I understand that there were some comments made with respect to supporting our farmers in this province, and I jump at the opportunity to speak to that briefly, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about supporting our farmers in this province, you just go back a few years. Let's start with the largest ever property tax reduction and the reduction of the education property tax, work performed by a Legislative Secretary of the day, the member from Rosetown, Mr. Speaker, reducing that education property tax, that burden on agricultural producers across this province, Mr. Speaker. Or let's start with the record investment in highways, which not only makes our roads safer for our families but ensures us the opportunity to get our goods to market.

Mr. Speaker, let's talk about the opportunity and the effort that has been made by the previous premier; previous Economy ministers, Mr. Speaker; the current Minister of Trade and Export Development; ministers of Agriculture past and present; and this current Premier, Mr. Speaker, of travelling to markets to ensure that we are forming those relationships and maintaining those relationships so that our exports that have come from \$16 billion under the members opposite in 2007, now in and around that \$30 billion range, can continue to escalate to 35 billion, to 40 billion, to 45 billion. And we can continue to grow this economy in the province, Mr. Speaker, which I always say, the spinal cord is agriculture. And that's a spinal cord that we intend on continuing to support, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to farmers emailing me their carbon tax bills, I'd like to inform this House that that's actually already happening, Mr. Speaker. And they aren't blaming me for those carbon tax bills. They're blaming a federal government's policy that's supported by the Leader of the Opposition federally and the Leader of the Opposition here in the province of Saskatchewan. So that initiative that was put forward is already under way, Mr. Speaker, and we're proud to be a part of it.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to reduce our emissions in other industries that are important here in the province of Saskatchewan. I point no further to the conversation that is happening again, in many ways due to a federal government policy: the phase-out of coal — previous government expedited by the current government, Mr. Speaker — affecting in our province not just two communities but the communities of Estevan and Coronach, Mr. Speaker. But the surrounding communities, as well as those, are also communities that are being somewhat hard hit by the policies that are affecting the energy industry, Mr. Speaker.

And I've heard from time to time that, you know, there isn't a plan. There isn't a plan by this government. Well we took a first major step forward with respect to our engagement and our

commitment to those communities in this Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, providing a \$10 million transition fund, a \$10 million transition fund to ensure that we can work very closely with both of those communities and the families involved, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we can transition the economy in those communities.

And we also have a plan when it comes to how are we going to generate power in the years ahead. Mr. Speaker, we have a large investment of distribution infrastructure that is going into those communities. That's electrical distribution infrastructure that we intend on using, Mr. Speaker. So we have opportunities as we move forward, thankfully due to investments of years gone by in carbon capture and storage, and having a vibrant energy field in the area of somewhere to use that carbon in enhanced oil recovery. We have opportunities, Mr. Speaker, as we look forward, to incorporate carbon capture and storage on some of our existing and refurbished coal-fired plants there. And thankfully we are fortunate to be blessed with a 300-year supply of coal in the community of Estevan. That is an option.

Mr. Speaker, we have the option of engaging with other provinces, notably Ontario and New Brunswick, Mr. Speaker, on the conversation around small modular reactors, small modular reactors which would actually create for us the opportunity to create clean, zero-emission baseload power right in the community of Estevan, putting people to work in that community, Mr. Speaker, reducing our emissions profile probably even farther than we could with a mix of CCS [carbon capture and storage] and renewables, to be honest, Mr. Speaker.

And this is a conversation that I think, in a mature way, the people of this province would ask this provincial government to embark on. And we are going to do it, not just for the opportunity in the communities of Estevan and Coronach but for the opportunity of the people in this province to receive affordable baseload power, Mr. Speaker, from a zero-emission supply. And we intend to go down that road, to have that conversation with not only those two provinces but the opportunity to potentially procure some of that power for our province.

This coincides, Mr. Speaker, with investments, the first investment in the nation in geothermal, Mr. Speaker, investments in biomass. We see 200-megawatt wind projects coming on. We see 300-watt wind projects that are in the works, Mr. Speaker. This is most certainly a province that is supporting a low-emissions transition, Mr. Speaker, but remembering and remembering to support the families that are being affected in that, Mr. Speaker, in this Throne Speech with the transition, the transitional dollars, the \$10 million that are being provided to ensure that no one is left behind in this conversation.

Mr. Speaker, that investment that I'd spoke of extends far beyond the electrical industry here in the province. But most certainly that investment has been most evident over the course of the last 12 years in health care. I've seen it in the community where I live, Mr. Speaker, as we replaced 13 rural long-term care and hospital facilities, one of those was in the community where I live, Mr. Speaker. Prior to being elected, I was on the board. I was the Chair of the fundraising group in that community, Mr. Speaker. I was on the build committee. I was on the physician recruitment committee because we had 900 less physicians when we took office, Mr. Speaker. We were short in our community as

were 40 or 50 other communities across the province. And I worked very hard on behalf of my community at that point in time. And I know that at that point in time there was 12 other communities that were doing the equal amount of work as they also were getting their infrastructure refurbished.

[12:00]

And we went on since then with the hospital in Moose Jaw. We've went on since then, Mr. Speaker, with the Jim Pattison Hospital of which we had the opportunity to attend, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford, new hospitals continue to come, new long-term care centres, Mr. Speaker. We've increased the complement of people that are providing that service, but we've also increased the scope of services that are being offered here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

And I would point no further to the introduction and the first initial funding agreement with STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service]. Mr. Speaker, this is most certainly an initiative that has been supported by this provincial government. It's been supported by the many donors that are there each and every year. And now we see with the re-signing of that 10-year funding agreement from the government, we see the community coming back, Mr. Speaker, to support that important service. We see projects coming on like the Pegasus project, for instance. We see the Rescue on the Prairie project, Mr. Speaker, gathering steam. This is most certainly an expansion in the scope of services that has been available to the people in this province. Mr. Speaker, it's a valued service. It's one that is needed across this province and it's one that we most certainly are so very proud, so very proud to be a part of, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke of the schools, the 46 schools that we've built, 23 major renovations. More work to do. We talk about, you know, deficits in health care and education, and those deficits in fairness are the responsibility of multiple governments over decades, Mr. Speaker, as many of those schools are not three and four years old, though many — well thankfully today they actually are — many of those schools are three and four years old, 46 of them to be exact, Mr. Speaker.

But we need to continue with that investment, but not only in the facilities. We need to continue with the investment in more teachers in those schools, Mr. Speaker, and we're doing that. We need to continue in the investment in our educational supports in those classrooms, and we're doing that.

We have increased our supports for students with intensive needs, which is part of the classroom composition conversation that we are having, Mr. Speaker, and will continue to have into the future, Mr. Speaker. We have increased that. We've actually quadrupled it in the time that we have had the opportunity to be government. It was \$64 million across the province. Now it's \$285 million.

We understand that there continue to be challenges despite this quadrupling of the investment in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker. The classroom size is about the same as it has been over the course of the last decade, but we understand that the classroom composition has changed to some degree. And the Minister of Education has committed to working with the sector, with the teachers across this province, with the school boards across this

province, with the school community councils across this province, and most importantly, with the parents, Mr. Speaker, the parents of children in our classrooms, on a consultation process so that we can ensure that this very complex issue, that we can come to a better place with it, Mr. Speaker, so that we can ensure that as . . . What drives me is that every child in that classroom has every opportunity to achieve all that they are able, Mr. Speaker. That is the environment that we are aiming for, and that's the environment that we just will not quit until we get there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, just a couple of short comments and we'll get on to a vote here, Mr. Speaker, on this Speech from the Throne. But I think it is important for me to just touch on a little bit of public and community safety here across the province in light of some of the discussions that I know are happening in and around where I live and other areas across this province. And there are some spots where, Mr. Speaker, some of the crime is higher than what we'd like to see it in certain areas of the province, Mr. Speaker. And this is likely somewhere where the Leader of the Opposition and I have some points of agreement as there are issues that are causing that crime, Mr. Speaker.

Those issues often start, not always, but will often start with some mental health challenges that may ultimately lead, not always, but may ultimately lead to some addictions problems, Mr. Speaker. And ultimately at the end of the day we see people doing what they need to to support a lifestyle that we just, quite simply, don't want them to be in, Mr. Speaker. There are supports that we need to provide and we will continue to provide those throughout our school systems, throughout our health care system, Mr. Speaker, but we also need to ensure that we are keeping our communities safe and stopping where we can the inflow of some of the drugs that are being made available in our communities, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why we have added officers in our communities. We have the provincial response team which helps us be the eyes and ears in our communities. We have greatly enhanced our rural crime watch networks, Mr. Speaker, so that people are talking. People are talking to one another. They're the eyes and ears of their community and they are working with their local law enforcement to ensure that we are making it more difficult for these property crimes to happen, Mr. Speaker, ultimately more difficult for this type of a lifestyle to be financed, Mr. Speaker. And we need to continue to work not only on the enforcement side, but also on the support side, Mr. Speaker, of what we are doing for the people that are living in our communities, the people that are having a challenging time from time to time. Mr. Speaker, we remain committed to doing just that.

Back to infrastructure quickly, Mr. Speaker, and then I will close up with some summary on where we are going here in the province, Mr. Speaker. I touched on infrastructure, some of the schools, the hospitals, the highways. But we continue to partner with our municipalities across the province, 21 waste water and clean water projects that are happening with towns and villages right across this province, and cities as well, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to invest in our connectivity across the province through SaskTel — \$50 million to further increase our coverage so that our rural businesses can operate being connected, Mr. Speaker, not only to cellular data but also to the internet. We have

15 new cellular sites that are going up as we speak and 100 new rural communities that are being served.

We continue to invest in our urban centres as well, Mr. Speaker, with a large investment in the Globe Theatre right here in the city of Regina. Gordie Howe bowl in the city of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, an important piece of recreation infrastructure for so many, and very worth the engagement to just see who all benefits in minor sports, a number of different minor sports in that multi-use centre in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. We'll be investing in also a multi-use recreational facility in the city of Prince Albert in addition to a hospital there, and an ice rink in the community of Southend, an unprecedented investment, Mr. Speaker, in a First Nations community.

And this is only possible, these types of investments across the board are only possible with the strong fiscal management that we are seeing by members on this side of the House, in particular in the last couple of years. Mr. Speaker. We just truly believe that it is unacceptable to burden that very same next generation that we are here serving with our financial debt of operational government, the operational facets of government here today. We will balance the budget this year. And we will make every effort, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that that continues for years into the future.

And I would just take this opportunity to say that I cannot say enough about the resilience and the character of the Finance minister, the member from Humboldt, with respect to her efforts on this initiative. And I hear of the successes when the Minister of Finance and I meet with the major banks here in the . . . [inaudible] . . . the nation of Canada, not quite there yet, in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker. We meet with them and they talk openly about the tough decisions that we have made in this province, the tough decisions. And how some other provinces need to potentially take a lesson from that to ensure that they will have the fiscal health and the financial stability to continue to make the investments in their provinces, Mr. Speaker, long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I often say governance can go in two directions, Mr. Speaker, and I would say it needs to go in both directions, not one or the other. It can go in the direction of managing the current situation, Mr. Speaker, in the direction of a vision for the future. And I would put forward, you need to competently manage what is occurring in the today, but you also need to keep your eye, your other eye, on a vision for the future of your province and what you want to leave to your children, Mr. Speaker. And that vision needs to be bold. It needs to be optimistic. And it needs to be hopeful. It needs to be hopeful for the people that we represent, Mr. Speaker.

And I would say this: as we look through the course of the last plan for growth in the last dozen years that we have had the honour to be in government, that it's members on this side of the House that have been willing to dream big, Mr. Speaker. They've been willing to follow the lead of the people we serve and to take steps in the directions that they guide us. And we are most certainly unapologetic about the ambition that we have displayed over the course of the last while. And we will not apologize for the ambition that's coming, Mr. Speaker.

We have always believed that this great province of

Saskatchewan should never resign itself to being secondary or to being a subordinate player in this great nation of Canada. Mr. Speaker, this province can be, will be, needs to be a leader in Confederation.

Our opportunities in this province, Mr. Speaker, are nothing short of boundless, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to invest in this province. We will continue to invest on behalf of the people so that we are able to fulfill that enormous potential that members in this House believe our communities and our province have. And we will continue to invest in the services and the infrastructure, like the bypass and the hospitals and the schools, that are required so that we can form that labour force, that workforce of tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, that will support that economic growth for decades into the future. Because we all know that it's that growth that will allow us, that will allow us those opportunities for our children and ultimately for our grandchildren, Mr. Speaker.

We believe the Throne Speech is the very first aspirations of that vision, Mr. Speaker, the very first aspirations of the vision of not only the people on this side of the House, but the very first aspirations of the vision of the people that we represent in our constituencies. That's why I am here today, Mr. Speaker, to proudly say, I will be supporting the Throne Speech that was put forward by the member from Regina . . . oh, Cannington, Mr. Speaker. Just about got there. I'll be supporting the Throne Speech that was put forward by the member from Cannington, seconded by the member from Regina Qu'Appelle, Mr. Speaker. I will not be supporting the amendment. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time.

The Speaker: — All right. The question before the Assembly is the proposed amendment moved by the member from Regina Douglas Park and seconded by the member from Saskatoon Nutana that:

The motion be amended by adding the following after the words "present session":

And that this Assembly does not support the agenda outlined in the Speech from the Throne because it offers nothing new to address the crisis in our classrooms, address long waits in our emergency rooms, or restore the trust that was broken by the government's secret plans to sell off our Crowns.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the amendment, please say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the amendment, please say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:13 until 12:14.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour of the amendment, please stand.

[Yeas — 10]

Meili	Chartier	Wotherspoon
Sarauer	McCall	Forbes
Beck	Sproule	Pedersen
Rancourt		

[12:15]

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the amendment, please stand.

[Nays — 44]

Moe	Stewart	Beaudry-Mellor
Makowsky	Reiter	Wyant
Morgan	Harpauer	Duncan
Marit	Hargrave	D'Autremont
Weekes	Ottenbreit	Carr
Tell	Eyre	Harrison
Merriman	Kaeding	Cheveldayoff
Brkich	Hart	Kirsch
Wilson	Olauson	Bradshaw
Lambert	Hindley	Ross
Heppner	McMorris	Lawrence
Bonk	Doke	Buckingham
Young	Dennis	Nerlien
Steele	Michelson	Goudy
Fiaz	Francis	

Procedural Clerk (Ms. Ursulescu): — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 10; those opposed, 44.

The Speaker: — I declare the amendment lost.

Debate will now continue on the main motion. The question before the Assembly is the main motion, the reply to the Throne Speech moved by the member from Cannington, seconded by the member from Regina Rochdale:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan, in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in the favour of the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — No. Call in the members.

All those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas — 44]

Moe	Stewart	Beaudry-Mellor
Makowsky	Reiter	Wyant
Morgan	Harpauer	Duncan
Marit	Hargrave	D'Autremont
Weekes	Ottenbreit	Carr
Tell	Eyre	Harrison
Merriman	Kaeding	Cheveldayoff
Brkich	Hart	Kirsch
Wilson	Olauson	Bradshaw
Lambert	Hindley	Ross
Heppner	McMorris	Lawrence
Bonk	Doke	Buckingham
Young	Dennis	Nerlien
Steele	Michelson	Goudy
Fiaz	Francis	

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the motion please stand.

[Nays — 10]

Meili	Chartier	Wotherspoon
Sarauer	McCall	Forbes
Beck	Sproule	Pedersen
Rancourt		

Procedural Clerk (Ms. Ursulescu): — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 44; those opposed, 10.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:22.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor
Minister of Advanced Education
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for Innovation

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis
and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Joe Hargrave
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Hon. Warren Kaeding
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health
Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Health

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Corrections and Policing
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and
Priority Saskatchewan