



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

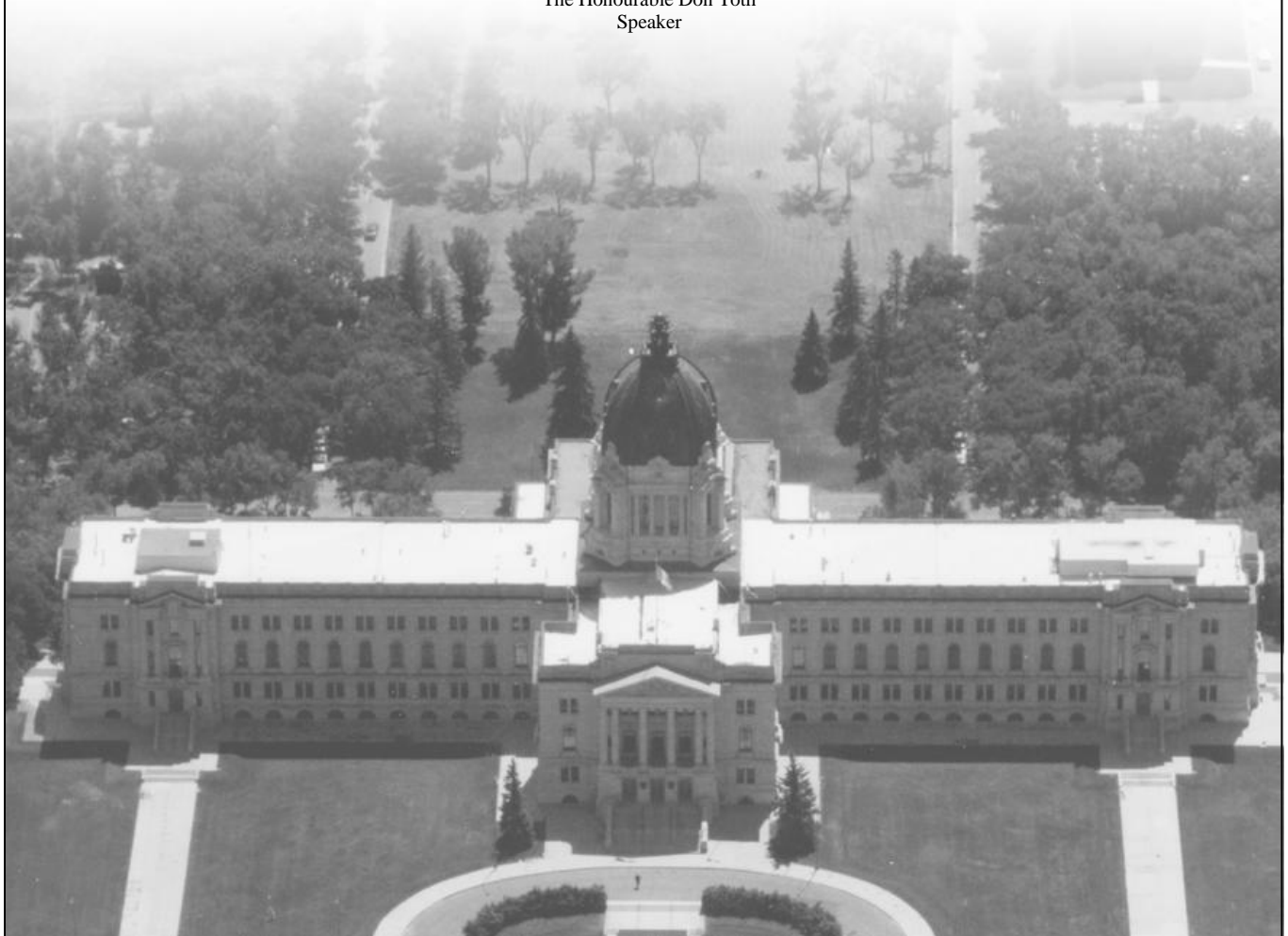
---

**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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
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 Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly it's my pleasure to introduce four guests that are seated in your gallery. These guests are involved in the Saskatchewan surgical initiative advisory committee and were present today at the official release of our four-year plan called, *Sooner, Safer, Smarter: A Plan to Transform the Surgical Patient Experience*. I'll just ask them to give a wave. A couple of them are kind of around behind the clock, so I don't really get to see them, but I know all four are here.

First of all, Dr. Peter Barrett. If he'd just give a wave; there he is. Dr. Peter Barrett is a surgeon and physician leader of the Saskatchewan surgical care initiative. He sits on the Faculty of the College of Medicine at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] and is a past president of both the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association. Dr. Barrett has a urology practice in Saskatoon and is a board member of the Health Quality Council.

Also in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, there's two patient advisors. The first one is Dan Stroman. Dan is a resident of Prince Albert whose experience undergoing knee replacement surgery has left him to become one of the five patient advisories serving on this committee, Mr. Speaker. As I said, Dan is the chaplain at the Riverbend Institution in Prince Albert. When you see his picture in the document, you'll also see that he's a proud grandfather — one of, I believe, three or four of his grandchildren happen to be in our document.

The other patient advisor is Doug Denk who is a resident of Saskatoon and is also one of the five patient advisors. He knows first-hand experience accessing surgical services in the province, in fact I understand that he's had three surgeries last year which have significantly improved his ability and mobility and his quality of life. And I want to thank Doug and Dan both for serving as patient advisors.

And the fourth person, who probably doesn't need much introduction, especially when it comes to health care in this province, is Dr. Marlene Smadu, who is the chair of the Health Quality Council, one of many hats that she wears. She is currently the Associate Dean, Regina site, for the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan. Marlene is instrumental in many different areas in health care. And one of the areas that we relied on her great experience, Mr. Speaker, was working with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses-government partnership where she was kind of a coordinator and a conduit to make that partnership work. Her experience in this province in health care is unmatched, Mr. Speaker. So I'd like all members of this Assembly to welcome our four guests, please.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome Drs. Barrett and Smadu and the two patient advocates. Good work. Marlene and I have had a long history, both being nurses and both being involved in various aspects of health care. Marlene was the ADM, the assistant deputy minister in the department when the member from Nutana and I were ministers of Health. And Marlene did a wonderful job as basically what is now the chief nursing officer. So we've had a long history, and I welcome her and the others to the Assembly today.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you. To you and through you through to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce a wonderful Saskatchewan family in your gallery. Valerie Korinek is here. She's the head of the department of history at the University of Saskatchewan. Penny Skilnik, her partner, is in the office of the dean in graduate studies. And of course Daniel and Thomas Korinek are also here. Thomas is in grade three at Brunskill, and Daniel's in kindergarten at Montessori.

You know, I can speak from experience to say that Daniel is remarkable in his production of election campaign posters. He does wonderful work. He's just announced that he has a career ambition, and that is to be the prime minister of Canada, and we thought where better to start than right here in the Assembly of his own province. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, we'd like to invite all members to welcome this wonderful family to their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

### Rulings on Points of Order

**The Speaker:** — Before we move to statements by members, I think it would be appropriate for me to give my comments in regards to the points of order that were raised the last sitting of the Assembly, given the fact that they can also impact statements by members. On Thursday three points of order were raised by the House leaders. I've reviewed the issues and I'm prepared to rule on each matter.

The first point of order relates to the comments about the trustworthiness of a member of this Assembly. The Government House Leader contends that the member from Regina Rosemont stated, a Premier you could not trust, which he deemed to be an unparliamentary expression. In response to the point of order, the Opposition House Leader countered that the member's remarks were not directed at the member, rather his comments related to the trustworthiness of the budget.

I've reviewed *Hansard*, and I have found that at page 4488, the member from Regina Rosemont stated, and I quote, "... this is a budget that you can't trust from a Premier you can't trust."

The word trust has many meanings. It might be applied in the context of competence, expectation, or reliability of a person or

thing. It can also be applied in the context of veracity, genuineness, or integrity of a person.

The words that were spoken applied to the personal character of the Premier and were out of order. This incident only proves yet again that members need to be careful of the words used in this Assembly. I would ask the member for Regina Rosemont to apologize and withdraw his remarks. I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw the remarks and apologize.

**The Speaker:** — Thank you.

In regards to the second point of order, which was raised by the Opposition House Leader, implying that the Premier questioned the truthfulness of the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition, I've reviewed the record. And I find that on page 4487 of *Hansard*, the Premier stated, and I quote, “. . . and I'll carefully word this — the hon. member's information is not true.”

In a follow-up question, the Leader of the Opposition states, and I quote, “. . . the member opposite can say what I'm saying isn't true . . .”

In the context used, I find the use of the word “true” to be within the acceptable standards of this Assembly. The *Canadian Oxford Dictionary* defines the word as, and I quote, “in accordance or consistent with fact or reality,” and “exact, accurate, precise.”

Members' understanding of the facts often differ, and that is why we have debate in this Chamber. This is quite different than past instances we've had, this session and in other sessions, when members have made comments that implied that another member had knowingly not told the truth. In this case, it was a dispute over facts which are regularly the subject of debate between members.

The final point of order raised on Thursday related to allegations that members are the subject of investigations. I want to remind members that I had hardly finished commenting on a previous point of order that touched on this issue and we had yet another point of order. I repeat what I said in the ruling I made at the last sitting: members must be mindful that allegations, accusations, or innuendo of inappropriate behaviour are not acceptable.

In closing I want again to remind members that the words spoken in the Assembly should demonstrate respect for one another and this institution. I am seeking the support of all members to ensure that the dignity of our institution is maintained.

In conclusion I would like to quote my predecessor, Speaker Kowalsky, where on April the 15th, 2005, he stated, and I quote:

As members exercise the responsibility given to them by the electorate, they should respect the privilege of free speech through vigorous debate of issues while making

conscious effort to refrain from intemperate or personal attacks.

I conclude my ruling.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Harper:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of the concerned citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the safety of their highways in this great province. And, Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is pertaining to Highway No. 10 from Fort Qu'Appelle to the junction of No. 1. I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to construct passing lanes on Highway 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of Highway 1 in order to improve the safety for Saskatchewan motoring public.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks in Fort Qu'Appelle and Milestone, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to present a petition that originated with the Saskatchewan Student Coalition. This petition is in support of the implementation of a Saskatchewan scholarship fund, the same scholarship fund that was promised by the Sask Party in the last general election, 2007. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to implement the promised Saskatchewan scholarship fund.

Mr. Speaker, today's petitioners are from Regina and Abernethy. I so present.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition that speaks to the issue that the Government of Saskatchewan needs to recognize the value of all health care providers by making a commitment to adequate funding and the installation of good faith in the bargaining process, and that the heavy-handed use of the essential services legislation is making a mockery of the collective bargaining process in the province. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to negotiating a fair and just collective bargaining agreement with health care workers

in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I so present on behalf of citizens in Regina.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This petition is in support of maintaining educational assistants for young people that have special needs including learning disabilities, physical . . . and frail and medically fragile young people who are in our schools. And as you know, the ministry released a document that indicates the government is considering drastically reducing the number of EAs [educational assistant] in the province. And the prayer reads as follows:

Cause the government to provide funding for the required number of educational assistants to provide special needs students with the support they need and maintain a positive learning environment for all Saskatchewan students.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on protection for renters from unreasonable rent increases. And we know that Saskatchewan renters in many of our cities are facing a combination of rising rents and low vacancy rates. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to consider enacting some form of rent control with a view of protecting Saskatchewan renters from unreasonable increases in rent.

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

And these folks come from the good city of Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of a new long-term care bed facility in La Ronge. With a waiting list of almost one full year for our seniors to wait, it is appalling, and no other community faces that type of waiting time. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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 new long-term care beds in La Ronge.

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 to present a petition that has been put together by the Saskatchewan Student Coalition, a petition in support of affordable undergraduate tuition costs, and a call that the Sask Party government's actions match its rhetoric. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to implement a long-term tuition management strategy in which tuition is increased by an average of 2 per cent or the most recent increase to the consumer price index.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

[13:45]

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

**Mr. Furber:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of the expansion of the graduate retention program. The petition is being circulated because the Saskatchewan Party government amended the retention program to exclude master's, Ph.D. graduates, and graduates from outside of the province. The prayer reads:

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

Mr. Speaker, the two pages of signatures are from the town of Lumsden and the city of Regina. I so present.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition on the Sask Party's lack of action with respect to climate change.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

To cause the government to immediately, without delay, acknowledge and recognize that climate change is occurring and that the impacts of climate change are escalating and worsening, and in so doing to cause the provincial government to undertake immediate actions to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, actions which will serve to protect Saskatchewan people from the significant costs to our economy, global security, and the quality of life which climate change threatens to bring about, and to also protect Saskatchewan people from longer and more frequent droughts, reduced river flows as the glaciers

which feed our rivers shrink, erratic rainfall with more frequent and more serious flooding, and loss of at least the southern part of Saskatchewan's valuable boreal forest which is treasured by so many in our province, Mr. Speaker.

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately without delay begin the process of creating a meaningful, significant, comprehensive, and broad-based strategy including enacting substantial and meaningful legislation, and substantial and meaningful regulations to meet the commitment solemnly pledged repeatedly in October and November of 2007 during the last provincial election by the Premier, the current member from Swift Current, who at the time of the last provincial election when he made the serious and significant commitment was serving as the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, to reduce our province's greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent from the levels of greenhouse gas emissions which our province produced in the year 2007.

And to meet said 32 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the year of Our Lord 2020, 10 years from now or one short decade away.

And in so doing, to cause the Premier to instruct his Minister of Environment, the current member from Martensville, to recognize the importance of honouring the Premier's solemnly pledged commitment and to set about the important task of developing a substantial and meaningful plan to seek a reduction of our province's levels of greenhouse gas emissions, rather than continuing to evade all responsibility in her duties, to actually address this critically important issue which will directly affect our province's economy and the quality of life for all of our residents.

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately without delay reject the intensity-based reduction targets, which the provincial Sask Party government has shamefully followed the federal Conservative government in adopting, in favour of absolute reduction targets, and to immediately enact said absolute reduction targets in the new management and reduction of greenhouse gases Act.

And in so doing to cause the provincial government to immediately without delay reverse its ill-advised decision to cut all funding to the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative and to recognize that the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative is a valuable and much-needed organization in that it generates practical options to help Saskatchewan adapt to current and future impacts of climate change and fosters the development of new professionals in the emerging science of climate change impacts and adaptation.

And in so doing, to cause the provincial government to immediately without delay restore the full amount of funding which it recently cut to the prairie adaptation research collective.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Christopher Lake, Prince Albert, and Macdowall. I so present.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan residents that are upset about the government's unjust dismissal of an employee last week, Mr. Speaker. And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectively request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety to take the following action:

Immediately order the reinstatement of the unjustly fired corrections worker and immediately assure other employees that they will not be punished for bringing forward important information in the public interest, and immediately work to improve protections for whistle-blowers within his department and throughout the public service of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this is submitted on behalf of residents of the city of Regina.

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, I stand here today and present a petition in support of the withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Speaker, the existing construction industry labour relations Act, 1992 has provided a stable environment for labour relations in the construction industry in the province. We all know that stable labour relations in the environment provide for quality work, safe construction sites that benefit all the people in our province. We also, Mr. Speaker, I want to mention that the existing building trades contracts support an apprenticeship system of training which results in a highly skilled workforce. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its ill-conceived Bill 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009* which dismantles the proud history of the building trades in this province, creates instability in the labour market, and impacts the quality of training required of workers before entering the workforce.

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

And the petitions are signed by residents of North Battleford, Saskatoon, Vanscoy, and Nipawin. 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 eliminating poverty in Saskatchewan. The petition collected through the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition notes that the income gap in

Saskatchewan between rich and poor continues to grow, and now one in five children in Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty. The prayer reads as follows:

That the petitioners humbly pray that your Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to act as quickly as possible to develop an effective and sustainable poverty-elimination strategy for the benefit of all Saskatchewan citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of the city of North Battleford, the town of Cut Knife, and the town of Wilkie. I so present.

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition signed by residents of Saskatchewan concerned about this government's disregard for legal, constitutional, and human rights. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to direct marriage commissioners to uphold the law and the equality rights of all Saskatchewan couples, and to withdraw the reference to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal that would allow marriage commissioners to opt out of their legal obligation to provide all couples with civil marriage services.

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

Today's petition is signed by residents of Battleford and North Battleford, Mr. Speaker, And I so present.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive deficit budgets. They're worried that the Sask Party is trying to score a hat trick, Mr. Speaker. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly condemn the Sask Party government for its damaging financial mismanagement since taking office, a reckless fiscal record that is denying Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses the responsible and trustworthy fiscal management that they so deserve.

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

These petitions are signed by concerned citizens in Regina and La Ronge. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition again in support of the Saskatchewan film and television industry. The petition basically addresses the concerned citizens regarding the film industry languishing over the last . . . left to languish over the last couple of years and now being kicked to the curb by the closure of SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network]. The prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to make changes to the film employment tax credit that will allow the Saskatchewan film industry to be more competitive with other provinces, to reverse its decision to shut down Saskatchewan Communications Network, and to work with the industry to reverse the decline in film production.

This petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon and Regina. I so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Ordination of Bishop Donald Bolen

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday my wife and I had the opportunity to attend the ordination of Bishop Donald Bolen. On December 21st, 2009, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI announced Bishop Bolen's appointment. Bishop Bolen's service to Saskatchewan is commendable.

Bishop Bolen served as vicar-general of the Archdiocese of Regina and as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Balgonie, St. Agnes Parish in Pilot Butte, and St. Peter's Colony in Kronau. Further to his work as vicar-general and priest, Bishop Bolen is also the Chair of the Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission in Regina, which is yet another example of his strong commitment to Christian unity. He also spent seven years serving in Rome on the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Bishop Bolen was born in Gravelbourg and then went on to study English and religious studies at Campion College. He graduated with a B.A. [Bachelor of Arts] Honours in 1982. In 1986 he entered Saint Paul Seminary in Ottawa and went on to complete his Bachelor and Master of Theology. And in 1991, Bishop Bolen was ordained a priest.

I would ask all members to join me in congratulating the bishop on his recent appointment. On behalf of the members of this Assembly, I want to wish the bishop the best in his endeavours to enhance the spiritual life of the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### NDP Convention in Prince Albert

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, as the *Prince Albert Daily Herald* put it on Saturday, "The future of the NDP in

Saskatchewan looks strong, if Friday night at the provincial convention was any indication.” More than 600 delegates representing working people, students, families, and business owners descended upon Prince Albert, and let me tell you, we painted the town orange.

Over the weekend we welcomed all members to the floor to express their opinions about our economy, our social programs, and the future of our province — just as we always do and we will continue to do throughout our policy renewal process. We reflected on our proud and strong history by welcoming former premiers Allan Blakeney, Roy Romanow, and Lorne Calvert, who we can credit with building the unfaltering foundation of our party.

But we also looked towards the future this weekend by nominating our first candidates for the 2000 election. My colleague, Darcy Furber, was selected by a packed house as the candidate for Prince Albert Northcote, as was my future colleague, Ted Zurakowski, who will be representing the NDP [New Democratic Party] in Prince Albert Carlton.

As we all departed from the convention centre yesterday, we left with some great memories and souvenirs. But aside from buttons, petitions, policy renewal forms, and of course the noticeable orange scarves, we also carried home a sense of hope, optimism, and unbounded energy. And when someone asks any NDP member if we can win the 2011 election, what will we answer? You bet we can.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

#### Youth Science Month

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, March is youth science festival month in Canada. The Youth Science Foundation is a leading organization in the area of promoting youth science.

Mr. Speaker, since 1962 YSF Canada [Youth Science Foundation Canada] has been making project-based science accessible to young Canadians with an interest in this discipline. Mr. Speaker, YSF Canada is committed to educating young scientists from 7 to 12 about the numerous opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics available across the country.

Programs such as YSF would cease to exist without the tireless efforts of volunteers. Volunteers consisting of scientists, educators, and parents encourage the scientific efforts of over half a million young Canadians. Young Canadian scientists are the next generation of innovators. They are disciplined and inspired by the rich scientific infrastructure being developed province by province and the work coming out of those labs and research facilities.

Their showcase event is a Canada-wide science fair. This is the largest extracurricular youth activity related to science and technology in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, foundations like the YSF are not only inspiring our young to explore the world of science, but encouraging

more of them to build their professional careers here. I would like to thank and recognize them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

#### Harmonized Sales Tax

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has raised an issue of basic trust. At Friday’s chamber of commerce event he championed so-called benefits of a harmonized sales tax for Saskatchewan and urged debate. Mr. Speaker, this tax would shift on to consumers a burden of \$400 million — that’s \$400 for every person in Saskatchewan or 1,600 for a family of four. The minister welcomed the debate, Mr. Speaker, but very few families would welcome a tax hike of this size.

After the minister opened the door to an HST [harmonized sales tax] tax grab, Mr. Speaker, the Premier tried to slam it shut with a clarification of the government’s position. Not credible, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister not know his government’s own position, or was he just unclear about the communications strategy?

Assurances from this Premier ring pretty hollow, Mr. Speaker. Just look at the Premier’s record of broken promises, Mr. Speaker. He said he’d safeguard the Crowns, but he’s stealing their profits and selling off profitable business units. In health care, he promised to fix the doctor shortage and wait-lists. He has failed. Mr. Speaker, he made an empty promise to municipalities, and we will all pay through tax increases this spring. So when it comes to an HST, Saskatchewan families can’t afford to trust the Premier’s promises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Kidney Health Month

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. March is national kidney month in Canada. Chronic kidney disease includes conditions that damage your kidneys and decrease their ability to keep you healthy. Chronic kidney disease may be caused by diabetes, high blood pressure, and other disorders. Early detection and treatment can often keep kidney disease from getting worse. When kidney disease progresses, it may eventually lead to kidney failure, which requires dialysis or a kidney transplant to maintain life. Simple laboratory tests such as urinalysis, which looks for protein and blood in the urine, are useful in detecting kidney damage at an early stage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to get their blood sugar tested regularly. Uncontrolled high blood pressure can speed up the natural course of underlying kidney disease.

The Canadian Kidney Foundation is a foundation that is dedicated to finding a cure for chronic kidney disease. Since its creation in 1964, the Kidney Foundation has helped millions of Canadians suffering from kidney failure and related disorders



such as hypertension, diabetes, urinary tract infection, and kidney stones.

Mr. Speaker, the fundraising campaign of the national Kidney Foundation has contributed millions of dollars to research. This money provides services to individuals living with chronic kidney disease and related conditions. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Before I recognize the next member, I'd just like to ask members to be mindful of the fact that members' statements are an opportunity for members to make a statement without interference, and a couple of members have chosen to get involved while the member is trying to make the statement. So I'd ask members to be mindful and allow the member to make their statement without interference. I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

### Treatment of Working People

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since coming to office, this Sask Party government has launched a full-scale assault on the working people of our province. Last Thursday we saw just the latest example. The Sask Party government fired a corrections worker for doing his job and serving the people of Saskatchewan. This individual has a wife, Mr. Speaker, and he has a family. Today their future is uncertain.

Instead of taking steps to reprimand a dangerous criminal or make sure this wouldn't happen again, they launched a witch hunt on the working people of Saskatchewan. They fired this worker in order to intimidate other employees who might wish to bring forward important information in the public's interest. And furthermore, they compounded their mistake by firing the wrong individual.

But this is only the beginning, Mr. Speaker. This government handed pink slips to about 100 more workers last week, leaving these people and their families with an uncertain future. And they have made it clear that they are firing another 1,700 workers in the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, this Sask Party government is playing politics with the future of working people. The Sask Party government has little regard for the well-being of this worker, his family, and the hundreds more who will be left in the cold in the years to come.

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

### Support for Project Hero

**Mr. McMillan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier and countless other Saskatchewan people who have expressed their disappointment and dismay at the 16 U of R [University of Regina] professors who oppose Project Hero.

Mr. Speaker, certainly these professors have every right to express their opinion, but to accuse the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for advancing an "imperialistic" agenda is just wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like these professors to name one Canadian

military action where the objective has been to impose Canadian rule on a foreign country. From Vimy Ridge to Normandy to Kabul and Kandahar, Canadians served as liberators, not imperialists. To suggest otherwise is inaccurate and offensive to anyone who has ever served in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party supports any efforts to assist the children of fallen soldiers in pursuing their education. We believe that this program is a very noble cause. We hope the members opposite will join with us in supporting Project Hero and expressing our disappointment at the position taken by the 16 U of R professors. Although the opinions of these professors are offensive, this is precisely what our soldiers have and will continue to fight for.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Harmonized Sales Tax

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance. Last Friday at a chamber luncheon meeting in Saskatoon at the chamber of commerce there, the minister indicated that he would encourage and want to have a wholesome . . . and welcome a debate on the harmonization of taxes in this province.

My question to the minister is this: why does he think now is a good time to stick families in Saskatchewan with a \$450 million tax increase? Why does he think now is the time to have that kind of a tax grab?

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

**Hon. Mr. Gantefer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the position of the Saskatchewan Party going into the 2000 election was that we didn't support . . . 2007 election was that we did not support harmonization of the sales tax in Saskatchewan.

When we formed government, at the request of federal Finance minister, Jim Flaherty, we undertook a review of that position and we again found that it was inappropriate for Saskatchewan. We took a further review when Ontario and British Columbia announced that they were going to harmonize the sales tax. And the position remains steadfast; \$400 million is the ticket that's estimated to be shifted from business to the taxpayers of the province. We find that unacceptable and do not support harmonization.

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, my question again to the minister: as we all know that in British Columbia a similar statement was made by the Minister of Finance and the Premier about this time before the last election in British Columbia and all the commitments made. What we know is that the trust issue on statements made by this government and by this Premier are not to be believed. The fact of the matter is, on many issues they have broken the trust and broken the promises.

My question to the Minister of Finance is this: isn't it true that within weeks after the next election, if by chance the Sask Party is re-elected, that there will be the introduction of a harmonized tax here in the province of Saskatchewan? Isn't that true?

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

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated to the member in my previous answer, this government undertook two reviews of the issue. The facts remain the same and the position of this government remains unchanged. We do not support harmonization.

It is one thing to recognize that there is going to be a debate about the issue, and there is a debate . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I'd ask the members to allow the Minister of Finance to respond to the question presented. Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — There has been a debate. There has been ongoing debate. There have been questions posed to me on two occasions this last week about harmonization. The position of this government remains unchanged. We do not support harmonization because of the \$400 million burden of taxes that is going to go from business to consumers in this province, and we think that's entirely inappropriate.

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, a question to the minister. I've heard the expression, trying to put toothpaste back in the tube, but I've never seen it being expressed here in the Assembly in quite a clear definition.

This is what's happened. What's happened here is in a moment of honesty, the minister said what the government is planning to do, at noon. But by 2 o'clock, the Premier had got a hold of him and said, look we shouldn't be talking about our plan for after the next election, and I want you to tell the press that you were misquoted or somebody said the wrong thing.

The fact of the matter is, we know that this is a plan in waiting to try to correct for the \$1 billion deficit that is now in place — a major tax grab on the back of Saskatchewan families.

My question to the minister is this: why doesn't he come clean today and admit this is the plan and this is how they plan to deal with the huge deficit they've created in this province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition doesn't seem to understand the issue. Certainly there is going to be, certainly, Mr. Speaker, under the proposal there would be a shift from businesses paying tax and flowing it through to consumers paying the tax. Under that situation there's no benefit to the government at all. The cost is borne by consumers of the province and that's why we don't . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The Leader of the Opposition had the opportunity to present his question without interjection and interference. I'd ask members on the opposition side now to give the Minister of Finance the same opportunity. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The very reason in fact that the effect of this tax would move tax from business to consumers in the province in the magnitude of 400 to \$450 million is the very reason we opposed this initiative and for the very reason that this government has said consistently that we don't support harmonization. We're willing to discuss the topic; we're willing to give our position on it at any time; and we're consistent in that, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Spending Forecasts

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, that's not all Saskatchewan people don't believe from this minister. This minister also claims he's holding increases in health care spending to 3.1 per cent in this budget. But the nurses alone will eat up nearly 100 million of the \$123 million increase.

The government's made big promises on reducing wait times and doctor shortages. Health care workers are still without a contract and utility bills are increasing. All of this will cost a heck of a lot more than the \$23 million that's left, and that minister knows it. He's hoping he can sneak by big spending increases later in the year.

To the minister: how much will health care spending have to increase at mid-year as a consequence of this government's failure to budget properly now?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, this budget in Saskatchewan is a record budget in that we in Saskatchewan . . .

[Applause]

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Well they're clapping the fact that it's a record budget. Mr. Speaker, it is a record budget. Never has so much money been spent in health care in Saskatchewan . . . [inaudible] . . . That's the record, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are the only government in Canada that is seeing a reduction in spending overall, Mr. Speaker. And I know provinces around the country are envious of the work that our . . . [inaudible] . . . done.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to deliver health care in all the vast parts of the province, Mr. Speaker, like we have. We've done more . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. It's even becoming difficult for the Speaker to hear the response. I recognize the Minister of Health to wrap up his comments.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, we have done more on the health care front with recruiting health care professionals in the first two and a half years of our mandate, Mr. Speaker, than ever had been done in the past, Mr. Speaker. In fact nurses, over and over again said the former government completely ignored their concerns, Mr. Speaker. We've reacted on them.

[14:15]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Forgive us for not buying it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, another area where the government's spending forecasts are dubious is education. The budget increases operating funding for school divisions by just \$33 million. The collective agreement with teachers expires in the middle of this budget year. But instead of showing a contingency for teachers' salary increases, it appears the government will just increase its deficit, increase its deficit.

To the minister: how much will education spending have to increase at mid-year as a consequence of this government's failure to budget properly now?

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the increase into the budget for education is very significant, Mr. Speaker, over the course of the school division fiscal year. In fact the increase is going to be \$18 million, Mr. Speaker, — \$18 million has been distributed to the 29 boards of education.

And, Mr. Speaker, what we are looking at with the boards of education — and I've indicated this to the boards when I met with them on Thursday of last week, and I met with them again on Friday of last week, Mr. Speaker — is that as we move through the negotiation process, the current collective agreement, Mr. Speaker, expires on August the 31st of 2010. Negotiations are under way, Mr. Speaker, and the negotiations will produce a cost. At that time, the government will deal with that cost that the boards will be affected by.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — In this minister's own words, we have another phoney budget in front of us. No dollars. No dollars.

The government, Mr. Speaker, says it's budgeting \$30 million less to fight forest fires this year, but no one can predict the weather, Mr. Speaker, or forest fires. Mr. Speaker, the government is betting the northern forest on factors beyond its control to hide the actual size of its deficit.

To the minister: why should Saskatchewan people have any faith in spending forecasts of a government that calls a lucky break in the weather a spending cut?

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

Environment.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Environment was asked to look for efficiencies and for savings, and that's what we did. We looked back over the last few years on an average fire budget, and it is possible on an average fire basis that a \$10 million reduction in the firefighting budget is achievable. And, Mr. Speaker, last year's budget for '09-10, the Ministry of Environment . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. It seems like we've got a lot of individuals want to get into answering the question. The question was directed to the Minister of the Environment. I'd ask members to allow the Minister of the Environment to respond.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Mr. Speaker, while there is a \$10 million reduction in the fire budget going forward in the '09-10 budget year, by year-end the Ministry of Environment, through its firefighting department, has returned almost \$20 million back to the treasury. So we feel that a \$10 million cut is completely achievable and the people and their property in the North will be protected.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, why won't the Finance minister just be straightforward, stand up and tell people what he actually has here and what it appears to be, and that's a \$1 billion deficit, Mr. Speaker?

This minister simply gets rid of any budget numbers he doesn't like, not with spending restraint but with whiteout. The real costs of health — white it out. The real cost of teachers' salaries — white it out. The real cost to the health care system of cuts to chiropractic care — white it out. Enough with the whitewash, Mr. Speaker.

To the minister: how much is government spending really going to increase throughout this next year?

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

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we've tabled a budget that indicates that there's going to be a General Revenue Fund surplus, which is consistent with the methodology of describing budgets that have occurred in this province for 16 or 18 years. And that's a fair statement . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I'd ask the member from Regina Dewdney to allow the Minister of Finance to respond to the question. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, we've also said that we were going to, budget over budget, decrease the expenditure of the Government of Saskatchewan by \$123 million, which is 1.2 per cent. It's the only province in Canada to date that has dealt with the realities of their situation by actually reducing expenditures, and, Mr. Speaker, we have done that.

And we have received a tremendous amount of support from the people of Saskatchewan that understand that this is what you have to do to balance your budget in a time of fiscal restraint.

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

### Financial Reporting Practices

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, previous budgets have always listed total government debt in order to give Saskatchewan people the bottom line. But this year the Sask Party broke out the whiteout to hide the figure in the budget.

To the minister: why the lack of transparency? Why is the Sask Party changing the reporting rules mid-term?

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

**Hon. Mr. Gantefer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the green sheet that accompanies the budget it clearly indicates, it clearly indicates that there is a component of government enterprises that are in the figures, and as well the government Crown corporation debt in the figures.

Mr. Speaker, it is dated March 24th of 2010, and I also have the one dated for the 2007 and '08 budget, dated March 22nd, 2007. Mr. Speaker, the reporting methodology is identical, and, Mr. Speaker, it indicates that on a summary basis there was a \$701 million deficit, the last budget that that opposition presented in the House of this legislature.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, we're talking total government debt and we're talking their unwillingness to give the figure. Refusing to report total government debt is not the only change the Sask Party government has made. They've also changed the way capital projects are financed in yet another attempt to whitewash the provincial debt. The government used to account for capital spending in the year it was incurred. Now that debt will be spread over a number of years, hiding the debt's true size from taxpayers.

To the minister: what is he trying to hide by changing the accounting rules on the fly?

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

**Hon. Mr. Gantefer:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the member opposite, the accounting rules and the accounting procedure — in fact the colour of the paper — is identical to what it was in 2007-2008. And it clearly shows that the government decreased the government funded debt of the province by over \$2.7 billion to reduce it from the number that was there in the past down to \$4.1 billion, the lowest level it's been in decades, Mr. Speaker. That's important and, Mr. Speaker, it clearly articulates as well what the Crown corporation debt is of the province of Saskatchewan.

So the methodology is exactly the same as that was used in this

province in 2007-2008, and it is a fair and balanced methodology that was supported by that government when they were in office. And we are simply following the procedures.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Just to remind members of rule 46(2)(1), "Members shall refrain from loud private conversations." When a member's trying to respond to questions, it would be appropriate to allow the member to respond, as it is appropriate to allow the member placing the question to be heard.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, instead of those long nights when the minister is working with his bottle of whiteout at his desk, I would encourage him to crack his own documents — crack the budget document, go to page 25, top paragraph, and note some of the changes that have occurred.

The Provincial Auditor told the *Leader-Post* that "It's very difficult for people — other than the few people who understand all the little things they do — to understand where we're at." Of course that's just the way the Sask Party wants it, Mr. Speaker. By removing items from the budget and refusing to fully account for capital spending, the Sask Party government is trying to keep Saskatchewan people in the dark.

To the minister: will he answer the Provincial Auditor's call for greater transparency or will he continue to make the reporting rules up as he goes along?

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

**Hon. Mr. Gantefer:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, consistent with the practice established in Saskatchewan over a huge number of years, this government continues to report on both methodologies, the summary financial statement as well as the General Revenue Fund methodology. Both have their different perspectives and both have their value in terms of helping the people of Saskatchewan understand the true balance and the true affairs of the province of Saskatchewan.

We believe it's important to report under both methodologies. It gives the people of Saskatchewan the global vision, if they like, about what the affairs of the province are, including the Crown corporations, health districts and school boards and Crown activities and capital activities and pension activities. We also report on a GRF [General Revenue Fund] basis to make sure that people can understand what the reporting methodology is on government income and expenses by ministries. We believe both is the appropriate way to report.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister wants to have his cake and eat it too, but the members opposite need to lay off the cake. It's time to clearly state what is the amount of the provincial debt. It's time to clearly state what are the total debt issues, along with capital, Mr. Speaker. And when they do that, Saskatchewan people will have the full picture.

This goes to the very issue of whether or not the people of

Saskatchewan can trust the Sask Party with the provincial finances. Refusing to report total government debt and trying to whitewash the true size of the debt is counter to the accountability and transparency that Saskatchewan people demand from their government.

To the minister: if he won't listen to the Provincial Auditor, will he at least listen to Saskatchewan people who are demanding some accountability and transparency from this minister?

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

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, this government has certainly been listening to the people of Saskatchewan over the last two years as we've undertaken to remedy some of the difficulties that this province was left in by that former administration. Mr. Speaker, we invested tremendously — almost \$3 billion in infrastructure since we became government. We've reduced the government funded debt by 40 per cent — over \$2 billion.

We've reduced personal income tax by \$300 million for the people of Saskatchewan, not once but every single year that we've been in office, and that will continue going forward. We removed 80,000 people from the tax rolls of the province of Saskatchewan. We increased dramatically the recruitment of nurses and doctors in this province. Mr. Speaker, we've increased the spending for cancer care.

We've done the support for the agricultural industry by funding AgriStability, AgriInvest, and crop insurance. Mr. Speaker, we made tremendous progress in educational property tax and municipal revenue sharing. We have a great deal to be proud of, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I'll remind members of the fact that the members are to place the questions through the Speaker and refer to the individuals by constituency or title responsibility. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

### Health Care Provision

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today the Minister of Health announced that the Sask Party is moving to third party private surgical care centres to provide our surgeries. Mr. Speaker, these surgical centres are businesses that need to show profits. They need to pay staff, buy and upgrade equipment, and pay for their own buildings. Mr. Speaker, these surgeries are going to cost the Saskatchewan taxpayer more. Can the minister table the costing model he used to come up with this plan?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad to stand in the House today and talk about the surgical care initiative that we announced five months ago. Five months ago to the day, we put in place a surgical care team, an executive team that would look at how we can reduce the number of waits that people are facing in the province down to three months within the next four years, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the members are in the gallery. We have the brightest minds from across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that looked at

this and looked at how we can reduce wait times. And they came up with a number of initiatives. A number of initiatives, Mr. Speaker, that would see the reduction in wait times, whether it's clinical pathways, whether its pooled referrals, Mr. Speaker, whether it's patient-guided websites for surgical care, Mr. Speaker — a number of initiatives that will help reduce the wait times in this province, Mr. Speaker.

One of them is third party delivery. And Mr. Speaker, the health regions, Saskatoon and Regina, have been asked to look at that as a possibility, Mr. Speaker. She's assuming automatically that the cost is going to be greater. We don't know that. We think it will be even or even less, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Just to remind members that they're not to draw individuals in the gallery . . . And that goes for both sides. Prior to the budget presentation, we had numerous suggestions. We had people in the galleries here. So I'd ask members to be mindful of that they're not to engage people in the gallery in debate. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not assuming anything. But the minister won't give us the costs. We're supposed to just trust him. I'm not going to assume that. I'm not going to be trusting him, and neither is anybody else in this province. Instead of putting money into the Regina ambulatory care centre and supporting the public system and preparing for the steadily increasing demand for surgeries, which is in the document that they just presented, the minister has decided to put money into the private system.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that when the Sask Party was in opposition, they called for more privatization of the health system. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm today that this is just part of his plan to privatize the health system and move to a two-tier system?

[14:30]

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I find that line of questioning absolutely bizarre. Let's go back a number of years, Mr. Speaker, and look at the health care system. A number of years ago, Mr. Speaker, all X-ray and all blood work were done within the public system. Under the NDP, they decided that there could be some savings in that area and they contracted private companies to deliver X-rays and blood work around the province, Mr. Speaker. That's a private company delivering health care within a public system.

Mr. Speaker, I would have the debate any day with that member opposite. When a person is put into an ambulance here in Regina or Saskatoon, they could care less whether it was private. They want quick response and they want quality response, Mr. Speaker. In Saskatoon it's private and in Regina it's public, Mr. Speaker. That argument is long past.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, the public does care and has made

it very clear. The public does not want private health care. The whole country has said that. Where has this minister been?

Mr. Speaker, the minister said they would build a children's hospital and he hasn't done it. The government promised 13 new long-term care facilities and they haven't done it. The Premier promised municipalities a 1 per cent PST [provincial sales tax] share. He broke that promise too.

Mr. Speaker, how can anyone trust this minister or this government when they say that this will cost less? How can they just trust them that it's not just another step down the road to privatization?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, she's right. The public does care and they spoke loud and clear in the patient . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The opposition member had the opportunity to present the question without any interference from the government side of the House. I ask opposition members now to give the Minister of Health the same opportunity. Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we conducted a Patient First Review that consulted with the people that the health care system directly impacts, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, to a person, they said they . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. The Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To a person they said they wanted timely access to health care. That's what they wanted, Mr. Speaker. Now they can go on the political dogma and ideology that private and public . . . private delivery will not work, Mr. Speaker. This government will put the patient first every time over their ideology, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the private members committee.

#### Standing Committee on Private Bills

**Mr. LeClerc:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Private Bills to present its sixth report. Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills now be concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — The Chair of the Standing Committee on

Private Bills has moved:

That the sixth report be now . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. If the member from Prince Albert Northcote would come to order, we could move forward with the debate on the floor.

The member from Saskatoon Northwest, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills, has moved:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be now concurred in.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

Following the passage of the concurrence motion, the motion is carried and pursuant to rule 98, the private Bill 904, *The Orange Benevolent Society of Saskatchewan Amendment Act*, is deemed to be read the first time and is ordered for second reading on the next private members' day.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1010 through 1019.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 1010 through 1019 are tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, I wish to order the answers to questions 1020 and 1021.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 1020 and 21 are ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions 1022 through 1031.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 1022 through 1031 are tabled.

#### SPECIAL ORDER

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGETARY POLICY (BUDGET DEBATE)

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Gantfoer that the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.]

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

Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise of course to enter into the debate on the 2010-2011 provincial budget for the province of Saskatchewan and issues arising from the presentation of that budget, and to speak to the motion made by government members and seconded, in particular by the member from Prince Albert Carlton, spoken to yesterday to support the budget — a budget that I call unbalanced, backward-looking, and irresponsible, Mr. Speaker.

And the reason that or at least one reason why I use those terms, Mr. Speaker, is that the government plays a shell game. The government plays a shell game with this budget. The budget is a shell game in three respects or at least three respects, Mr. Speaker. It is a shell game in respect to the deficit. It is a shell game in respect to the debt. And it is a shell game in respect to taxation, Mr. Speaker.

And first, Mr. Speaker, a few words on the deficit. Now I appreciate, as the Minister of Finance says, that there has been a tradition of accounting in two different ways on the deficit, Mr. Speaker. One is on the summary deficit, the summary balance sheet. And on the summary balance sheet no one denies — and I think most people when looking at the budget, wanting to understand whether it's balanced or surplus or deficit, would look at it this way — that this year the government is being clear and honest about the fact that expenditures exceed revenues. And therefore this budget is a deficit budget.

Now the minister points out that we also make an accounting over time greater than a year and that we balance surpluses in previous years against deficits in subsequent years perhaps, and can have, by that accounting method, a balanced budget even though the budget this year once again is a deficit budget on the summary balance sheet.

But what we shouldn't lose track of, Mr. Speaker, is that the surplus is not from this government's administration. The surplus — the \$2.3 billion surplus — was left by the previous NDP administration. And so this government doesn't want to talk about the summary deficit, the deficit they're running this year where expenditures exceed revenues. They want to talk about a balance that's only struck by borrowing against a surplus that was administered, that grew during the previous NDP administration, Mr. Speaker.

But so desperate are they to hide from the deficit that they don't have a problem with claiming that surplus as part of this year's budget so that they can claim that this year's budget is a balanced budget. But in fact it is not a balanced budget, and in fact the deficit is much larger than the deficit the government will admit to. The government will admit to a deficit of \$622 million. This, in transparency and accountability, is a great improvement over last year, Mr. Speaker. Last year the government stated that the budget was a surplus budget, and surplus by not a small amount, Mr. Speaker, by quite a large amount.

Now to get to that surplus budget, the government had to estimate potash revenues at record high sales at a time when everybody knew, everybody knew in the country and internationally that the market for potash and commodities like

potash was gone, that the Chinese weren't going to be buying potash; the Brazilians weren't going to be buying potash; Kansas corn growers were not going to be buying potash the way they had in the past.

And so, Mr. Speaker, last year's budget, which was supposed to have been a balanced budget or a surplus budget, it's a deficit budget. This year's budget is a deficit budget, Mr. Speaker, as well. And the Premier, in a moment of candour, and I think he was in a moment of candour because he was channelling some inner Forrest Gump. He said, "Deficits are like potato chips. I bet you can't just stop at one." And to paraphrase, to paraphrase from this weekend, I bet he can't. We had a deficit last year. We have a deficit this year. And if you look at the budget, Mr. Speaker, he can't stop at two. We're going to have a deficit next year, Mr. Speaker.

The Ontario government, the Ontario Finance minister's been very honest in their budget and they've forecast deficits going forward for eight years. Well, Mr. Speaker, if we have a return of the Sask Party government in 2011, if that's what happens, I would make the same forecast for the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that they just won't be able to stop eating those potato chips.

And it was pointed out in question period, I thought, very well today. I mean the \$622 million deficit is a work of creative fiction, Mr. Speaker.

The two major lines, the two major expenditures by a provincial government in this country, are first of all health and secondly education. And in the case of health, last year, last year this government budgeted a 3 per cent increase. I don't think anybody believed that; I certainly don't think the Health minister believed that, and that turned out not to be true.

Now some of the deficit is hidden in the health regions which continue to run deficits and debts because of the way this government finances. But of course that turned out not to be true. And again this year, again another fictional prediction of a 3 per cent, 3.1 per cent increase in health care spending. And of course, as has been pointed out, that is absurd. That would only be true if they get everything right in their budget and they settle for zero per cent wage increases with thousands of health care workers in this province.

[14:45]

And as tough as this government is being in those negotiations, and as inequitable as this government is being in those negotiations, nobody believes, even on that side of the House, that they're going to give health care workers zero in an upcoming contract.

So, Mr. Speaker, the \$622 million is a fantasy. It's a fantasy because there's enormous wage settlements coming with health care workers, and there are negotiations going on with doctors that have not yet been resolved. And it is a fantasy, Mr. Speaker. There's no way this deficit is only \$622 million. The government members know it. And the budget is a shell game. The hand is quicker than an eye. Where is the deficit? We don't know. It's under one of these three. But it is a lot bigger than \$622 million, Mr. Speaker.

And then of course the second largest expenditure by government, provincial government, is education. Right after health care. And again a percentage increase that puts the school boards in this province, who are not able to raise their own funds any longer, in tremendous difficulties and not fairly, not evenly across the board. I mean it hurts more some places than it hurts in other places, there's no doubt about that. But that 2 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker, is dependent upon believing that this government is going to give teachers zero per cent wage increase.

And I can remember when the current Minister of Justice, when he was in the opposition went to teachers and said it was a responsible thing to do, like I guess it was in opposition, he thought it was a responsible thing to do, told them they shouldn't settle for anything less than 5 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

Well is that his view now? Is that his view now that teachers shouldn't settle for anything less than 5 per cent year by year by year? And if that's his position now, how does the Minister of Finance say they're going to get zero, which is what the Minister of Finance said in this budget?

Now the Minister of Finance jokingly said — he has an interesting sense of humour sometimes — that it was easier to keep track of what potash revenues were going to be because numbers get smaller as they get closer to zero. And I guess that's a qualification for being Minister of Finance in the province of Saskatchewan, is you understand that numbers get smaller as they get closer to zero.

Well I have something to say to the Minister of Finance through you, Mr. Speaker. Numbers get bigger again as you get away from zero. And as we get further and further away from zero, from a balanced budget, this deficit gets larger and larger and larger.

Now secondly, the shell game on debt. The Minister of Finance, in defence of what he had to say about accounting on deficits, referred to the tradition in Saskatchewan: well we account in these two different ways. We report in these two different ways. But he doesn't have that defence on what he's done with accounting on debt. This is no tradition. This is a radical change in how you're going to account for what the debt of the province is in mid-term, Mr. Speaker. That's got to concern the people of Saskatchewan.

We owed so many apples last year but we're not going to measure them in apples this year, so we don't know how much we owe this year. We're going to change it. Well some of them will be apples, but some of them aren't going to be apples. Some of them are going to be oranges and you won't be able to make the comparison. And why would you do that, Mr. Speaker, if you were not playing a shell game with the debt, with the debt? Now it's clear from the government's own documents that public debt is going up. It is not going down. Member after member from the government side can get up and talk about government debt going down all they want. Public debt is going up.

One of the scariest and at the same time most laughable things I've heard in this House recently is when on this side of the House we were pointing out that despite what was being said by

the government, public debt in this province was going up, the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments Corporation said from her seat, but that's Crown corporation debt. As if she doesn't realize, the minister responsible doesn't realize that that is public debt, Mr. Speaker. I mean that was both frightening and funny at the same time, Mr. Speaker. It was an amazing thing to hear.

But public debt in this province is going up. And it is going up as it did in the '80s, as it did in the '80s in part, in part by loading debt onto the Crowns. And we have a Bill in front of this House that the government is considering, that this legislature is debating, to raise the debt-borrowing capacity of one of the Crowns, SaskEnergy, by \$400 million.

And I haven't yet had an opportunity to speak on that Bill, but I did take a look at the second reading speeches on that Bill, Mr. Speaker. And one of the most notable, notable characteristics of the minister's second reading speech — and it was a different minister at the time; there's been a cabinet shuffle since — what's the date of that speech? What's the date of that speech? That speech was before the November announcement that the deficit from last year was actually \$1 billion.

We have a saying, lawyers do, about being in appellate court: be prepared, be brief, and be gone. Well that was also one of the shortest speeches I've ever seen on borrowing \$400 million, Mr. Speaker. There was a minister saying, I want a secured line of credit for the province of Saskatchewan on the capital of SaskEnergy of \$400 million. And nobody could get a \$4,000 line of credit as quickly as he got through that speech in this House, Mr. Speaker. That was one short application process.

But that was days before, it was days before — and I think deliberately so — days before we found out that last year's deficit was in fact appearing to be a \$1 billion deficit. And I expect we'll be learning that about this year's deficit about the same time, Mr. Speaker, in November. So perhaps we'll see more borrowing power increase Bills from this government before we get to that announcement in November.

The government has also changed how it's going to account for capital borrowing, Mr. Speaker. Instead of saying this is the amount of money that we're borrowing to build a school, this is the amount of money that we're borrowing to build a hospital, this is the amount of money that we're borrowing to build correctional centres — which I expect this government is going to be required to do because of changes in the law in Ottawa — we are going to spread this spending out over 20 or 30 years, Mr. Speaker. And when you're trying to figure out how you're even going to find out what the debt is for any of these projects, what interest rate is being paid on any of these projects, Mr. Speaker, you realize what a shell game we have now before us on the issue of debt.

And like parents who have maxed out their credit cards, this government is sneaking into the rooms of children and smashing open the piggy bank, Mr. Speaker. All throughout this budget are what are euphemistically called, in the Ministry of Finance language, savings, Mr. Speaker.

And one of the most egregious savings, and I have to say this as Justice critic, is the raid on the Victims Fund, Mr. Speaker. That



is money that is set aside to help victims of crime. And it comes from two sources. It comes from government. It also comes from fine surcharges, Mr. Speaker. And that money is being pulled out of the Victims Fund, pulled out of that piggy bank and throw it into general revenue to hold down the size of this deficit, which is still a ballooning deficit, Mr. Speaker. And that justification for that has been, well we're okay this year. We've got programming coming for this year.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the people of Saskatchewan the Victims Fund is historically a very strained fund, and finding sufficient resources for it aren't easy. And to take the attitude that, well we look like we're okay on forest fires this year, we look like we're okay on the Victims Fund this year, so we can pull this money back into general revenue and try to play a shell game with our deficit and our actual costs, Mr. Speaker, it is irresponsible. It is unbalanced and it is backward-looking.

And I say backward-looking, Mr. Speaker, because on issues of deficit and on issues of debt we have seen this movie before. Maybe not the youngest of us have seen this movie before, but people of a certain age have seen this movie before. We saw it in the '80s. We saw the deficits. We saw the debt and we saw the playing around with accounting rules, the attempts to hide deficits, mislead the people of Saskatchewan about the size of deficits, mislead people of Saskatchewan about how quickly the debt was growing.

The difference, Mr. Speaker, is that people who played bit parts in that movie, like the Premier, are now playing major roles. And sometimes, Mr. Speaker, remakes are better than the original, but this is beginning to look like it's not going to be. Mr. Speaker, this looks like it's going to be just as bad. Just as bad, Mr. Speaker. But, you know, what we're doing is so reminiscent of the playbook of the 1980s, the Grant Devine government. Underestimating debt, underestimating deficits, hiding debt and changing the rules, changing the way that you account for the rules, and raising — as members have said in the House, and I'm sure will continue to say throughout the next few weeks — raising concerns to the Provincial Auditor about what people can know and what people can trust about this budget.

I said that the budget and the government were playing a shell game on deficits. They're playing a shell game on debt, and thirdly they're playing a shell game on taxation, Mr. Speaker. A government that likes to talk about its cut on income taxes, it doesn't like to talk so much about its enormous tax rebate cheques back to the potash companies it had to write this year.

But this is a government that wants to shift its deficits to other agencies, other levels of government, school boards, municipalities. It wants to shift the debt, if it can, outside of government to Crown corporations, and even outside of public debt or at least provincial public debt if it can, Mr. Speaker. And it wants to shift taxation away from the government opposite, Mr. Speaker, and that's what municipal revenue sharing is and the broken promise in municipal revenue sharing is leading to at this moment.

We're seeing, across the province, municipalities raising property taxes in a way that they had been promised and therefore promised their own people they would not have to do.

They've been promised a share of the PST. The PST hasn't gone down. The PST is still 5 per cent. But because the government miscalculated on potash revenues, they are using that as an excuse to break the promise on municipal revenue sharing and so property taxes are going up.

And I just want to say in respect to Saskatoon . . . And almost all my remarks are directed to the province as a whole, but many, many people who voted in the constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin thought that they were going to get, if the government changed, a \$450 saving they were promised on their property taxes, specifically on the education proportion of the property taxes, Mr. Speaker. And I think some people, reluctantly in some cases, voted against me, Mr. Speaker, because they thought they needed that break on their property taxes. Well the reduction on their education property tax portion has been token in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. I know some members opposite have had large percentage reductions in their constituencies, but in Saskatoon it was a token amount, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't \$450.

And now on the non-education portion, the municipal portion, they're seeing their property taxes go up. So across Saskatoon and throughout Saskatoon Meewasin that promise has been broken. It's been broken to people I represent. It's been broken to the people that my learned friend, the Minister of Justice, represents in Saskatoon Southeast. It's been broken, Mr. Speaker. Their property taxes are going up.

And because of the equity stripping of Crown corporations and pulling money out of the Crowns to try to bring down the deficit of the government and to bring down the government's debt — although not the public debt because that just results in Crown corporation debt, Mr. Speaker — utility rates are going up. They're going up particularly in electricity, but they're going up in other areas as well, Mr. Speaker. And it's not a tax, but it's taking their place of a tax to a certain extent.

[15:00]

And I've said it in this House before, and it becomes just truer every time I rise to speak on a budget, Mr. Speaker. Members opposite like to talk about how Saskatchewan is a have province. Well so do we, Mr. Speaker. It became a have province in an NDP administration. It was a have province for many years before the members opposite were elected as a government. But when was Saskatchewan last both a have province and the most affordable place to live in Canada? The year before this government got elected, Mr. Speaker. That was the last time that was the case. That was the last time that Saskatchewan was both a have province and the most affordable place to live.

And one of the reasons that it no longer is, is because utility companies, Crown corporations of this province, are being used as a piggy bank by a government that is unable to manage the resources of government and government operations, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we have deficit last year. That's why we have a deficit this year. That's why we're going to have a deficit next year, Mr. Speaker. And these people opposite, Mr. Speaker, do not know how to quit eating those potato chips.

Now the other issue, the other peekaboo game we're playing on

taxation is in the harmonized sales tax, Mr. Speaker. And the Minister of Finance gets up today and says, we are not considering harmonizing the sales tax; I know that a few days ago I said we are going to debate that. We are going to take that as an issue into the next election, but I misspoke myself. We're not actually considering any such thing.

It reminded me of the now Minister of Health before the last election who said, we are not considering, we will not bring in essential services legislation, Mr. Speaker. And I have the same confidence in the Minister of Finance's, I have the same confidence in the Minister of Finance's assertions that what he said Friday he didn't really mean, that I have, that I would have to have now in the Minister of Health's assertions that he made, that he didn't plan to bring in the legislation that they brought in. Was it Bill 5 or Bill 6? It was in their top ten, Mr. Speaker. It was in their top 10. And based upon that record, Mr. Speaker, I predict that the Saskatchewan Party's return . . . 2011, harmonizing the sales tax will be in their top 10 because that is, that is the record, Mr. Speaker.

Matter of fact, they are more, more confident. Minister of Finance is far, far more confident that that should be an issue that they would take forward, that they want to do, than they ever were on some of the other things they have done that they would deny that they would do when they got elected that they are doing now, Mr. Speaker.

So here we have a budget that is unbalanced, the second of at least three deficit budgets, Mr. Speaker, and I don't know how they're going to stop. It's irresponsible, even taken at their word. And we know that the teachers aren't going to get zero. This government may try, but we know they're not going to get that. This government may try to give health care workers zero, but we know they're not going to get that. So we know that this government has expenditures much greater, much greater than set out in the budget. And so year after year over three years, double-digit increase in spending from a party that said they would hold increases in government spending to 3 per cent a year, Mr. Speaker. They increase spending 3 per cent in a quarter, Mr. Speaker. It's an irresponsible budget. We cannot continue down this path of deficit, debt, and mismanagement, Mr. Speaker.

And it is a backward-looking budget, Mr. Speaker. We are seeing again the same fiddling with deficit numbers, the same fiddling with debt numbers, the same fiddling with revenues that we saw in the '80s, Mr. Speaker. And in some cases, Mr. Speaker, the faces haven't even changed; they've just grown older. And they've just gone from extras in the cast to front and centre in the case of the Premier, Mr. Speaker. He was here in the '80s in the political staff of the government that ran these deficits that nearly bankrupt the province, and now he gets to play a starring role in the remake, Mr. Speaker.

The budget is . . . Dishonest I do not think is too strong a word for this budget, Mr. Speaker. I paused. I do not think it's too strong a word for this. It is a shell game of a budget. It is a sleight of hand budget. It is not candid on either expenditures or revenues, Mr. Speaker, and I cannot support the government's motion.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Wood River, the

Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased to enter into the budget debate today. And to start off with, I'd like to acknowledge and thank my staff in my office here in the legislature, my chief of staff, Rob Nicolay, my ministerial assistants, Bonnie and Linsay. And my administrative staff is Wendy and Tammy. Also at this time, I would like to thank my constituency assistants for all of their good work, Charlene and Sandy.

And it's appropriate I think, Mr. Speaker, to thank my family at this time. We're on the road, as we all know, quite a bit, spending a lot of time in Regina, and I think it's only appropriate to thank our families. So to my wife, Phyllis, and my sons and grandchildren who I don't get to spend an awful lot of time with these days.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk a little bit about my constituency and issues in the constituency that have come to front over the last numbers of years. And I will get into specifics on the budget later on, but right now I'd just like to talk a little bit about my constituency.

For years, Mr. Speaker, for years the rural area was ignored by the previous administration. Highways were crumbling. Potholes were at a disgraceful level. Just total disregard for the rural areas of this province for a number of years. Mr. Speaker, I remember roads in my constituency, that potholes were so bad after a rain, one rain I was driving to the town of Climax and four ducks were swimming in a pothole in the highway. That's how bad they were under the previous administration, and they did absolutely nothing about it. At that time the local people decided that they would do something about it, and they went out on their own and took product from the compound, with permission, and went and fixed the roads themselves. With 100-and-some volunteers, they went out and fixed the road. That is the record of that previous administration to rural Saskatchewan roads.

Mr. Speaker, we have young people that have been 16 years old and never seen a paving machine in my constituency. That is totally unacceptable. Now that we have formed government, we actually have a very good road in the constituency of Wood River that has been paved, and that is a first time that they've had an opportunity to see a paving machine.

Mr. Speaker, again I'm going to talk about the lack and the disrespect the previous administration had for rural Saskatchewan. We look at a drought that had happened and they would just totally ignore it — totally and I mean totally. They wouldn't even go down and visit the drought areas. We come into power and one of the early things . . . we got to listen, and we did listen, to the people of my constituency and rural areas, and the Minister of Agriculture adopted the farm and ranch water infrastructure program. That has been just a real, real benefit to people in my constituency.

The gopher initiative, nobody understands the gopher problem until you see it, and it is deplorable. And what was done? The Minister of Agriculture jumped to the forefront and had a poison that was authorized and sanctioned, and it has really

helped. In fact the program is being extended for one more year. And this is just well received by everybody in my area where I live because the gopher problem is catastrophic there. They actually ruin ranch land. They destroy crops. I've seen where crops have been planted, and you'd swear it was summer fallow. It is actually been just cut bare.

Mr. Speaker, the coyote initiative also . . . and we get some pushback from some people. But until you are a livestock producer and you see the coyote problems when they start packing, and they will attack and kill sheep, lambs, a lot of calves. They'll even go after colts. And, Mr. Speaker, we've even had people in the Southwest that are very concerned because when these coyotes start to pack, you have a fear for your children because children out in the yard, these coyotes do not know that they're just children, but they will attack children. And people are actually quite afraid of letting their kids out to play in some areas.

Mr. Speaker, businesses in my constituency, we have Whitemud that has actually suffered a little bit from the downturn in the world economy with their product, but it is a business that's going to flourish. I'm very confident in that. And we have NuCoal. That is an industry that is looking at starting up in my constituency. And I've spoke to the proponents of this, and they look like this project is going to go ahead. And it's the gasification of coal. And this would be a huge benefit for the province of Saskatchewan, but very specifically in my constituency it would be a real bonus.

Mr. Speaker, we have other businesses starting all over the province, but in my constituency . . . Now one has to ask the question . . . is why would these businesses be coming into this province now? We have to be realistic and look at why businesses are happy to come into this province today, where they weren't a few years ago. One of the reasons is because we have adopted a business-friendly climate for businesses to come into this province and to work in this province, business-friendly policies. For an example, repealing the potash nationalization Bill, that was huge because when people do due diligence coming into a province . . . When you do due diligence and you look and you see a then government that had a policy where they could nationalize any business, who would really want to come here?

And let me add another little topic to that, Mr. Speaker. If you were a business person and doing due diligence and coming into the province and you read, you read a script that said, no NDP—CCF [New Democratic Party—Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] government will rest content until it has eradicated capitalism and put into operation a full program of socialized planning, if you were to read that doing due diligence, would you want to come into this province to do business? Well, Mr. Speaker, that happened to be a quote from the *Regina Manifesto*, their adopted Bible.

Mr. Speaker, another one of the reasons businesses are happy to come into our province today is because of the attitude. We have a positive, go-forward attitude. We're not looking backwards in the rear-view mirror like members opposite. In fact the previous speaker just talked about backward looking. Well let me suggest, Mr. Speaker, they have an awful lot of that behind them, is looking backwards. They continue to look

backwards on a regular basis. And the shell game he talked about, I'll get onto that more later, but they are the champions, were the champions at looking backwards. They are the champions and were the champions of the shell game.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the budget, this has been read into the record, but it's worthwhile reading into the record one more time. I quote:

Amid the ruin that has devastated most governments' balance sheets, Saskatchewan stands as a beacon of light, tabling another balanced budget yesterday. The province has a tradition of fiscal rectitude that crosses party lines but what is encouraging about this budget is that the government has taken a pre-emptive stab at spending cuts, although times there are relatively good. Other jurisdictions could stand to learn from its example.

I echo that, Mr. Speaker. I echo that. And because, and because our province is looking so good, Saskatchewan's population has grown by more than 30,000 people in the past two years, its fastest rate of growth in any two-year period since 1929 to 1931. Mr. Speaker, this is something we are proud of. We enjoy people coming into the province. We like to see this province grow, contrary to the years and years where the people on the other side when they were government chased people out of this province. They would do stuff to chase people out and I think we all have many, many stories about how they would put in policies that would drive people out of this province.

[15:15]

And on the budget, Mr. Speaker, I think it's worthwhile noting, we hear members opposite talk about the deficit. And I know my colleague and friend, the Minister of Finance, had explained it to him, but it's very difficult explaining to members opposite when they have a one-track mind that does nothing but look backwards and non-progressive.

But let's be realistic about this. Here is a document, a green piece of paper, talks about a summary deficit of \$701 million. That's from the '07-08 budget which happened to be the NDP budget. What did they call it? They call it the 14th consecutive balanced budget. Whoa, whoa, let's think about this. It's a deficit, but it's a balanced budget. What are members opposite trying to say about today? But there is a difference, Mr. Speaker, and I want to explain to some of the members opposite what the difference is. That was probably their best year was '07 and '08.

Let's go back a little bit farther when the Fiscal Stabilization Fund first come into being. It was a shell game and there's no doubt about it. It was a shell game. Because what happened in those days, Mr. Speaker, for fourteen of those years? What they would do, they would borrow money. The debt would go up, but they would borrow money to put into this Fiscal Stabilization Fund that had zero dollars. There was no dollars in this fund. So they would borrow money, put it in the fund, take it out of the fund and say, we have a balanced budget. Well go figure. Just go figure. So how can anybody on that side with a straight face talk about the deficit budget of today? Mind you, mind you, knowing people over there I can understand how they can do it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about my ministry and some of the go-forward issues in my ministry. Our key priorities continue to make Saskatchewan a stronger, safer place to live. And we will see in Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing an additional \$12.7 million in funding for programs and services this year. It's an increase of 4 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

Now doing this, we will be completing or going forward with our plan to add 120 new police officers. We've added 60. Thirty more scheduled for this year. And I know there are members on that side of the House that have trouble counting, even up to 15 in some cases, but having trouble counting, so 120 police officers over four years. I'll help them with a little division here. That represents 30 per year and we're on track to complete our 120 police officers in four years. We have initiatives to combat organized crime and gangs in Saskatchewan and we're toughening security in prisons to crack down on drugs and gangs in jail.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk about a go-forward initiative that we're working on and will be introducing and it's the delegated administrative authority. And what this is is the establishment of an arm's-length authority which will provide services currently delivered by CPSP's [Corrections, Public Safety and Policing] licensing and inspections branch. And the new authority will be called the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan or TSASK, and we'll get familiar with the phrase of TSASK over a period of time. And they will see more timely inspections of boilers, pressure vessels, and they will definitely be more responsive to industry.

This again, Mr. Speaker, is another case where we inherited what one might refer to as a mess from the previous administration. We were in the vicinity, are in the vicinity of about 9,000 inspections behind. And this goes back to 2003-2004 time frame — 9,000 inspections behind. What did they choose to do about it when they were government? Absolutely nothing.

So this new technical authority when rolled out will provide industries with more involvement. We even have members on the other side — oh, oh that's privatizing. Only the NDP would consider having industry involved in an organization to be privatizing it. I can't understand their thought process at all. Of course there's a lot of things I can't understand about them.

I've talked about our police services, the 120 new police officers, and I would like to remind people of this province a promise that was made in 1999. Do you remember? It was 200 police officers. And what happened? Well they didn't fulfill that by 2003 and they did not fill it through the next mandate neither. They did not complete their promise of 200 police officers. We are on road to complete ours.

Mr. Speaker, also another initiative, and it was started under the previous administration — I don't know where it would be now if they were still in power — but the PPSTN or the provincial public safety telecommunications network. And we have gone forward with this and we've done a number of initiatives which I doubt would have been carried out had we not been government. But this is going forward, and this is going forward helping out the small users, the small guys as we like to say. But this will be up and running, and it's being used right

now by SaskPower and the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] in areas, but it'll be provincially up and running by the end of this year.

Mr. Speaker, some of the initiatives that we've done over the past while, the northern drug and gang enforcement unit, a seven-member unit with members of the RCMP and the Prince Albert Police Service, funded by us as a northern drug and gang agency. And this has been extremely, extremely effective, Mr. Speaker. They have had numerous, numerous successes, shall we say, already. In 2008 the additional funding for the combined forces special enforcement unit helped to fight gangs in the province. And we take gang and drug problems serious. And I say that again. We are very serious about curtailing gang issues and drug issues in this province.

We have introduced the witness protection legislation that was passed in the spring of 2009 that'll help crack down on crime. The SCAN or the safer communities and neighbourhoods investigator positions, we've added seven. We have funded 11 officers in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert to form the ICE unit or the Internet child exploitation unit. And I don't believe there is one person in this Assembly that would be against that unit, Mr. Speaker, because what it does, what it does, it protects our young children from people exploiting them on the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, I do need to get to a couple of other issues before my time is up. It was brought up, it was brought up this weekend apparently at their convention on the other side, talked about — I don't know if it was a hip shot or if it was planned — but they come up with a slogan. And their slogan was something like, you bet we can. And, Mr. Speaker, I found this passing strange because it seems to me, it seems to me there is an individual who is now the President of the United States that had that same motto: yes we can. That was President Obama. And I understand also that the Leader of the Opposition, when asked about that, said, oh I've used this all the time. I've used this long before Obama did.

So I got thinking about it over the weekend and I got thinking, well maybe, just maybe the Leader of the Opposition had used this phrase before. Because I could see him and the rest of cabinet back in the earlier days, and they would sit there and say such things as, can we close 52 rural hospitals? You bet we can. Can we rip up GRIP [gross revenue insurance program]? You bet we can. Can we close 31 rural offices? You bet we can. Can we cut services to producers? You bet we can. Can we avoid funding CAIS [Canadian agriculture income stabilization]? You bet we can. Can we cut spot loss hail from crop insurance? You bet we can. Can we ignore drought in southwest Saskatchewan? You bet we can.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have a feeling. I have a feeling that maybe the Leader of the Opposition has used this phrase before. I don't want to take away from President Obama, but I think maybe that the Leader of the Opposition has used this phrase in the past because all of the devastating actions that he took against rural Saskatchewan, and I'm sure that they'd sit down and say, you bet we can hurt rural Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, when they closed the 31 rural offices, there was 22 extension offices in 2004 alone. They talk about cuts. There was 120 staff lost their jobs in 2004 — 120. Employees were told by those people

not to focus on farmers, so no wonder there was cuts to the rural area when they're told not to focus on farmers.

Mr. Speaker, there was programs cut. Crop insurance and premiums went up; coverage went down. We know all about that. The hospital closures and crumbling highways, we definitely know about that. But there's another aspect of where they probably used the phrase, you bet we can. Can we influence the potato market? You bet we can. So what did they do? They formed this organization called SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] and well for them it was a success. They only lost \$35 million.

Let's look at, let's look at what we . . . Can we lose money at Channel Lake? You bet we can. So they lost \$15 million on Channel Lake. Mr. Speaker, when they sat around the table and said, can we control bingo in this province? We want to control bingo. Do you think we can control bingo? You bet we can. And what did they do? Just an \$8 million loss, Mr. Speaker.

How about, how about dot-coms? How about dot-coms where they would sit around and they could say, we're going to put money into a whole pile of dot-coms. Do you think we can do that? You bet we can. And how successful were they? Can anybody on that side of the House show me one dot-com that was successful? I think not. There was none that were successful.

How about one of our favourites? One of our favourites is Navigata. Navigata was a pretty famous one. You think we can invest a whole bunch of money outside of the province and lose it? You bet we can. Like to the tune of \$80 million, give or take, 10 million, whatever. They don't care about that. They didn't care about that.

How about, can we invest in a pulp mill? Can we invest in a pulp mill or a mill in Meadow Lake? Can we invest and lose \$800 million, Mr. Speaker? You bet we can. And you know thank goodness, thank goodness for the election in 2007 or they would have lost another 100 million. They were prepared to lose another \$100 million on a mill.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's an awful lot that we have that we do not want to follow in their footsteps. Mr. Speaker, this budget, this budget presents a very balanced budget. It's a forward-looking budget. We look at also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we look at . . . Contrary to what members opposite will talk about, we paid down the debt by \$2.4 billion. They talk about losing money, the deficit. We paid down \$2.4 billion. They get up and get on their high horse and talk about, we left you a \$1.2 billion in the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, or the Growth and Financial Security Fund now it's called.

[15:30]

Well right today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's over \$700 million in that fund and we've paid off debt by \$2.4 billion, 2.4 billion. We have people on the other side, I know they have math problems. I identified that earlier. Counting to 15, counting to 15 is a challenge for some people over . . . Even with help from the gallery, it was a challenge, counting to 15. So I know that there's math problem issues over on that side of the House.

But how can you, how can you laugh at reducing the debt by \$2.4 billion? Mr. Speaker, this is a huge plus for the province of Saskatchewan, to the tune of about saving \$67 million a year. That's nothing to be sneezed at, saving \$67 million.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're looking forward also. We do look forward. Our infrastructure budget this year is over \$600 million. And I describe the highways in my constituency. There are other constituencies that are the same. I won't say worse because it couldn't be much worse than in my constituency. But in the last three years — this will be our third budget — putting \$3 billion into infrastructure, 3 billion. That was ignored. It was ignored.

We have the member from Cumberland that was talking about health care in his constituency. Let me just go back — 52 hospitals closed in the rural areas. I wonder. I wonder how, how important health care was to them when they were government. Mind you, he wasn't there at the time, but now he gets up and says, you should fix all of the problems overnight.

It is not going to happen. The infrastructure deficit we were left with was huge, billions and billions of dollars. Schools, schools with roofs that are leaking, hospitals that didn't have air conditioning, hospitals that were closed, roads that were just impassable in some areas, and what did they do? The square root of you know what.

**An Hon. Member:** — But we're fixing them.

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Yes, and we're fixing them. We're going \$3 billion worth, \$177 million for municipal infrastructure.

Now we talk about what they did, the downloading. For years they downloaded to the municipalities, years. Now they want to be the protectors of the municipalities by saying, you haven't completed your 1 per cent of the PST. Well again math is a problem over there, but there is another budget in our mandate, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That might be hard for them to understand, but a term is four years. We did pass that Bill here in the House. So a term is four years. We're in our third budget. We're in our third year. So I'd like members opposite to realize there is another budget and another year to go.

Just to continue, Highway 11, 20 and the Lewvan interchange. Those are big dollars going into the highways. We have \$161 million for approximately 470 kilometres of highway construction.

Get this, get this, in the rural highway strategy, the rural. I wonder if members over there even know where rural Saskatchewan is. I've said this before to a couple of the members when they talked about the southwest. They figure the southwest is that area south and west of the airport here where they're building that new development. That was southwest to some of the members opposite because they have no idea where the southwest really is.

Mr. Speaker, there is just so many good things in this budget, I could go on for an hour. But my colleague has suggested that I restrict my comments to a fixed period of time. So, Mr. Speaker, I will definitely be supporting this budget. I support it.

I think it is just an absolutely great budget, and I will definitely be supporting this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I thank you.

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to stand in this Assembly today and speak about the 2010-11 budget on behalf of my constituents, the constituents of Regina Coronation Park, and indeed I take the larger view on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. We all have critic areas and we all have interest, and this is the one time of the year when we can make comment on the entire budget, as opposed to restricting things to within our own constituencies or our own critic areas. This is the one chance we get to have a broad-ranging speech, Mr. Speaker.

But first and foremost, I'm reminded of the good people that have elected me repeatedly out of the constituency of Regina Coronation Park. And I want to assure those great people that I genuinely am humbled, Mr. Speaker. There's no other way to put it. I, most days, don't think I deserve it, but I do try to represent them as best I can.

Mr. Speaker, this budget is about a government. I know we've heard much about trust. I say this is a budget that in some ways we can trust. We can trust the government opposite to declare war on working people. And they do so in this budget. More than 100 people fired budget day. More than 1,700 more are going to be fired over the coming four years. So we can trust the Sask Party government when they say they're declaring war on working people, Mr. Speaker. And absolutely they're delivering it in this very budget document. They're delivering it to my constituents. They're delivering it to people right around the province. And it's a shame.

We can trust this Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, to continue to deliver deficit budgets. By their own numbers, deficit budgets. There's a \$622 million deficit in their own, in their own numbers, the summary debt statement. More on that as my speech unfolds. We can trust this government to say they're going to do one thing and to do something completely different. We can trust this Sask Party government to say one thing and do something completely different.

We can trust this government to promise action on the environment. 2007, the last provincial election, we had a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent from the base year of 2004. Well, Mr. Speaker, what did they say then? They said, us too. You can count on us, they said then. Us too. We accept that target. What are they saying now in this budget? What are they saying now about greenhouse gases? They're saying, oh we have reduced it. It's not 32 per cent from 2004, it's 20 per cent reduction from 2006, a year when there was more greenhouse gases. A smaller reduction from a larger base year. We lose both ways, and of course the environment loses.

And it's a matter of trust, Mr. Speaker. It's a matter of trust. And I say we can trust the Sask Party government to say one thing and do something completely different. That's what they're proving every day in every way. We can trust.

Mr. Speaker, ask chiropractors. Ask the chiropractic association

of Saskatchewan who negotiated a new contract in good faith. Who did they negotiate with? The Government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, not the opposition. Did the chiropractors negotiate with the opposition? No. They negotiated where they should, with the government, the people elected to look after health in Saskatchewan. They negotiated in good faith, Mr. Speaker, a contract. And it was a modest contract. I have to tell you, I was shocked at how little financial gain there was for chiropractors. But they had heard the government said, well, gee you know, we missed by \$2 billion on our budget last year on one issue alone — potash. We missed by \$2 billion. We got to tighten our belt, the government said.

So the chiropractors said, well gee, you know, we look after some significant health problems for a significant number of people in Saskatchewan. We want to be part of the solution. This is our home too. We'll be part of the solution. We'll tighten our belts, and we'll do our share. So they negotiated. The chiropractors signed the agreement. The Ministry of Health says, we'll just get the minister to sign it, and Bob's my brother. I think the saying is Bob's my uncle, but in my case, Bob is my brother. So I changed that statement a little bit.

But they signed . . . They didn't sign, pardon me. The chiropractors signed in good faith. Negotiated and signed in good faith. And the government, budget day, budget day, announced no more funding for chiropractors. That's in their budget, Sask Party budget.

Did they say to a single chiropractor, a single chiropractic patient, a single person in this province of Saskatchewan that they were going to take away the funding for chiropractic services? Did they say that once in the 2007 election or in elections before that? No, Mr. Speaker, they did not. That's the hard truth. They did not.

Again I say, this is a budget about trust. We can trust the Sask Party government to say one thing coming up to an election and do something completely different when it comes to budget day to cover up their own mismanagement, their own fiscal incompetence, their own problems. And who pays the price, Mr. Speaker? The people of Saskatchewan, my constituents, and all of our constituents. What a shame that is, Mr. Speaker. What a shame that is.

Ask corrections workers. You know, we've got a Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, that says they're about law and order. Elect us, and we're about law and order and respect for working people and respect for the law. That's what they say. That's what they say.

What do they do? Well, Mr. Speaker, just — I think it was Friday — what did they do? Fired a corrections worker. Fired a corrections worker because there had been an issue brought to light. The issue around, I forget how many it is, but the umpteenth inmate, the umpteenth inmate that was released inappropriately, not by the opposition, by the Sask Party government administration. That's who is responsible. That's who's responsible. But because there was some information got out, they go on a witch hunt. Fire a corrections worker. They had to blame someone, and certainly it wouldn't be their fault, wouldn't be the Sask Party government's fault, Mr. Speaker.

Have to take out the blame thrower, pick the low person on the totem pole. Fire the corrections worker.

But get this: everything I've seen or heard or been told, they got a corrections worker that wasn't involved in that particular issue. They got the wrong person. Even, like, if you accept, they should have . . . which we don't, which we don't. I mean, they talk about witness protection program. I heard the previous speaker talk about witness protection program. The only successful or even close-to-successful witness protection program in this province in the last decade has been the change of name from Conservative Party to Sask Party. But people are wising up. People are wising up to that, Mr. Speaker. People are looking at the budget and they're saying, my goodness; this is just Grant Devine in a hurry.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm one of the longest-serving members, MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], here. I was elected in 1986 when Grant Devine was premier. We missed narrowly defeating him in 1986. I'll tell you, by 1991 the people of Saskatchewan did not repeat that. We won a massive majority in 1991, and I'll tell you what I'm picking up around the province. What I am picking up around the province based on . . . People are increasingly now doing a comparison leader to leader. And let's just do that for a second.

Our leader, our leader: successful farmer, very successful farmer. In fact I've heard some people argue, suggest that perhaps he's too successful. Pretty significant-sized farmer, successful farmer, has been for many, many years, a successful farmer. Successful in the business arena. He was vice-president of government relations for Nexen, an international oil company. As such he saw the world, interacted with many governments, many governments around the world. Many governments, good, bad, and indifferent, but he was successful in that right up until the time he came back to be leader, to get elected in a race, in a contested race. Became the elected leader of the New Democratic Party. Successful, our leader, in any way you want to measure it.

Contrast that with the leader of the Sask Party. Contrast that. What's his government experience? Well Premier — and we're seeing that. People will pass judgment on that soon, maybe soon enough. Certainly by 2011 they're going to get a perfect opportunity to pass judgment on the job the Premier's done as premier. But what about his past?

[15:45]

Well, Mr. Speaker, he was involved in government. He was a ministerial assistant in the Grant Devine government. That's where he cut his teeth. That's where he learned, was under the Grant Devine administration. And it's a matter of public record the things that went on then. It's even a matter of public record some of the things that the Premier was involved in signing for then. That's public record, Mr. Speaker. You can't hide from public record. That's his history. Talk about our leader's past; let's talk about the Premier's past.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to talk about businesses, our leader — successful business person, very successful business person. What's the Premier's business record? Two failed businesses. Couldn't sell country music to the people of Swift Current, for

heaven's sakes. Swift Current, which was my original city. I grew up kind of a stone's throw from Swift Current. It was the first city that I called my city because that's where we went to do our shopping when we went from the farm at Beechy. We were going to the big city and we'd go into Swift Current. And I say that fondly. I don't say that to denigrate Swift Current. It's a fine community, Mr. Speaker. It's a very fine community and it's going to have a great future as is the rest of Saskatchewan.

But here we are again now, Mr. Speaker. Again we have the Minister of Finance talking after the budget. To who? The chamber of commerce in Saskatoon. And what comes out? Well we'd welcome a discussion around harmonization of the sales tax. And then I'm sure I heard earlier today in question period, I am sure I heard that well, it was said that we don't understand the issue because a shift to a harmonized PST/GST [provincial sales tax/goods and services tax] simply shifts from business to individuals.

Well, Mr. Speaker, were it only that simple, we could have that discussion. But you know what? There's no PST on reading material. There's no PST on medication and health products. There's no PST on restaurant meals. Credit the restaurateurs of Saskatchewan for letting us know when we were in government that that was a non-starter. Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope the restaurateurs are saying to the Sask Party today as loudly as they did and as effectively as they did to us, no, the harmonization is a non-starter. They do not want PST on restaurant meals. We do not want PST on medications and health supplies, and we do not want PST added to the cost of reading material and learning material and books.

Mr. Speaker, we've wrestled with that issue. And while it's fair that governments and oppositions, political parties should consider these things, it's interesting that the Minister of Finance comes out with that right after he delivers this, this deficit budget, this \$622 million deficit.

**An Hon. Member:** — No, it's bigger than that. It's bigger than that.

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the critic for Finance, says it's bigger than that, and of course he's right. Of course he's right.

**An Hon. Member:** — Sometimes size does matter.

**Mr. Trew:** — Absolutely. And size matters, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things I noted as I'm going through the budget documents is that in opposition, in opposition the Sask Party was fond of talking about hidden debt. They were fond of talking about debt in pensions, Mr. Speaker. And I noted that in this budget document, this year pension debt is going up by \$290 million. That's the obligation of the taxpayers of Saskatchewan. Two hundred and . . . not declared in the budget. Why? Because it's pushed off into the future.

And by the very arguments that the Sask Party have used in previous years, Mr. Speaker, it's part of the debt. And there's no one, I think even in the government side, saying that we can turn our back on the pension obligations. But it's surely part of the debt.

Now what's the history, Mr. Speaker? Well last year, last year they projected that they were going to get \$1.9 billion from potash. Can you imagine? The previous, the previous all-time record, the previous year, the all-time record was one and a half billion, was one and a half billion dollars. So you know, it's like, it's like if my top earning year — I'm just . . . It's more than that, but — if it was \$15,000 and I said, well that's the best year I've ever had of personal earnings, so next year I'm going to earn 20,000 doing the same job, running the same business. How absurd when the historic level is, I may have earned, like, 5,000. Just shifting the numbers to put it into the context.

But while the budget document last year said we're going to get \$1.9 billion, the Minister of Energy was saying things like, oh it could be \$3 billion or higher. Well you know, I guess, it could be, Mr. Speaker, but it wasn't. It wasn't.

The sorry reality again, again shown in this budget . . . We didn't put it together on this side. Put together by members of the other side. This budget put together by the Sask Party government, what's the record? It isn't that we collected 1.9 billion. It's that we wrote a cheque to the potash companies for \$204 million. That's \$200 for every man, woman, and child. We . . . [inaudible] . . . the cheque, gave it to the potash companies.

Mr. Speaker, I have been, I've been more than 23 years participating in debates in this legislature. It'll be 24 years if I make it to this fall, and I expect to make it. Mr. Speaker, in all that time I've watched governments all around the world, all around the world. I've listened to the best. I've listened to the worst. I have never, never, ever seen any government, not the worst government in the world, miss on its biggest single revenue projection by more than 110 per cent. Missed it, not by that much — more than 110 per cent.

Nowhere, nowhere in this world can you find an example like that, Mr. Speaker, nowhere in the world. I defy members of the Sask Party, show me a government, any government, anywhere in the world, that's that incompetent. Show me one example, just one example.

**An Hon. Member:** — SPUDCO.

**Mr. Trew:** — Oh, Mr. Speaker. Oh, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Sask Party for an example of any government in the world that could miss their biggest single revenue projection by more than 110 per cent, and I hear the broken record from members opposite. They say SPUDCO.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? In government, New Democrats built potato buildings — barns, I guess you call them potato barns — where there was irrigation. We created, built on a very small potato industry, made it many times bigger. And you know what? There's not a single one of those barns not in use, not one of them.

Absolutely they were built. Absolutely they were sold, but absolutely. And we lost money. We lost money on them but we built, we built an industry, we built an industry, a potato industry in rural Saskatchewan. We made it, made it much better, and I'm very proud of that, Mr. Speaker. We made some mistakes in how we sold it. I argue we should have said at every

turn that we were investing money in rural Saskatchewan to build an industry, and we did build a potato industry.

But there's, I want to point out there's a difference between a relatively few millions of dollars, a relatively few millions of dollars and \$2.2 billion. And I mean their biggest single source of revenue and they missed it by 110 per cent. Nowhere, nowhere, but nowhere, will they find an example of such incompetence. It's just absolutely unheard of.

If there's one reason not to trust the Sask Party government, if there's one reason to boot them out from office, if there's one reason to just end them, put them out of their misery so we can get on with building a viable Saskatchewan, so we can get back to balanced budgets, so we can deliver on health care, so we can deliver on a whole bunch of things that are important to people, if there's one single overwhelming issue, it's that gross mismanagement, that absolute bungling of the potash file, absolutely unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, I looked at this year's budget. And what do they say about non-renewable resources, potash being one of them? I want to just share that in total they took the total amount we got from non-renewable resources last year — that's the discounted number, this is the real number — they took that and they added 20 per cent for this year's budget. Can you imagine that? I'm not sure they've learned their lesson.

They took last year's earnings, what the Government of Saskatchewan got from non-renewable resources, and added 20 per cent. And that's the number pencilled in, not in the budget document we created, but in the budget document that the Sask Party presented short days ago. Twenty per cent increase that they're projecting, and these again are wishes. And we wish them luck. We wish them success. We wish. We hope. We wish, but my goodness, Mr. Speaker, there's not much, not much belief in the accuracy.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to income and sales, I'll do a little summation of what's going on in this year's budget with respect to income and sales tax. And when you look at the total of income and sales in this budget, it's up \$80 million this year over last. But let's break it down a little bit. Let's break it down a bit.

What we have is individual income. That's the taxes I pay as an individual, each of us pay — our neighbours, our parents, our sons and daughters, our neighbours, our constituents — as individuals pay. Individual income tax is up \$75 million out of that total 80 million. Seventy-five million comes from individuals' pockets — 75 million.

And I don't know a single corporation that smokes. Well they pollute but smoke tobacco . . . Tobacco's up \$36 million in this budget. Sales tax is up \$56 million. Well I've just described a whole lot of things that affect my constituents, my neighbours, myself, my family. A whole lot of things going up.

But oh, oh I see corporate income tax is down \$118 million — \$118 million. Does that reflect any cuts in corporate income tax? Were there cuts in corporate income tax in this budget? No. No, there were not. So why would corporate income tax be down \$118 million, Mr. Speaker? Well it's pretty self-evident.



Despite the Premier cheerleading with his pompoms, cheerleading that Saskatchewan's not going to participate in the worldwide recession, despite his cheerleading, clearly Saskatchewan businesses are participating.

Saskatchewan businesses didn't listen to the Premier. Saskatchewan businesses have something called reality that they have to deal with. When Saskatchewan businesses open their doors and they're selling some goods or services, they have to attract customers in. And they do a darn fine job by and large. But they have a certain reality that the Sask Party government doesn't seem to have connected with yet. And that reality is that they'll only get their share of what dollars are available. And the hard truth is, when you have a government that creates the uncertainty that the Sask Party has, when you have a government that misses on its biggest, single revenue projection for last year by 110 per cent, this does not create confidence — not in the business community, not in the individual community.

And then how do they come at that? Well you know, the number of cabinet ministers is the same. The number of hacks and flacks in government, if anything, is up. And I want to tell you how I have come to realize that it is up, Mr. Speaker. There was over 100 people got pink slips as a result of the budget that was delivered last week. More than 100 people in Saskatchewan. In one department alone, it lost nearly 10 people, 10 positions I should say. Here's . . .

[16:00]

**An Hon. Member:** — Holy.

**Mr. Trew:** — Well holy, holy the member says. Holy. This is people. This is people that Sask Party members may represent, we certainly represent. This is people that have husbands, wives, children, parents, grandparents, neighbours, friends — but this is people. These are real people, Mr. Speaker, that get up in the morning, and they've gone to work for quite some time saying, how can I earn my pay today? How can I do my job today? And the Sask Party members say, well holy, 10, like it's nothing, Mr. Speaker, like it's nothing.

Well just wait till we bring some of them in here and let them look them right in the eye and say your job is nothing. The fact that you don't have any income, it's nothing. The fact that the bank is going to repossess your home, it's nothing. The fact that you had to walk here because you lost your car because you couldn't make the payments, it's nothing. Laugh all you want. The people will not be laughing at the next election, Mr. Speaker.

The people do care. The people want a government that represents them. The people want a government that does care. They don't want 100 pink slips. They don't want 100 pink slips. They don't want that, Mr. Speaker. And they don't want 1,700 pink slips over the next 4 years — 1,700 pink slips. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that's not what we're about. That's not what New Democrats are about — never ever have been, never, never.

The absolutely — and I will say this part — the absolute worst time in my life was the last time we took over from a right wing

government. The absolute worst time was when we realized that we could not, we could not reach a balance. We realized, Mr. Speaker, that . . . And members scoff at this, and to their shame and discredit because if you won't learn from history, we're doomed to repeat it. And you're well on the road to repeating that Grant Devine history, that history, Mr. Speaker, when we formed government and had nothing, no tools left. They had stripped the retained earnings out of the Crowns, exactly like they're doing this year where 100 per cent of the retained earnings for this year out of the Crown corporations are being stripped, Mr. Speaker, stripped and put into the General Revenue Fund — 768 million, all of the earnings for this year. And this on top . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — What?

**Mr. Trew:** — What? That's in your budget. And, Mr. Speaker, last year, last year, they didn't take 768. They took 1.246 billion, some 570 million more last year. Well how was that possible, you might ask. And here's how it is. Last year there was a major investment that was sold, that being Saskferco, that was held as a Crown corporation. They sold that, snafued all of the money into the GRF to try and minimize their debt, their deficit, last year. Sell off the assets just in a desperate, desperate attempt not to have to show the real picture which was their spending was out of control and their revenue projections were even wilder than their spending.

What a shame, Mr. Speaker. We have a government that . . . I wish I could stand here, I wish I could stand here like I did. And I invite people to look — government members and others — to look at my first speech when they first formed government, my first speech, which was one of congratulations and one of wishing them well, one of wishing the Sask Party government just that they could deliver what they had promised or some semblance thereof, wishing that they could do the things for people that we should want to do.

And the reality is, Mr. Speaker, I'm standing here and if I'm looking angry, it's because I am. And I'm not angry for me; I'm angry for my constituents. I'm angry for the people of Saskatchewan. I am angry for the future. I'm angry that we are stuck in a mudhole with the Sask Party and their 622-million-plus deficit. And where are they going? They say, higher. And I think they are. The deficit's not going to stop at \$622 million, no more than it has any other time all through history, all through history, Mr. Speaker.

We look at the Conservatives, the forerunner of the Sask Party. And you know, I remember, I remember very well the very first budget that they delivered in 1982, and Bob Andrew delivered the first deficit budget that we'd seen in Saskatchewan in my lifetime — the first deficit budget. And he said this is the most intelligent budget in Canada. Maybe in fact it's the most intelligent budget in North America. Those were his words. Look them up. That's your history. That's not ours. That's your history. Look them up, Mr. Speaker, and you will find that that most intelligent budget, that first deficit budget was the start of the long and slippery slope. And in 11 sad, sorry Tory years, Mr. Speaker, what was the record? Deficit piled on deficit piled on deficit piled on deficit, and it got worse and it got worse and it got worse. And that's just a matter of public record.

And they stripped all of the retained earnings out of the Crown corporations. The first year, when we took office in 1991, we had to pump money from the taxpayers and put it into the Crown corporations because they were beyond broke. We had to transfer money from taxpayers to the Crown corporations. That's the legacy. Look it up. It's just a matter of public record. It's a matter of history, Mr. Speaker.

And I say to you, as I say to everyone, the people of Saskatchewan are not going to be fooled again. They will not go through this. This Premier is determined to make the Sask Party a one-term government. I want to tell you, I am very determined. Can we do it? You bet we can. You bet we can. We can. We can. The Minister of Energy says we'll see. Well you bet we'll see. You bet we'll see because you bet we can. Mr. Speaker, there's an excitement out and about.

I've talked, I've talked numbers and I've talked about the deficit. I've talked about the sorry Tory past. I've talked about the sorry Sask Party current. I've talked about all of that. But how does this affect, how does this affect the people? Well, Mr. Speaker, Sask Party members, many of whom are elected in rural Saskatchewan, got elected on a significant promise to fix health care, Mr. Speaker, to fix health care. Now I hear the member for Wood River who spoke just before me . . . was berating us for, I think his terms are, we closed 51 hospitals. Well you know, you inherited \$2.3 billion when you took office. Show me one hospital you've opened. Oh, oh, this is a problem for them now, Mr. Speaker. We give them billions of dollars to do what you would think they were about and what's the result? What's the result?

Then, Mr. Speaker, they're going to fix hospital wait-lists. They're going to fix hospital wait-lists. Wait-lists for surgery is what I'm really referring to, not hospital wait-lists, wait lists for surgery. What's the situation in Sun Country, the Premier's own constituency, Swift Current, that great city, that wonderful city that I was so proud to call my first city? And I'm still happy to go and visit Swift Current. What's the situation in Sun Country? The wait-list for surgeries in Swift Current has gone almost double under the Sask Party, almost double.

Just go onto the Ministry of Health website and you'll see that, Mr. Speaker. I'm not making this up. It's too good to make up. Truth is just too good. We could just speak the truth. That's all we have to do, speak the truth, because Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, what's the situation?

I've already talked about chiropractors. I didn't talk about the over half the health care workers that have now been well over a year without a contract. Well over half the health care workers that work in hospitals in long-term care, that work in all aspects of delivering health and health care service and wellness model to the people of Saskatchewan, over half of these people have been over a year without a contract. And the contract offer is miserly, to put it gently, Mr. Speaker, miserly.

But I say to those people, those people that are still trying to negotiate, I'd say to them or I'd ask them this. Why would you bother trying to negotiate with the Sask Party government? Based on the chiropractors' experience, the chiropractic association of Saskatchewan sat down, negotiated in good faith with the Sask Party government, their Ministry of Health,

negotiated in good faith a collective agreement. The chiropractors signed it. The Ministry of Health said, yes we agree with this. This is what we're supposed to get. So the chiropractors signed it. Off it went to the minister to sign. And budget day, no funding for chiropractors. So what's the point in negotiating?

This is a matter, this is a matter of trust. As I said earlier, we have a Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, that absolutely we can trust. We can trust them to negotiate with chiropractors and then say, oh just kidding. And not even . . . Well they didn't even have to tear up the contract. They didn't sign it, didn't sign it. Negotiated in good faith, didn't sign it.

We have a Sask Party government that said they're going to declare war on working people, and you bet they are. Yes they are. Yes they are.

We have before this Legislative Assembly a Bill called Bill 80. This is dealing with construction trades and how it's organized. And what it's doing is taking away the workers' rights to pick their union. And the words that are used are the opposite of what the Sask Party say, but they . . . I tell you, friends, I tell you I've talked to . . . I have many friends in the construction trades. They know better. They're organizing themselves as best they can.

You see the signs up every day in many, many places: "No to Bill 80." Well that isn't the government that's saying no to Bill 80. That's the Saskatchewan building trades people saying no. And it is a shame. It is a shame, Mr. Speaker, that this goes on.

And I hear the hon. member for Estevan talking from her seat about my daughter-in-law. And you know, Mr. Speaker, if I ever heard a veiled threat in this Legislative Assembly, I just heard it. I just heard it. I just heard it, Mr. Speaker. If I ever, ever . . . I can't believe it. I can't believe it. I've a son and a daughter who are making Estevan their home. They get up, both of them, go to their respective work. They're both trying to be a positive part of that community. They're both doing great work. I'm intensely proud of them both. I'm so proud of my son for picking my daughter-in-law to be his partner. And then this.

Mr. Speaker, I, to say . . . I think I've said it. I absolutely trust the Sask Party to say one thing and do something else. They have a history of it with chiropractors. They have a history of it with health care workers. They have a history of it with essential services. Can you imagine in health care, Mr. Speaker? There's an essential services Bill before this Assembly. And we know that what the government is demanding, what the Ministry of Health is demanding, is if there is a work dispute, if there's a strike, there will be more people at work during the strike, more unionized people at work during the strike than there is today.

We also know that every single day across this province, some health care workers are unable to report to work. They're sick. They're hurt. They have issues that simply prevent them from returning to work. And I'm not saying it's the same person every day. This is just part of life. We all have those days. We all have those days, Mr. Speaker.

[16:15]

But isn't it something that we have a situation where when you can have somebody sick, the Ministry of Health doesn't replace them. But if there's a strike, they have to be there or risk significant fines. Isn't it a sad, sad state of affairs when the Sask Party government is proposing legislation that says, during a strike there's got to be more unionized people at work during the strike than there is on a regular day today.

Boy, oh boy. That's a government that sure is standing up to, to working people. That's a government, that's a government that is very clear on where they stand with respect to the women and the men that get up every day and deliver health care — in this instance, that look after our parents, our grandparents, ourselves when we wind up in the hospital. This is a government that doesn't like hearing this message.

Well you know what, Mr. Speaker? Don't like the message? Pull that essential services legislation. Pull that nonsensical piece of legislation. Pull it and show working people, show the people in the health care system you value them. Show them that you actually respect them. Respect them.

Mr. Speaker, governments, governments demand respect, but I tell you this, I've learned it from the 16-plus years we were in government. You can demand all you want, and you might get it frontally, but you earn respect. Governments must earn respect every day and in every way. And that's not to say that every individual always agrees with the decisions you made, but you have to have the courage to go and face the people that you're making these decisions, to talk to them and explain. Say, this is why we're doing this; this is what it's about. But what's the government say? They're saying things like, it's our way or the highway, Mr. Speaker, that's what the Sask Party is saying. That's what the Sask Party is saying. And what a shame that is.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Crown corporations, the government is stripping all of the retained earnings this year. All of them with the exception of Sask Power, and they don't have to do that because they stripped Sask Power last year. So I guess you know, Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder that in Sask Power our rates have gone up 20 per cent in two years? Ask any farmer. Ask any farmer: 20 per cent raise in their power rates in two years under a Sask Party government.

Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, with their record on stripping dividends that SaskEnergy, the people of Saskatchewan — despite the fact that we have huge natural gas resources, we have massive natural gas resources, despite that — the consumers of SaskEnergy gas pay amongst the very highest rate of consumers in all of Canada.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's been that way right since they had the opportunity to make their first rate change when the Sask Party formed government. It has been that way. And I'll tell you, historically that's not the way it has been. Historically we have enjoyed amongst the very lowest natural gas rates for consumers in all of Canada, amongst the very lowest in all of Canada virtually every year.

Mr. Speaker, what a sad, sad day to be standing here and to have so much ammunition to talk about a government budget. What a sad situation. I can't believe that we have a government that is so callous to working people. They've fired, fired . . .

I can't believe we have a government, Mr. Speaker, that balances the budget, how? They take 30 million out of the forest fire fighting budget out of the Department of Environment and say, oh well this year — despite the fact that in BC [British Columbia] they've had an incredibly dry year — we've not had a huge amount of snow in the North where the forests are. Despite that, they're talking a gamble, taking a gamble this year that they're going to be able to pull 30 million out of the forest fire fighting budget.

We have a government . . . Well, and you know what? The thought just occurred to me, Mr. Speaker, maybe, maybe that's not an unreasonable thing for a Sask Party government to do. We have a member from P.A. [Prince Albert] in here that said a vote for Hickie, in his campaign the quote is, a vote for Hickie is a vote for the mill. Well that mill is long, long gone under the Sask Party government. Long, long gone.

We have a forestry industry, or we used to have a forestry industry that was proud, that provided tens of thousands of jobs throughout this province, that provided some opportunity for people, primarily people of the North. But people, certainly Prince Albert, where I was this weekend for the New Democratic Party convention, Prince Albert is feeling the effects. It's a beautiful city, but you cannot strip all of those jobs out of the pulp mill, all of those great-paying jobs out of the pulp mill and the forestry industry. People that lived right near Prince Albert, you can't strip that out of that economy without the people of Prince Albert feeling it. And so maybe it's reasonable, maybe it's reasonable if you have so little respect for the forest, that you'd pull 30 million from firefighting.

What's less reasonable, what's less reasonable, Mr. Speaker, is that the Sask Party would have a motion at their annual convention. We just came through our annual convention. They have . . . It was one of five. One of five motions. Can you imagine? They were stellar motions, I'm sure, because one of the five motions was that the Sask Party government would create a forestry centre in Prince Albert.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, if I have a look of bewilderment, it's because I can't believe that the member for Prince Albert or the Minister of Environment or any of the other bright lights in the Sask Party wouldn't have realized, Mr. Speaker, wouldn't have realized there's a forestry centre in Prince Albert. And my goodness, it was built under the New Democratic Party administration. But my goodness, that doesn't mean that they can't give some credit for things that at least happened, or at least not give us the opportunity to stand up and crow and say, we cared about the forestry sector enough that we built the forestry centre in Prince Albert.

And then one of their five Sask Party resolutions says, we should build a forestry centre . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. Good point. Mr. Speaker, I want to say of this budget, of this budget, which is what we're discussing . . . SCN. SCN, at least, you know, I've made some comparisons — the Sask Party to the Grant Devine Conservative Party. Grant Devine was a builder, for heaven's sake. He put together SCN. He ran up debt, but he at least had some things to show for it — SCN, Saskatchewan broadcasting corp. And it's gone, Mr. Speaker. It's gone.

But along with what is gone at SCN, distance education which was provided out of SCN, now is going to be picked up SaskTel. Now when we pay our phone bill, SaskTel is going to . . . part of that will be the distance ed. And distance ed is something that has to be delivered. Well at least that's what we've always operated under the belief on this side, that we needed, we needed to look after all of Saskatchewan and provide, as much as reasonably possible, services.

We need things for my grandchildren that live near a small town. And this is not my ones in, my children that live in Estevan. This is my children that live in another part of the province and farm, and my grandchildren who are attending a small school that relies on distance education for some of the courses, some of the classes.

This small school, Mr. Speaker, where they have some teachers' assistants, this small school where there's some teachers' assistants . . . And I want to tell you that those TAs [teaching assistant], the teacher, the principal, the parents are concerned. They're all concerned. They're all concerned that the TAs are going to be cut, à la the Sask Party study and their memo saying they're going to cut drastically the number of teachers' assistants.

And the parents whose children are being helped by teachers' assistants, and the teachers who recognize that help and who are so grateful because it gives them the opportunity to make sure that those individual students learn what they can, and it allows the teacher to make sure that the other students learn what they can, these people are all very, very concerned. I can tell you they are. I know it first-hand.

I know it first-hand, Mr. Speaker. I've a daughter who's a teacher's assistant. I've a daughter. I've a daughter being hurt by this very Sask Party. I see her community hurt by this very Sask Party government. I tell you, she lives in a constituency that currently is held by the Sask Party, but they don't deserve to get re-elected there. They do not deserve it.

Mr. Speaker, the list of things goes on and on with respect to this government. I did not get, I did not get, and I want to . . . The government, the government got elected on a promise that they were going to address the shortage of doctors in rural Saskatchewan. Members opposite will remember this very promise that you're going to fix and resolve the shortage of doctors in rural Saskatchewan.

Now I hear, how's the track record on that one? Well, Mr. Speaker, it's this. In the spring of 2007, spring of 2007, there was 84 vacancies in rural Saskatchewan, doctor vacancies. Well what's the situation today? I wish it was improved, but there's 125 — 125 vacancies. It's more than 50 per cent. It's 50 per cent plus two doctors, if you do the math. It's more than 50 per cent. Two of them were last week's since the numbers that we last saw. If you check the website from the Ministry of Health, it's getting worse and worse and worse.

And, Mr. Speaker, you can use whiteout. The government can use whiteout in the budget all they want, but they can't hide the fact that rural hospitals have to put garbage bags over their signs when they're out of order, when they're out of order because there's no doctor there. They can't do the emergency.

Why? No attending physician. And that's 125 vacancies versus 84 in the spring right after the Sask Party got elected.

Well you know, they keep saying, I hear the Minister of Health saying, we're working on it. We've got a plan and we're working on it. You know, Mr. Speaker, that's not much comfort. I tell you I wish they'd quit working on it, because the things they're working on are just going . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Backwards.

**Mr. Trew:** — Backwards. Thank you. That's a much more generous way of saying than what the thought entered my mind, Mr. Speaker. The things the Sask Party is working on are going backwards.

They promised they're going to open the mill in P.A. Well the machinery's gone. Domtar has left and said no, we're just absolutely not interested. Not at all. No way.

Mr. Speaker, we've got over half the unionized workforce in health care facilities that have been operating now a significant amount of time without a collective agreement. Instead of giving them a collective agreement, what this government has chosen to do is introduce essential services that says if you strike, if there's a dispute, if there's a labour dispute, if we lock you out or you go on strike, either way we have to have more unionized people at these health centres during the labour dispute than there is today when there's no dispute.

And I just don't understand how anyone of sound mind can think that that's somehow good public policy. Mr. Speaker, this is a Sask Party government that does not understand working women and working men, does not understand what their inherent rights are. Working people sell their labour, Mr. Speaker. That's what they have to negotiate with. They don't own the business. They sell their labour. But it has to be an equal and fair exchange. You can't make it all lopsided, as in this case.

You can't say, oh well the high and mighty government knows it all because, you know, Mr. Speaker, government doesn't know it all. Government doesn't know it all, and we sure see that now.

[16:30]

We are seeing a budget, Mr. Speaker, that I want to tell you can be trusted. The government can be trusted to declare war on working people. They're showing that. Every day in every way, they're declaring war.

We can trust the Sask Party government to continue delivering deficit budgets. They did last year; they're doing it this year — by their own numbers, \$622 million this year. Next year the deficit is going to go bigger. We can trust this Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, to say one thing and to do something completely different. They've done it consistently.

We can trust this Sask Party government to take one of the biggest issues of the day — the environment — and in 2007 when the Sask Party was campaigning, they said, yes we agree with the New Democrats' target, 32 per cent reduction in

carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse gases based on the year 2004. They said, we agree with it; we will . . . You just elect us, and by gosh we'll deliver on that promise. What happened?

Well now the latest is — there's been two slides later, two slides later — the latest is they're saying, we'll reduce greenhouse gas emissions not by 32 per cent but by 20 per cent. And we're not going to use 2004 as the base year, we're going to use 2006 year with a higher baseline.

Mr. Speaker, we have a government that says one thing, and we can trust them to deliver something different. Although I want to be, I want to be among the very few that points out with respect to this promise, this very much watered down and reduced promise with respect to the environment, they haven't delivered a darn thing, and I'm afraid they're not going to. They've not delivered a darn thing and that's a shame. That is just a shame, Mr. Speaker.

We have a government that delivered more than 100 pink slips in the budget that affect real people, that affect real people — my neighbours, my constituents, my family, my friends. We have a government that promised in this budget delivered on Wednesday last week, that they promised that there would be 1,700 more reduction, pink slips delivered over the next four years — 1,700 more bad news things.

We have a government that said, we trust, we value chiropractors. And they negotiated a new collective agreement with chiropractors right up to the point where chiropractors signed the agreement and it went to the minister for his signature. And you know what? The minister didn't even have to tear up that chiropractic agreement, Mr. Speaker. He just ignored it, tossed it casually aside, and left the chiropractors waving in the wind.

We have a government that says they're a government of law and order. The Sask Party say we're the government of law and order; you can trust us. Boy, we're the government of law and order. We believe in what's right and what's good. And then, I believe it was Friday, they fired a corrections worker, fired a corrections worker — wrong corrections worker, if you could accept that there is ever a right one. But the one that they fired was not guilty of what they claimed he was guilty of.

Corrections workers aren't going to forget this government. Corrections workers are not. Health care workers are not. I predict, Mr. Speaker, that chiropractors are not going to forget what this government, this Sask Party government, has done. I predict that people, individuals, my neighbours, my relatives, myself are not going to forget the promise that was made just the other day when the Minister of Finance says, oh yes we should look at harmonizing the PST and the GST. We should look at harmonizing — the H-word. That was after the budget was delivered. That was when he was up in Saskatoon speaking, speaking to the chamber of commerce, Mr. Speaker.

But harmonization, despite the fact that what harmonization would do . . . Leave aside that it shifts sales tax from businesses to individuals. Leave that aside. Leave that it shifts it to me, my neighbours, my relatives, my friends, and off the backs of corporations. Leave that argument aside. It also, what it would

do, Mr. Speaker, is it takes away our ability to have exemptions of PST.

There's no sales tax in Saskatchewan today on children's clothing. Children can be clothed without sales tax, Mr. Speaker. There's no sales tax today on educational books and material — no sales tax on that, Mr. Speaker. There is no sales tax today on medication and health supplies — no sales tax on that at all today, Mr. Speaker. And if we harmonize, that's all gone. The ability to exempt individuals is all gone, Mr. Speaker.

We have a Sask Party government that can be counted on to say one thing and do another. And it's just straight up because of the track record. It is straight up. Mr. Speaker. We have a government that's increased individual income tax 75 million, increased tobacco tax 36 million, increased sales tax 56 million; at the same time, decreased corporate income tax by \$118 million without, without I point out, in the absence of a tax cut for those same corporations. The 118 million lower corporate income tax isn't because of a tax cut. It's because of a spiralling downward economy. That's what it's from.

Mr. Speaker, we have a budget where the renewable resources, we know what the total take is in the year just ending. We know within a few thousand dollars from the budget document. And what the government did, they missed on one item alone — potash — by \$2.1 billion last year. But what they did is they took last year's total of non-renewable resources, that total number, and then they added 20 per cent for the coming year. That's how much revenue they're projecting we're going to get, a 20 per cent increase on non-renewable resources in one year alone. I hope it's there. But based on the track record, I don't think so. I hope it's there. But, but the track record speaks of something completely different.

Mr. Speaker, we have a situation where a government was elected to fix, amongst other things, to fix the shortage of doctors in rural Saskatchewan, a situation where there was 84 vacancies in the spring of 1987; a situation where today there's 125 vacancies.

A hundred and twenty-five vacancies today. It's more than a 50 per cent increase. And they say they're fixing it. They're working on it. They're fixing it. They're working on it. Trust us, they say. Trust us. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I know, I know from all of my experiences in life, every fibre of my experiences says you can trust the future to be a repetition of the past, by and large. You look at what they've done in the past, and that's what you can reasonably expect to be happening in the future.

And this is part of why — I'll say it again — why we like the leader-to-leader comparison. Our leader, successful farmer, has been for many, many years. Our leader, successful business person, vice-president of government relations for a multinational corporation, Nexen. That's our leader's track record. What's the Sask Party leader's track record? Two failed businesses, some time in government under Grant Devine where he learned all about finance under Grant Devine.

And so, Mr. Speaker, you look at, you look at the leaders and, you know, you judge what they've done in the past and what

they're doing today, and that's a pretty good indication of where they're going to be next year and the year after and the year after.

The future tends to be something of a continuation of the past. We're very proud of the leader-to-leader comparison. We invite people to do it, Mr. Speaker. We very much invite people to do it. We have a history of successful business. We have a history, on the government side, of two failed businesses. We have a leader, the Premier, Mr. Speaker, that couldn't sell country music to the people of Swift Current. I'm not sure how that qualifies one to be premier.

Mr. Speaker, I have to, I have to tell you that I am hugely, hugely disappointed with this budget. Disappointed in that it affects myself, my family, my neighbours, and my friends. This is a budget that is hurt at every turn. It's hurt and it's harm and it's damage and it's a budget that really deals fundamentally with the trust issue. It deals absolutely, totally with the trust issue. And, Mr. Speaker, I pointed out in my speech the areas where that trust has been broken.

My premise is simply put: that we live in a democracy and that the 1,700 people that are going to get pink slips over the coming four years aren't going to forget quickly who gave them the pink slip. The 100 people that got a pink slip as a result of the budget the other day . . .

This is a budget that was delivered, you know . . . While the Premier says Saskatchewan isn't participating in the recession, the worldwide recession, if we're not participating in the worldwide recession, why on earth would they pick 100 people and say, you're out of here? How does that work, Mr. Speaker? How is this a government for the people? How does this work? Why would you fire 100 people on last Wednesday? Why would you do that, Mr. Speaker? It just defies logic.

We live in a democracy. I'm very grateful for that. It's a great system. And, Mr. Speaker, I lived through the first term of Grant Devine; I lived through the second term of Grant Devine; I am determined with every fibre of my being to do everything I can to make sure that we've lived through the first term of the Sask Party government, and the people of Saskatchewan aren't left to clean up after the second term of the Sask Party government.

This budget shows in virtually every way a government that has run out of ideas, a government stripping the retained earnings of the Crown corporations, driving up the cost to consumers in those very Crown corporations. This is a government that isn't even being consistent with what it said when they were in opposition.

Mr. Speaker, if it was a matter of at least being consistent with what was said then and now, I could respect we have just a philosophical difference. What we have is a budget that is harmful in every way to the people of Regina Coronation Park. I say that is a shame. And I wish that if I could stand here and speak for three more hours that the government would say, we'll change the budget. I don't get a sense that that's happening. I just don't get a sense of that happening, Mr. Speaker.

We have to rely on everything that happens every day between now and the next election that's scheduled for 2011, in the fall of 2011. I'm not going to forget this budget. I didn't forget the last budget, but I'm not going to forget this budget. I'm not going to forget what the Sask Party government is all about. I'm going to do everything I can to make sure that New Democrats are the ones that are able to build Saskatchewan and create a great future.

I am going to be voting with my colleagues with respect to this budget. We are not in favour of this budget which hides much debt, which hides many of the problems for the people of Saskatchewan. I thank you for the opportunity to have shared my thoughts, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise to speak to my government's third budget. And I'd like to begin by doing what a lot of us do, and that's thanking our family and our staff. We don't get to see our family a whole lot in this job. It takes us away from home. We miss piano recitals and school plays and birthday parties and those sorts of things, and I want to thank my family for their understanding and, Mr. Speaker, for their support of me while I'm away.

I'd also like to thank my staff, both in my office in Regina — to Krista, Kelly, Drew, and Cam — and to Whitney in the constituency office. And I know I've talked a lot about Whitney before. He has been a constituency assistant for 16 years. I'm his third MLA. And, Mr. Speaker, he does a phenomenal job and takes care of things while I'm down here. So I'd like to thank my staff as well.

Mr. Speaker, this budget will enable Saskatchewan to continue to lead Canada in growth. Saskatchewan is currently setting the standard for population growth and for job growth, and I find it interesting that the member opposite had just said that our economy is spiralling downward out of control. And I don't know if he's picked up a newspaper lately or listened to any kind of economist or projections for our province, Mr. Speaker, but we are leading the country. Our economy is not spiralling out of control. And I think that just goes to the NDP's continued doom and gloom and not having a positive outlook for our province.

[16:45]

Mr. Speaker, I go home on the weekends and the attitude of the people in my constituency is so positive and so upbeat. And I think the only people in this province who believe that our economy is spiralling downward out of control are the 20 people sitting across the aisle from us today, Mr. Speaker, because they certainly aren't speaking for the rest of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, but many of my colleagues will likely reference their children and family. I think all of us sitting here have children or grandchildren or nieces and nephews and, Mr. Speaker, it was their future that we had in mind when we considered the budget this year. I'm an auntie and I think it's the best job in the world. You get to spend a lot of time with

your kids and play and spoil them and then hand them back over to their parents at the end of the day. And I think it really is the best job.

I have six kids. I joke with my sister and brother that they're really mine. I just let them raise them for me. And Jasmine, Sharmaine, Dylan, little Ben — and he doesn't like being called little Ben, but he's little Ben — Mileva, and Noam, and they're all so incredibly different, but such great kids. And, Mr. Speaker, I think sometimes it's so easy to get caught in the bubble that is this building. And when we go home and spend time with our kids, it really brings us back to what's actually important in our lives, Mr. Speaker.

Just this last weekend I gave one of my cars to my niece, Jasmine. She turned 16 a couple weeks ago, and I had promised her that she could learn how to drive on my car when she turned 16. And I'm not quite sure how she got to be that old because I don't think I'm aging. But as a friend of mine said I'm not old, old things just keep happening to me. And so Jasmine turning 16 was a bit of rude awakening for me, but she has her learner's permit. So on Saturday we went for a drive. I showed her how to put gas in the car — gas that I paid for — and showed her how to check the oil and change a tire. And so I think she's going to do pretty well.

Her world is pretty carefree right now. She's only 16 but, Mr. Speaker, over the next two years she's going have to make decisions on what she wants to be, where she wants to go. And I know that she wants to travel, but she also understands that an education is important.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's for kids like Jas that we're continuing to invest in education. Jasmine has big dreams. She's interested in journalism. And I think a few of you will remember her from last year. She was here for a take your kid to work program and asked to spend the day with me, and so she got to hang out in the rotunda after question period. And I want to thank Wayne Mantyka for showing a lot of interest. And he let her hold the microphone for CTV [Canadian Television Network] in the scrum and did some B-roll with her and did an on-camera interview and gave her a bit of an indication of what a journalistic career would be like. And she was very excited about being able to do that, Mr. Speaker, and I know that with a good education she's going to be capable of doing anything that she wants.

Mr. Speaker, in this budget, we have invested additional money in elementary and high schools, money that will go to school boards for delivering of education, as well as continued investment in education capital so our kids can be educated in safe places. And, Mr. Speaker, we had a lot of positive feedback from the budget. Again I know the NDP are negative about it, but the actual average people in this province seem to have received it pretty well. The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation said:

We were glad to hear the Minister emphasize that education is a priority, and we agree it is an investment in the future of our children and the future of our province.

Mr. Speaker, Sandi Urban-Hall of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association said, "In today's budget we recognize that

we are a priority for the government. Overall, we're pleased."

So, Mr. Speaker, the people who are in charge of educating our children are pleased with what our government is doing. They see that it's a positive step forward, that we have an investment in education in our province and that we will continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, we've also invested in post-secondary education. We know that tuition rates are an ongoing concern for students, and we had additional monies in this budget, Mr. Speaker, to try to keep tuition rates reasonable for students in Saskatchewan to make sure that education remains attainable. And, Mr. Speaker, while there were some cutbacks in certain areas in the budget, we made sure that we had a focus on education. It's going to be a benefit to our province. It's the one thing that's going to help us to come forward with an innovation agenda and make sure that our children are educated. And I think it's one of the best ways that we can make sure that our province continues to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, going back to one of my kids, we're also making sure that we look after those who need a little bit of extra help. My nephew Dylan is nine and he is autistic. He's a great kid, he has an amazing sense of humour, and he is an absolute joy to be around. Mr. Speaker, our government has invested \$3 million annually for autism services, which is exponentially more than the previous government invested.

And then in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker, on top of that, we invested an additional \$2.5 million for a pilot project for autism services. And, Mr. Speaker, Theresa Savaria of the autism care centre said of this budget and this continued investment:

It's the most exciting day of my life. I have been here for 20 years and there's a huge recognition of the needs of children and their families. And we're going to provide something that has been needed for a long time. This is a huge boost for people with autism and for their families to have another \$2.5 million added to the \$3 million from 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I note, I spend a lot of time with Dylan, as much as I can. And like I said, he's a great kid and there is so much potential in him. Autistic kids are capable of learning and contributing to society; they just learn differently, and they need a little bit of extra help. And, Mr. Speaker, as Dylan's auntie, I want to say thank you to my government for their recognition of the needs of these children and their parents.

Mr. Speaker, families know that they have to budget within their means. We have taken the same approach with this provincial budget. There have been reductions, and we have sought to find efficiencies while continuing to deliver the necessary services for Saskatchewan residents, services that they expect.

And one of these areas is health care. We know that an opposition party's job is to oppose, but we would hope that opposition is based on factual information. And, Mr. Speaker, that sadly isn't always the case. The NDP are trying to say that wait times are increasing. Mr. Speaker, we know that the wait times increased under the NDP, and they are coming down

under our government. The Health minister today laid out a plan for the continued reduction of surgical wait times.

Mr. Speaker, this is an effort that is a priority for the Health minister. And we have made a commitment to have wait times, surgical wait times reduced so that people won't have to wait any more than three months over the next four years for surgical wait times. There is over \$10 million allocated in this budget to go towards that goal and, Mr. Speaker, we believe it's an achievable goal.

And we know that the NDP don't like goals. When asked about targets for nursing, I think it was nursing recruitment under the NDP, the then Health minister, the member for North Battleford, said they weren't going to set targets because they were pretty sure they weren't going to meet them. Well, Mr. Speaker, we're not afraid of targets on this side of the House. And we set targets for nursing and recruitment, and after just over two years we are almost, almost there, Mr. Speaker. And we think that with the right level of determination and dedication we can reach those goals. And as I said, Mr. Speaker, we're not afraid of setting those targets, as opposed to the NDP.

I think one of the most frustrating things in government is to hear somebody tell you, you can't do it any differently because it's always been done that way. And, Mr. Speaker, we believe that there are always new and better ways of doing things. And we are committed to finding those things.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk about my own ministry, the Ministry of Environment. And in my ministry we are not taking the it's-always-been-done-that-way approach. I want to thank my deputy minister, Liz Quarshie, for her incredible leadership, determination and dedication.

We have been working on transforming the ministry into a more user-friendly ministry. And currently we have legislation before the House that will enable the ministry to move towards a results-based regulatory system. And there are funds in this budget to help us get there as well.

And I listen with interest to the opposition members, I think it was last week in response to those Bills that are before the House, fearmongering about what this meant. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read something into the record. It says:

An outcome-based approach to environmental legislation and regulation will assist industry to plan and invest in a manner that achieves strong returns and reflects a strong commitment to environmental accountability.

It goes on to say:

Saskatchewan is committed to work with industry to modernize and streamline its legislative and regulatory process, especially those affecting provincial economic development.

The information goes on to say:

While focusing on environmental outcomes, the model will minimize the regulatory complexity and

administrative burden, support innovation, facilitate adoption of best management practices, and maintain a competitive business climate.

Mr. Speaker, that really sounds like something our government stands for and would do, but, Mr. Speaker, it's an NDP green strategy from 2007. So while they stand in this House and fearmonger about the benefits or, in their estimation, the non-benefits of results-based regulatory system, it was something that they proposed.

And, Mr. Speaker, the only difference between the NDP and us is they talked about this and never did it. And I know that that's what the NDP's approach is on a great many things, Mr. Speaker, is they talk about it but don't ever implement these things. So a glossy brochure yet again with some promises on things that they were going to do and absolutely no follow-through on getting those things done.

Mr. Speaker, we think that this is the right approach for the province and it will enable us to have a more streamlined approach while offering even greater environmental protection. Making sure that we are successful in this initiative takes every staff in the ministry to be part of this. And I want to thank the amazing men and women in the Ministry of Environment for their leadership and guidance and input as we make this happen and move forward with our legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we have been able to find efficiencies in my ministry while continuing to deliver on our core services. And I understand that there might be concern on paper for the fire budget. There was some concerns raised today in the House. And, Mr. Speaker, I will take those concerns at face value that they're a legitimate concern. But I do have some worry, Mr. Speaker, after seeing a press release sent out last week by the member for Cumberland. And I hope he's listening as the information, I hope he's listening because the information in that release, Mr. Speaker, was absolutely erroneous.

The fire budget from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011 has been reduced by almost \$30 million. But this is due to two very separate things. One is the reduction of capital expenditures from last year to this. We're in the final stages of the phase two of our aerial fleet renewal, so we actually just don't need as much money this year as we did last year because we're at the end of the phase two, Mr. Speaker.

But there's also a reduction on the operational side of \$10 million. We went through a review to look at the actual dollars needed to fight an average fire in Saskatchewan, and realized that we could do it within that \$10 million reduction. In fact, Mr. Speaker, and I said this earlier in the House, by the end of 2009-2010 fiscal year, the Ministry of Environment fire protection branch will have returned almost \$20 million in operational funding alone. That was above and beyond what was needed.

So, Mr. Speaker, a \$10 million cut when we've already returned \$20 million, we know that there is more there than what is required for an average fire season. And I note with interest, Mr. Speaker, that the member for Cumberland claimed in his press release that this was a reduction of \$12 million in wages alone. This is absolutely not the case, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not



sure if he wilfully put out these erroneous claims, or if the NDP's researchers don't know how to read a budget and the member for Cumberland simply signed his name onto this press release which was not well researched. But regardless of the circumstances behind that press release and the misinformation and the NDP's claims, the fire protection branch is being funded at levels required to insure the safety of people and their property in the North.

And, Mr. Speaker, I heard with interest the concerns from the opposition members about staff that had been laid off. There is some positions that were eliminated and that sort of thing. Well, Mr. Speaker, for all of their concern about people, particularly within the Ministry of Environment, in 2004 the member for Saskatoon Centre was the Environment minister at the time. In 2004 they cut 200 jobs. They closed nine rural and northern environment offices, and they closed six northern fire bases.

Mr. Speaker, at the time his response to an interview was, and I quote, "We have our priorities and we have to support those priorities." According to the NDP, Mr. Speaker, the people in the Ministry of Environment, the northern offices and northern fire bases were not of any concern to the NDP. It was not one of their priorities because they apparently had absolutely no problem cutting 200 people out of this ministry alone, Mr. Speaker.

And I believe from the comments of some of my colleagues who would've been here in 2004 — I was not — that that year there was 700 people cut from government, Mr. Speaker. So while they can claim to be concerned about the people, the public service, Mr. Speaker, they don't have the record to stand on. The member for Saskatoon Centre got rid of 200 jobs in the Ministry of Environment, Mr. Speaker. But I guess, in the absence of their own policies, they resorted to fearmongering and misinformation. And, Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely unfortunate.

And speaking of policies, I would like to discuss our government's climate change policies. We actually have one, as opposed to the NDP. Mr. Speaker, this budget sees the continuation of our campaign promise to commit \$15 million per year to our Go Green Fund. This fund offers financing to enable people to go green and make the changes necessary to . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Being now 5 p.m. the House is recessed until 7 p.m. this evening.

[The Assembly recessed until 19:00.]

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

McMorris ..... 4511  
Junor ..... 4511  
Norris ..... 4511

**STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**Rulings on Points of Order**

The Speaker ..... 4511  
Wotherspoon ..... 4512

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

Harper ..... 4512  
Trew ..... 4512  
Higgins ..... 4512  
Atkinson ..... 4513  
Forbes ..... 4513  
Vermette ..... 4513  
Brotten ..... 4513  
Furber ..... 4513  
Morin ..... 4513  
Yates ..... 4514  
Iwanchuk ..... 4514  
Taylor ..... 4514  
Quennell ..... 4515  
Wotherspoon ..... 4515  
Chartier ..... 4515

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

**Ordination of Bishop Donald Bolen**

Weekes ..... 4515

**NDP Convention in Prince Albert**

Chartier ..... 4515

**Youth Science Month**

Allchurch ..... 4516

**Harmonized Sales Tax**

Wotherspoon ..... 4516

**Kidney Health Month**

Ross ..... 4516

**Treatment of Working People**

Nilson ..... 4517

**Support for Project Hero**

McMillan ..... 4517

**QUESTION PERIOD**

**Harmonized Sales Tax**

Lingenfelter ..... 4517

Gantfoer ..... 4517

**Spending Forecasts**

Wotherspoon ..... 4518

McMorris ..... 4518

Krawetz ..... 4519

Heppner ..... 4519

Gantfoer ..... 4519

**Financial Reporting Practices**

Brotten ..... 4520

Gantfoer ..... 4520

**Health Care Provision**

Junor ..... 4521

McMorris ..... 4521

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Standing Committee on Private Bills**

LeClerc ..... 4522

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Weekes ..... 4522

**SPECIAL ORDER  
ADJOURNED DEBATES  
MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGETARY POLICY  
(BUDGET DEBATE)**

<b>Quennell</b> .....	4523
<b>Huyghebaert</b> .....	4526
<b>Trew</b> .....	4530
<b>Heppner</b> .....	4538

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

---

**Hon. Brad Wall**  
Premier of Saskatchewan  
President of the Executive Council

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

**Hon. Bill Boyd**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Power Corporation  
Minister Responsible for Uranium  
Development Partnership  
Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Research Council

**Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff**  
Minister of Enterprise  
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated  
Minister Responsible for Trade

**Hon. June Draude**  
Minister Responsible for Crown Investments  
Corporation  
Provincial Secretary  
Minister Responsible for Information Technology Office  
Minister Responsible for Information  
Services Corporation  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Government Insurance  
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**  
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport

**Hon. Rod Gantfoer**  
Minister of Finance

**Hon. Donna Harpauer**  
Minister of Social Services

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

**Hon. Nancy Heppner**  
Minister of Environment  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Water Corporation

**Hon. Bill Hutchinson**  
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations  
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Gaming Corporation

**Hon. D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert**  
Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

**Hon. Ken Krawetz**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Education

**Hon. Don McMorris**  
Minister of Health

**Hon. Don Morgan**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Telecommunications

**Hon. Rob Norris**  
Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour  
Minister Responsible for Immigration  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan  
Workers' Compensation Board

**Hon. Jim Reiter**  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Transportation Company

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Government Services  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan  
Liquor and Gaming Authority  
Minister Responsible for the Capital Commission