



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

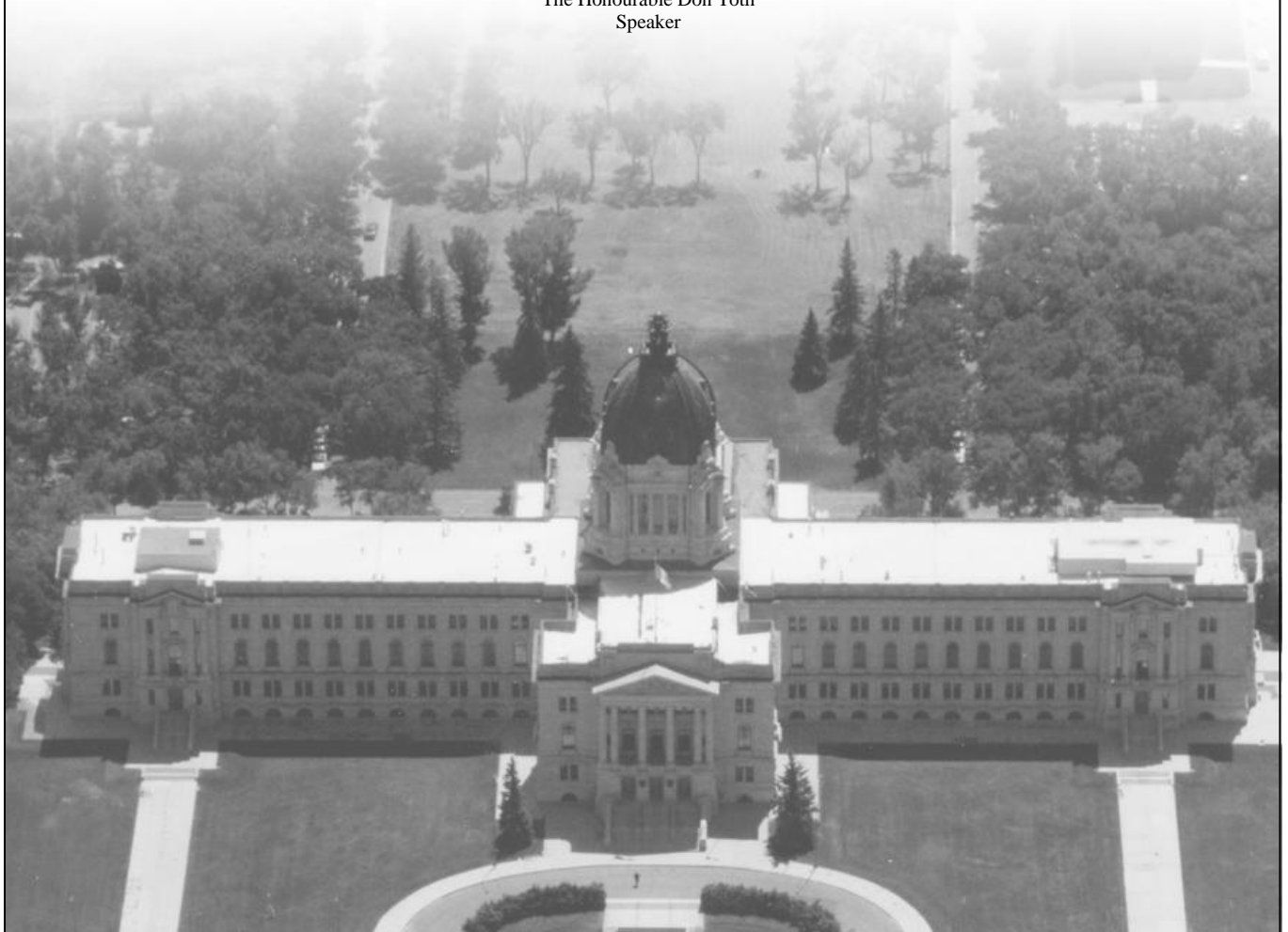
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — Lorne Calvert

| <b>Name of Member</b>  | <b>Political Affiliation</b> | <b>Constituency</b>       |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allchurch, Denis       | SP                           | Rosthern-Shellbrook       |
| Atkinson, Pat          | NDP                          | Saskatoon Nutana          |
| Belanger, Buckley      | NDP                          | Athabasca                 |
| Bjornerud, Hon. Bob    | SP                           | Melville-Saltcoats        |
| Boyd, Hon. Bill        | SP                           | Kindersley                |
| Bradshaw, Fred         | SP                           | Carrot River Valley       |
| Brkich, Greg           | SP                           | Arm River-Watrous         |
| Brotten, Cam           | NDP                          | Saskatoon Massey Place    |
| Calvert, Lorne         | NDP                          | Saskatoon Riversdale      |
| Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken | SP                           | Saskatoon Silver Springs  |
| Chisholm, Michael      | SP                           | Cut Knife-Turtleford      |
| D'Autremont, Hon. Dan  | SP                           | Cannington                |
| Draude, Hon. June      | SP                           | Kelvington-Wadena         |
| Duncan, Dustin         | SP                           | Weyburn-Big Muddy         |
| Eagles, Doreen         | SP                           | Estevan                   |
| Elhard, Hon. Wayne     | SP                           | Cypress Hills             |
| Forbes, David          | NDP                          | Saskatoon Centre          |
| Furber, Darcy          | NDP                          | Prince Albert Northcote   |
| Gantfoer, Hon. Rod     | SP                           | Melfort                   |
| Harpauer, Hon. Donna   | SP                           | Humboldt                  |
| Harper, Ron            | NDP                          | Regina Northeast          |
| Harrison, Jeremy       | SP                           | Meadow Lake               |
| Hart, Glen             | SP                           | Last Mountain-Touchwood   |
| Heppner, Hon. Nancy    | SP                           | Martensville              |
| Hickie, Hon. Darryl    | SP                           | Prince Albert Carlton     |
| Higgins, Deb           | NDP                          | Moose Jaw Wakamow         |
| Hutchinson, Hon. Bill  | SP                           | Regina South              |
| Huyghebaert, Yogi      | SP                           | Wood River                |
| Iwanchuk, Andy         | NDP                          | Saskatoon Fairview        |
| Junor, Judy            | NDP                          | Saskatoon Eastview        |
| Kirsch, Delbert        | SP                           | Batoche                   |
| Krawetz, Hon. Ken      | SP                           | Canora-Pelly              |
| LeClerc, Serge         | SP                           | Saskatoon Northwest       |
| McCall, Warren         | NDP                          | Regina Elphinstone-Centre |
| McMillan, Tim          | SP                           | Lloydminster              |
| McMorris, Hon. Don     | SP                           | Indian Head-Milestone     |
| Michelson, Warren      | SP                           | Moose Jaw North           |
| Morgan, Hon. Don       | SP                           | Saskatoon Southeast       |
| Morin, Sandra          | NDP                          | Regina Walsh Acres        |
| Nilson, John           | NDP                          | Regina Lakeview           |
| Norris, Hon. Rob       | SP                           | Saskatoon Greystone       |
| Ottenbreit, Greg       | SP                           | Yorkton                   |
| Quennell, Frank        | NDP                          | Saskatoon Meewasin        |
| Reiter, Jim            | SP                           | Rosetown-Elrose           |
| Ross, Laura            | SP                           | Regina Qu'Appelle Valley  |
| Schriemer, Joceline    | SP                           | Saskatoon Sutherland      |
| Stewart, Hon. Lyle     | SP                           | Thunder Creek             |
| Taylor, Len            | NDP                          | The Battlefords           |
| Tell, Hon. Christine   | SP                           | Regina Wascana Plains     |
| Toth, Hon. Don         | SP                           | Moosomin                  |
| Trew, Kim              | NDP                          | Regina Coronation Park    |
| Van Mulligen, Harry    | NDP                          | Regina Douglas Park       |
| Vermette, Doyle        | NDP                          | Cumberland                |
| Wall, Hon. Brad        | SP                           | Swift Current             |
| Weekes, Randy          | SP                           | Biggar                    |
| Wilson, Nadine         | SP                           | Saskatchewan Rivers       |
| Wotherspoon, Trent     | NDP                          | Regina Rosemont           |
| Yates, Kevin           | NDP                          | Regina Dewdney            |

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the House today, I would like to introduce 27 members from the public service who are participating in the parliamentary program for public servants.

These fine employees of the public service represent 12 government ministries. Included in that group are Advanced Education, Employment and Labour. We have representation from Education, from Energy and Resources, from Enterprise Saskatchewan, from the Environment ministry, from Finance, Government Services, Highways and Infrastructure, Municipal Affairs, the Public Service Commission, Social Services; Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Mr. Speaker, after our proceedings today I'm going to have an opportunity to talk with our represented group today and to field some of their questions.

Now this program includes an extensive tour of the Legislative Building and briefings by the Legislative Library, the Legislative Assembly Clerk's office, and members of Executive Council as well as a member of the opposition.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to these participants, and I'd like to ask all members to join me in extending that welcome to them today. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join my colleague from the government side in welcoming the representatives from the public service to the Assembly today on behalf of the official opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I've had an opportunity to speak with previous delegations from the public service. Mr. Speaker, I know that they have many questions because quite often the work that they do relates to the work that government members bring forward and that opposition members scrutinize in the course of

our and their daily business.

Mr. Speaker, I know that this is a valuable program. I congratulate those who have been eligible to be a part of that program. And on behalf of the opposition, I offer our welcome as well to the delegation from the public service today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a great privilege and honour for me to introduce two very special people in your gallery today. Joining us are John and Alice Wall from Swift Current, my mom and dad. Mr. Speaker, whatever modest, very modest achievement or contribution I can point to at some point in my life, I would owe largely to them. Any problems I've caused, however, they should not be held accountable for, Mr. Speaker. And it's just a great pleasure to have them here in the legislature today. I want to welcome them.

And just before I take my seat, I also want to welcome Dave Marit and Doug Steele from SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities]. We think it's them up in the gallery. They don't have the brown jackets on, Mr. Speaker, so we're not sure. But we want to welcome them as well to the Assembly and to my folks, John and Alice Wall, welcome to their Legislative Assembly as well.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it's my pleasure again to introduce through you to all members of the Assembly two people seated in your gallery, in the persons of Sharon and Crystal Gallenger who I introduced here a couple of weeks ago. They're here to witness some of the proceedings of today's legislature and I ask all hon. members to join me in welcoming Sharon and Crystal Gallenger.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join my colleague in welcoming once again Sharon and Crystal Gallenger to their Legislative Assembly. We look forward to the unfolding of the proceedings today and we know that they've played an important part in seeing the activities as they develop. And we're happy to have them here once again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it is my duty and honour to present well more than 500 petitions respecting changes to *The Highway Traffic Act*. And the second signature I have on here I defy anyone to rule out of order. It's that of Tanner Gallenger who is just tomorrow, I believe, 11 months old. Tanner signed in crayon but it's very legible. It's very legible. It's Tanner Gallenger, grandson. Mr. Speaker, the petition says:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to enact changes to *The Highway Traffic Act*, to be referred to as the Gallenger amendment, which would require all vehicle traffic to slow to 60 kilometres when passing a snowplow with their warning lights activated on Saskatchewan roadways.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to table these petitions.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition that speaks to the issue that it is well known: that inadequate access to quality and affordable child care is a major roadblock for parents who want to access the labour market or further their own education, and that today too many Saskatchewan families are struggling with this very issue. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government, through consultation with the child care community, to invest immediately in growing the capacity of the early child care community to enable new child care spaces. This investment must include infrastructure funding for new facilities and expansion, funding to significantly increase the number of early childhood diploma and certificate training seats, and funding to ensure that the sector is able to increase its wages and benefits to attract and retain the needed personnel.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I so present on behalf of Saskatchewan families.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Thank you. I stand to present a petition in support of indexing the minimum wage. And as we all know, the indexing of minimum wage would ensure that minimum wage earners would be able to maintain a standard of living as the cost of living increases. And the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the

government to commit to indexing Saskatchewan minimum wage to ensure that the standard of living of minimum wage earners is maintained in the face of the cost of living increases.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The petitions are signed from residents of Saskatoon. I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. And we know these workers in community-based organizations in Saskatchewan have traditionally been underpaid and many continue to earn poverty level wages. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the development and implementation of a multi-year funding plan to ensure that CBO workers achieve wage equity with employees who perform work of equal value in government departments.

And is in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And these folks, Mr. Speaker, come from Saskatoon, Regina, Moosomin, Maryfield, and Langenburg. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan who question why the Sask Party government is leaving them behind when it comes to providing safe and affordable water. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfills its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, are signed by the good residents of Duck Lake, Rosthern, and Laird. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of fairness for Saskatchewan students through the expansion of the graduate retention

program. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately expand the graduate retention program to include master's and Ph.D. graduates.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are students from the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, as well as a number of health care professionals who are working here in the province who have graduate degrees. I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of a new long-term care facility in La Ronge. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately invest in the planning and construction of long-term care beds in La Ronge.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by the good people of La Ronge, Stanley Mission, Air Ronge, Sucker River, Hall Lake, Southend, Prince Albert, and area.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Remembering Allan Barsky of Prince Albert

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, Allan Barsky, four-term mayor of Prince Albert, passed away last Wednesday at the age of 86. Mr. Barsky served as councillor for five years and as mayor for four terms. He gave 13 years of faithful service to the city of Prince Albert, retiring from public service in 1968.

Under his watch, many changes came to Prince Albert as the city grew, including the development of the pulp mill. He was a thoughtful mayor who was always aware of the burden of the taxpayer paying for changes to the city. It was a fine line that Mayor Barsky walked between the city's growth and progress and fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, Allan Barsky received many awards and commendations during his years of public service including commendations from Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker, from the British High Commissioner, and the province of Saskatchewan. He was also a recipient of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Mr. Speaker, while he was in office as mayor, Mr. Barsky was chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners for eight years and chairman of the labour relations committee for eight years. He also served as the president of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. In his capacity operating his family business, the Blue Chain Department Store, he served as president of the Prince Albert Retail Merchants Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in extending our deepest sympathy to the former Mayor Barsky's wife, Marilyn, and to each of his children and grandchildren in their time of need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

#### Quota International of Weyburn Women of the Year Awards

**Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending the ninth annual Quota International of Weyburn Women of the Year Awards Luncheon. For close to a decade, Quota has recognized and honoured women of Weyburn who have made a lasting contribution to our community. Quota recognizes women with awards in four categories: SaskPower Workplace Excellence Award, exceptional entrepreneur, Young Woman of the Year, and community service.

Mr. Speaker, this year 13 exceptional women were nominated. Prior to the awards being announced, the capacity crowd at McKenna Hall heard from keynote speaker, Noela Crowe-Salazar, the manager of First Nations and Métis services in the Ministry of Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, the winner of the Access Communications Exceptional Entrepreneur Award was Lois Hawryluk. This year's Quota International of Weyburn Community Service Award was Violet Leclair. The Investors Group Young Woman of Distinction Award winner was Joleen Tuchscherer.

And, Mr. Speaker, it was my pleasure and privilege to present the SaskPower Workplace Excellence Award. Mr. Speaker, this year's recipient is Corrine Calder. Corrine is a valued member of the team at the Family Place, working as a team leader with children who attend the Mini Go school and facilitates the Smiles & Tears program. Mr. Speaker, I know that she is loved by everybody that she works with and is a very worthy recipient of the SaskPower award that recognizes women that have displayed a superior effort and true desire to improve their work environment and workplace efficiency.

Congratulations to all the nominees and award recipients and to Quota International of Weyburn. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Students Participate in Geocaching Expedition

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to speak to you about the students from John Chisholm School in Moose Jaw, who partnered with the Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre and the Saskatchewan Dragoons to organize a geocaching expedition using global positioning systems.

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game in which the participants use a GPS [Global Positioning System] receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers called geocaches, and it can be anywhere in the world. Students learned how to use the GPS units from Sergeant Everett Buckmaster of the Saskatchewan Dragoons, and an ammunition case donated by the Dragoons was used to hide works of art the students had created.

So the art in the cache were traceable items, each fixed with a travel bug. The students showed that they have incredible ability and put a lot of work into this project — starting with creating the pieces of art, showcased their emerging talents and their navigational skills in searching out the cache.

The Burrowing Owl Centre was pleased to partner with the school and hopes to see more geocachers this summer at the centre, as the students have created a clue for those looking for the geocache located at the centre.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating the students from John Chisholm School and to thank the Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Centre and the Dragoons for involving these young minds in this innovative learning experience. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

### Maidstone Student Recognized for Leadership Skills

**Mr. Chisholm:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer congratulations to Kelsey Wilkinson, a remarkable Maidstone grade 12 student from my constituency. Kelsey's been selected through the Absolute school of leadership as one of the top 10 grade 12 students from across the country and will be joining the program in Hamilton, Ontario next year.

The Absolute Leadership Development program is a not-for-profit organization that exists to empower emerging generations to live with purpose and change their world. As part of the program, Kelsey will be putting her university aspirations temporarily on hold and will be touring Canada presenting motivational presentations and workshops to young people. She will also have the opportunity to travel to Mexico as part of a humanitarian aid trip. Taking part in this rewarding experience certainly demonstrates Kelsey's exceptional level of maturity and her passion for passing on her leadership skills to others.

Kelsey says that her interest in taking part in the Absolute Leadership Development was piqued by a program initiative in

the Northwest School Division which was introduced two years ago. This initiative promoted and fostered leadership skills within the communities served by the division, and Kelsey took advantage of the opportunities it created.

As I understand it, this program continues to operate in the Northwest School Division, and we hope it will continue in the future. I would ask that this Assembly join with me in congratulating this very special young lady on her impressive achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

### Saskatoon Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 18, I along with the member from Saskatoon Sutherland had the pleasure of attending the third annual Saskatoon Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Gala. Attendees at the SPCA [Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals] enjoyed a scrumptious Saskatchewan theme meal, the entertaining emceeding of Global Television's Warren Dean, and the opportunity to bid on a variety of silent and live auction items.

We also had the pleasure of hearing from local artist Al Nelson Weitzel and viewing a sampling from his impressive portfolio. Mr. Weitzel is well known for his exceptional ability to capture the beauty and wonder of the animal kingdom.

Animals hold a special place in the hearts of many Saskatchewan people. No group displays this care and respect for animals more so than the volunteers and staff of the SPCA. Saturday's gala was an event to raise much-needed funds for the Saskatoon SPCA as well as a time to recognize the amazing contributions of energy and resources by the many volunteers who support the SPCA throughout the year.

I know as I spoke to some of the board members during the evening, their commitment to the organization and its mission was very clear to me.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon SPCA's motto is, "Helping those who cannot help themselves." I would ask all members to join me in thanking the SPCA as it carries out this important task and wish them all the best in the upcoming year. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

### Funding for On-Reserve Housing

**Mr. LeClerc:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes the important role the First Nation community plays in Saskatchewan. We are working hard to ensure that they too share in our government's strong and steady vision for the future of Saskatchewan, which is why we are humbled to be able to play a part in securing federal funding

for on-reserve housing.

While at the first ministers' meeting, our Premier played a role in the establishment of the \$60 million fund for on-reserve funding. The money will be spent over two years of renovations, the conversion of band-owned housing to individual ownership, lot servicing, and the construction of multi-unit housing.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph singled out the Premier for his assistance. But it is because of the foundation laid by Chief Joseph and other First Nation leaders that we were able to play a part. As Chief Joseph suggested, there are many worthwhile ways this money could be spent, such as building on-reserve care homes so that the elders could be closer to friends and family.

We echo the chief's sentiment that, while this won't solve housing, poverty, and health issues, it is a good investment and a positive step towards ensuring First Nation people in Saskatchewan will continue to play their important role in ensuring our province remains strong and steady. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

#### Arts Festival at Nutana Collegiate

**Ms. Atkinson:** — On April 1 to April 3, Nutana Collegiate hosted a dessert theatre and arts festival as a fundraiser to support both Nutana Collegiate fine arts program and the Family Service Saskatoon performing arts program.

This event is an example of dynamic community partnerships established between Nutana and businesses and service clubs in Saskatoon. In forming such relationships with community groups, Nutana Collegiate has expanded its walls to allow students greater life experiences to help prepare them for their lives after high school. Students form community links that will lead to career and social opportunities after graduation.

On April 1 and 2, students celebrated a play performed by Family Service Saskatoon's performing arts group. The play, *Hamlette*, is a 30-minute spoof of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. The heroine is referred to as a man because the society of the day couldn't imagine a female as the main character.

Another Family Service class performed A.A. Milne's *The Ugly Duckling*, a play which also looked at gender stereotypes when the inner beauty of a young girl proved more magnetic than the audience expected.

A third play performed by Nutana Collegiate students dramatized auditions held by a new high school teacher for parts in a forthcoming school play. The hopeful actors range from shy to outrageous, from diva to determined, with everyone taking a turn in the spotlight, vying for coveted parts in a school play.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Nutana Collegiate on their dessert

festival and arts festival, as well as their bold partnerships with business and CBOs to enrich the lives of students, preparing them for a future of success.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### QUESTION PERIOD

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

#### Regulation of Nuclear Activity

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on April 9 I asked the Sask Party government some questions to which they took notice, so I'd like to ask the question again.

Mr. Speaker, the 2009-2010 working plan for the Ministry of Environment includes the following under its list of key actions in the coming year:

Seek to . . . [minimize] provincial regulation of nuclear activity under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act in Saskatchewan through an administrative agreement with [the] Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

To the minister: can she confirm that the Sask Party intends to pursue provincial regulation of nuclear activity?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for her question. On the agreement, I would like to read the following and I quote:

Following discussions and negotiations between senior levels of the federal and provincial governments and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, a Memorandum of Agreement was developed. Under the agreement, the parties commit to the incorporation of provincial legislation in the federal regulations under the Act . . . The process will considerably streamline the regulatory environment and should result in cost-savings to the industry.

Mr. Speaker, it sounds like a Sask Party position paper, but it is not. It is actually an NDP [New Democratic Party] position paper by then energy and mines minister, Eldon Lautermilch, in 2000 at a presentation at the Uranium Institute in London.

So, Mr. Speaker, apparently the NDP and the Sask Party agree on this, that we should find ways to streamline the regulatory process while protecting the environment.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Ms. Morin:** — Well unfortunately the minister is still not

answering the question that I pose. And the 2003 agreement between Saskatchewan and the federal government was intended to cover uranium mines and mills and included the Department of Labour. It does not address either a nuclear reactor or nuclear waste storage, in case you didn't read far enough into that.

Two weeks ago the Sask Party provided some insight as to what provincial regulation in the nuclear industry might look like. The Minister of Environment said the Sask Party's new approach to environment regulation would be achieved by leaving "... the 'how' of regulation to those who run the plants, factories, and mines." And the government states that the environmental assessments will now be conducted "... according to attached proponent developed Draft Project Specific Guidelines."

To the minister: is the Sask Party getting ready to conduct an environmental assessment according to guidelines developed by Bruce Power?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer to the member's question is no, Bruce Power is not the organization in charge of the regulatory process in this province. As the member opposite would know, the environmental assessment process on nuclear power plants is the most onerous process in the entire country for any industry, Mr. Speaker. And any environmental assessment in this province will follow every legislation and regulatory guideline outlined through both provincial and federal legislation.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party seems to want sole jurisdiction to regulate the nuclear industry, even though this is federal responsibility. Their consultant's report recommends it. The government's response to it agrees to it. And the goal is contained in their department's plans for the coming year. The Sask Party also wants to give industry the power to determine how it will be regulated. Meanwhile the Sask Party is trying to ram through the decision to approve a nuclear reactor, instead of giving Saskatchewan people the time to consider all of the energy options.

To the minister: why is the Sask Party going to such lengths to ensure a nuclear reactor gets built in Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't think that the member opposite fully understands the process or what we're looking for in a results-based regulatory framework. I think the

answer is in the title; it is results-based. It is based on provincial regulation and legislation. And what we're allowing industry to do is be innovative and come up with ideas on how to meet the goals with the rules and the guidelines that are established by the province.

And, Mr. Speaker, that openness for innovation was not something that ever really happened under the NDP. But as far as regulations go, Mr. Speaker, the NDP proposed in their economic plan in 2005 to "... stimulate further uranium exploration and development by working with the industry and pressing the federal government to address regulatory burdens and duplication [Mr. Speaker]."

They were looking for provincial oversight of regulations and the environmental assessment process as well, Mr. Speaker. So I don't really know what she's complaining about today.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Consultation Process Regarding Nuclear Development

**Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are coming closer and closer to the month of May. It is during the month of May and June that the government opposite proposes that the public of Saskatchewan have an opportunity — a very brief opportunity — to give consideration to the UDP [Uranium Development Partnership] report.

Mr. Speaker, my question I think will be directed to the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]. Unless something has changed in the last 20 minutes, we still do not have the dates nor the locations for the public consultation meetings that are to be scheduled for May.

Mr. Speaker, would a minister of the Crown or the Premier today tell us when are these meetings to be held and where?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much for the question. As the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has indicated, Saskatchewan residents will be asked for their opinion regarding nuclear power and nuclear power generation in the province. The most extensive consultations ever held on this particular topic will be starting very soon in May. As the member's indicated, May is coming very near, and we will be undertaking those consultations over a six-week period until the middle of June.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the government opposite there is an appetite among the people of Saskatchewan to participate in this process. There is a much greater appetite to participate in a much more substantive process, and I hope to



say more about that later.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm also told that the mandate letter for the consultation indicates that there should be five facilitators hired and three other staff. My question then to government today is will among these five and these three, will there be expertise brought to these public hearings that can answer many of the questions that I'm sure Saskatchewan people will want to hear answers to at the meeting? So again, I ask the minister: what are the dates and who will be doing the facilitation? Will they bring expertise?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, we are very pleased to announce just a few days ago that Mr. Dan Perrins, career public servant, one of an extraordinary career that has served many administrations. Certainly he's served the members opposite when they were in government, previous administrations, and continues to service his province today. Negotiations are ongoing for Mr. Perrins and what he needs as far as backup to ensure that the consultations have all the information necessary to provide to Saskatchewan people.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, a recent Sigma Analytics poll reinforces what we have been saying since this government began steamrolling ahead with their plan to build a nuclear reactor in this province and that is that people want more information.

Mr. Speaker, 40 per cent of the people surveyed felt that they were poorly informed on the question of a nuclear reactor. That's a huge number. Forty per cent of the people felt they needed a whole lot more information about cost, export markets, storage, safety, and future energy requirements.

To the minister: will he listen to the people of Saskatchewan? Will they do the responsible thing, and postpone the consultation process until Saskatchewan people feel that they can be better informed to make a decision?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to see the Sigma Analytics poll in the newspaper. It shows that there's a strong basis of support, but more importantly it shows that Saskatchewan people are open-minded and willing to educate themselves to learn more

about it and to make a decision, an important decision for the future of our province — one that previous governments have ignored over the last 30 years, one that should be made going forward, one that should be made by the people of Saskatchewan — and indeed that's what'll happen over the next couple of months.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Furber:** — Well he's correct in one thing. The people of Saskatchewan are certainly open-minded. The people that call my office are open-minded, but what they feel is they haven't been properly consulted, and nor are they provided with the proper information from this government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, this government is afraid to postpone the consultation process because they're afraid to take this debate to a well-informed public. The poll indicates that from November '06 to April '09, support for a nuclear reactor has dropped substantially while opposition has risen significantly.

To the minister: is this government afraid to postpone the consultations and provide more information because the longer he mismanages this file, the more people are opposed to it?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, maybe we do need a little bit more time for consultation because maybe we'll put a . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Maybe an hour or two more to hear everything Mr. Dwain Lingenfelter has to say because he sure had a lot to say about the subject.

For instance back in 2005 on October 26, while many of his former New Democratic Party colleagues remained uncomfortable with uranium development, Lingenfelter said a reactor might change Saskatchewan's economic prospects.

That was back in 2005. Remember, Mr. Speaker, when we were a wee province, and we were in and out of equalization — that's what they said, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Lingenfelter went on to say during a telephone interview from Calgary, and I quote, "If Tommy Douglas were here, [and I quote] it would be exactly what he would be doing [Mr. Speaker]."

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

### Low-Income Housing

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, people are growing frustrated with the Sask Party's lack of leadership on affordable housing. The government's own figures say that the number of affordable housing units developed through housing programs doubled between 2006 and 2008, all the result of the actions taken by the NDP. But it took more than 15 months for the Sask Party to deliver one red cent for new affordable housing projects.

Meanwhile, the mayor of Regina is speaking out on the lack of a provincial government direction on housing incentives. In the April 17 *Leader-Post*, Mayor Fiacco said, and I quote, "... it would have been nice for the province to at least be a partner with us. That doesn't seem to be the minister's interest right now, and that's too bad."

To the minister: why is the Sask Party failing to provide leadership on affordable housing?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, shortly after the election, when we had the task force take a look at the housing issue because we recognized that it was a difficulty within our province, we addressed the immediate recommendations right away, which had to do with affordability.

But I also recognize that availability was an issue. As I've told the member opposite before, the Sask Housing Corporation had money within its funds, within the corporation, and so we accelerated direct delivery of housing through the HomeFirst home rental development program.

As such, Mr. Speaker, we've completed 59 units within Regina alone; 72 units are under construction; 237 units are at various stages of development, which is a total of housing in Regina which is very significant. In the last six years of the NDP government, on average they delivered, in the entire province they only delivered 341 units per year.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We know critical in Regina — and communities right across the province — has been the need to rebuild the inner-city neighbourhoods like north central Regina. And most people agree that the key to restoring these neighbourhoods is higher levels of home ownership. Home ownership allows families to invest in their future, and communities with high levels of home ownership are safer, more vibrant, and more secure places to live.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party still has no plan to replace the neighbourhood home ownership program. It's claimed the program ran out of money. But rather taking that as a sign that this program was well needed, they have instead let it die on its

own. To the minister: why has he closed the door to home ownership for so many Saskatchewan families?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I have said that it is difficult to come up with a home ownership program in today's marketplace. But when the member makes reference to the home ownership program, the NHOP [neighbourhood home ownership program] program, which died, it died when they were government, Mr. Speaker. It ended when they were still government, and it was replaced with HomeFirst home ownership program which, quite frankly, did not address today's market. It allowed for a forgivable loan as well as a low-interest loan for incomes up as high as \$52,000. That is not low-income housing, Mr. Speaker.

So I have said before, I will say again, we're putting forward a board for the Housing Corporation that will look at a home ownership program that is doable and sustainable within this province in today's market and not keep looking back to yesterday and what wasn't working.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And we know this minister, she tends to like to blame others. She blames her bureaucrats. She blames Saskatchewan communities, of course, for failure to act. And of course she likes to blame us, the NDP.

But I want to talk about a program in today's market that I think is worth looking at. Alberta recently . . .

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well we know Alberta just recently announced a 10-year, \$3.3 billion plan to address homelessness and housing. Alberta officials estimate that the plan will save the government more than twice the same amount in costs to manage chronically homeless people. But our minister seems to be waiting for the new board of Sask Housing or someone else to show the leadership she was elected to provide.

To the minister: when will the minister stop riding the NDP's coattails on this issue and come forward with a comprehensive plan to address the housing crisis? When will she show the leadership on affordable housing that communities like Regina are calling for?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, as that member well knows that they had not addressed shelter rates for years. They allowed the rate to languish for 12 years, even though the cost of renting in Saskatchewan had gone up significantly. What did they do? Ignore it. We did not.

We understood that the most vulnerable needed that issue addressed first. We stepped up to the plate, and we did it. We did it in an unprecedented manner because we made it reactive to the community in which the person lives. And so it is responsive to that community and the rates in that community, and we indexed it. There was a significant increase just recently, Mr. Speaker, because the rates have gone up yet again.

Second is availability. We have over 1,100 units across the province in various stages of construction. I have to repeat again, the NDP had an average of 341 units each year in the last six years. So maybe they don't want to live up to their record, maybe they don't want to take responsibility for their record, but we have significant more housing in construction in this province than this province has ever seen. So would they like to say, should we just stop that and pause and say, okay let's just not do that any more because we need a bigger plan, we need a better plan. Let's just build houses, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Before I recognize the next questioner, I would like to ask members to have the respect of allowing the member to place the question and the minister responsible to respond without interference.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

#### **Support for Post-Secondary Institutions**

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 18, the opposition asked the government questions about the potential impact to Saskatchewan people because of big losses in a number of public sector investment funds, including those of the University of Saskatchewan. Last week the president of the University of Saskatchewan told the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce that the university is facing a \$100 million shortfall, thanks to losses in its investment funds.

U of S [University of Saskatchewan] students and their families are understandably concerned about how this will affect them. To the minister, can he tell us here today how much tuition fees at the U of S will have to rise to make up for this \$100 million shortfall?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly appreciate the opportunity to provide an update to the people of the province.

Mr. Speaker, based on a meeting that I had last Thursday with the provost from the University of Saskatchewan, happy to report that in fact the member opposite doesn't have a clear

understanding of what's actually going on. First and foremost, what we've heard from the University of Saskatchewan, among others, is to turn and say thank you for the generosity of the money that's forthcoming, regarding the investment that's just been shown in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, as far as institutions — not just across Canada but around the world — dealing with some of the financial implications, I would say the University of Saskatchewan is as well placed as any, Mr. Speaker. Certainly that . . .

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an autonomous institution, it's coming up with its own contingency plan of how to go forward. It will be a multiple-year response, it's my understanding, Mr. Speaker. I continue to have every confidence in the University of Saskatchewan, in the administration, in the governance, and in the people of that academic community to ensure that the University of Saskatchewan continues to be a strong institution for this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, this isn't about the governance model at the University of Saskatchewan; it's about \$100 million that needs to be made up from somewhere. Mr. Speaker, in times of economic uncertainty, post-secondary education is a wise investment in the future. Unfortunately a very real consequence of the shortfall faced by the U of S could be cuts to classes and other important programs that students are depending upon to build that future.

To the minister: can he tell us which classes and programs at the U of S will be affected or cut to make up for this shortfall? At a time of global economic uncertainty, why is he making education less accessible and less affordable for Saskatchewan students?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Again thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to offer some insight into this. First and foremost, Mr. Speaker, it does have everything to do with governance, Mr. Speaker, and that is, it's an autonomous institution. Mr. Speaker, what we've seen is a response from the University of Saskatchewan, among other institutions, saying thank you very much for the generosity and the investment that's been forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker, on a relative scale, institutions across the world are actually making a whole series of steps. I'm happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that we respect the autonomy of the institution. The institution is coming up with a plan, Mr. Speaker, to help them handle this contingency, Mr. Speaker.

And it's obvious, Mr. Speaker, in fact I'm a little bit alarmed when the member opposite . . . [inaudible] . . . it doesn't have to do with governance. It has to do with ensuring the sustainability and success of one of the most important institutions in this country, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister is all too willing to wash his hands of the responsibility to help with the challenges faced by Saskatchewan students and their families. At a time of economic uncertainty, a knowledge economy is essential to securing our financial prosperity in the years to come. But sadly this minister simply shrugs his shoulders and says it's not his problem.

It certainly seems that way to students and their families, given his decision to end the tuition freeze and his continued failure to extend the graduate retention program to master's and Ph.D. graduates. To the minister: what is he prepared to do, if anything, to assist students and families who will be adversely affected by this shortfall?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, I especially appreciate the opportunity to talk about the \$665.6 million for our post-secondary institutions. I'm happy to talk about the \$26.4 million booster shot, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that our post-secondary institutions had increased infrastructure investment. I'm happy to talk about student housing, Mr. Speaker, that during the entire duration of that former government, they didn't touch housing at the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, happy to talk about the \$23.5 million, Mr. Speaker, to help with tuition support.

I'm happy to talk about the student loan funding that's been increased for the first time since 1994, Mr. Speaker, happy to talk about the graduate retention program, Mr. Speaker. And most especially, I'm happy to talk about the lack of integrity regarding those questions, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, a \$100 million shortfall for the University of Saskatchewan and no assurances by the minister responsible that he will do anything to help the . . .

**The Speaker:** — It sounds like there's a lot of people who would like to ask the question, but I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

**Mr. Broten:** — A \$100 million shortfall and no comfort for Saskatchewan families and Saskatchewan students, Mr. Speaker.

In the province, we've seen increases in fees and possibly decreases in services from SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] Auto Fund and possibly at the University of Saskatchewan as well.

So our question is when will the other shoe drop? Are WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] premiums the next rise in the province?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the opportunity to highlight the contrast between what we're doing, Mr. Speaker, and what's been done in the past.

While the members opposite were in government, tuition went up by 99 per cent at the University of Regina, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, it went up by 88 per cent at the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what we're happy to do is highlight, regarding the WCB, that report has just come out today, Mr. Speaker. Very sound financial ground, Mr. Speaker, in the midst of global economic turmoil. Saskatchewan continues to lead the way — 80,000 people taken off the tax rolls, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, from there you can see the investments in post-secondary education. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in Saskatchewan's history, more than \$800 for a weekly average, Mr. Speaker, and that is ranked third, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the amount of money that people are making in Saskatchewan, ensuring the people of this province are sharing in the benefits of growth.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Social Services.

### Increase in Daily Food Allowance

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that earlier today, at one of the 10 group homes operated by Chip & Dale Housing of Regina, I made an important funding announcement that will benefit nearly 1,200 adults and children across the province.

Through the Ministry of Social Services, our government is increasing the daily food allowance to \$9 per day for group homes that serve people with intellectual disabilities and at-risk children.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — The previous rate, Mr. Speaker, was only \$4.85 per day and had only seen a 45 cent increase since the year 2000, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this funding increase of 1.7 million annually provided to CBOs will help ensure that CBOs will no longer have to struggle to provide healthy, balanced meals for their clients. This initiative demonstrates further action by our government in response to community-based organizations' suggestions from the summits held across the province last fall. In fact the funding increase to the food allowance is just the latest in a series of significant funding increases to address gaps that have been allowed to develop in areas of services by our CBOs.

Over the past 16 months, general funding increases to CBOs have totalled a combined 12.3 per cent, representing a \$27.2 million investment by our government in the CBO sector during that period. And today we have announced a further 1.7 million annual funding in the food allowance for group homes.

Mr. Speaker, all of this new funding reflects our government's commitment to listening to the thoughts and the ideas of the community-based organizations and to take action on their suggestions. Saskatchewan would not be one of the best places in the world to live, work, and raise a family without the ongoing efforts and the commitment of so many staff and volunteers of this province's network of CBOs.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And first I'd like to thank the minister for sending over an advance copy of this statement so I could prepare for this. And I can understand that those who work in the group homes are excited about this announcement, but I must say that myself, as critic for Social Services, I'm not happy nor delighted about this announcement. It just represents another ad hoc announcement how this minister operates. There is no plan, no strategy to deal or to help with those who are in need, and this is just yet another example of an ad hoc approach in that ministry.

We see the news last week with the food banks — and I don't have the clipping in front of me — third record month of growth or people going to the food banks. Every time we meet with anti-poverty groups, what's the first thing they talk about, is food security. And is anything happening in that front? Not at all.

And so I would urge this minister, and I would urge the officials in the ministry to go back and talk about the adequacy of how they deal with food and how they support those in need — the vulnerable families right across our province— how they're dealing with and how are they supporting families to date to make sure they have healthy food.

We know last year the CPI, the consumer price index, was the highest across Canada here in Saskatchewan, here in Saskatchewan. And what are they doing about this?

So, Mr. Speaker, I think while I understand group homes would be very . . .

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — So clearly, Mr. Speaker, there's work to be done here. And I hope and I would encourage the minister to work on this, not to take a piecemeal approach to this, not to take an ad hoc approach, but to do a strategy — a long-term strategy — so people do have access to healthy food here in Saskatchewan. And the first step she could do is to index this, index this. Why wasn't that part of her announcement today?

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing more announcements from the minister, but there is more she could be doing. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 605 — *The Traffic Safety (Maintenance Workers — Gallenger) Amendment Act*

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 605, *An Act to amend The Traffic Safety Act to provide for the health and safety of all highway maintenance workers* Gallenger amendment be now introduced and read a first time.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Coronation Park has moved first reading of Bill No. 605, *The Traffic Safety (Maintenance Workers — Gallenger) Amendment Act* be now read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Mr. Trew:** — Next sitting.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to allow the work of the Human Service and Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Standing Committees to do their work, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved that in order to allow the committees to proceed the Assembly do stand adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:25.]

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Premier

**Hon. Bob BJORNERUD**  
Minister of Agriculture  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Crop Insurance Corporation

**Hon. Bill Boyd**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs

**Hon. Ken CHEVELDAYOFF**  
Minister of Crown Corporations

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