



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

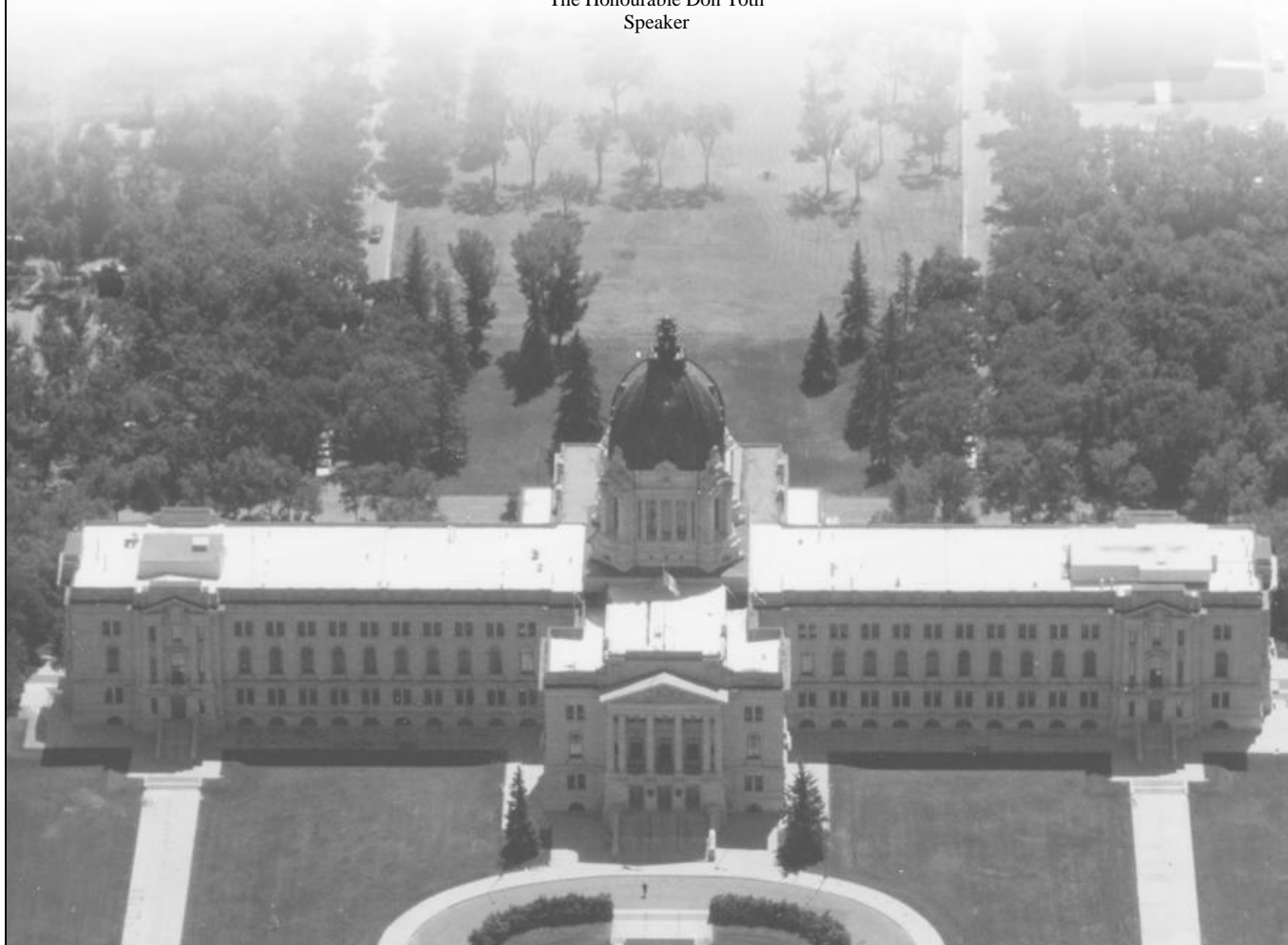
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(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 — Dwain Lingenfelter

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, 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, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (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
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
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, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, 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
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 Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce representatives from the livestock industry seated in the west gallery.

If they'd wave when I call their name, first I'd like to introduce Jack and Kim Hextall from Grenfell. Jack is the president of the Sask Cattlemen's Association. Also I'd like to introduce Ryan Beierbach — he's from Whitewood and director of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association — and Chad MacPherson, general manager of the Stock Growers.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce representatives from the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency. We have Danielle Oberle and Amber Havens who are here for the voluntary traceability announcement this morning. I appreciate them coming today and welcome them to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to join with the minister in welcoming the Cattlemen's Association and stock growers here to the building. And, Mr. Speaker, I know that the traceability issue is a big concern not only here but in many parts of Canada, many parts of the world that import meat products from other countries. I know a lot of hard work has gone into this by the stock growers and the associations involved, and I want to congratulate them for their hard work. And we'll be raising other issues around cattle, beef production, pork production with the minister later.

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

Mr. LeClerc: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you in your gallery are members of the HIV/AIDS [human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome] and hepatitis committee and the Hemophilia Society of Saskatchewan. From Regina is Ann and Dick Wood. Ann is the past president of — if you just wave at us — the Hemophilia Saskatchewan, and both are members of the Saskatchewan bleeding disorder community. Along with them are Elaine Zech who is the vice-president of Hemophilia Saskatchewan; A.J. Zech is Elaine's son and is a board member; Irene Cook; and from Perdue is Celena and Daryn Moody — they're board members — with their three beautiful children, Rylee, Kierra, and Ayden. And Faye Katzman is also from Saskatoon, the past-president of the Hemophilia Saskatchewan, member of the Canadian Hemophilia Society HIV/hepatitis committee.

A number of the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly]

attended a special ceremony out in front dedicating a tree in memorial to the tragedy of some years ago with the tainted blood. And I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with my colleague from Saskatoon Northwest and, on behalf of the official opposition, welcome everyone here today from the Hemophilia Society, especially Faye — very nice to see you again — nice to see all of you here and such a wonderful occasion of the tree planting which I think I have a couple of words to say about later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the Legislative Assembly a group of students from Regina Public Schools Adult Campus seated in your gallery.

They're accompanied by their teacher, Ryan Wood a.k.a. [also known as] Woody. It's good to see them here. They're regular visitors to the legislature, Mr. Speaker, and they're certainly representative of a very innovative approach to education that the Public School Board has undertaken, and it's grown by leaps and bounds over the last number of years. I know that my colleague, the member from Rosemont, takes a great deal of pride in having been one of the lead educators that helped get the ball rolling there with the adult campus.

So please, Mr. Speaker, join me in welcoming these individuals to their legislature.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the legislature, I'd like to introduce a guest seated in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker — JR. I don't know JR that well, but he's best friends with my brother-in-law, Matt Johnson, who happens to be the nephew to the member from Lakeview here in front of me. And JR is a Saskatoon native but is currently living in Humboldt working for the United Church. So I welcome JR to the Assembly here.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions in support of wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. And we know, Mr. Speaker, that research demonstrates that CBO workers are paid on average 8 to \$10 per hour less than employees performing work of equal value in government departments. Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable 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 as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And these folks come from Moosomin and Balcarres. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

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

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

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

It is signed by the good people of La Ronge and area. I so present.

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. And the prayer reads:

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

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

I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — I rise today to present a petition, as I have on every day of the House in the first spring session and so far this session, on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan who question why the Sask Party government is leaving them behind with respect to providing safe and affordable water and who yet have not heard of any sign of a commitment of assistance from this government. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable 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 fulfill its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

And the petitioners are the good residents of Duck Lake, I so present.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support the maintaining the quality of health care services. Mr. Speaker, we all understand that it's important for the government to realize the utilization and full value of range of professional skills offered by health care providers as promoted to address retention and recruitment issues by ensuring safe staffing levels. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining quality health care services and job security for all public health care providers.

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

The petition is signed by residents from Abbey, Wymark, and Swift Current. I so present.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise and present a petition in support of affordable housing in The Battlefords. Mr. Speaker, it is signed by residents of North Battleford, many of whom have faced rent increases of 40 per cent with no alternative housing opportunities. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Legislative Assembly may be pleased to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to develop an affordable housing program that will result in a greater number of quality and affordable rental units to be made available to a greater number of people throughout The Battlefords and that will implement a process of rent review or rent control to better protect tenants in a non-competitive housing environment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of their finances, Mr. Speaker. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to start managing our provincial finances responsibly and prudently to ensure that it does not continue its trend of massive budgetary shortfalls, runaway and unsustainable spending, equity stripping from our Crowns, and irresponsible revenue setting.

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

And these petitions are signed, Mr. Speaker, by good folks in Moose Jaw, Arborfield, and Saskatoon. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Health Care Providers' Week

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that the ministers of Health and Advanced Education, Employment and Labour have proclaimed October 25th to November 1st as Health Care Providers' Week. This proclamation recognizes the thousands of men and women that have provided critical services to patients across Saskatchewan.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I'll invite the member to start over.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that the ministers of Health and Advanced Education, Employment and Labour have proclaimed October 25th to November 1st as Health Care Providers' Week. This proclamation recognizes the thousands of men and women that provide critical services to patients across Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the men and women that we are celebrating this week are the foundation that build a solid health care system. Day in and day out, these men and women go to work, tend to the sick, the vulnerable, and the wounded. They mend the bodies and save the lives of neighbours, friends, and families.

As Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health, I've had the opportunity to meet hundreds of dedicated health care providers. I believe that it takes a special kind of person to work in health care facilities — a person full of kindness, patience, and compassion. I hope this week everyone will realize how fortunate we are to have health care providers that take pride in their work and care so much for their fellow citizens. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I'd just like to say I think it's certainly inappropriate and unparliamentarian to become so vocally involved that it's very difficult to hear statements by members, which side of the House. And certainly our guests will have difficulty. I ask members to appreciate the fact that members' statements are an opportunity to speak about something in the constituency or something you've achieved.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Commemorating the Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today marks the 16th anniversary of the appointment of Justice Horace Krever to head the Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada. Hemophilia Saskatchewan commemorated the occasion today by dedicating a tree of life on the grounds of the Legislative Building.

This act of remembrance acknowledges Hemophilia Saskatchewan's profound loss and grief and reflects their ongoing commitment to the security and safety of the Canadian blood system. The tree of life is dedicated to those who died as a result of tainted blood, but it also recognizes the courage of those who live with the medical, emotional, and financial consequences. A memorial plaque was presented to Canada Blood Services in recognition of the advances made to protect the blood supply and make Canada's blood system one of the safest in the world.

Congratulations to Faye Katzman and all of Hemophilia Saskatchewan for their continued vigilance on behalf of people living with bleeding disorders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Heavy Oil Recovery Project

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like all members to join with me today in congratulating Petrobank Energy and Resources Ltd. for an exciting, innovative project announced this morning in Saskatoon.

It comes as no secret that this province has an abundance of oil, much of it heavy oil. Saskatchewan has an estimated 3.4 billion cubic meters of heavy oil in place in west central region of our province. Today Petrobank introduced the province's newest conventional heavy oil project, Petrobank's Kerrobert THAI. THAI stands for toe to heel air injection project. This project has the potential to significantly grow the proportion of our heavy oil that can be recovered. This is not only good for oil producers but good for the province as well. The past two years has seen tremendous growth in our oil industry as companies respond to develop our untapped natural resources in Saskatchewan's new and attractive investment climate.

[13:45]

The fact that the THAI process is being spearheaded right here in Saskatchewan near Kerrobert shows that it's possible to pioneer and build a new technology sought across the globe right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating Petrobank as they invest in our province and our future.

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

Fighting Poverty

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last week was Poverty Awareness Week in Saskatoon. The theme was season of change, and the action, a call for a comprehensive strategy to eliminate poverty in Saskatchewan.

The week was launched on Saturday, October 17, with nearly 200 people in attendance at the Station 20 site to mark the United Nations' Day to Eradicate Poverty. It continued with several events including a community supper, lectures, writing

workshops, and an arts evening. It culminated last Friday evening with over 100 people silently joining hands across the Broadway bridge to show solidarity for those living in poverty, acknowledging poverty affects us all on both sides of the river.

Mr. Speaker, we know that freedom from poverty is an enshrined human right and that all citizens are entitled to social and economic security. We know Saskatchewan's income gap between the rich and the poor continue to grow, and now 1 in 5 children in Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty. We also know that when governments reduce spending often social programs are cut first.

Mr. Speaker, many times and in many ways communities have tackled poverty, but we know it is a struggle that we cannot turn away from. Mahatma Gandhi has said that poverty is the worst form of violence and I agree. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition for their continuing leadership fighting poverty in Saskatoon and throughout Saskatchewan. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Duck Lake

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member from Regina Walsh Acres is on a hypocritical crusade for the people of Duck Lake. She keeps asking what about Duck Lake? Well I'm here to set the record straight. This is what our government has done for Duck Lake.

Mr. Speaker, 66,000 for municipal economic enhancement program; 94,000 in operating grants; 375,000 for a new roof on the interpretive centre; 455.5 thousand to force similar contribution out of the federal Building Canada fund for water reservoir expansion and treatment plant upgrade; and 13.5 million for a new school — that's our record on Duck Lake, Mr. Speaker, 15 million.

What have the members opposite done for Duck Lake? I'll tell you: lip service, lip service. And in the terms of genuine pursuit of positive outcomes for the people of Duck Lake — precious, stinking little, Mr. Speaker. But — hey — it's becoming clear that's not what they care about. They'd rather be hypocrites and play old-fashioned . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order. I find that a little disturbing. We should have the respect, whether we agree or disagree with individuals, of not drawing individuals into . . . even statements. The member's time has elapsed.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Approximately 700 people from across the province attended the 26th annual ABEX [Achievement in Business Excellence] Awards which occurred last Saturday, October 24th, in Saskatoon. I was pleased to attend this event recognizing the achievements of the province's business community.

I'm proud to say that this year 10 of the 15 awards handed out last Saturday went to companies based in my home community of Saskatoon. Two awards went to North Ridge Development Corporation which won Business of the Year as well as the award for customer service. Started as a part-time business venture more than 25 years ago, North Ridge has grown to become the province's largest residential development and construction company.

In addition to North Ridge, 13 other companies and individuals were recognized with ABEX Awards. The Aboriginal Business Award went to Saskatoon-based Aboriginal Consulting Services which delivers awareness training, strategic planning for doing business with Aboriginal communities, and also publishes the *Eagle Feather News*. I'm proud to recognize the achievements of President John Lagimodiere as a member of my constituency.

Other Saskatoon winners include Ghost Transportation Services, Saskatoon Motor Products, Point2 Technologies, Pic-Man Tattoo, Team Drilling, TinyEYE Therapy Services, and Bio-Extraction Inc. Mr. Speaker, I ask all MLAs to recognize these individuals and companies who represent excellence in their field. Please join me in congratulating all the winners of the 26th annual ABEX Awards.

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

The Spirit of Thanksgiving

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in the House today as the bearer of good news. Since we didn't get the pleasure of celebrating Thanksgiving together this year, I would like to bring the spirit of Thanksgiving to all of you today. What better way to relish and give thanks for all the good news stories about Saskatchewan? And since the members across the way rarely appreciate the mashed potatoes and gravy, allow me to serve you a helping to really savour.

Your main course: the giving-natured people of Saskatchewan. We are very thankful for them. We are thankful for residents like Leslie and Irene Dube who donated the largest individual gift ever to a Western Canadian pediatric hospital — \$6.5 million. We are thankful for the Friendship Inn, Souls Harbour Rescue Mission, and all the volunteers who helped serve hot and fresh Thanksgiving meals to the less fortunate. We are thankful for the huge pile of toys collected and donated for the Regina Motorcycle Association's annual toy run and from Roughrider fans.

Living in Saskatchewan, you really can have your turkey and eat it too. Once you learn to truly appreciate all the fantastic, flavourful stories about Saskatchewan people, we know you'll be begging for seconds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Staffing in Health Care Facilities

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the

Premier. Mr. Premier, yesterday in the Assembly your Minister of Health admitted that he had ignored 1,300 separate occasions where, when getting the information that 1,300 times levels were unsafe in our hospitals, nursing homes, and labs under your own definition.

To the Premier, and through you, Mr. Speaker: how do you support a minister who 1,300 times, when presented with the hard evidence, failed to protect the safety of the people of this province? How do you defend that minister?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, on a daily basis staffing levels will go up and go down in all of our health care facilities, whether they're acute care facilities, whether they're long-term care facilities, whether it's home care, Mr. Speaker. People are on vacation for some weeks. Some people may be sick and not attending work, or people may be on bereavement leave, Mr. Speaker.

There are various reasons why the staffing levels will fluctuate in all of our health care facilities, Mr. Speaker. But there is a process in place. There is a process in place for any person that is a health care provider that feels that staffing levels are unsafe to go to their union representative which then deal with management through management of the regional health authority, Mr. Speaker. That is in place.

Now the 1,300 were cases that the health region would have been very aware of. And, Mr. Speaker, there are four former health ministers over on that side. And if a person was missing from work for a half a day or a day, I'm sure that they weren't checking into each and every one of those cases, just as I haven't, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — My question again is to the Premier who, I believe, along with the minister fails to protect the people of the province as it relates to health care and numbers of workers needed to maintain the safety in our hospitals and nursing homes.

Mr. Speaker, my level to the Premier is this: how can the people of Saskatchewan trust you and this Minister of Health in the event of a pandemic — if it were to happen later this year or early next year — given the fact that 1,300 times, given written evidence of unsafe levels of care in our hospitals and nursing homes, this Premier fails to protect the people of this province? How are you going to do it if there is a pandemic later this year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, on a daily basis the levels of staffing will fluctuate. But one thing that we've done, Mr. Speaker, in the two years that we have been in this House . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the Minister of

Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, what we haven't done as a government on this side of the House is turn our backs on the staffing levels within the hospitals throughout Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know the member has been gone for many, many years. But what he should realize is today there are 570 more full-time equivalent nurses working in Saskatchewan than all the years that those members were in government, Mr. Speaker. We've done more in two years on the staffing levels than they demolished in 16.

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

H1N1 Pandemic Planning

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Despite the minister's loud rhetoric, we still don't have health care facilities that are sufficiently staffed for the possibility of the H1N1 pandemic. Today we hear again from another group of health providers that are saying "government inaction on H1N1 endangers lives."

The government has allowed the health regions to manage with unacceptably low . . . the low numbers of health professionals in place is demonstrated yesterday by the 1,300 written documented cases. Adequate numbers of respiratory therapists are needed to care for individuals who may become severely ill enough to be put on a ventilator due to H1N1's negative impact on lungs.

To the minister, Mr. Speaker: what is he doing to immediately ensure that there are a sufficient number of respiratory therapists on staff in each health region to adequately prepare for this pandemic and adequately serve the needs of the Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely proud of the health care providers that we have in our province. I'm extremely proud of the Ministry of Health and the staff that we have within the Ministry of Health that have worked diligently since April. When the first case of H1N1 was found in the province in April, they had been working many, many . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — They've been working long hours, Mr. Speaker. And I would say that we here in Saskatchewan are positioned as good if not better than anywhere else in Canada. Mr. Speaker, when we look at some of the situations that happened in other provinces yesterday — in Alberta and BC — with extremely long waits because they grouped health care providers with some of the high-risk groups trying to get them vaccinated, there were some issues in other provinces.

That wasn't the case here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It's been a very orderly immunization so far. We expect it to continue on. But it's only because of the hard work of our health care professionals that that's happening.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, in September I pressured the minister to enhance the HealthLine program and put in place a dedicated hotline number to answer questions related to H1N1. Today a caller into the Sask HealthLine was put on hold for almost 30 minutes until a nurse answered the phone — a 30-minute wait and the H1N1 pandemic is only just begun. When finally answered, the caller was directed to the Saskatchewan HealthLine website and the fightflu.ca website which has “enough information that you can spend days looking through it.” Most people don't have days to look through information.

To the minister: is a 30-minute wait acceptable? When is the minister going to get ahead of this and assure people have access to timely, accurate, and useful information?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the health care professionals around our province are equipped and are ready to serve the people of Saskatchewan. Whether it's dealing with disease prevention, with washing hands correctly and sneeze technique to immunization, Mr. Speaker, they're there to serve the people of Saskatchewan.

What doesn't help is when you have opposition members that are trying to play politics with a pandemic, who have done nothing but fearmonger in this House and outside this House, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that doesn't help anyone but trying to help their own political purposes. It's a shame.

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

Ms. Junor: — I do not think playing politics is what's happening here. If we're trying to share and get accurate information for the people of Saskatchewan who are phoning and emailing and contacting us in person saying, we don't understand. We're confused. We don't know what to do. What is actually causing fear is confusion, and that minister has done nothing to alleviate the confusion of the public. Nothing. Nothing.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, he sends, the minister sends out news releases outlining his immunization plans. On the other hand, the Saskatchewan HealthLine is directing people to the Saskatchewan HealthLine online website which is accessed through the Saskatchewan government website. And on this website, listen, under the H1N1 prevention you will read, “There is no . . . [vaccination] to protect against H1N1 flu.”

Mr. Speaker, no wonder everyone's confused. On the one hand, people are being told by the minister he has vaccination plans,

and on the other hand they're being told there is no vaccination to protect against H1N1.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how does this situation reassure the people of Saskatchewan that he's on top of this serious issue?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, it's been proven and it's been polled on, Mr. Speaker, that people throughout the province of Saskatchewan are very confident with the plans that we have got in place. Mr. Speaker, I would say that there is one confusing person, one confused person and it would be the member opposite, the Health critic. She is very confused, Mr. Speaker, and I can understand why. When we hold a briefing for all MLAs, including the opposition, to try and clear up some of the confusion she's suffering from, she doesn't attend, Mr. Speaker. That's where the confusion comes from, Mr. Speaker.

Our plan is very obvious. We've got it laid out as far as the immunization plan, as far as the prevention plan. And, Mr. Speaker, health regions across the province are waiting to see if there is a huge increase. And if there's a huge severity, they'll be there to treat the people of Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing is responsible for the 911 program and emergency preparedness. Police officers and firefighters are on the front lines day to day protecting Saskatchewan people.

To the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing: what is his plan to get police officers and firefighters the H1N1 vaccination so they can continue to ensure the safety of Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Health as the lead agency for government planning in this area, Mr. Speaker, have ensured that there are pandemic plans for all Crown corporations, all agencies, Mr. Speaker, as well as the Ministry of Health. Those are located on the government's website, Mr. Speaker, so that anyone in those areas will certainly know.

Mr. Speaker, we've got a rollout plan for the immunization. We are in good position. We're doing our health care professionals this week. We're going into high-risk groups next week, Mr. Speaker. And we're quite confident that by November 30th the rest of the population will be immunized.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I can say is, I'm very proud of not only the federal government, but our government who said, at one point, that the immunization would start sometime into November. We've under-promised and over-delivered, Mr. Speaker.

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

Employment Issues

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Advanced Ed, I don't always like his answers, but he does know when to stand up, I will give him that credit.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday the people in Saskatchewan and indeed our province as a whole and the workers, received some troubling news, Mr. Speaker. In one day, Mr. Speaker, there were 1,100 layoffs here in Saskatchewan: 800 in the potash industry and 300 at Case New Holland in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. With this one day of a huge amount of layoffs, combined with the other troubling aspects that we've seen in the economy, Mr. Speaker, with an increase in unemployment year over year, my question to the minister: when will the minister and the government stop the empty cheerleading, admit that there's a real problem affecting real people? Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak to something that's vitally important for all of us. We know we're not immune from what's going on around us, and Mr. Speaker, obviously it's with great empathy and understanding that we are working with Case New Holland. In fact I just spoke with the general manager yesterday, as did some of the officials within the ministry.

Mr. Speaker, that's one of the reasons we established the rapid response team. It's one of the reasons that we put in place, Mr. Speaker, a mechanism to ensure that more than 1,000 people are being assisted right now, Mr. Speaker. But the news, Mr. Speaker — whether we're talking about Saskatoon where there are 7,700 new jobs created year over year or 800 month over month — continues to be, Mr. Speaker, it continues to be indicative of Saskatchewan's strong performance as it's relative to the rest of Canada. And that is, Mr. Speaker, today we see that 5.3 per cent fewer EI [employment insurance] beneficiaries month over month — August to July, Mr. Speaker, that's 730 fewer people receiving EI than in July.

Mr. Speaker, we know we're not immune from what's going on around us, but we continue to see progress, Mr. Speaker, and continue to be one of the brightest lights across the country.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the EI numbers that the member refers to do not include the most recent layoffs that we've seen throughout the province, and also it does not speak to the issue of how many individuals are falling off and ending their benefits, Mr. Speaker.

With the one thousand eleven hundred layoffs that we've seen, Mr. Speaker, we've also seen the troubling statistic of 10,000 full-time job losses in one month, Mr. Speaker. And we see in Saskatchewan here, and the minister made reference to it, where they may be working with many of these individuals who are laid off, but the reality that these workers often face is part-time employment. And we've seen a huge surge in part-time employment, and that makes it more difficult for these laid-off

workers to make ends meet.

My question to the minister: we know the minister's very fond of part-time employment. He's been serving as the part-time Minister of Labour now for almost two years. My question to the minister: is part-time employment his plan for the entire workforce?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, certainly we're not immune from what's going on around us. We know that there was a reduction year over year of some jobs. But I'd like to speak specifically, Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite raised it specifically, that month over month Saskatchewan has seen an increase of 6,800 full-time jobs, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what that means is that the 4.6 per cent unemployment, the lowest in Canada, ranks among the most competitive. It allows us to see that employment has been down in BC [British Columbia] where 43,000 people have been laid off, in Alberta where more than 39,000 have been laid off, and in Manitoba where more than 2,000 people have been laid off.

We know we're not immune from what's going on around us, Mr. Speaker. There's more to do, but that's one of the reasons that we're working through our rapid response teams to ensure that we're helping the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we know that the members opposite have proven they're very good at spin. They're very good at cheerleading. But, Mr. Speaker, I don't think they're all that good at understanding the reality facing Saskatchewan workers.

Over the weekend, Mr. Speaker, I spoke to a welder who is working at Case New Holland and was unsure of his situation Monday when he shows up for work, what was going to face him, Mr. Speaker.

If we look at the statistics, Mr. Speaker — 10,000 full-time job losses over one month; last Friday alone, 1,100 layoffs throughout Saskatchewan; new claims in the province, Mr. Speaker, up by 8.9 per cent and a year-over-year increase of 47 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

The members opposite . . . Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister: when will he admit that there is a real problem in Saskatchewan affecting real workers and it requires real action?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again our rapid response teams, we've been working with Case New Holland. That contact began last week; it continues through this week. The layoffs are going to begin in November and go through to March.

Mr. Speaker, we are taking steps to ensure that we are helping people. But what we won't do, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to layoffs, what we won't do is follow the insensitive example set by the Leader of the Official Opposition a few years ago. I quote from *The StarPhoenix* of June 28, 1996 where he said, and I quote, Mr. Speaker, "There's no sense 'whining and snivelling' about the loss of 86 jobs at the AECL research office in Saskatoon, says Economic Development Minister Dwain Lingenfelter."

Mr. Speaker, we're sensitive to what's going on around us. We're not immune from what's going on around us, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to work on behalf of the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. But we are not going to be insensitive to their needs, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

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

Availability of Affordable Housing

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. CMHC's [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation] last report indicated vacancy rates in this province are still unacceptably tight. The overall rates in Regina, North Battleford, and Moose Jaw are less than 1 per cent, and the rate in Saskatoon is less than 2 per cent. And it's even harder for families with children looking for rental accommodation.

Last spring there were just 17 three-bedroom apartments available in all of Saskatchewan, out of nearly 1,300 units. There were only nine available in Saskatoon, only two in Regina, and just one in Prince Albert.

To the minister: where is this government's commitment to affordable housing for families with children?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I enjoy the opportunity to again say what we have done with affordability within our province. Very shortly after the election, we struck a task force that came forward with a number of recommendations. We have now acted on 24 of those 36 recommendations, unlike the previous government that had a task force. That document was never made public, and they acted on absolutely zero of what was in their task force document.

Mr. Speaker, we understood the biggest emergency was affordability. We addressed that by indexing the shelter rates and the rental supplements, and we revisit them every six months. And that is unprecedented within our country.

We also recognized that availability is an issue, and that is why we have built over 500 units within our province. We currently have 500 more under construction, and in development over 600 units, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, this minister loves to go through the list, loves to look in the rear-view mirror. But that's cold comfort for some of the news that we heard . . .

[Interjections]

Mr. Forbes: — And they can laugh. They can laugh over there. They can laugh. If they read *The StarPhoenix* last week, this is what they were talking about — women and children trying to escape family violence in Saskatoon. Many women fleeing violence could not even find shelter. And they laugh over there. They laugh.

Last year the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] shelter in Saskatoon turned away 3,300 women and children — 3,300 women and children. They could not find shelter. This is more than three times the number of people they were able to accommodate. Now this has grown, more than doubled since 2008, and has increased by over 500 per cent since 2007.

Now I'm sure the minister would like to review her list as she always does, but that won't help her here because this has happened under her watch. Her watch.

Now to the minister: how much . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I'd ask the member to place his question.

Mr. Forbes: — How much longer will women and children fleeing family violence have to wait before there will be enough safe shelter spaces available for them in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to say within that member's own city, we have over \$30 million committed to more housing, affordable housing, which is largely for women and children. It's for families. And a lot of our policies take families into consideration as the priority because of the children involved.

Mr. Speaker, he can talk about us looking back, but unfortunately what happened in the previous government is why we're in this situation. They refused to recognize that the province was growing and as such had absolutely no housing strategy whatsoever. So they were only building a few units per year and were not addressing the rising population. So we have had to accelerate in the building of housing within our province, and that's what we're doing, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Before I recognize the member, just another reminder that we seem to be getting away from directing the questions through the Chair and also personally directing questions directly at other members. I ask members to direct their questions through the Chair. I recognize the member

from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I have to say again that this minister seems to be attached to that rear-view mirror. She doesn't talk about the 2,500 units we did under HomeFirst or our five-year plan, that they have not started a new comprehensive, new housing strategy here in this province. We have to talk about these 3,300 women and children that have been turned away. She needs to really focus on that and get her action together.

Now the problem is though, what happens for these families who are trying to re-establish themselves after such a traumatic experience? Will there be shelter for them? What is this minister doing today to make sure the women who are finding themselves in a traumatic experience have time to heal and get their lives together? What is the government plan?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I'd like to review what we've done. And we have over 1,000 units in various stages of development within our province which will address some of the issues with availability of housing. We increased emergency shelter rates which allowed the emergency shelter organizations to be more financially viable and many of them have expanded or are expanding the emergency shelters.

It was this government, not the previous government, that put an additional \$1.1 million into sexual assault centres and agencies. A lot of those are transition houses, Mr. Speaker, so it was this government that increased the funding to the transition houses a great deal.

Another sector that looks after different issues that has to do with domestic violence is our community-based organizations. That member likes to talk about community-based organizations, but doesn't want to mention when they only gave them 1 per cent funding. Mr. Speaker, we did not find that acceptable, and we have significantly increased funding for the CBOs in this province.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We know, and this is the truth of the matter, that the YWCA, the turn-away rate has increased nearly 500 per cent since 2007 — not in the past, since 2007. She needs to come to terms with that.

Here's a quote from someone, Stacey Kesten, who works with the YWCA here in Regina. This is what she has to say about the situation:

It's probably the biggest challenge we face. Instead of having this time for the women to be a time of healing and a time of addressing the trauma that has happened, they're spending their days desperately trying to find housing.

To the minister: these women and their children are at risk because of their lack of access to affordable housing. When will this government provide more affordable housing suitable for these families?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to remind the member that we're investing over \$30 million in Saskatoon for affordable housing. Much of that will be for families. However, Mr. Speaker, for the YWCA, I understand that they are stressed, and we appreciate the work that they're doing.

The expansion in Saskatoon is going to be with the Salvation Army. They had some difficulties in securing their first location that they were looking at, and they now are very assured that they will be able to relocate at another area and expand the emergency beds available.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's not that these women are totally turned away. There are other facilities that we have available for them, but we do understand fully that the YWCA is doing a great job, and they have been maximizing their space. We have other spaces available, and we are working with the Social Services office in Saskatoon to address this very important issue.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Response to H1N1 Flu Threat

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Before the Minister of Health has the opportunity to speak, I just ask members to give the Minister of Health that opportunity without interference. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update to my colleagues on both sides of the Assembly as to the actions undertaken to fight the pandemic H1N1 virus. The H1N1 was first identified in Saskatchewan in April of 2009, and we have been aggressively revising our pandemic plan since. These plans have now incorporated H1N1-specific information based on what our experts have learned since April.

First I would like to direct all members of the Assembly to the Government of Saskatchewan's home page where there is a prominent item on pandemic plans. Click on that and you will find a sophisticated, meticulous, and detailed plan to fight the pandemic flu across government systems. You can also find out about our plan to provide personal protection equipment to front-line health care workers and manage health care facilities in the event of a surge in H1N1 cases.

Mr. Speaker, we are working hard to prevent such a surge and vaccine is a key strategy. The federal government has authorized the H1N1 vaccine, and this week it is being given to

the health care workers across this province.

Next week the vaccine will be offered to high-risk groups who will benefit mostly from the earliest access to vaccine, from the early access to vaccine. Among them are people with underlying medical conditions such as heart and lung disease, diabetes and obesity; pregnant women; people living in remote and isolated communities; First Nation and Métis population; and children from six months to five years of age. Individual health regions have the flexibility to target special risk groups within the range that I've mentioned.

It is important that the people watch for information about the vaccination clinics in their area. By mid-November we expect to be able to open up the H1N1 flu clinics to the general public. And let me emphasize, Mr. Speaker, for my colleagues and for everyone who is listening to this, we want all Saskatchewan residents to get a H1N1 flu vaccine. It is safe. It is effective, and it is the best way to fight the flu, this flu.

While this flu is mild to moderate for most people, we have seen some people who have had serious illness. Now that the vaccine is here, we have the biggest vaccination campaign in Saskatchewan's history, with the ultimate goal of preventing more serious disease or further death due to the H1N1 flu virus.

I will be getting a vaccine shot when it is made available, Mr. Speaker, as will my family. I urge all members on both sides of the Assembly to get the vaccine themselves and encourage all constituents to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the minister for providing me a copy of his statement, which I'm sure he would like to have a do-over after question period.

It's interesting that he talks about his plan providing protective equipment. And obviously what we heard yesterday was there's not enough staff and there's unsafe staffing situations, so all the masks in the world aren't going to help if we don't have enough staff. So we really should be listening to the people that called for more respiratory therapists, more staffing on all our units, in all our facilities. We should be listening.

And I still think the minister has got to go and look at the website because asking people to go to the website and have them told on the website that there is no, there is no vaccine to protect against H1N1. It says on the website: Saskatchewan Health, the little prairie lily, is all on the website. And telling people to go to the website isn't the most useful thing for many people. Isolated and remote areas, not everyone's got, you know, can go to a website or go to their nearest clinic. There has to be better communication.

And what we're seeing now, we still have many people confused. And that is what causes the most fear, is confusion. It isn't talking about real questions from real people, real concerns. That is not what's causing fear and confusion. What's causing fear and confusion is the lack of clear information from

the minister, and changing day to day does not help.

And, Mr. Speaker, if there's only 36 per cent of people in Saskatchewan going to get the vaccine, it isn't going to be an effective program. You need to have over 60 per cent take the vaccine to make sure the pandemic doesn't spread. So the minister has to do a better job.

And regardless of what the plans are, you need to make sure that people understand what's happening and that they don't just take your word for it that there's no problem with it. But it has to be well-informed people with good, accurate, timely information that they can use. And we should not dismiss their questions as fear mongering. When they ask me, I will ask the minister. And I don't think it's fear mongering; I think it's asking for clear information to protect the safety of people in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 97 — *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 97, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009* be now introduced and read the first time.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The Minister of Agriculture has moved first reading of Bill No. 97, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2009*. 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?

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 98 — *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 98, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 98, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the 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 the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 99 — *The Emergency 911 System
Amendment Act, 2009***

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — I move that Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2009* be now introduced and read for the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing has moved that Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2009* 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 considered a second time? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections.

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

**Bill No. 100 — *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B.
Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2009***

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 100, *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2009* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport has moved that Bill No. 100 . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. The Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport has moved that Bill No. 100, *The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the 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 the Bill be considered a second time? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Next sitting of the House.

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 the Hon. Mr. McMorris, seconded by Ms. Ross, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Mr. Lingenfelter.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again and conclude my comments from the last evening, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — Start over.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — No, Mr. Speaker, I will not be starting over from the beginning as some members have urged.

Mr. Speaker, towards, if I recall, towards the end of last night, I was talking about an event that I was pleased to take part in, in Weyburn, Mr. Speaker, just a couple of weeks ago. And that was the unveiling or the grand opening of three new group homes that opened in Weyburn, Mr. Speaker.

This was an event that certainly had special meaning for myself and my wife that took part in it, Mr. Speaker. We have a niece who is autistic and she is about, I think, 18 years old. And she was one of the people that were going to be living in the new homes. So, Mr. Speaker, it was a great event. We got to see where Kalandra will live, going forward, Mr. Speaker, and my thanks to the Minister for Social Services for this great announcement for our community.

Mr. Speaker, it's part of a four-year, nearly \$77 million initiative to eliminate the wait-lists for specialized residential and day program services for people with intellectual disabilities, Mr. Speaker, and it's one that I think is welcome to not only our community, Mr. Speaker, where 11 new spaces have been created . . . And they're great, Mr. Speaker. We were able to tour with Delaine Barber, a board member of the Weyburn group home, Mr. Speaker, and Bernice Erickson, the executive director of the group homes who has worked so hard, Mr. Speaker, to provide quality places to live for our more vulnerable citizens, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I won't speak for very much longer, but I do want to talk about a couple of initiatives in the Throne Speech that relate to the ministry that I have the responsibility for, Mr. Speaker, at this time.

[14:30]

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I do want to, I want to mention very briefly one that isn't in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, but I think is a very positive development for frankly the majority of Saskatchewan residents, Mr. Speaker. That was the new lottery agreement that we were able to sign late last week with our partners in the lottery system, Sask Sport, SaskCulture, and the Parks and Recreation Association, Mr. Speaker.

It's a five-year agreement, Mr. Speaker. It provides a stable level of funding, reliant upon lottery sales, Mr. Speaker, so we have to keep that in mind in terms of what that will mean for these agencies, but it's I believe the first time in the 35-year history of our lottery system where it's a lengthy agreement. It's a five-year agreement, Mr. Speaker, and I think, you know, certainly I'm very appreciative to our partners in those sectors who were very patient.

The old agreement expired, Mr. Speaker, I believe, at the end of March, and we were waiting to sign a new agreement because we were waiting for the Provincial Auditor to make some recommendations, and we wanted to take those into account, but also the changing in ministers' responsibilities, a new minister coming into the portfolio.

So, Mr. Speaker, it was, you know, certainly a summer of negotiations between our ministry and the folks that administer the lottery funds and we have a great agreement, Mr. Speaker. I think it's going to be a very good agreement. Twelve thousand organizations across this province will benefit.

Many of these, Mr. Speaker — in fact I think all of them are — they're non-profit or not-for-profit organizations where people are working 40 and 50 hours a week and then volunteering on the side to make these organizations run, everything from minor hockey and football and cultural organizations to a number of another whole list of organizations, Mr. Speaker. And some 600,000 people are directly affected by this funding, so certainly I was very pleased to be able to sign that agreement last week, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the Throne Speech, the Throne Speech does speak to the government's commitment to add 1,000 more electrified campsites, Mr. Speaker. And I want to say that the parks system has been very busy over this summer as it was last year, Mr. Speaker. I think last year, 2008, when we total up the numbers, was a record year, Mr. Speaker, for our provincial parks. And it looks like we'll be about 6 per cent higher in 2009, Mr. Speaker. We're putting the final calculations on the numbers, Mr. Speaker.

And as my seatmate, as my seatmate notes beside me that in spite of a not . . . Mr. Speaker, it wasn't a very good summer for camping. I know earlier this summer, my wife and I took our tent out to Cypress Hills, Mr. Speaker, over Canada Day in fact. We had a great event out there with the member from Cypress Hills. So we took our tent and stayed a couple nights and it . . .

well it wasn't very good weather. There was a bit of rain, Mr. Speaker.

But certainly throughout the parks that I was able to travel to — I think we were able to make it to 9 or 10 different provincial parks across the system this summer — and most of them, if not all of them, were at capacity for most of the summer, Mr. Speaker.

So we're on track to add more electrified sites. Certainly that's where the demand seems to be. Certainly not from campers like my wife and I who still camp in a tent, but certainly when you look at the bigger RVs [recreational vehicles] that there are, Mr. Speaker, in our system, certainly we have new dynamics in terms of what campers are looking for. And so we're addressing those, and by the beginning of next camp season we'll be at roughly 600 new electrified campsites, Mr. Speaker.

I want to also mention that I'm very excited to be able to build on the work of the Minister for Government Services, my predecessor, in bringing forward the first new cultural policy that our province has seen in the last 30 years, Mr. Speaker. This provides us with an excellent opportunity to work with the important sectors, Mr. Speaker.

I had a couple of events that I want to mention. I believe it was on Saturday we had the SaskCulture AGM [annual general meeting] here in Regina. I was able to speak at that. And then later, my wife and I — I'm fortunate that she's able to travel quite frequently with me, Mr. Speaker — and so we made our way to Swift Current for the OSAC [Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils] annual meeting out there and their showcase that they had in Swift Current. And I'm looking forward to building relationships with those stakeholders as we move forward with our cultural policy, Mr. Speaker.

There's a lot of work that's been done by the ministry and by my predecessor in terms of consulting with the stakeholders. Last year a discussion paper was put out of reviewing the last 30 years of cultural policy in the province and also a round of consultations and community dialogues, Mr. Speaker. And we've also launched a couple of new programs, pilot programs, that will help to inform what the overall policy will be, Mr. Speaker.

One of those was the Building Pride program which 24 communities and organizations across the province this summer were able to access support from the government to celebrate noteworthy anniversaries. I believe a number of them were community events, 100th anniversaries of communities, Mr. Speaker, because one thing that we have been finding is that the 2005 centennial year of the province, there was a lot of hype and fanfare and communities that were celebrating the province's centennial, and also communities' centennials at the same time. But after '05, Mr. Speaker, there was really a drop-off in terms of celebrating our province by the previous administration, Mr. Speaker, and so this has been a program that we are moving forward.

And, Mr. Speaker, I do want to comment on the province's presence at the Olympics as has been outlined in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. I think this is going to be an exciting opportunity for our province to showcase not only our

wonderful entertainers that we have in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We're making sure, we're working with the Saskatchewan Arts Board to field applications from not only performers in terms of the conventional sense of bands and musicians, Mr. Speaker, but a number of dance organizations, cultural organizations that want to showcase at the pavilion, Mr. Speaker. And that's certainly something that we're looking forward to taking part in, Mr. Speaker, as are other . . . as far as I know at this point, Mr. Speaker, every other province will have a presence when it comes time to the Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, I note that at 2:30 on Sunday afternoon the Premier of Quebec unveiled the province of Quebec's . . . la Maison du Québec, I believe it was called, Mr. Speaker. My French is a little bit rusty; it's been a while.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think, as we're seeing, our province was certainly in the lead role in terms of outlining the province's presence at the Olympics and how we will be celebrating the Olympics within our province. Last spring, this past spring, my predecessor, the member from Wascana Plains, unveiled that.

And as we're finally seeing as we get closer . . . I think we're within about 100 days of the Olympics. The Olympic torch was lit late last week in Greece, Mr. Speaker, so we're getting quite close to the Olympics, and I think, as members and the public will see, that all other provinces will start to unveil their plans for the Olympics, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly I think, you know, I'm very confident. We have a good team working on the Olympics, Mr. Speaker. We're working with Sask Sport to manage our pavilion. Don Clark is managing that operation and he's very well respected, Mr. Speaker. Joan McCusker is helping out to bring attention and bring the celebration communities on board. We're going to have nine communities across the province that will see the torch actually spend some time in Saskatchewan communities.

And certainly the excitement for the Olympics is building, Mr. Speaker. And I think with the team that we have managing the pavilion and the activities within the province, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Saskatchewan will be very proud of the show that we put on in Vancouver come the winter Olympics early next year, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I wrap up my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I know I'm a little probably past what I've been allotted, but I do want to just close, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I appreciate the encouragement but I don't need any. But I thank the members who are helping.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, are frankly with this government and they're moving forward with this government. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are getting a taste of what it's like to lead the nation, what it's like to grow this province by thousands of people, Mr. Speaker, in a given year. And I think they like the idea of what it's like moving forward.

Because, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of this province remember what it's like to move backwards under the previous administration. They know what it's like to lose thousands of people, Mr. Speaker, every year. They know what it's like to

trail the rest of Canada in economic growth. They remember what it's like to lose money, Mr. Speaker, on risky NDP [New Democratic Party] ventures, Mr. Speaker, and there's a long list of those to go through, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to say that I'm proud to support the Throne Speech and the motion moved by the Minister of Health. And I'm certainly proud to be a member of this caucus, of this party, of this government, Mr. Speaker, and I'm proud to be a member of the member for Swift Current, the Premier's team, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to work hard over the next two years before the next election rolls around. We're going to continue to, I think, work to do things that we're doing well, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to move the province forward despite all the doom and gloom that we hear from members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are seeing a clear choice even this far out from the next election. People see the government moving forward, putting people's priorities first: debt reduction, Mr. Speaker, tax reduction, better highways, better schools and hospitals and, Mr. Speaker, a determination to deal with the most pressing issues that people in Saskatchewan face — health care and in particular the wait-list, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on the other hand, they see doom and gloom, a group of men and women who for whatever reason are banking on a recession, are hoping on a recession, Mr. Speaker, and I can't fathom that, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be a member of this Premier's team.

And, Mr. Speaker, it reminds me, late last night members would know that I quoted from David Gergen's book, *Eyewitness to Power*, and I would recommend it to anybody that's interested in it. It's a great book. I've perused it a number of times, Mr. Speaker.

And it reminds me of something else that Gergen wrote, Mr. Speaker, in quoting somebody else, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to quote this, Mr. Speaker. He said, Gergen wrote, and I quote:

If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that that sentiment leaves the people of Saskatchewan in good stead with this Premier, the member from Swift Current, for many years to come. Thank you.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to rise today on behalf of the residents of Regina Walsh Acres in opposition to the Wall government's Throne Speech delivered on Wednesday, October 22nd and concurrently to stand in favour of the New Democrat amended motion asserting the Wall government no longer enjoys the support of the Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan.

I would like to take a moment, Mr. Speaker, to offer my congratulations to the new Leader of the Opposition, the member from Regina Douglas Park, and the newly elected New Democrat MLA, the member from Saskatoon Riversdale. I look forward to working with the Leader of the Opposition and the member from Saskatoon Riversdale in standing up for working families left behind by the Sask Party government.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to take this moment to convey my sincere appreciation for the support of my husband, Jeffrey, and my daughter, Morgan, and to acknowledge the efforts of the many dedicated New Democrat members of Regina Walsh Acres.

It is the membership of our great party that sustains our shared vision of creating these conditions where every Saskatchewan citizen has the means and opportunity to be at their best. New Democrat members' unwavering belief in the power of people working together to achieve a more fair and equitable Saskatchewan distinguishes the New Democratic Party from all others.

Accordingly, it is only fitting to acknowledge the dedication of our party members. I would also like to mention some individuals in my life that are an amazing support system for me. To Sherry, Lynn, Nathan, Roxy, Knud, Gabe, Shelley, Rick, Dominique, and many others, thank you so much for your dedication and support as it is truly appreciated by both me and my family.

[14:45]

Together New Democrats will continue, as we always have done, to advocate for a more caring and fair Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the people of our great province know that the prosperity we have enjoyed over the past number of years has sadly dwindled. Despite the Wall government's hollow assurances and empty . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Speakers in the past have ruled about references to individuals and about referring to individuals as specific government. It's the provincial government or whatever. I ask the member to be aware of that. Thank you.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The prosperity that we have enjoyed over the past number of years has dwindled. Despite the government's hollow assurances and empty actions, Saskatchewan is in the grips of a recession.

We have arrived only at a point in time where jobs are being lost on a daily basis, where economic activity has significantly slowed, and where our youngest citizens are finding it too difficult to go to school, pay the bills, and making a living in Saskatchewan.

Retail sales, for instance, are down by 4 per cent. Manufacturing sales are down 5.4 million year after year. There's a 21.7 per cent decrease in international exports year over year. It's the largest decline in the country for new vehicle sales. Housing starts are down by more than half; mineral production and oil drilling — down; land sale activity — plummeting.

With all the major economic figures down under this government, jobs are also following — 700 fewer jobs year over year; 3,700 full-time jobs lost year over year; 4,700 people laid off already this current year.

Indeed those residents of Regina Walsh Acres who once worked at the Sears call centre on Broad Street will know that this government has no plan to keep people working in Saskatchewan. Over 240 jobs lost and no response team sent from the Minister for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour. These are jobs that are lost forever as they are permanently outsourced to the Philippines.

From August to September of this year, 10,000 full-time jobs were lost. Record-setting unemployment with 12,000 people turning to employment insurance and young people are also struggling to find employment.

Year over year, there's been a decline in 6,000 jobs for youth. From July 2008 to July 2009, Saskatchewan witnessed an increase of more than double — 142.4 per cent to be precise — in youth under the age of 25 receiving employment insurance. That's more than double the amount of young people receiving EI than last year, illustrating just how challenging it is for our young people to make ends meet.

Youth unemployment is up 8.5 per cent, which is an increase from 2008 with an already disappointing 7.3 per cent youth unemployment rate. Full-time jobs are disappearing and layoff notices are being announced on a now regular basis. Record numbers of our young people are turning to employment insurance for help and with no help from this government.

No wonder there's a 62.7 per cent increase in personal bankruptcies in this province. Just think about that for one moment. The number of personal bankruptcies in this province has more than doubled under this government. Instead of taking action to help working families, this government turns around and makes life more expensive in Saskatchewan.

Between June 2008 and June 2009, Saskatchewan suffered the highest jump in the cost of living with increased prices for power, rent, and prescription drugs. The same is true for the previous months of July, August, and September. Under this right wing government, Saskatchewan is the only province in the country to have inflation this year.

Mr. Speaker, everywhere you look, every major economic statistic you read, Saskatchewan's economy is slowing. Just the amount of jobs alone that are being lost are evidence that Saskatchewan is in the grips of a recession. People can tell you Saskatchewan is suffering and that this government not only sits by as working families struggle; they actually make life more expensive.

Saskatchewan is suffering the highest jump in the cost of living in the country, and no relief is in sight. With the recession contributing to lagging employment and a right wing government imposing increases in the cost of living for working families and failing to help keep people working, Saskatchewan people are second-guessing this government's ability to govern the province in less prosperous times.

The province's finances are in a mess and, as a result of this conservative-style accounting that gambles on shaky economic forecasts and revenue assumptions, the rainy day fund once self-described by the Premier as the rock on which to build Saskatchewan's future is now but a former shadow of itself and this government is depleting all but \$800 million of the once \$2.3-billion-plus fund.

Further still, painful cuts are on the horizon as these right wingers seek to make up for their historic \$1.3 billion potash gaffe. It is within this context of fiscal incompetence, government arrogance, and a right wing tendency to make life more expensive for working families in Saskatchewan that this government announces a Throne Speech that fails to deal with the important issues facing Saskatchewan people.

Fifteen pages, Mr. Speaker, 15 pages of self-cheerleading, reminiscing about the past, and glossing over their broken promise on climate change, but not any mention, not one single mention about working families in this province. Not one mention of how this government plans to help working families cope with the rising cost of living and the lagging employment — not one. No help for families struggling to make ends meet. No plan to provide any training or opportunities to Saskatchewan's record number of unemployed. No plan on affordable housing. No plan to aid the growing numbers of Saskatchewan people who have lost the self-dignity and benefits that come with full-time, quality employment.

This government presents a 15-page speech that offers no relief for working families, no vision for Saskatchewan's future, and no recognition of the importance working people play in this economy, Mr. Speaker.

Students, unable to afford the rising cost of tuition since this government cancelled the tuition freeze, see no relief in sight from this government's Throne Speech. Rather than making tuition affordable for students now when they need it most, this government only offers an enhancement in student loans. They promise debt instead of affordable post-secondary education. What a relief that is to the students who are currently attending school and want to get into these educational institutions.

This government also continues in its blind indifference to the needs of graduate and Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] students, refusing to include them in the graduate retention program despite the fact that this is what's being asked for from the students themselves through the numerous petitions that my honourable member on this side of the House has been issuing on a daily basis.

Renters see no relief in sight from this government's Throne Speech. No plan to ensure Saskatchewan renters can count on having an affordable place to live. Seniors see no relief in sight from this government's Throne Speech to help them afford the rising cost in prescription drugs. And as Saskatchewan people see no relief in sight from this government's Throne Speech to keep the cost of our utilities down, rather this government plays political games instead of being upfront and sincere about their true plans for meeting Saskatchewan's energy needs.

This government's third Throne Speech, this last Throne Speech, completes the story of the first: a government with

wearing credibility as the list of broken promises grows; details of their incompetence and their ideological predilection to retrench their rights, benefits; and ability of working people to enjoy a decent quality of life have now become very visible and very clear.

But, Mr. Speaker, does this surprise any of us? It shouldn't really. And why shouldn't we be surprised? Because the Premier of this government, Mr. Speaker, is disingenuous. Now in case anyone doesn't know what the word disingenuous means, I'm going to make sure that this government can hear the definition of disingenuous because clearly they are very interested in what this word is. So the dictionary meaning, Mr. Speaker, of disingenuous is not straightforward or candid; insincere or calculating.

Now quite frankly I would have to say too, Mr. Speaker, that this Premier of this government exemplifies all of those adjectives that described disingenuous. So disingenuous, for instance, is a Premier who hides his past. When one looks at his biography on the website, one can see that there's a number of things missing from his biography on the website.

An Hon. Member: — What's missing?

Ms. Morin: — Well for instance, there is nothing about the fact that he served as a ministerial assistant for the Devine Tories who left this province in financial ruins. There's nothing about that, nothing. Apparently he's not proud of the fact that he served with the Devine Tories, or he's not proud of the fact that they left the province in financial ruins because there's nothing available in his biography on the website.

Do you know what else is missing? There is nothing, absolutely nothing, about the fact that he worked for the Mulroney government. Who did what? Who did what? Who left the country with a financial mess. Now there seems to be a bit of a pattern. He works for the Devine Tories . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — There appears to be a lot of people anxious to get into the debate. If members have something that they want to discuss with members across the floor, if they would go behind the bar or just outside of the Chamber for a few moments, that would be appreciated so that we could hear the member from Regina Walsh Acres make her comments in her speech opportunity.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just because I was trying to make a point here — and I don't know how many people actually heard that point because of the level of volume in the room — I guess I'm going to repeat that point that I was making. So as I said, there was nothing in the biography about the fact that he served with the Devine Tories who left this province in financial ruins. There was nothing about the fact that he served with the Mulroney government who left the country in a financial mess.

Now there is clearly an establishment of a pattern here, which is that wherever he decides to serve, with whatever conservative government he decides to serve, the country or the province are left with a financial mess thereafter. And I'm sincerely hoping,

sincerely hoping that that history doesn't repeat itself. However, as we've already seen, with a 1.3 budget miscalculation on the potash revenues for this province, we're now seeing that history seems to be repeating itself. So let's talk about something else.

So disingenuous is also a Premier who pontificates about virtuosity at every opportunity and yet, away from the eyes of the public, is caught mimicking and thereby insulting people who speak English as a second language, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, I took great offence to what I saw in that video. I took great offence to it. Why? Because my parents were German immigrants, and my parents spoke with a very thick accent, Mr. Speaker. And the entire German community that I am very involved with and represent, they all speak English or most of them speak English with a very thick accent. And so the insult that that presented to anyone who has come here as an immigrant from other countries to help build this province is absolutely unacceptable. Unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

What else did this Premier do? Well, disingenuous is a Premier who, as well as mimicking the people who come here as immigrants who have accents, is making disparaging and degrading remarks about a woman in a position of leadership, Mr. Speaker. Now who was that woman, we ask. That woman was someone that I have a great amount of admiration for, so yet again I was quite offended because that woman is none other than Dr. Lynda Haverstock who was the revered Lieutenant Governor of this province, who at that time was the first female leader of a political party in Saskatchewan. And that's how much respect that Premier had for that woman in that position.

And I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker. One can see the barrage of comments that comes across the House, from not just the member in a video that was released but also from the other members, as to what respect level they have for women, what respect level they have for the women on this side of the House. What respect level they have for the women who came to the legislature yesterday to talk to this government about their concerns, about their rights to free collective bargaining, who were then told that they were not going to gain entry to this building.

That's the respect that this government has for the women in this province apparently, Mr. Speaker. Shameful. They locked them out until many hours . . . [inaudible] . . . a time of negotiations, they finally realized what the mistake was in terms of locking these women out from the legislature. It was shameful.

[15:00]

Now when we look back at that video and we look back at the remarks that this disingenuous Premier made at that time, we think to ourselves, you know, well how old was this video? Well let's be clear on this. The Premier was not an 18-year-old boy making these remarks. Because when we're 18, Mr. Speaker, we all make mistakes and say things that we shouldn't say, but that's unfortunately that growing phase that we all go through. And I'm sure we all have things that we regret having said at 18.

No, he was not 18 years old. He was a young man who was in a position of significant authority and influence at the time. So being in a position of authority, not to mention influence, to be making those remarks then allows that culture to fester amongst the other people that he was working with. And we see the same happening today, Mr. Speaker. It hasn't changed. He may have apologized; he may present himself differently in public; but I wonder, Mr. Speaker, exactly what goes on behind closed doors because that is the type of behaviour that we've seen from this disingenuous Premier.

Now disingenuous is a Premier who, quote, talks about being of benefit to be part of a government that lost its way. So he talks about that it being a benefit to be part of a government that lost its way when confronted with the evidence that he had signed a requisition for liquor.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we're not talking about a few bottles here. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, when one looks at these requisition orders, one can see that this is not something that simply would have slipped by, you know, without anyone truly knowing.

Now if I look at this one requisition order, for instance, it says, please have delivered to our minister, Hon. John Gerich at room 348, Legislative Building, the following. Attention Mr. Brad Wall. That was when Mr. Brad Wall at the time, who is currently the Premier, was serving as a ministerial assistant to the Hon. John Gerich at the time. So there is a number of bottles of alcohol.

But you know, the requisition I found most interesting is the one that's fairly significant in size. And I can see how you might be able to miss three bottles of rum and, you know, two bottles of light rum and three bottles of vodka and etc. But, Mr. Speaker, what I don't understand is how does someone not see — miss, overlook; I'm not sure — a large beer tub, 150 beer cups, 100 wine cups, 200 spirit cups. But best of all, 59 pounds of ice — 59 pounds of ice. That's not something that I'm not going to notice going by me in the hallway or into the office.

So, you know, Mr. Speaker . . . And they're laughing. They're laughing. Why? Because that sense of entitlement hasn't changed one bit, not one bit. It is the same today as it was then.

So, Mr. Speaker, when one looks, for instance, at the Provincial Auditor's report from 1992, the Provincial Auditor's report from 1992 says . . . Because I was wondering. I mean, you know, I mean the Premier, the current Premier says that, you know what? It was convention at the time. It was convention. It was something that was done, you know . . .

An Hon. Member: — It's okay to steal.

Ms. Morin: — Exactly. So you know the Provincial Auditor's report from 1992 says this:

The Liquor Board does not have policies that authorize ministers and officials to take liquor for their own use.

Accordingly, there was a loss to the Crown . . . of \$19,285.

That was directly taken out of the Provincial Auditor's report from 1992 that there was no mechanism for authorization for

them to use this liquor at the taxpayers' expense. When the current Premier was the leader of the opposition, former Finance minister, Andrew Thomson posed this question in the House:

My question is, at what point did that member go to the press with this clearly not authorized expenditure? When did he put out the press release? When did he go to the press? Did he put out a press release?

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we haven't heard any such thing. No press release — nothing. Nothing. Just, you know what, it was a benefit to be part of a government that lost its way. That's what the current Premier had to say about when he was confronted with this.

So the fact that Brad Wall was the executive assistant that was actually responsible for the ordering, collection of the alcohol, and that he was not only aware that the activity was taking place, that he may also be the person responsible for making it happen, that's a question that we now have to ask, Mr. Speaker, because we don't have all the information from that situation because unfortunately he didn't come clean on that.

So as I said, there was over \$19,000 worth of liquor that was supplied to cabinet ministers' offices during the Devine government. That should not have been done, according to what the Provincial Auditor said and according to the mechanisms under the Liquor Board. So disingenuous, Mr. Speaker, is also a Premier that knows the people of Saskatchewan would be paying for the consumption of these products and not offering a full and clear explanation.

An Hon. Member: — Or paying for it.

Ms. Morin: — Or paying for it. Disingenuous, Mr. Speaker, is a Premier who creates laws and doesn't believe that he is beholden to them. We've already had an example of the Premier's own situation where he had admitted to breaking one of the laws of Saskatchewan, and then when asked about it, laughed it off, Mr. Speaker. Laughed it off. It's not a big deal. You know, it didn't hurt anybody at the time. Well so it's somebody who is driving drunk and doesn't hurt anybody at the time. Should they be laughing that off, Mr. Speaker, because they didn't hurt anybody at the time?

It's not a laughing matter, Mr. Speaker. Each and every one of us that is elected to this Assembly knows that we are held to a very high standard. And each and every one of us are responsible to fulfill that standard — that's what we're held to.

Disingenuous is also a Premier who claims to be a successful business person and yet oversaw the demise of a business that was handed to him, Mr. Speaker. He was given a golden parachute and managed to run that into the ground as well, Mr. Speaker. So the Premier was handed this business on a platter. It had, you know, all sorts of hopeful projections.

So let's review. Someone takes over an operation that should be a surefire money-maker. They set a budget based on numbers that turn out to be wildly overinflated. The revenues come in way under budget. So does this sound familiar to anybody? Definitely. Can you say potash over projection? And now the

revenues are under budget. This is what we're seeing. We're seeing history repeating itself. This is a description of disingenuous, and this Premier, Mr. Speaker, is disingenuous.

The minute we get out of record revenues, Brad Wall's government — sorry — the current government messes up the budget. Now the Saskatchewan people are paying the price for his fiscal incompetence. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a Premier who is a cheerleader and not a leader. He can't run a business, and he certainly can't seem to run a government. What's he got left other than the media spin and the pompoms, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, responding to the previous, government Throne Speech, I noted that the Sask Party spends more time trumpeting the wearing catchphrases about growth and selling the province, and too little time actually ensuring that people can actually afford to heat their homes, purchase their groceries, or pay their rent. Now this Wall government Throne Speech continues, sorry, now this government's Throne Speech continues the same ideological indifference to the needs of struggling, working families. This Premier, he is the man in the mirror, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, responding to the previous, Wall government Throne Speech, I said the Saskatchewan Crown sector and its capacity to provide affordable goods and services to the people of the province were cast into serious doubt by this Sask Party government. Since then privatization by the back door at SaskTel, selling off profitable Crown entities, and crafting a new policy on Crown competition have done just that, Mr. Speaker. They've done exactly that. Now this government's Throne Speech takes aim at the future of SaskPower with Sask Party political games and spin about future power generation in this province. This Premier, Mr. Speaker, is a man in the mirror.

Mr. Speaker, responding to the previous, government's Throne Speech, the previous, government's Throne Speech, I cautioned that the future of our publicly owned and funded medicare was jeopardized with the intention of the Sask Party to pursue a so-called patient-first review, which then and now is nothing short of a right wing bone picking of a sacred program that the entire country enjoys . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I find it very interesting, especially when the member is trying to speak and the members around her are making it very difficult. It's difficult for the Chair to hear. And then when we get all the members, it's very difficult.

I ask members to give the respect to allow the member . . . whether or not you disagree with what the members are saying, that members have a right to express their opinions on different matters. So I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now this government's Throne Speech seeks to exploit the real need to reduce surgical wait times, a promise already broken by this government, as an excuse to bring in more private, for-profit care. This Premier, Mr. Speaker, is a man in the mirror.

Mr. Speaker, I criticized the previous, government's Throne Speech for pushing ahead with legislation to take away the hard

fought rights of union workers with Bills 5 and 6. Since that time, this government passed this unnecessary legislation and continues their self-described war on labour with Bill 80, an attack on the trade and construction workers of this province.

Tellingly, this government's Throne Speech fails to even recognize the importance of working people in the economy — not one mention of working people in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. One can look through all 15 pages and not one mention, not one word about the working men and women of this province and their representative unions — not one word, Mr. Speaker. This Premier is the man in the mirror.

Mr. Speaker, I criticized the past, government's Throne Speech for its narrow vision on the environment. Cutting funds to tackle climate change, closing offices designed to coordinate action on climate change, and breaking their own election promise — yes, Mr. Speaker, they broke their own election promise that was in their platform to reduce carbon emissions — are the actions that clearly demonstrate that these right wingers simply don't take climate change seriously, Mr. Speaker.

This Wall government has also been busy working in the back rooms to sell off Saskatchewan's future. This Premier and his cabal of cheerleaders told us that nuclear power was a good idea for Saskatchewan and that they think the private company Bruce Power should build two nuclear reactors.

You know, Mr. Speaker, this is very interesting because we haven't seen anything from this government as to what happened with Bruce Power. We haven't seen any agreements that have potentially been signed, and we haven't seen any documents, any MOUs [memorandum of understanding], any paperwork that's been exchanged. We don't know if there was any money involved. We know nothing so far. Why? Because they haven't come clean on their discussions with Bruce Power and inviting them to come to this province to build nuclear reactors in this province.

And why do we think that there might have been an agreement signed, Mr. Speaker? Why? Simply because of a number of things that took place. First of all, that they were there from the very beginning with their pompoms, cheerleading on the whole notion and then wanting to ram it down the throats of Saskatchewan people. Then having the biased nuclear study that was done in this province. Then having a chaos-ridden UDP [Uranium Development Partnership] consultation process that didn't truly examine what the Saskatchewan people of this province were looking for in terms of all the energy options, all the information about the Bruce Power deal, all the costings, and all of the needs that would be required for this province, not to mention any notion of demand-side management or conservation. That's what people were looking for in the Uranium Development Partnership consultations that took place with Dan Perrins, but unfortunately Saskatchewan people didn't see that.

[15:15]

But what did Saskatchewan people get? Saskatchewan people got a visit from an ex-Sask Party MLA who visited their homes on behalf of Bruce Power to try and secure land for Bruce

Power. That's what Saskatchewan people got. So if we think that there's something nefarious going on with the discussions that took place with Bruce Power, Mr. Speaker, you'll have to excuse us because it smells nefarious. It seems nefarious. It looks to be nefarious, so guess what? My mom always told me that if it's got all those factors, it probably is nefarious, Mr. Speaker. Walks like a duck, quacks like a duck — it probably is a duck.

So this government wasted over \$3 million and more than a year actively peddling nuclear power, and this government is now reticent on its plan for nuclear after the report on its own sham consultations told the Premier something he obviously didn't want to hear and wasn't looking forward to hearing. The report released by Dan Perrins in early September of this year — only about a month ago, Mr. Speaker — told the Premier to stop being the foolhardy salesman and start acting like a premier.

People want to know all the details, all the facts, all the plans, before any decision is made to let Bruce Power build nuclear reactors in this province, Mr. Speaker, questions like who is going to pay for the construction? Who is going to pay for the decommissioning? Where is the nuclear waste going to go? How many taxpayer dollars did the Premier, acting as the foolhardy salesman, already commit to Bruce Power? The Premier should come clean on this, Mr. Speaker. The Premier should come clean. Will the government even legitimately study the alternatives to high-cost nuclear, like wind, solar, geothermal, and others?

And finally, why is the Premier not upfront about his plans for nuclear power in this province? Why is he not being upfront? What is he hiding, Mr. Speaker? We want to know. The Saskatchewan public wants to know. And it's only fair that Saskatchewan people know because it's their taxpayer dollars that are being used and committed here, Mr. Speaker.

In the meantime, before even the release of the report on the sham public consultations for nuclear power generation, Mr. Premier — the salesman — comes up with a new idea to build an isotope reactor in Saskatoon, no consultation again, no dedication of releasing the plans to the public. No legislative committee or unbiased, independent panel of experts to examine the proposal — just the Premier, the salesman, with his in-a-rush attitude and the dwindling wallet of the taxpayer money. Unlike premiers, salesmen don't have to worry about obstacles like democratic scrutiny or public consultations. And just like his edited biography, this Premier authors a different version of reality when his plan flounders.

In this Throne Speech, this government dubiously claims it is considering all the options — not just nuclear power — for power generation in Saskatchewan. In fact this Premier even suggests that wind power, after nearly two years of ignoring the most promising renewable energy power resources, may finally be part of the so-called power generation strategy. Now they're coming forward with that. Why? Because they're getting slaughtered on the idea of having a nuclear power plant or two plants in this province, and now they're finally seeing that the people of this province want to have the most cost-effective, sustainable, safe, affordable energy sources for the province going forward. The people of this province want to secure the

future of this province and not just throw it away at some cheerleading exercise that the Premier wants to promote.

However the mention of wind power — no matter how disingenuous — is largely declarative as the Sask Party hijacked committee of the legislature looking at energy options desperately tries to buy time and press for the nuclear-stricken Premier. That's what we still think, Mr. Speaker. You see, Mr. Speaker, when you're a salesman and a report tells you that there's no appetite and there may not even be a market for your idea, your product, one can expect a foolhardy salesman just to change the pitch. After all the time that this Premier, the salesman, wasted on nuclear and millions of dollars he gave to friends of the industry to tell him that he had a good idea to sell . . .

An Hon. Member: — How much did he give to Bruce Power?

Ms. Morin: — Well we're not sure how much he gave to Bruce Power because he hasn't come clean on that yet . . . [inaudible] . . . So this foolhardy salesman decided to change the pitch for nuclear. This Premier is still the salesman. High-cost nuclear power delivered by the private company, Bruce Power, is still the product.

We just have in this Throne Speech a new sales pitch of wait and see, wait and see. We heard the Minister of Energy and Resources say themselves, the Dan Perrins report isn't saying that, you know, don't go forward with the Bruce Power project. No, the Minister of Energy and Resources himself is saying it's a yellow light. And his interpretation of that yellow light is, it's a slowdown; proceed with caution. Proceed with caution is what he's saying. Unfortunately under the highway traffic Act, it means be prepared to stop. That message didn't seem to get through to the Minister of Energy and Resources and the Premier of this government.

In this Throne Speech, we're also told that Saskatchewan have a so-called unique and practical carbon emissions plan to make up for this government's broken election promise. This government also talks about more efficiency for environmental regulation. Mr. Speaker, every time right wingers talk about efficiency, cuts usually follow — broken promise to reduce carbon emissions, new sales pitch for nuclear power, and cuts to environmental regulation.

This Premier is the man in the mirror. Perhaps he should just drop the salesman act and call the whole thing off, Mr. Speaker. That's what he should do. He should just call the whole thing off. Mr. Speaker, let's face it. All 15 pages of this government's Throne Speech spend more time looking back than moving forward. And in looking back, the details, the broken promises, responsibility for mistakes, and the consequences of right wing policy are left out of this government's Throne Speech.

This Premier doesn't want to talk about their conservative-style accounting gaffe. It's the system's fault. So we've already heard the Premier admit that he makes phone calls to his Finance minister and simply shuffles over \$600 million on a whim on a Saturday, but when this government makes a \$1.3 billion miscalculation on potash revenues, it's the system's fault, Mr. Speaker. Not something that has been in practice for a long time under many previous budgets to have balanced budgets

delivered in this Legislative Assembly — no, this time it's the system's fault, despite the fact that the system has served this province very well in delivering balanced budgets in the past. But under this government, it's the system's fault.

This Premier doesn't want to talk about the growing public frustration over this government's push for nuclear power, so they entertain wind power for now and keep silent on nuclear power.

This Premier doesn't want to talk about why Saskatchewan has the highest inflation rate in all of Canada because that involves revealing their own government's right wing, you're on your own philosophy. That's it — you're on your own.

For all of this government's effort to maintain the smug mantle of dedication to keep Saskatchewan moving forward, people know that Saskatchewan has seen better days. Working families need more than empty and pompous cheerleading. They deserve a responsible, accountable government willing to take the priorities of making ends meet seriously. This government, Mr. Speaker, has proven that they are just not up to the task.

Mr. Speaker, New Democrats share with working families their collective frustration about the damage wrought by the Wall . . . by this government's woeful fiscal . . .

The Speaker: — I ask the member not to use personal names of individuals and on a number of occasions it has been used. I ask the member to refrain. I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — My apologies, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, New Democrats share with working families their collective frustration about the damage wrought by this government's woeful fiscal mismanagement, blind arrogance, and indifference to people's priorities. Indeed one just has to look at the Premier's \$7.2 million vanity project for the Olympic pavilion which will only be used for two weeks instead of providing needed financial relief for struggling working families.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Regina Walsh Acres, I stand opposed to this government's Throne Speech and stand in favour of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition asserting that this government has lost the support of the Assembly and the people of this province. Thank you.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to finally be able to stand up and speak to the Speech from the Throne.

I would like to welcome the new members, first off, of Regina Douglas Park and Saskatoon Riversdale. I know in talking to the member from Regina Rosemont, he's very happy with his seatmate. And I know that the member from Regina Douglas Park has been in this building before, and he kind of knows the ins and outs of it. However I have to say that to the new member from Saskatoon Riversdale, as you will find out, it's a lot of work and it takes a lot of time away from your family. So I thank you for having the courage to come forward and be a part of this wonderful Assembly.

I also want to thank the people of Carrot River Valley for electing me and for putting me in this great House to bring their concerns in front of this government, to bring their concerns, and hopefully that we can make a difference. Fact is, I shouldn't say hopefully. I know that we are making a difference. The people are actually pretty happy back at home. They've got a government now that is actually listening to them.

I would also like to say thank you to my family. As everybody knows, this is tough on the family. I'm from way up in the northeast, so consequently it's a long old hike to get back and forth up there. And actually, you know, I guess my wife sometimes does like it a little bit better when I'm gone for a while. But the odd time actually, she may actually miss me.

And the reason I got into this was, like all members, we want to make a difference. We want to make a difference for our communities and for our families. And I think this is what is happening. We're seeing more employment opportunities for our children within Saskatchewan. And that is the reason, that is the reason, Mr. Speaker, that I actually decided to get into government because I said Saskatchewan has so many, so many opportunities that are being bypassed by the NDP. Somebody has to get out there and try and make a difference. Somebody has to get out there and try and make a difference to move this province forward. So again, thank you very much to my family for letting me do this.

I also want to say thank you to my CAs [constituency assistant]. Now if you noticed, when I say CAs, it's plural. Quite a few people here know that our long-time constituency assistant Shelley Meyer had a baby this summer. And she had a baby boy that is very, very healthy, by the name of Jaxson. And we're very happy for her and very proud to have a future Saskatchewan Party voter coming along. Now it's going to take a little while.

Shelley is now on maternity leave, so we have actually three part-time CAs within my office, all very able people. We have Charlene Enns, Cindy Warner and LeeAnne Merrett. And as everybody knows, you can't do much without your CAs. The CAs, they really do a good job of running that office. And especially when we're down here in Regina, in the House, it's very important to have good CAs, and we have great ones up there. So I really appreciate them, and I want it to be on the *Hansard* to say thank you to all of them.

I would like to talk about our constituency of Carrot River Valley for a bit here. Carrot River Valley, as many of you people know, I've always got up here and I've said it's the greatest constituency in all of Saskatchewan. Now I've run into a little problem with that. It seems that I've got about 58 other members — or 57 other members — that have a disagreement with that. And so I won't say it's the greatest, but it is awfully, awfully good because what I want to do is . . . Some of the other members want to relieve me of some of my body fluids if I keep on saying we're the greatest. This is something that I believe. I believe in northeastern Saskatchewan, and I believe in Carrot River Valley.

[15:30]

We had our caucus retreat up in Nipawin this year, which is in

the Carrot River Valley. And it was nice to see all the members come up there, especially the ones from down south who don't know what trees are, and it was great to have them up there and visit our fair communities. Everybody knows that Nipawin is well known for some of the best tourism area and some of the best golf courses in all of Saskatchewan, and some of the biggest fish of course, Mr. Speaker. We have the Tobin Lake is well known for being as one of the greatest places to fish, and not just Saskatchewan or Canada, but all of North America. There are tournaments going up there, and we have people coming up to Nipawin from all corners of North America to go fishing. Honestly there's fish up there that . . . I can't put my arms out far enough. But they're big.

We have a lot of things going on in Carrot River Valley constituency. We have a new long-term care facility that will be going up in Tisdale — something that our government is putting forward — 1 of 13 long-term facilities in rural Saskatchewan. Also there's talk of a new motor hotel going up, or it's actually in the planning stages for Tisdale.

And when we go over to Carrot River, we have . . . The lumber industry has not been kind to us. But we have C & C Wood Products looking at reopening the facility in both Carrot River and Hudson Bay. So this is great news for that also. And there's also a strong possibility of a new motor hotel being put up in Carrot River. So the northeast, the northeast is moving along.

Hudson Bay was hit hard by the downturn in the forestry, but when you take the possibility of C & C starting up their plywood plant there . . . We have another initiative going over at Hudson Bay, and that is a peat moss bog being started up. Now peat moss is brought into Carrot River into their plant, and the bog was running out over there. So they came to our government and wanting help on building a road into the peat moss bog.

This is another initiative that our government along with the federal government took, to go and build this road into this bog. Hopefully the environmental study will be done quite quickly. They plan on doing the tendering for the road this spring, and we will get that going. Actually and the peat moss is talking about doubling the size of their plant in Carrot River. So, like I said, things are going good.

The agriculture end, we had great crops this year. But unfortunately, unfortunately we're the same as everybody else. This bad weather has kind of put us at a bit of a loss. But we have about 75 to 80 per cent of the harvest is done in Carrot River Valley, so we're thankful for that. And we're thankful for all the things that we have up there.

You know, there's been a lot of good things happening along with the taxes and the roads and the bridges and the culverts. This part of Saskatchewan, this part of Saskatchewan is moving forward, and it's in contrast, it's in contrast to what it used to be like under the previous administration.

Now the previous administration has a terrible habit of always being back there. They keep talking — as we just heard the last speaker, Mr. Speaker — talking about back in the '80s, back in the '70s, back in the '90s. You want to know something, Mr. Speaker? Disco is dead. Disco is dead. This government on this

side of the House, we're going to dance with the stars. We're moving forward. We're new.

Speaking of various different things that have been happening in Carrot River Valley, this government, this government is committed to rebuilding the roads that the previous administration left in absolutely deplorable shape, you know. And I give a lot of credit to our ministers from Rosetown and Cypress Hills for what they've done — \$40.9 million, \$40.9 million into our roads, culverts, and bridges since the Saskatchewan Party was elected in Carrot River Valley alone.

You know, I thought everybody would be happy. I thought everybody would be happy. But you want to know something? I actually got an email from a person who's complaining about getting tar on his new truck. And he wondered if the government would pay to clean this tar off. I had to turn to my CA and say, how do I answer this diplomatically?

Well, Mr. Speaker, I did answer. I did answer the email by saying I had the same problem because I was coming back from Hudson Bay this spring, and I got tar on my vehicle because they were fixing the road. I got tar on my vehicle. And I took WD-40, and I sprayed it on the vehicle and I wiped it off. So I explained to this person this is how you clean the tar off.

Now I did actually put on to the rest of that email that, you know, our government, our government is committed to fixing the roads in this province that were left in deplorable shape by the previous administration, and he was going to find road construction all over the province this summer — this was last summer when I was writing this. What I really wanted to say, but it wasn't very diplomatic, what I really wanted to say, I'm sorry because under the NDP administration you never would have had to worry about getting tar on your vehicle because they never fixed any roads.

Now a lot of our Throne Speech, a lot of our Throne Speech was on health and we just heard here, a while ago, the Leader of the Opposition talking about health. And let's go back and, you know, take a look at the record of health under the NDP administration. They were afraid, afraid to set any goals. We came up and set a goal. We said, we're going to have 800 new nurses in four years. And they kind of chuckled at that because, you see, they didn't ever want to set that goal because they were never going to get it.

Now our latest numbers are actually . . . Some of the people have been talking about the numbers but our latest numbers, we're up to just about 80 per cent. People have been saying 70 per cent. We're actually just about to 80 per cent. And this is only two years, not quite two years into our mandate.

You know, the NDP, they talk about how they have to reconnect with rural Saskatchewan. Now it's pretty hard to reconnect with rural Saskatchewan when on the health end, they were the ones that shut down 52 hospitals in rural Saskatchewan.

You know, the people of Carrot River Valley are very happy that the Saskatchewan Party got in because, you know, we only had three hospitals left, in Nipawin, Tisdale, and Hudson Bay. They were probably the next ones that were going to be closed

had the NDP got in next time.

You know, there's some of the other things that you can take a look at on the health end of it, and we have a great Health minister. He's worked diligently, diligently to move forward to fix up a failing infrastructure. Now the NDP spent \$2 million on a study that identified \$1.2 billion in infrastructure repairs that were needed within the province. And what did they do? They did nothing.

I often hear the member from North Battleford and he keeps on talking about the hospital there and how it needed to be replaced. Now we actually . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. If the members want to continue individual debate, they can do it outside the Chamber to allow the members who are recognized the opportunity to speak. Order. The member from Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now the member from North Battleford, he I believe was Health minister at one time, and he talks now about how we should be going and replacing the hospital in North Battleford. Yet under his watch, under his watch nothing was ever done.

Mr. Speaker, when you take a look at it, you know, we have 130 new registered nurse education seats have been created. We're increasing it because our population is growing. We know that we have to move forward. We've increased medical school enrolments, adding 40 new training seats and 60 additional residency seats that will be there by 2011. Now these, these are initiatives. These are goals.

We have 78 more physicians since December of 2008, including nine new physicians in rural communities. This is what we need. We don't need to be shutting those hospitals down in the rural constituencies; we need to be moving them forward. And we keep on hearing from the other side, well how many hospitals have you built? Well hey, we've only been in here for a couple of years. The way things are growing in Saskatchewan, we're going to have to start building hospitals in rural Saskatchewan again — hospitals that the NDP shut down.

You know, you go down to the wait times — another one; another goal. People sit back there and they say, it can't be done. We can't cut these wait times in four years. We can't cut that down to three months, taking it away from the 18 months that is there right now. I don't know if you've noticed this, but when we set goals, guess what? We actually do them.

You know, the NDP sat there and they tore apart rural Saskatchewan one hospital at a time. This government, with our absolutely fantastic Minister of Health, is moving, is moving this province forward.

Another thing that is very helpful to rural Saskatchewan is our regional parks. Mr. Speaker, I sat on the regional park board of Pasquia Regional Park for a number of years. And under that administration, under that administration, they were breaking the parks. They were not giving them any money whatsoever. Our parks were going down. We were relying strictly on trying

to raise money all on our own, trying to keep it open, and trying to build quality places for people of rural Saskatchewan to go.

Now in Pasquia Regional Park alone, in Pasquia Regional Park alone, this government this year gave \$75,000 to the Dickson Hardie Interpretive Centre. Now the interpretive centre, I'll have to explain that there was a crocodilian that was found right by the park. Now a crocodilian is a fossilized crocodile, and it was found there. And this is all housed within the Dickson Hardie Interpretive Centre. This was an old building. Actually it was bought from E.B. Campbell dam back in about 1965 or so, and it really needed to be worked on and updated. This government put their money where their mouth was. They said, we'll do that.

And going back on the regional park and the . . . You know, this government, this government put in \$1.015 million into our regional parks. That was in this past year and that was to improve these parks. And they're doing some matching dollars and it brings it up to \$2 million. Now let's take this to the last year, the last year the NDP government, they put in the grand total of \$75,000 into all of the regional parks.

[15:45]

We could continue on. We could continue on, Mr. Speaker, and talk about probably the best Agriculture minister this province has ever had. You know, he has gone out and done things, done things for the agriculture. The farmers are very happy and, you know, they would almost like to kiss him. I say almost. Take a look at what he has done, what he has done since we have come to power.

The crop insurance program has been improved, you know, and look at what happened under the NDP. The crop insurance premiums increased and the coverage decreased. Under ours, it's the exact opposite.

Wildlife damage is very important, is very important in our constituency because we do have a lot of wildlife damage. We increased it this year up to 100 per cent from the 80 per cent.

Let's get down to another thing that we had, the largest — and this is critical for all the people in rural Saskatchewan — largest education property tax reduction in the province's history. This was critical to the farmers, to the farmers' well-being. Not just Carrot River Valley but the farmers all over Saskatchewan. This government listens. This government listens to our rural people.

Mr. Speaker, you know, we could look back . . . And also another thing. We look back, and we look back on how the NDP shut down all of the rural agriculture offices. And you know, where we are, we're actually putting more of them back in place plus, Mr. Speaker, we are moving our crop insurance back to Melville where people actually understand, and it'll be more economical for the farmers to be able to call in.

We've got some other things going along here and that is with SaskPower. Now we know that the previous administration basically ran SaskPower into the ground. And now they were never expecting the province to grow which the province is doing. They were never, ever expecting the province to grow. Now we have a shortage of power and they sit there and say . . .

[inaudible] . . . how did that happen?

An Hon. Member: — Didn't see that one coming.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Didn't see that one coming. You're right.

Mr. Speaker, it leaves it up to us as a government to make these hard choices on how we are going to move ahead with our power, which way we are going to go. Then to top it all off, they criticize us for actually going out there and checking to see if maybe nuclear might be a possibility. I don't know if it is or not. But they criticize, they criticize. I would like to know how many things that they did with trying to figure out how to manufacture more power within this province.

They did play some games though. They did play some games with the utility rates because if you go back and look at the statistics, every time there was an election, guess what? We had a zero per cent power increase — quite amazing, quite amazing.

You know, and they talk about our economy. Okay. Here we sit, here we sit. We have some things like we have the lowest unemployment in all of Canada. We've got the five best cities to do business in in all of Canada. We've got the best economy in all of Canada, but they want to sit back and talk doom and gloom.

Now I have to admit, yes, there were some mistakes made on the budget. My learned friend from Saskatoon Massey Place brought up some quotes that I'd made in the budget speech last spring.

He also said that I was a nice guy. I liked that part of it. I like that part of it. I just wish that he would let all my colleagues know that. Because I always thought I was a nice guy, Mr. Speaker, and sometimes some of the people on this side don't agree with me.

But to go back and talk about, to go back and talk about this budget, I would like to know what they would have done different — what they would have done different. You know, I can remember them sitting there saying, we're sitting on a mountain of money; go out and spend more. Now they're sitting there: well why did you spend that money? We have a very, very intelligent, smart, articulate Finance minister who went over that from one end to the other. And you think it hasn't worried him? Definitely, it has.

But I'll tell you one thing. I don't think they could have done anything that . . . Well fact is, I know they couldn't have done any better, Mr. Speaker. I know that we did far better on this side than what that side had ever done.

Mr. Speaker, my time is, I guess, running short. So we . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay. The member from Regina Northeast was talking about a bit of music yesterday, and he was talking about an older song. And of course, he is getting up there in age, and I'm no spring chicken myself. But anyway, I got to thinking about what exactly, what that side of the Chamber is and how the next election is going to go, and reminds me of a song by Janis Joplin. It went, bye-bye my baby, bye-bye, which I thought was fitting for them.

Whereas on our side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we're more like Rodgers and Hammerstein with *Oklahoma!*. We're positive and we're smiling and we're ready to go to work and it's "Oh, what a beautiful mornin', oh, what a beautiful day."

Mr. Speaker, I support this Throne Speech because, Mr. Speaker, our government has worked hard, has worked hard on this side of the House. And we are successful. And we are successful, but the only time, the only time successful comes ahead of work is in the dictionary, Mr. Speaker. The only time success comes ahead of work is in the dictionary.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm incredibly happy with this Throne Speech. Fact is I'm happier than a hog with a fresh pail of slop. I certainly support, support this Throne Speech, and I do not support the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege and a pleasure indeed to rise and participate in the debate in the address in reply to the Throne Speech. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of speakers that have participated already in the debate, and there's been some interesting positions taken.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin my comments about the Throne Speech and some of the things that are so exciting to be part of, I too also want to thank my family, especially my spouse, my wife, Gail, who has been just a tremendous amount of support to me over, not only this year but throughout my political career as indicated in the Legislative Assembly. It's not always an easy task to be here when you're miles away from your family and your spouse, and I want to thank her for her encouragement and her support.

Mr. Speaker, as well, we could not do our jobs well enough without support of others, and I want to recognize my constituency assistants. My main constituency assistant, my full-time assistant, of course is Bob Blahay back in my office in Canora who comes from the community of Preeceville and knows almost everyone, I think, in the Canora-Pelly constituency and has been very, very valuable to me to be able to pass on information that arrives at my office through phone calls and emails and people that stop in.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Carol Sleeva. Carol Sleeva works not only here in the Legislative Assembly as a part-time ministerial assistant, but also as a part-time constituency assistant back in Canora-Pelly. And without their help of course, it would not be as easy to communicate on matters that are brought forward by constituents of Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also, on behalf of the opposition, as many of the opposition members have already, is to congratulate the two members who have been recently elected, one for the first time. And I had the pleasure of meeting the member from Saskatoon Riversdale one day, a few days before session started. And I welcome her because I know it's also a time for change, and we have new members that join the Assembly on an ongoing basis. So I welcome her and wish her well in her career here in the Legislative Assembly.

I also want to welcome back the member for Regina Douglas Park. And I say welcome back, Mr. Speaker, because I was elected in 1995, and I recall coming into this Assembly and seeing that member in the Assembly. He happened to be sitting in the chair that I now occupy. And at that time, you know, which seems like an awful long time ago because, as I said, 14 years ago is long but . . . I listened with some interest to the comments made by the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy who said that before next election, which will occur on November the 7th, 2011, that that member representing now Regina Douglas Park will have been elected and served in parts of five decades, Mr. Speaker — five decades.

You know, I think some of the members were kidding me about my age today. And I said, you know, there's a time I think when retirement comes quickly. And I wonder about the member from Regina Douglas Park. But, Mr. Speaker, I wish him well. I wish him well as Leader of the Opposition. I know he has a tough task because some of the members who have been trying to deliver their speeches of course have had to deal with maybe some of his interruptions as well, trying to convey their points of view. But that is not much different than what I was accustomed to back in 1995 to 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to wish one person well. And this will probably come as a surprise to her because I'm sure she's watching. There's a person in North Battleford, a resident of North Battleford who watches the debates in the Legislative Assembly on a continuous basis. And I know that Edna Pollock, who's well into her 90s, will be watching. And I wish her well as she continues to provide advice to not only myself, but I know other members as well in this Legislative Assembly. So best wishes to you, Edna.

Mr. Speaker, I want to turn first of all to some of the tremendous accomplishments of this government in the Canora-Pelly constituency. Mr. Speaker, I know that the member from Walsh Acres spoke, I think, for probably 25 minutes times two, so we'll try to adhere to the time of 25 minutes, Mr. Speaker, but I know that there's a lot of terrific information that I want to put on the record.

Mr. Speaker, some of the things that have occurred in Canora-Pelly are first of all to deal with municipal spending. And, Mr. Speaker, when I look at the summary of the projects that have been announced for towns, for villages, for rural municipalities in Canora-Pelly constituency, I'm quite impressed, Mr. Speaker. I'm impressed by the fact that the provincial contribution to these towns and villages and RMs [rural municipality] is totalling \$5.604 million. Mr. Speaker, that's a tremendous amount of encouragement to these municipalities, to these communities to do a number of things. And I'm just going to highlight a few of them, Mr. Speaker.

In the area of bridges and roads, Mr. Speaker, the towns of Kamsack, the town of Canora, the RM of Good Lake, and the RM of Preeceville have taken advantage of this funding to continue enhancement of bridges. Mr. Speaker, of great concern to many communities is of course water and sewer treatment. Mr. Speaker, the following communities are receiving assistance from the provincial government: Kamsack, Endeavour, Pelly, Preeceville, Springside, Norquay, and Hyas.

Mr. Speaker, along with those accomplishments, we have moved in the area of providing assistance to recreational facilities. Whether they be roof improvements or siding or heating and lighting, these are improvements that many of the recreational facilities . . . because like school infrastructure, the infrastructure is aging, and it needs constant repair or upgrade. And, Mr. Speaker, the town of Kamsack, the town of Springside, and the village of Stenen is taking advantage of thousands of dollars worth of provincial assistance to work on these projects.

[16:00]

Mr. Speaker, two RMs are taking advantage of building new maintenance shops — the RMs of Sliding Hills and RM of Clayton. Both of them are moving forward with maintenance shops. But one of the best additions, I think, is to the town of Sturgis, and the town of Sturgis has been lobbying and has been advocating that their community needs a brand new community hall. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the project that they have addressed, and that is the one that they're moving forward to. I know it's going to take tremendous support from the community because it's not a small project. And we as a provincial government have been able to assist to some degree.

So I congratulate all of the communities for their efforts in moving the infrastructure improvements forward.

Mr. Speaker, highways, in the area of highways of course, Highway 16, which is a major highway from Saskatoon through to Yorkton and beyond, we're seeing an improvement to repaving near the community of Springside. Mr. Speaker, bridge repair is also needed because bridges have again been constructed decades and decades ago. And we're seeing the RM of Livingston and the RM of Hudson Bay take advantage of this and do some bridge repairs. Mr. Speaker, those are just a few of the things that I've highlighted for improvement in Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other areas of need in Canora-Pelly is of course education. And I am pleased to report that the Norquay School has moved forward not only from a design stage, from a planning stage, through to its construction stage, Mr. Speaker. And in fact students have moved into the new classroom areas of Norquay School on Monday, September 21st. It wasn't quite ready for the start of school at the end of August, but they've now moved into it. Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous addition to the community of Norquay.

The total project was almost \$3 million, 2.8 million, of which the ministry's share was 1.7. Good Spirit School Division of course is the school division responsible for education in the Norquay community, and they provided the rest. So congratulations to the board of education and all of the people in Norquay. Mr. Speaker, 733 square meters of new construction was added. It provided for much needed mechanical renovations as well. And we have now in Norquay three new classrooms, a science lab, and performing and visual arts rooms as well. So, Mr. Speaker, that official opening is going to take place in the not too distant future as we celebrate a tremendous achievement by the community of Norquay.

Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest improvements that I have been

part of in my ministry is in the area of child care. Child care is so important, Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated in this Assembly before. As I've travelled not only in the province of Saskatchewan, but even in travels outside of the country, I have heard from potential immigrants. As they look at Saskatchewan as a potential place for building a brand new home, they've inquired about daycare, whether or not we have a daycare system that will provide their needs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that the statistics will show that in relationship to the three other Western provinces, we have very poor numbers in terms of the number of spaces that are available. But, Mr. Speaker, we're making an effort to address that. And I think when I get into some of the discussions on the province-wide system you'll see why.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to point out that in the Canora-Pelly constituency, in the town of Canora, there is a new daycare that has now been operating just about two years. And it has 25 spaces in it, and of course the government grant that was provided to that daycare totalled \$75,000 to get those 25 spaces constructed and in place.

Mr. Speaker, a very recent announcement of course was the community of Kamsack. Kamsack has 33 spaces, and the government provided a \$99,000 capital grant to Kamsack. But the most recent announcement, Mr. Speaker, as we are now looking at the current budget of over 1,000 spaces that will be allocated by the end of March 31st, the community of Pelly applied for a daycare centre and have been granted 33 spaces. And, Mr. Speaker, the capital allocation to them is \$110,880.

Mr. Speaker, there are also additional dollars that are provided through what is called the environment grant and the start-up funding grant, and these are grants that are provided to the board that is operating that daycare to assist them in doing purchases of supplies, materials, and of course the actual hiring that will take place. So, Mr. Speaker, these are things that have been accomplished in three communities, and we now have a total of 91 child care spaces in the constituency of Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other exciting announcements by the minister responsible for providing care to disabled people was the expansion of the MacKenzie Society. As people in Canora-Pelly know, the MacKenzie Society Ventures operates a home in the community of Preeceville. It also operates assisted living areas, but one of the contributions that has been made by the government is to expand MacKenzie Society Ventures to allow for the provision of a group home in Canora.

Mr. Speaker, this will be done by the fact that \$175,000 in one-time capital funds are being given to the MacKenzie Society Ventures. Their annual operating grant will be about \$473,000 and what this will do, Mr. Speaker, is probably create 10 to 13 permanent, full- and part-time jobs for employees in Canora, and it will enhance the number of people receiving care — the number of those with intellectual disabilities receiving care — to a grand total of 25.

So, Mr. Speaker, now we will be able to have care provided to three people right in the town of Canora and they will no longer have to travel to Preeceville to receive that kind of care. So it's

a great accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the provincial positions on a number of things, and one of them of course is education property tax. Mr. Speaker, we know from our discussions with many people that there was a need for change. There was a need to address the problem because, Mr. Speaker, we have had this problem before us for years. Mr. Speaker, I recall a tax revolt under the NDP where over 150 rural municipalities were staging tax revolts to say, we're not going to pay; we're not going to pay the increasing number of dollars needed to fund education.

Now, Mr. Speaker, education is extremely important so this is, you know, this needed to be addressed as quickly as possible. Mr. Speaker, I do recall in fact in looking at some of the history material that the former, former, former leader of the NDP, Tommy Douglas, said that there needed to be a change, that the property owner could not be the person that is required to pay for education property tax.

So, Mr. Speaker, that was how we approached education funding. We wanted to ensure that there was a commitment, that there was indeed proper dollars provided to school boards, and we approached this from the point of view of setting some goals.

We wanted to set some goals for pre-kindergarten to 12 financing that would do three things, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, there had to be the achieving of a fair balance for education funding. As I've indicated, the traditional split or some of the percentages that have existed in the past where taxpayers paid 40 per cent of the cost of K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education and the government, through the General Revenue Fund, paid 60 per cent, those percentages had changed. Those percentages had changed where in some school divisions there was a huge amount of dollars expected from the property owners and as a result people were unhappy with that. Saskatchewan was the province that relied on property owners to contribute tax dollars to the highest amount of any province in the Dominion of Canada. So we needed to get a balance.

Mr. Speaker, we also wanted to ensure that the kindergarten to grade 12 system is properly funded. When we recognize the costs of education, Mr. Speaker, they have to be the real costs. And that is why in this budget the largest amount of dollars allocated in one single increase was \$241 million. So, Mr. Speaker, boards of education have now a position where the dollars that we are provided adequately address the budgets that they have put forward.

The third situation, Mr. Speaker, that we wanted to achieve, the third goal, was that there needed to be a reduction in the education portion of property tax. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think the information has been distributed to everyone in the province, and anyone who owns property has had the opportunity to be aware now that the mill rates that used to be set by school boards are no longer set by the boards of education. Those mill rates are now set by the province of education and they have been reduced, Mr. Speaker. They have been reduced significantly.

But on the other side we've also, as I indicated, contributed

\$241 million — additional dollars — to the pot of money that has been distributed to boards of education. So what this will do, Mr. Speaker, is that it will move the government's share of funding pre-K to 12 education up to 63 per cent of the total bill for this year, 2009-10. And because of the changes we're going to make, and we've already announced those changes, it will move the share for 2010-11 up to 66 per cent. That's a significant amount, Mr. Speaker, of dollars that now will come from the General Revenue Fund and lessen that burden on property tax owners.

Mr. Speaker, for this year the amount of savings from the property tax payer will be about \$103 million, and with the reduction in mill rates proposed for January 1 of 2010 we will see a further reduction of \$53 million. This means, Mr. Speaker, that \$156 million less is being asked for from the property owner, a tremendous change from what was the past.

Mr. Speaker, I remember going to a number of SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] conventions, SARM conventions where the NDP, when they were in government, spoke about the need to address, the need to address education funding. And I recall the quotes from the minister of . . . then it was actually the leader, I'm sorry, the leader of the NDP party who said that the status quo, status quo in 2003 was unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. Those were the comments made by Lorne Calvert, who said that it just was not acceptable. That was in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I have another quote from the then leader, Lorne Calvert, and this is from March 3 of 2006. So three years has passed by since when Mr. Calvert said that the current system is just not acceptable. He said this, and I quote:

"Three years ago, I very publicly stated that the level of education tax being taken from farmland was both unfair and too high — a problem that has been with us for decades."

Mr. Speaker, three years of NDP rule and three years of non-addressing of the problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is why, when we became government in 2008, the Premier challenged not only myself as Minister of Education, but also the member for Rosetown who was my Legislative Secretary, to look at what is the alternative. What could an alternative be? Because the short term was a procedure of rebates, Mr. Speaker. And we have introduced a percentage of rebate on agricultural land, on commercial land, on residential land, but, Mr. Speaker, that's the short term because you have to be able to have a long-term plan in place. So what we did, Mr. Speaker, is we implemented a mill rate structure that is now set by the Government of Saskatchewan.

[16:15]

Mr. Speaker, in 2009, residential mill rates, as all property owners have seen, is 10.08. Now that's significant, Mr. Speaker, because the residential mill rate of 10.08 is the same in Estevan, Saskatchewan or Saskatoon, Saskatchewan or Shaunavon or Invermay, Saskatchewan. Residences have the same mill rate.

And, Mr. Speaker, we also did the same thing in agriculture. We said that the mill rate for agricultural properties for this year will be 7.08 mills. And it's the same, Mr. Speaker, all across Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, many people — those who owned residences, those who owned agricultural land — were very quick to take a look at their tax notice. Mr. Speaker, it's pretty easy. If you are a farmer who has a taxable assessment of \$300,000, Mr. Speaker, that comes from again a fair value market assessment where a percentage of value is applied. And if that end result is \$300,000 worth of taxable assessment, probably in the area of 10 quarters of land, maybe up to 12 depending upon the assessed values.

And, Mr. Speaker, a very simple calculation is that many school divisions have had mill rates of 20, 21, 22 mills of taxation for education purposes. I'm just going to suggest for simplicity's sake that if the mill rate was 20.08 mills and now we've put in place a mill rate of 7.08 mills, Mr. Speaker, that's 13 mills of tax difference. And when you multiply that by a \$300,000 assessment . . . Mr. Speaker, there's farmers that know immediately, if they look back at their tax records of three and four years ago, that they have saved \$3,900 as a result of the change of this government.

Mr. Speaker, that same thing happens in residences. When you look at the mill rate of 10.08 and if you take a school board mill rate of an average mill rate of 20.08, that's a change of 10 mills. So if you had an assessed property where you were paying taxes of, I'll change that to a \$200,000 home — which there are many in this province, Mr. Speaker — that owner saved \$2,000 of taxes. So that is a tremendous accomplishment that has been done with taxation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a bit about child care because, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my comments about child care spaces in Canora-Pelly, this is a very important issue for our government. Mr. Speaker, in the 2009-10 budget, we allocated over \$4 million for development of 1,000 new child care spaces. Now, Mr. Speaker, that's going to bring the total number of spaces by March 31st . . . And we're hoping that all of the spaces will be ready to go because there are some boards that are working on ensuring that their facilities are ready. But, Mr. Speaker, that will be the biggest single increase in one year in the province of Saskatchewan, and it'll move our total up to 11,400 spaces.

Mr. Speaker, since we became government — and it's not even two years, Mr. Speaker, since we were elected — that will bring the total of new child care spaces that we have paid for through grants up by 2,700 — 2,700 new spaces for child care in this province.

Mr. Speaker, there is much more to do. As I indicated, the province of Saskatchewan doesn't rank very high when we compare it to our neighbours. But, Mr. Speaker, under the NDP, there was little movement. There was very little movement in terms of spaces. And if you looked back at the record of the NDP, you will see that, you know, it's not too many years ago where we were very, very small in terms of the number of training spaces.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other things that we wanted to do for child care is to ensure that we have quality instructors. And that is why we have allocated \$1.2 million into the area of early childhood educators. Because these are people that we're going to require in these child care . . . in these homes, in these facilities, to provide the adequate child care. And, Mr. Speaker, we've also recognized that children come with exceptional needs, and in fact we have allocated \$375,000 to children with exceptional needs.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are many things that we want to accomplish with child care and, Mr. Speaker, one of those things — and I was very happy to have the Minister of Finance agree — that within this year, within the direction provided, not only last spring by the budget, but also by the Throne Speech now, that we're moving forward. That we're moving forward with those 1,000 child care spaces and that we're going to deliver spaces across the province.

Mr. Speaker, I think one of the areas that is something that the NDP probably was not proud of was the infrastructure position of schools in this province. Mr. Speaker, over 70 per cent of our schools in the province of Saskatchewan were built prior to 1969, and we needed to address that. We needed to move forward because, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the budgets of the NDP throughout the latter part of the 2000s, the early part of the 2000s, the latter part of the 1990s, you'll see budgets of 18 million, 23 million, \$37 million for capital infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, those numbers just were not sufficient.

And what we were seeing in the province was a buildup, was a buildup of an infrastructure deficit. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Education has submissions from all boards of education. All boards of education submit major projects that they need to see addressed. Some need to be addressed immediately; some need to be addressed in the future.

Mr. Speaker, what we have done in the last, well not quite 24 months, we've allocated over \$300 million to projects in the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, there are basically two kinds of projects that school divisions put forward. They put forward smaller projects which are valued less than \$800,000 and then the major projects. Mr. Speaker, the total number of projects that we have put in place for this year are: 22 major projects have been announced over the last two years, and we have well over 150 block projects that have moved forward.

Mr. Speaker, these projects affect every community in the province. They guarantee they affect every school division in the province.

But, Mr. Speaker, they're almost to the point now where we have to affect every school because there's a roof project. There's a window project. There's a replacement of a furnace required. There are so many projects, Mr. Speaker, that we need to deal with. We have some schools that are facing a problem with asbestos and need to be dealt with. We have roof repairs where we have leaks within the schools.

But, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we really are short of is, of course, major projects, the construction of brand new facilities. And, Mr. Speaker, that is why we have moved forward with 22 major projects. Mr. Speaker, the 22 major

projects that we have allocated in the course of this year cover many, many communities.

And, Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure yesterday of being in Duck Lake. Duck Lake, I know from the comments made by the member from Batoche today about the growth in Duck Lake, was very well received yesterday when in fact, Mr. Speaker, we did the sod-turning of the new Stobart community school.

And this will be a K to 12 school, Mr. Speaker, because they currently have two schools — a K to 6 elementary school and a 7 to 12 high school. Both facilities, Mr. Speaker, are years, they're decades and decades old. And they needed replacement. So, Mr. Speaker, we have committed to that, and we're moving forward to that with that project.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many projects, but I do want to mention them, Mr. Speaker. And I'm going to put them on the record because there are many projects that are at various stages of either planning, design, or in the construction stage. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight five of those projects that now are actually in the tender and construction stage.

Mr. Speaker, they are the Porcupine Plain School in the North East School Division; Oxbow School in the southeast corner school division; St. Anne School in the Prince Albert Catholic School Division; Maple Creek Composite school in the Chinook School Division; and of course Turnor Lake in the Northern Lights School Division — all of these projects are already in the construction stage.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have a number of projects that are in the design stage and are being worked on by boards of education. Mr. Speaker, those are projects like the Saskatoon Public's project at Nutana, the E.D. Feehan project in Greater Saskatoon Catholic. Scott Collegiate here in Regina is in the design stage.

Mr. Speaker, we also have at the Balcarres School in Prairie Valley. We have the Humboldt Collegiate Institute, the new high school being built in Humboldt, which is a joint project, Mr. Speaker — because it's not only the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division that's involved there, but it's also the Horizon School Division — because that school will serve the needs of not only public school students but Catholic school students as well.

Mr. Speaker, we have the Douglas Park elementary school being designed right now by Regina Public. We have Hafford Central that's doing a major project in the Living Sky School Division. We have Arcola elementary, Mr. Speaker, that's doing a project within Regina. The Elrose Composite School in Sun West, Mr. Speaker. St. Mary elementary school in Greater Saskatoon Catholic is being designed, Mr. Speaker, is being designed. And we will be moving forward because we have allocated the dollars, Mr. Speaker. A tremendous project, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting how the members opposite don't appreciate the fact that a brand new school is being built, Mr. Speaker, a school that will have 4900 square metres of space, Mr. Speaker — a great school for the community of Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the spring, as I indicated in the spring to the member afterwards, you know . . . Mr. Speaker, I do want . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member talks, I hear the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow talking about smaller, Mr. School . . . Mr. Speaker. I apologize for that, Mr. Speaker.

I think this is a very important issue, Mr. Speaker, so I do want to indicate that the core of that school, the core of that school has been built for 375 students, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, currently enrolments in St. Mary's are still in the 200's. So we're hopeful. We're hopeful that we're going to see growth and that we're going to have 375 students there for core.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the school is being built for 4900 square metres. And, Mr. Speaker, the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow, having been a former minister of Education, I think would understand what the words relocatable classrooms mean, Mr. Speaker. Because you know, if we are fortunate, if we are fortunate, the Greater Saskatoon Catholic attracts a number of students to that school and the enrolment grows from 300 — which is the amount of space that has been built for — we're going to add some classrooms, Mr. Speaker. I hope in four years time, I hope in four years time or five years time, we're going to be able to add five or six classrooms.

Because you know what it'll do, Mr. Speaker? If there are six classrooms that are added to that school because another 60 students arrived. And by the way, core is 375, so that's still below that number — 75 square metres per relocatable classroom, six relocatable classrooms — that means 450 square metres. Mr. Speaker, we're building the school now with 4900 square metres, and if we add 450 it will be bigger than the school that the board of education wanted a year ago, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there's been a tremendous amount that has been done in the city of Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, there's been a tremendous amount that has been done in the city of Saskatoon. One of the members opposite — I think the member for Saskatoon Massey, I believe — was talking about the fact that there's been cuts made to Saskatoon; this has been taken away and this has been taken away.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share the education infrastructure of the three school divisions in Saskatoon: Saskatoon Public, Greater Saskatoon Catholic, and the Conseil scolaire. Mr. Speaker, we're moving forward with 29 block projects in the city of Saskatoon. We're moving forward with seven major projects in the city of Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, these seven major projects have a value in excess of \$37.5 million.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, we're also moving forward with child care projects. We're moving forward with 11 ELCC [early learning and child care] projects in the city of Saskatoon, and we're going to be providing capital funding there of \$1.1 million. So, Mr. Speaker, let's just do a little math review for the members opposite because they have trouble grasping these numbers, because during their time in government, Mr. Speaker, they did very little. As I said, \$18 million worth of capital money spread out over the entire province really meant you didn't do anything

for the city of Saskatoon. And that was evident because, Mr. Speaker, the projects that we were working on in the fall of 2007 when we became government were the projects that they had announced in 2003, Mr. Speaker. They had done nothing in '04, '05, '06, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, now in only the city of Saskatoon, since we have become government, we are moving forward with 47 projects in Saskatoon totalling \$50 million, Mr. Speaker, of which our share is \$33.6 million. So I found it passing strange, Mr. Speaker, that that member would stand up and suggest that money has been taken away from Saskatoon, when in fact we have moved forward with \$50 million worth of construction. Mr. Speaker, that is a whole lot different than the NDP when they were in government and what they used to do.

Mr. Speaker, the list of infrastructure is extensive. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated we allocated two projects this spring when the budget was announced. We allocated approval in principle to a brand new school at Wascana community here in Regina Public. And of course, the Monseigneur de Laval in the Conseil scolaire fransaskois here in the city of Regina. So those two projects again are in the approval in principle design. And we have set aside \$26.8 million as the ministry's share for those two projects.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the priority list, when we look at all of the projects that have been submitted — and, Mr. Speaker, this list is public information, it's on the website — there are dozens and dozens and dozens of projects. Mr. Speaker, the School Boards Association is suggesting that the deficit left by the NDP for us to deal with is probably \$1.5 billion, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I know there are many members, not only on this side of the House, but also on that side of the House who represent communities that have a need for a school revision. The member for Martensville, I know, has been talking about a brand new school for a long time. And, Mr. Speaker, that is something that we're going to have to address.

Because, Mr. Speaker, one of the final things that I want to comment on, and I think I must be nearing 25 minutes, Mr. Speaker, is the area of enrolments. Mr. Speaker, the area of enrolments. Because there are areas, there are areas like Lloydminster, there are areas like Warman, Martensville, Balgonie, White City. They have a unique problem. And the member from Regina Rosemont would know about this having been the critic before; they have a problem of extra students. And that's a good problem, Mr. Speaker, because for too long we've been dealing with a problem of not enough students.

We've had school closures. And we know from the NDP's record, literally there was hundreds of closures during their time. But, Mr. Speaker, those are things that have happened. What we need to do, Mr. Speaker, we need to recognize . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, it's actually 171 schools that were closed during the time of the NDP. Yes, 171, Mr. Speaker. So what we're looking at today, Mr. Speaker, is the grade . . . Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I know of all members, the current member speaking certainly has the ability to be heard, but

sometimes it just gets a little difficult as everyone wants to get in on the debate. So I ask members to allow the Minister of Education to finish his comments. Other members will have the opportunity then to enter the debate. The Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my remarks by talking about the enrolments of the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, you know one of the telltale signs, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not the kindergarten to grade 12 enrolment in the province is increasing, decreasing, or at least stabilizing. And, Mr. Speaker, you know the last time that the enrolment in the province of Saskatchewan increased, that last time was 1991. Interestingly that's the last time that the NDP . . . that was the first year of the NDP government.

That's the last increase, Mr. Speaker. Ever since then, for 17 consecutive years, we have had a decrease, Mr. Speaker, a decrease where in fact the numbers that we've lost in our kindergarten to grade 12 system is 36,000. So, Mr. Speaker, that's a lot of students.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, we saw a bit of an improvement. We saw last year that the amount of student decline, it was still a decline but it had improved; it was only 1,800. Because we look back three and four and five years ago — we were losing on average 3,500 students a year.

So, Mr. Speaker, that was a loss of 1,800. But what is really exciting and finally showing the fact that this province is moving forward, that our population is increasing, that we're attracting people, we're attracting families back to this province is the fact that this year, Mr. Speaker, we are seeing an increase. We're seeing an increase for the first time in 17 years. And the increase, Mr. Speaker, even though it's a small number, it's 361 students.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot to be proud of. We have a lot to be proud of in this province. We have a great group of people that are coming back to this province. We have people, number one, that have stayed in this province and are building this province. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely excited about the role that education is playing because it is so important.

There's many, many other topics I could get into but, Mr. Speaker, I want to end by saying that the Throne Speech is something that I really, really will support and can support and will not support their amendment.

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed an honour again to stand in my seat to address the Speech from the Throne. Before I do that I want to do something that I miss more often than I do it, and that is I want to thank my wife Lorna, my life partner Lorna, for her continued support. It is valued. In my family others — my brothers and sisters-in-law and my father — all recognize what a tremendous source of inspiration and support Lorna is to me, but I just don't say it often enough although I feel it every day in so terribly many ways. So, Mr. Speaker, my first words are words of appreciation and thanks to my wife Lorna.

The second person that I want to single out for thanks is my constituency assistant Fred Kress. Fred does just a terrific job of keeping Regina Coronation Park constituents well serviced. When they come in with a question or a suggestion or a problem that they need help with, Fred is just absolutely better than virtually anyone I know at cutting through the red tape and getting answers for my constituents and for others.

My other words, of course, would be to my more extended family and friends — my gratitude for their love and support that they've shown me over my entire lifetime, but that they continue to support and show that support to me now.

I want, Mr. Speaker, to thank the good constituents of Regina Coronation Park. Again I don't thank them quite as often as I should. I truly, truly have a love affair with my constituency. It's just full of working people. I've described them many, many times as, Regina Coronation Park is a working-class constituency. It's made up of families. It has a good contingent of retired people that have chosen to stay in Saskatchewan and make this home. And many of them have, interestingly enough, chosen to continue to fight for social justice and to fight for a better future for our great province. And for all of them I am very grateful. I'm grateful to the constituents that don't necessarily support my views but who will share their views with me and offer up their suggestions.

Before I get into the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, I have one honour that no other member in this legislature has, and that is I have an honour of sitting in the seat that was vacated by Harry Van Mulligen, the former member for Regina Douglas Park, my pal Harry Van Mulligen who served so honourably in this Assembly, both in opposition from '86 to '91 and then following that and indeed has served in cabinet and as minister of Social Services and minister of Finance, later on became our Finance critic in opposition. Harry Van Mulligen who I know we've travelled literally thousands of kilometres together, and it's my hope that Harry and I will travel thousands of kilometres together in the future as we wind our way through our lives. But my words are thanks to Harry for the great job that he did all those years as the MLA for Regina Douglas Park and all of those years he served all of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the two new members to the legislature. First off, I want to congratulate the new member for Saskatoon Riversdale. I'm already enjoying her contribution within our caucus and within the legislature. She was asking some questions in question period and did a very fine job of that. I'm very much looking forward to many good things coming out of Saskatoon Riversdale.

My other thanks and congratulations will go to our leader, the member for Regina Douglas Park. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to our relatively new leader, I want to express my appreciation for his leadership and for his support as he urges us to speak out when we see things wrong. And even more importantly, he demands that we make positive suggestions for the future, Mr. Speaker. This is the leadership that the member for Regina Douglas Park is providing to us, and I'm very grateful for that particular brand of leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we're talking today about the Speech from the

Throne or the government's plan, the Sask Party's blueprint for the coming year.

And I want to say that, as we're talking about the Speech from the Throne or the Sask Party plan, what our constituents, what Saskatchewan people have every right to expect is our best diligence, our best efforts at being as truthful and as honest as we can be with them. Absolutely there will be differences of opinion between — I might as well just say it — between right wing government and more centre-of-the-road or left wing opposition. There's natural that there would be some philosophical differences. What we do need is to have the desire to work for all of Saskatchewan people whether they live on a street in my constituency or whether they live on a farm anywhere throughout the province or whether they live in the northern Saskatchewan or in the forest or wherever they happen to be.

All Saskatchewan people deserve our integrity, our honesty, and our best efforts, which leads me to the flagship of the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, where it is safe to say we have a difference of opinion because in this Speech from the Throne, this Sask Party blueprint, their key feature for the coming year is they're going to announce a new plan. They'll unveil a new plan for health care that's going to drive down the wait-list in Saskatchewan.

[16:45]

Well, Mr. Speaker, what's the reality of what has happened here? Three years ago the Sask Party was in opposition. Three years ago they had all the answers. Three years ago Sask Party members all across Saskatchewan were saying the only thing that was keeping the wait-list in health care from drastically going down — the only thing between the lower hospital waiting list, surgical wait-list and reality, was the then NDP government. That's what they said then.

Now after two years in government, what do they say in the Speech from the Throne? What did they say? They said well you know we didn't quite have all of the answers. We didn't know what to do, so now we're going to unveil in the course of this coming year a new plan. The old plan wasn't worth anything, but we're going to unveil a new plan, Mr. Speaker, a new plan that's going to drive down the hospital wait-list. I mean it's a great idea to drive down the plan, but how on earth can we, how on earth can we believe what they're saying when three years ago they had all the answers on health care? They had all the answers on other things too.

They promised in their election platform to drive down hospital wait-lists for surgery, Mr. Speaker. And now they're saying well I guess our plan really didn't have any legs.

What's the other thing that has happened in health care, Mr. Speaker? The other thing that's happened in health care is essential services legislation. Now get this, essential services that say here's the minimum amount of service that we need in case of a work stoppage. Here's the minimum amount of service that has to be provided to the people of Saskatchewan, to patients in hospitals and nursing homes and health care facilities right across Saskatchewan from corner to corner to corner. Minimum numbers put forward in legislation,

Mr. Speaker, by who? The Sask Party, the government, the Sask Party government puts forward the minimum safety requirements.

And you know what? We clearly have a divergent point of view about whether this is good legislation or not. But, Mr. Speaker, the key point to this is, if it's good legislation that you have this minimum complement of workers that you need in the case of a work stoppage, wouldn't it just make sense, common sense, that you should have that as the minimum 365 days of the year? Shouldn't you have that as the minimum?

And what's the reality, Mr. Speaker? Thirteen hundred — more than 1,300 — 1,300 documented, written documented cases where they didn't even meet the minimum requirement of staffing that they had in their own legislation. Well, Mr. Speaker, you can't suck and blow at the same time. You cannot have it both ways. Mr. Speaker, if it's good enough when there's a work stoppage, it's good enough the other 365 days of the year.

Mr. Speaker, nobody in Saskatchewan is being fooled by what this smoke and mirrors is, this essential legislation. All it is, it's a way to just divide and conquer. Only it's not working. They're not conquering. They're trying to divide working people. What did we have? Well yesterday we had nearly 500 people out on the steps of the legislature, nearly 500 who represented more than 25,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you about a woman that I talked to that came from Meadow Lake. She got up at 3:30 in the morning to be here yesterday because she is so angry at what's going with a health care facility that she works in, that's she's very proud of. She loves providing the services that she does to the good people of Meadow Lake and area. But at 3:30 in the morning she's up. She drove all the way to North Battleford, got on a bus, and fortunately had a ride on the bus from there to here. Mr. Speaker, this takes some dedication. This takes quite a bit, Mr. Speaker, to make someone that has dedicated their life to providing services in health care, it takes a lot to drive them to be that angry that they'll get up in the middle of the night just to come down here and say, you've got it wrong.

Then what happened, Mr. Speaker? After the rally's over, after this rally's over, this group wanted to come in and join us in the legislature. Some of them wanted to come in and have lunch in the public cafeteria. Some of them had packed their own lunch. Well, Mr. Speaker, you know what happened. The doors were locked. The doors were locked, and they were told no room in the inn, no room in the legislature.

Isn't it interesting, Mr. Speaker. I've sat and listened for years. Members opposite coined this phrase as they introduced guest after guest after guest. Welcome, they say, welcome to your legislature. That's what they say, welcome to your legislature. But not your legislature if you happen to be a health care worker, Mr. Speaker. It's not their legislature then. What a shame, what a . . . almost criminal, Mr. Speaker. That is absolutely unforgivable, unforgivable, that it's your legislature if you're coming, bringing candy and roses, but heaven forbid if you're saying that the Sask Party government might have something wrong.

And, Mr. Speaker, this group, I talked to quite a number of them. This group, they're not advocating violence or anything like that. This group is simply saying give us some honesty. Give us what we deserve. Give us a little bit of respect. Of course they'd like to have their contract dealt with. They'd like to have an offer that at least meets what we as MLAs got. You know — what was it? — 3 per cent, 3.1. Their offer is even lower than that.

I'm not trying to get into collective bargaining. But they certainly deserve respect. They certainly deserve to have better than what they're getting out of this Sask Party government.

Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to finance. Here we are in the budget . . . There is some mention of finance in the budget. Before I get to that, I want to say potash was budgeted to return \$2 billion this year — \$2 billion, absolute all-time record, \$2 billion out of potash. And what's the reality? Potash revenues have collapsed. I was reading in the paper just yesterday. One person very much in the know in the potash industry said the last sales of any amount were November. Well we're in October. He's talking 11 months ago, November. And that person was saying he wasn't surprised, Mr. Speaker, that with that collapse in sales that potash workers at Rocanville, at Allan, and at Cory — 800 of them — got layoff notices. Many of them it was their third layoff notice this year.

Well, Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder, is it any wonder that when revenues collapse that the Sask Party government doesn't know how to govern? Is it any wonder? I've seen this picture before, Mr. Speaker. So have many of us. We've seen this. We've seen this picture before. When you don't get your revenues right, then you start putting the problems on regular people.

Then the Sask Party's history is lock out health care workers. Don't let them in their legislature. Lock them out. I've never seen that since the days of Grant Devine. I can tell you unequivocally it never happened when we were in office, not once that there was any group locked out. Not one time was any single group locked out, not one time.

And the situation yesterday was, as I'm being pointed out to me, over 80 per cent of the protesters were women. Many of them were grandmothers, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Well I thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're touching some nerves and thankfully because you know, Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to stand up on behalf of health care workers and all of the other people in Saskatchewan. It is an honour to stand up on their behalf. It's an honour to point out when things are wrong. And I tell you, things are wrong.

You cannot, you cannot lock the doors of the legislature to hide. When you do that, you lose the right to govern. You lose all respect from the people of Saskatchewan. Don't take my word for it. Please, I'd love it, Sask Party members, if you don't take my word for it because you know what that would do? It would guarantee the next premier is the member for Regina Douglas

Park. And it will happen the next election. So don't take my word that you can't lock the legislature. By all means, don't take my word on it. You just keep on the path you're on right now because you're making enemies every day and in every way. That helps us a lot. That makes this gentleman the next premier, and I am looking forward to that part. I'm not looking forward to the mess that we're going to have to clean up, Mr. Speaker. I'm not looking forward to that.

And I know that the health care workers aren't looking forward to what they're going to have to endure between now and November 7th, 2011. Mr. Speaker, the good news is we've gotten a date. We know when the next election is. The health care workers know when the next election is. We'll be there and we'll be ready. Mr. Speaker, this is in many ways the first stroke of wind in our sails if I could describe it that way. I wish it weren't so. I wish that the health care workers were simply treated with dignity and respect. I wish there was a reasonable offer on the table for these health care workers. I wish that I . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — There's only three minutes left before the recess. I wonder if members can just allow the member to fill in that time without constant loud comments across the floor. It's certainly not befitting of the members of this Chamber. I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I see from the sad looks, the member . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order. Members are not to refer or make any comments in regards to rules by the Chair or comment about responses. I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've got to confess; that threw me. I didn't realize I was doing that. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order. Being near 5 o'clock, this House recesses until 7 p.m.

[The Assembly recessed until 19:00.]

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