



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Dwain Lingenfelter

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
LeClerc, Serge	Ind.	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]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with leave to make a statement.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has asked for leave to make a statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House this afternoon to apologize. In no way did I intend to mislead this House or anyone else by my comments. As the Minister of Health, I want nothing more than to improve the health care system for the Saskatchewan people, and I strive to do that each and every day. But my integrity means everything to me, as I believe it does each and every individual in this Assembly. I would never intentionally mislead this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — And I thank the Minister of Health.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — And members, before I recognize the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, it's my pleasure to bring to your attention that seated on the floor of this House are a number of special guests. We are pleased to have with us today the Olympians, Paralympian, and mission staff from the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games.

By leave of this Assembly, I will call upon the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for remarks, and then I will recognize the members of the Assembly as they introduce their constituents.

The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues. We are joined by Saskatchewan heroes today, Olympians and a Paralympian and coaches and officials who did Canada so proudly at the Vancouver Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and also represented the province of Saskatchewan so very well, Mr. Speaker.

Premier Campbell was in our province last week, as you know, and obviously he had a lot to do with the Olympic Games. He reminded all of us in Saskatchewan these were not just Vancouver's games. They weren't just British Columbia's games. They were Canada's games.

And it was sure easy to get a sense of that as we watched with a

great deal of pride our athletes performing from across the country. But especially we were watching out for the Saskatchewan athletes that we had a chance to honour just a little bit earlier today.

I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition and members of this Assembly for joining us in the rotunda a few moments ago as we were able to present a small token of our appreciation. Just for those who would want to know about the gift we presented to each of the Olympians and to our Paralympian, it was a watch with the provincial coat of arms on it. And we know it's probably not suitable for training, but I think it is suitable for . . . I think it'll be fit for a reminder of a province that is just so very, very proud of each and every one of these athletes who inspired us all and set a great example for Saskatchewan young people and Saskatchewan people of all ages.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, it is important to point out that they are wearing, as they should, their Olympic coats today — the red and white. But we know underneath the coats at the Olympics was quite a bit of green. And Colleen reminded us today that even at some of the women's hockey team's practices, overtop of her Canadian practice jersey, she had Andy Fantuz Saskatchewan Roughrider jersey. And we know that there were different manifestations of that Saskatchewan pride at the Paralympics and at the Olympics because of all of you and because of our officials that were there contributing, and the coach that has joined us today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know members will want to introduce . . . Well the Leader of the Opposition will want to say a few things, and members will want to introduce their Olympians and Paralympians from their constituency. And we want to make way for that, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to say how proud we are of each and every one of them. And we're grateful to them for their example and their inspiration. And we want to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure and an honour to join with the Premier, the member from Swift Current, in welcoming the Olympians and coaches and trainers and those involved in this very, very successful Olympics; that the people here not only represented our province with dignity and a great deal of success, but the pride that you represented on behalf of all Saskatchewan people is recognized today.

And I want to thank the Premier for that, for arranging this day in the Assembly. And earlier today when we had a chance to talk to you individually and present small tokens on behalf of the opposition, I know the Premier did the same on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

It seems like only a few days ago we were here in front of the Legislative Building when the torch was being ran through the province. A small crowd. It was a cold day, and a number of the members were there. The torch went on to many of the small, large communities, seen by thousands on its way to Vancouver

and when it arrived of course it represented the spirit of Saskatchewan and Canadians to the athletes who represented us there.

And to see these now homegrown talented people here in the Legislative Assembly, it gives hope to all of us, and hope especially to young athletes across the province. My daughter in particular, Hannah, who is very interested in meeting with figure skaters when she's up in Calgary later this year in the first two weeks in July, skating with Skate Canada. And she gets great hope from watching. And I know thousands of other Saskatchewan young people get great hope from watching the success and spirit that you have brought to this province.

So in the spirit of today and the co-operation that you see between government and opposition, we want to thank you for representing our province with great dignity and success. And you are a model for all of us, and again, especially our young people. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Humboldt.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to introduce Cori Bartel. Cori started curling at the age of 10 and is now the lead with Calgary's Cheryl Bernard team, which represented Canada at the 2010 Winter Olympics. The women's team performed admirably, under great pressure, and brought home a Silver Medal.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, my constituent, Ben Hebert. Ben plays lead on Kevin Martin's rink, and as I'm sure we are all aware, they kept us hanging on the edge of our seats for a little bit, when they won the Gold in overtime. Thank you, Ben, for a great job.

And as all of you know, sports reporters over and over again state that the Martin team has the strongest front end. Ben is part of that front end. Thank you very much for all you do, for making us so proud.

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce Lucas Makowsky, speed skater, who competed in the Canadian men's pursuit in the 2010 Olympics, where they won Gold. Lucas was born here in Regina and currently lives in Calgary, where he is training with the national speed skating team. Lucas Makowsky.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to welcome Regan Lauscher to her legislature. Mr. Speaker, Regan placed 15th in the women's singles luge event at the 2010 Winter Olympics. She is a seven-time Canadian champion and three-time Olympian. I ask that all members join in welcoming her to her legislature today.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to introduce Meaghan Simister, one of the successful recipients at the Olympics. She competed in the 2010 Winter Olympics in the women's single luge event, and is actually a two-time Olympian. Outside of luge, Meaghan is completing her political science degree at the University of Calgary. I want to welcome her to the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Toth: — Members, it's my pleasure to introduce one of my own constituents, Colleen Sostorics. Colleen is a three-time Olympic gold medallist, winning her third Gold playing defence on the Canadian women's hockey team at the 2010 Winter Olympics. Colleen's hometown is Kennedy, and she is now living in Calgary with her family. I recognize Colleen Sostorics.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to introduce Vaughn Chipeur, who competed at his first Olympics in men's singles figure skating at the 2010 Winter Olympics. He's an up-and-coming competitor and he told me he's taking a bit of a break from the sport right now after a hard effort at this year's Olympics, and I think it's well deserved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to introduce Colette Bourgonje, who has lived in my constituency for several years. And in fact we are teacher colleagues from Saskatoon Public School Division. Colette has competed at 2010 Olympic Winter Games and came home with both a Silver and a Bronze Medal in her ninth Paralympic Games. Her list of accomplishments are truly great, as overall she's won 10 medals. Colette.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosetown.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, I'm pleased to introduce Kaspar Wirz, who has been the head coach of Canada's Para-Nordic ski team since 1996. Kaspar was Colette Bourgonje's coach in wheelchair racing from '93 to '97 and he now coaches her in Para-Nordic. I'd ask all members to please give Kaspar a warm welcome to his Assembly.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members, Yves Belanger who served as chief starter with the sport of speed skating.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to introduce today Mr.

Morley Bruce to all my colleagues. Mr. Bruce serves as a corner judge in the sport of speed skating. Congratulations and welcome to the legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to introduce and welcome Ken McArton who is an umpire with the sport of curling at both the 2010 Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very, very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce Jeff Whiting who served as a spotter with the sport of cross-country skiing at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce Ms. Arleen Day who served as an umpire in the sport of curling at the 2010 Olympics. Mr. Speaker, Arleen told me a few minutes ago that she — I'm sure with her tongue planted firmly in her cheek — that she would especially watch Ben Hebert when his skip, when we would hear his skip holler, go Benny. And I'm pleased to introduce her and ask all members to welcome her. Thank you.

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce Mr. Mike Makowsky who is here in a double capacity today. He has served as the assistant starter at the sport of speed skating in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games and of course, he's the father of Lucas Makowsky. Welcome.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature, an entire gallery full of young people from southwest Saskatchewan. There isn't an Olympic team member among them yet, but I think every one of them would salute the well-known and celebrated Hayley Wickenheiser from southwest Saskatchewan.

Today we have with us two school groups, one from Gull Lake. We have 21 grade 4's and 13 grade 10 students. They travelled some very difficult road conditions to be here today.

[13:45]

The previous trip was cancelled because of serious snow, and it happens to be that kind of situation again today. With those students are Adele Kirwan and Neal Boutin and the chaperones Blaine Kirwan, Lea Buchelur, Rob Myers, Karen Bye, and the driver — who I understand went through difficult circumstances just to get to the school — Lorna Irish. So I'd like to have my colleagues welcome that group to the Assembly

today.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, from the Eastend School, making their annual trip, are 17 students from grades 11 and 12. They again are in the west gallery accompanied by teachers Marie Hanson and Shelley Morvik, and Don Ham is the driver. I understand they left five inches of snow behind them to make the trip today. And this is their annual trip. I'd like my colleagues once again to welcome the students from the Eastend School as well.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of our Olympian athletes and coaches who couldn't be here today, and we want to make sure their names are also read into the permanent record into the *Hansard* of this place.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the names and acknowledge again the example and the inspiration provided to all of us by Mr. Dennis Balderston, who coached the women's curling; Ms. Hayley Wickenheiser, originally from Shaunavon Saskatchewan, women's hockey; Ryan Getzlaf, men's hockey; Patrick Marleau, men's hockey, who's currently otherwise engaged with his old Olympic coach, Mike Babcock, coach of the men's hockey team from Saskatoon; Brenden Morrow, men's hockey; Lyndon Rush; as well as Andrea Bundon, Paralympic guide for the sport of cross-country skiing,

Mr. Speaker, we honour and thank these athletes and coaches and officials as well.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join in the introductions today, and I'd like to ask the Assembly to welcome to their Assembly a group from Sacred Heart Community School. They are seated up in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. They are here with certainly the great work of Sacred Heart Community School, but they're here particularly through their connections with the Dream Brokers program, the Canada Games 2005 Building Dreams and Champions legacy program.

They set forth a goal to engage young people, particularly in the inner city and particularly working with the Regina Catholic and Public School Boards and Sask Sport to engage young people to give them a chance at their dreams in terms of sport. And certainly one of the beneficiaries of the proceeds from the pavilion is the Dream Brokers program, and we recognize that and appreciate that, Mr. Speaker.

With these 24 good-looking students from Sacred Heart Community School — and some of them were here just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker — we have the Dream Broker-in-chief, Sarah Honeysett, if you could give us a wave Sarah. We've got Denise Zuck, the community school coordinator with Sacred Heart — does a lot of great work — and Dan Cozine, the grade 6 teacher. And I don't know if Karen Buchholz also made it to join us? I don't see her here as well.

Anyway two quick introductions right at the end, Mr. Speaker. They're also accompanied by Joe Daniels who's the Aboriginal sport consultant with Sask Sport and was there when the Dream Brokers program got started. And I know different people that were here today for the program helped get that under way. Joe, it's good to see you here at your legislature.

And they're also accompanied by someone who played a key role in the proceedings out in the rotunda, Dale Holmes, the president of Sask Sport — you know, former stand-out basketball player with the University of Regina Cougars, but most importantly with the Thom Trojans, Mr. Speaker. So anyway, please join me in welcoming these people to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and all members in welcoming our Olympic and Paralympic athletes and coaches and officials that have joined us today, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to join with the member from Elphinstone in welcoming Mr. Dale Holmes, the volunteer president of Sask Sport and the other officials that are here from Sask Sport, Mr. Speaker. They were a tremendous help to the Government of Saskatchewan and to the province of Saskatchewan as we obviously had a presence at the Olympics with our Saskatchewan pavilion which was, I think, an overwhelming success, Mr. Speaker.

And one other introduction that I'd like to make, and I think the person responsible for that success, is Dr. Don Clark who's joined us in the gallery, Mr. Speaker, and was a driving force behind ensuring that Saskatchewan's pavilion was such a great success and also a major force in why we were able to, instead of breaking even on the pavilion, Mr. Speaker, we were actually able to return about \$45,000 into the legacy fund on top of the 400,000 that was provided by corporate and city sponsors.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask all members to join with me in welcoming to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through to all members of the legislature, it gives me great pleasure to introduce in the east gallery some of the participants from today's International Day of the Midwife picnic. Although organizers had planned to hold the event outside, due to the lovely May weather, they were able to move it inside to the NDP [New Democratic Party] caucus room.

The room was filled with about 70 moms, dads, grandparents, children, and other supporters of midwifery, and they all wanted to come out to celebrate midwifery here in Saskatchewan but also to encourage the government to ensure that all women, rural and urban, have access to these important services if they so choose.

So some of the picnic participants, I'd just like to call your

name out, if you want to give us a little wave. I'm sorry if I miss anyone here — Sara Beckel; Erin Beckel; Ryan Snell; Brenda Powell; Sonya Duffee; Arie Seguin; Elise Seguin; Lily Fyfe who is a very good friend of my daughter, Hennessey. Hi, Lily. Leanne Scott; Maria Guidos-Albert and baby Ezra; Janice McCaskill; Sylvie Roy; Joanne Havelock; Anna Rose and her children Mahalia and Ezekiel; and last but not least, Christie Langen who is a doula and a massage therapist and a yoga instructor here in Regina and actually happens to be one of my dearest and longest friends and who was part of the team that I had supporting me in the birth of my second daughter. So I'd ask all members to join in welcoming this group to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to welcome friends of ours — Arlene and Ernie Burtniak from Abbotsford, BC [British Columbia]. They travelled through a lot of rough weather to get here, not only through BC but also through Alberta and Saskatchewan. Arlene and Ernie taught school in Saskatchewan and Australia and northern Canada, and they are part of three chapters of retired teachers who are now in British Columbia. Arlene is on her way back to Kelvington, which was her hometown, to visit her mom who is going to celebrate her 100th birthday this year.

So I'd ask my colleagues to please welcome Arlene and Ernie to their legislature. Welcome back to Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in the west gallery are two young business people that have decided to come to the legislature today. I'd like to introduce Doug Taylor who is the owner-operator of Superior Vacuum in Swift Current, along with Tyne Gardiner who is a successful business person in real estate in Red Deer, Alberta, where he not only sells real estate. He manages real estate and he also buys real estate, Mr. Speaker.

Tyne is my nephew, my sister Leta's son. As you can tell, Mr. Speaker, we come from a very tall family. We have several people over six-foot five. I have eight nephews, many of them are quite tall men, and many of them are very successful entrepreneurs. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome Tyne Gardiner and Doug Taylor to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. And I'd ask all members to join me in the welcome.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you it's my pleasure today to introduce Thomaso, Rosa, and Esther Lirusso, and Walter Rea who hail from their hometown of Nelson, BC to visit family right here or close to Regina in the town of Balgonie. I hope you enjoy a wonderful time here in our province. And I'd like everyone to join me in welcoming Thomaso, Rosa, Esther, and Walter to the Saskatchewan

Legislative Building. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the legislature, I'd like to introduce some trade unionists who have joined us here in your gallery: Clarence George from millwrights; Chuck Rudder from the insulators; Gary Vieser, IBEW [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers] 2038; Lorne Andersen from the sheet metal workers; and of course no stranger here, Terry Parker from the building trades. I'll ask everybody to welcome them to the legislature here today.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming Terry Parker and his colleagues. Certainly we know the significance of trade unions within the contemporary area of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals to their Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, and to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I'm pleased to introduce Heather Malek in the west gallery. Heather is a film editor and television editor who believes this government has made a poor policy choice in privatizing SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] and continues to be disheartened with the process.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming Heather to her Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in your gallery I'd like to introduce to you and all members of the legislature Shannon McArton — if Shannon would give us a wave. Shannon is past president of Agribition and works tirelessly promoting Agribition and has helped, through volunteers like herself, to make the show what it is today. And through the Ministry of Agriculture, we owe her a deep debt of gratitude, and also on behalf of farmers.

So I would ask all members to welcome her and thank her today for her contribution to the province of Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. Toth: — Members, if members would allow, I'd also like to extend an invitation to Colleen's parents, Lanny and Jean Sostorics from Kennedy who have joined us today. And we all know the importance of not only parents but volunteerism. And both Lanny and Jean have contributed greatly to making sure there was an arena available that Colleen could skate in and allow her to move forward with her career in hockey. So welcome Lanny and Jean.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of concerned citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned over the condition of our highways throughout this great province. This petition pertains to Highway 310, and this petition states that the condition of 310 Highway has deteriorated to the point where it's a safety hazard for those who have travel on it each and every day. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to commit to providing the repairs to Highway 310 that the people of Saskatchewan need.

As in duty bound, the petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Ituna, Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of the protection of wildlife habitat lands, and it speaks to the issue that many residents realize the habitat protection Act protects 3.4 million acres of uplands and wetlands or one third of all wildlife habitat lands in Saskatchewan in its natural state and that the government currently has proposals that will repeal the schedule listing of these designated lands. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

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 immediately and without delay recognize the importance of the protection of wildlife habitat lands and immediately withdraw proposed amendments that will negatively affect the protection of wildlife habitat lands;

And in so doing cause the provincial government to commit to meaningful and adequate consultation with all stakeholders that will be affected by future legislative changes to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I so present on behalf of concerned citizens.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition in support of maintaining educational assistants in the province of Saskatchewan. As we know, the government's data shows the growing number of students that require additional support in order to succeed in school, and we also know that educational assistants provide support to students with special needs

including learning disabilities and behaviour problems. We know that this government has published a document where they are considering changes that would drastically reduce the number of EAs [educational assistants] 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people from Ituna, Pleasantdale, Saskatoon, and Regina. I so present.

[14:00]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of affordable rents and housing for Saskatoon. And we know that many tenants are seeing alarming rates of rent increase and a shrinking number of available situations for them to rent. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to develop an affordable housing program that will result in a greater number of quality and affordable rental units to be made available to more people in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan, and that the government also implement a process of rent review or rent control to better protect tenants in a non-competitive housing environment.

And, Mr. Speaker, these folks come from the city of Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of the expansion of the graduate retention program and a call for fairness for students in contemporary Saskatchewan. The prayer reads:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are from Saskatoon and it was collected at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to

present a petition in support of financial assistance for the town of Duck Lake water project. Mr. Speaker, the petition is being circulated and signed because of the exorbitant amount that Duck Lake citizens pay for clean, safe water. And it's causing them hardship, and in fact leadership from the community is telling me that it's forcing people to move out of their community. And I'll read the prayer:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by folks from Asquith, Tisdale, and Rosthern. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition with respect to another water issue in rural Saskatchewan. The government ministry has directed that the customers may no longer treat non-potable water using methods approved by Sask Health; and that Furdale residents dealing in good faith with SaskWater for over 30 years have paid large amounts for their domestic systems and in-home treatment equipment. The alternative water supply referred to by government ministry is a private operator offering treated, non-pressurized water at great cost with no guarantee of quality, quantity, or availability of water. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its order to cut off non-potable water to the residents of the hamlet of Furdale, causing great hardship with no suitable alternatives; to exempt the hamlet of Furdale from further water service cut-offs by granting a grandfather clause under *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* and *The Water Regulations, 2002*; and that this government fulfills its commitment, its promises to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Furdale and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand and present a petition in support the withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Speaker, we all know the members of the building trade unions have a proud history of craft union certification in Saskatchewan and we also know that the existing construction labour relations Act, 1992 has provided a stable environment for labour relations in the

construction industry. And, Mr. Speaker, we know that the results of a stable labour environment provide for quality work, safe construction sites, and benefit all people. The building trades, Mr. Speaker, also have contractor support in apprenticeship, a 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 petition is signed by people in Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Coronach, Ogema, Melville, Yorkton, Norquay, Weyburn, Lumsden, Buena Vista, Regina Beach, Dysart, Balcarres, Mildren, Bruno, Lanigan, Estevan, Assiniboia, Martensville, Warman, Shaunavon, Wilkie, Gray, Esterhazy, Battleford, Richardson, Moosomin, Maryfield, Melfort, Whitewood, Moosomin, Rocanville, Welwyn, and Spy Hill.

I so present.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again rise with a petition signed by citizens 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 the petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and Porcupine Plain. And I so submit.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again here today to present petitions on behalf of residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive \$1 billion deficits put forward by the Sask Party in the two years and billions of dollars of debt growth under the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. And 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 of Canora, Pelly, Rhein, and Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, International Day of the Midwife, I'm pleased to rise to present a petition in support of midwifery here in Saskatchewan. This petition is signed by citizens concerned that despite this government's commitment to midwifery, very few women in the province actually have access to this very important health service. 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 keep its promise to broaden the options for women and their families and recognize that presently this promise remains unfulfilled, as many communities in Saskatchewan still do not have midwives employed by their respective health regions;

And in doing so, your petitioners pray the honourable Legislative Assembly cause the government to support midwifery in Saskatchewan by making funding available for additional midwife positions in Saskatchewan's health regions as well as independent positions;

And, furthermore, the honourable Legislative Assembly cause the government to encourage an increase in the number of licensed midwives in Saskatchewan by extending liability insurance, thereby making it possible for prospective midwives to achieve the number of births required to successfully apply for a licence with the newly formed College of Midwives.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens throughout Saskatchewan. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatchewan Olympians and Paralympians Honoured

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I'm able to rise in the Assembly today and to give praise to our most recent Olympic heroes. A ceremony was held at the Legislative Building today to honour and congratulate all of the Saskatchewan athletes, coaches, and officials on a very successful 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic showing. At the ceremony the Premier said:

Over the course of four weeks, our athletes were in the hearts and homes of all Canadians, especially those here at home in Saskatchewan, and we cheered them on all the way.

Mr. Speaker, lost in all the excitement and pageantry of the Olympic Games are the years of training athletes need to reach the Olympics. This commitment takes time, and this is where the support of their friends and loved ones can best be seen. In order for an athlete to be at their best, they must make a total commitment to their sport. Having loved ones that understand this fact is one of the most important aspects of being able to maintain focus and to train appropriately.

Mr. Speaker, in order to be a world-class athlete you need to have world-class support from friends and family. So I would like to extend a thank you to the families of these great athletes for giving them the support they needed. Mr. Speaker, our Premier said it best at the ceremony for the athletes. I quote, "They truly did Saskatchewan proud. They competed at the highest level and represented our province and our country, so today we are celebrating their legacy."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful that we have today had the opportunity to honour our 2010 Saskatchewan Olympic and Paralympic athletes, coaches, and officials.

When Canadians across this great country rally to support our Olympic and Paralympic athletes this past February, no place in the country had a stronger sense of pride than right here in Saskatchewan. We sent a talented team of athletes to the games, many of whom returned home with some extra weight in their luggage — Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals marking their world class achievement.

The accomplishments of all Olympic athletes will not be forgotten. Along with the many successful athletes we sent to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, many coaches, officials, and volunteers offered their time and energy. Thank you to those who not only insured the games ran smoothly but also overflowed with the community spirit and true enthusiasm we are known for in Saskatchewan.

The Olympic Games brought us together as a community of athletes, a province of supporters, and a nation of Canadians. As John Furlong, leader of the Vancouver Games organizing committee put it:

I believe we Canadians are stronger, more united, more in love with our country and more connected with each other than ever before. These games have lifted us up.

So on behalf of the official opposition, thank you to all the Saskatchewan athletes, coaches, and officials for your athletic achievements, your true integrity, and your willingness to continue to give back to our province and country. You have made us truly proud.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Liberation of the Netherlands

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today marks an important day in the shared history of Canada and the Netherlands. Sixty-five years ago today, the Canadian Armed Forces liberated the Netherlands from Nazi Germany in the Second World War. Two days later, Germany finally surrendered.

To mark the occasion, a memorial ceremony was held Tuesday at the Sherbrooke Community Centre's Veterans Village in Saskatoon. The ceremony was attended by honorary consul Judie Dyck from the consulate of the Netherlands, along with Legion representatives and about 30 Second World War veterans from Saskatoon and area who fought in Holland.

The theme of this year's ceremony was Bonds of Friendship. To illustrate this theme, more than 2,000 students, including students from Waldheim School, are visiting the Netherlands this month to help maintain the strong bonds forged during the Second World War between the two countries.

Mr. Speaker, it's absolutely important for the younger generations to understand their nation's role in liberating the Netherlands. The Dutch have shown their gratitude to Canada's soldiers by erecting a memorial bridge in the city of Zevenaar at the site where Canadian soldiers died liberating that great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in remembering all of the Canadian soldiers who gave so much to liberate the Netherlands 65 years ago. To the students of Waldheim School, may you have a safe and enlightening trip. And to the Dutch throughout the globe, happy liberation day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Democratic Process

Mr. Taylor: — Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we saw a crystal clear indicator of our Premier's disrespect for the traditions of this Assembly, the democratic process, and the intelligence of Saskatchewan people. The fact that a minister of the Crown may have misled the House in itself marks a serious lack of respect for the institution upon which our democratic society is based. But the fact that the Premier backed up his minister and tried to cover up this culture of deceit is shocking.

At the same time, for the Premier to pre-empt the debate and make the authoritarian decision that his caucus members would vote against the motion calling for a committee to review the matter further, he took his pattern of poor judgment to a new low.

Mr. Speaker, New Democrat MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] were requesting that a committee examine the matter of the Minister of Health misleading the Assembly. By voting against the motion and forcing all caucus members to do the same, the Premier flaunted his now highly visible and absolute disrespect for this Assembly. Once again he refused to

accept anyone's opinion beyond his own.

By ignoring the rules, traditions, procedures, and processes of this institution and denying the members of this Assembly the ability and opportunity to get to the truth of this matter, the Premier has shown that he doesn't care about the democratic principles of the Assembly or the desire of the people of Saskatchewan to have confidence in their duly elected government. Thanks to this poor judgment, the public is still left wondering what to believe and who to trust.

[14:15]

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

Women Entrepreneurs Week

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is more good news about our province. In 2009, close to 33,000 women were self-employed in Saskatchewan. This has a significant and increasing impact on Saskatchewan's employment and economic activity. For these women, this week has been proclaimed Women Entrepreneurs Week.

Small business is the backbone of our province, and women are not only major participants but they're helping lead the way to others. An example of a female-run business is the Curry Pot. The Curry Pot specializes in processing tasty samosas, chutneys, and mouth-watering curry. The Curry Pot products are proudly made right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this week I had the pleasure of attending the grand opening of Healthy Food Balance. Healthy Food Balance is a health-conscious store run by Croatian-born Danijela Tomic. Danijela immigrated to Canada 11 years ago and has been caught up in our province's entrepreneurial spirit.

These are a couple of examples of female-run businesses that are providing the people of Saskatchewan with valuable services. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan businesswomen appreciate a balanced, forward-looking, and responsible government.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

International Day of the Midwife

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, today is the International Day of the Midwife. This is an opportunity to celebrate midwifery and to bring awareness of the importance of the work midwives do to as many people as possible.

Midwives are health professionals who provide primary care to women and their babies during pregnancy, labour, birth, and the postpartum period. The midwifery model of care promotes normal birth, enables women to make informed choices, and provides continuity of care and support throughout the childbearing experience.

In 2008, Saskatchewan proclaimed the final sections of *The Midwifery Act* based on the hard work done by the previous NDP government. The NDP took the first necessary step of establishing the Saskatchewan College of Midwives in legislation and committing to fund it once implemented. But today, more than two years after the Sask Party government's proclamation of *The Midwifery Act*, access to midwives is limited. Health regions are not adequately funded and health care for mothers and families is being neglected.

Currently there are fewer than 10 registered midwives in all of Saskatchewan, and five of them are in Saskatoon. This is not enough to provide services throughout the province. But if this government continues to starve our health regions and ignore the needs of women in this province, it will be impossible to recruit more midwives.

Today we call on the Sask Party government to immediately deliver on its commitment to roll out a midwifery program that offers Saskatchewan women appropriate options for midwifery care.

The Speaker: — Order. Members in the gallery are welcome to be here, but they're asked not to participate in any form of the debate on the floor of the Chamber.

I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Mental Health Week

Ms. Wilson: — Mr. Speaker, May 3rd to the 9th is Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Building Your Mental Health: One support at a time.

Mr. Speaker, one to five individuals will experience a mental health disorder during their lifetime. Mental illness is a pressing concern in every Saskatchewan community, and our government recognizes the overwhelming effects mental illness has on individuals, families, and communities.

Our government understands the need to act on mental health issues and we are committed to putting the needs of patients first as we build stronger families and stronger communities.

Finding new and creative ways to address these issues is essential. Mr. Speaker, we are currently providing 24-hour mental health counselling through HealthLine. We have recently developed a promotional campaign to reach those suffering from thoughts of depression and suicide, and we have also provided 14.9 million to the new Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health in Saskatoon.

In closing, I would like all members to recognize the dedicated, hard-working, and compassionate individuals who provide services and support to those facing mental health challenges. It's a demanding job, one that requires very special people to do it well. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Health Care Issues

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are over 100 people waiting for a kidney transplant in Saskatchewan and our program has not been operating since July of 2009. On April 13th of this year, the minister was asked to explain the status of the program and he tried to spin the tale that the program is short cardiovascular surgeons, when in fact it had the same complement of health care professionals as when it was up and running.

Mr. Speaker, the minister did nothing to get the program operational until he was embarrassed into looking at it when Sandi Poochay, Stacey Simms, Justin St. Louis, and their friends and family came to the legislature demanding action.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how can anyone believe him now that the program will be up and running by July?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we've been working very diligently with the Saskatoon Health Region, the Ministry of Health, and . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The member from . . . Order. Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the complement of physicians that are there in Saskatoon will all agree, all agree that the program that was conducted in the past was not sustainable. Whether it's cardiovascular surgeons, whether it's nephrologists, Mr. Speaker, they realize that the program was not sustainable. We've had conversations with the health region and some of the surgical team. There's more work to be done. And, Mr. Speaker, we're working to attract some new transplant specialists into that area so that we can have a program that is sustainable well into the future.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, for months the minister misled chiropractors and patients to believing he would continue to fund chiropractic care. The minister even went so far as to have a news release printed announcing a deal between himself and the chiropractors, saying, "I am pleased that we reached a deal." On March 9th, two weeks before the budget, when asked if funding would be available, the minister continued to lead the public on saying, "We're looking at all those expenditures . . . and on budget day, you'll know the answer to that question."

Mr. Speaker, why did the minister continue to cruelly lead the 125,000 patients per year that use chiropractic services, and their chiropractors, into believing that funding was still possible in the budget?

The Speaker: — Over a period of time Speakers have acknowledged different terms that are used in the Assembly in reference to members, and the use of the word mislead has been ruled out of order on numerous occasions, and we can go back

through a litany of time. I would ask the member to apologize and withdraw the use of the word mislead.

Ms. Junor: — I apologize and withdraw the comment, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the chiropractic situation in our province has been debated over the last number of weeks, since the budget for sure and also before the budget when there was certainly some concern from the chiropractors as to whether they would be continued to be funded, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that . . .

The Speaker: — Order. If members want to hear the answers, members will at least allow the minister to respond. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, our province now is aligned with the Prairie provinces, with Alberta and British Columbia. British Columbia only covered 10 services for low income. We're at 12 for low income. It's only Manitoba that covers services up to 12 visits, Mr. Speaker, for their citizens. If you go to Eastern Canada, chiropractic services are not subsidized whatsoever, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're following along with the wishes of other provinces, Mr. Speaker.

It was a tough decision; absolutely it was a tough decision. Never have I doubted the efficacy that the chiropractors bring to the health care system. That is not the issue, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, we are covering for low income, Mr. Speaker, which is more than many other provinces do.

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

Ms. Junor: — I believe I mentioned to the minister in committee this week that my mother used to say, if all your friends jumped off the bridge, would you jump too? Well the minister has jumped off the bridge and taken all those chiropractic patients with him.

Mr. Speaker, on February 3rd of '09, the minister announced 152 million to build 13 long-term care facilities as part of his government's ready-for-growth initiative. Nine months later, he cut 122 million from the projects and tried to slide out of it by saying the communities weren't ready to build. Mr. Speaker, the minister . . . Why should families and communities waiting for long-term care believe him now on these projects?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as we move forward and as communities move forward with the planning and fundraising — because they are responsible for 35 per cent of the share of any long-term facility that will be going up in the province — our money will be there, absolutely, Mr. Speaker, like it will be there for the children's . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Yesterday afternoon I asked the Opposition House Leader to join me. I explained some of the guidelines in regards to interference. And I'm going to start calling members if members . . . with outbursts, undue outbursts. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, the money will be there. The provincial government's money will be there once a community is ready to go, just like it will be there for the children's hospital in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, propaganda put out by that opposition to say that the children's hospital . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Propaganda that was put out by that opposition has done nothing but jeopardize that project, Mr. Speaker. We're hearing from the foundation on a daily basis on how their fundraising is affected because of an irresponsible brochure put out by that opposition.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, what jeopardizes all those projects that we've just talked about is that government's inability to manage money, to make plans, and to budget and to tell the people what's actually in the budget. It's their fault.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy the minister talked about the children's hospital because to date he's done nothing but cut the funding to the hospital and the foundation. In committee on Monday, I asked the minister specifically, where was the money? He said it's in CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan], in Crown Investments Corporation. I asked, where would I find it if I looked? He didn't know.

Mr. Speaker, how are Saskatchewan people supposed to just believe the minister that the money will be there when it's needed? If he really has the money for the children's hospital, then put it into trust in the health district and cut out any more doubt.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the health region right now, the Saskatoon Health Region is going through a study to determine the best location, whether at City Hospital or at RUH [Royal University Hospital]. There is about a 16-person team that is looking at that, Mr. Speaker, and when that decision is made and the scoping plans are done and they're ready to go into the ground with construction, Mr. Speaker, our government will be there.

But what we won't do is what the former government did in Preeceville and in Humboldt, that announced in seven years and eight years in a row — and boy, were there ever big announcements — just before an election, Mr. Speaker. That's not how our government's operating. Our money will be there when the project is ready.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has failed to negotiate with the doctors in a timely fashion. He ripped up a contract with chiropractors. He had to be embarrassed into even beginning to deal with the kidney transplant program. He's cut \$122 million for 13 long-term care facilities that were promised to rural Saskatchewan. He's cut the funding for the children's hospital. And he's releasing personal patient information to health foundations without consultation with the Privacy Commissioner, let alone the public.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has lost all credibility. Why should anyone trust that he can deliver on any of his promises?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, when our government came to power two and a half years ago, Mr. Speaker, we had a lot of work to do. Mr. Speaker, the human resources situation in our health care system was in shambles, Mr. Speaker. That former government and especially that critic who used to be the head of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — When that government left office, Mr. Speaker, and especially that critic who used to be the head of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, absolutely turned their back on nurses across the province, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we signed a partnership agreement, a strong contract, and we see more nurses working today in Saskatchewan than any time in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker.

We've got more doctors working in this province than at any time, Mr. Speaker. We've increased it by 164. And we've got more midwives working in the province. Under that government there was none.

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

Labour Legislation

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on March 10th, 2009, the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour was asked if any business entities or construction firms were consulted in the drafting of Bill 80. He said no.

To the minister: does he stand by those words today? Again, were there any business entities consulted in the drafting of the legislation?

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

[14:30]

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to stand for

the first time in this House during question period. That's more than 80 question periods. This is the first question on Bill 80, Mr. Speaker, the first question.

Mr. Speaker, we're moving forward with this Bill. We're moving forward to ensure that there's greater choice for workers. We're moving forward to ensure that there's greater competition within the sector, thereby saving the people of this province great deals of public funds. Mr. Speaker, we're ensuring there's greater clarity regarding the issue of abandonment and, Mr. Speaker, we're moving forward to ensure that we have a robust construction sector, Mr. Speaker.

The members opposite know very well there has been extensive public hearing and public debate on this issue, Mr. Speaker, and we're looking forward to passing this Bill at the end of this session.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, obviously the minister hasn't been out to some of the meetings to what the people of Saskatchewan are saying about Bill 80. He hasn't been there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on October 10th, 2009, the Saskatchewan Construction Association wrote to the government to ask for changes to the province's construction industry labour legislation. The two changes they requested, new rules around abandonment and changes to allow employers to choose which unions will represent them, are the main features of Bill 80.

This letter was tabled with the construction and land development sector team of Enterprise Saskatchewan on February 5th, 2009. To the minister: how can he claim that no business entities were consulted when Bill 80 reflects the agenda of the Saskatchewan Construction Association?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, public hearings have been held. They were held on June 17th, on June 18th, on the 23rd and 24th of that . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order. I'd ask the member from Regina Walsh Acres to allow the minister to respond without interference. I recognize the minister responsible.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to continue with this update. I appeared before that committee on June 24th. I then appeared, as the members opposite will know — they were rather rambunctious that day — on November 26th of 2009. Regarding consultations and feedback, Mr. Speaker, there were more than 78 — 78 — letters received from the ministry alone, never mind those that went to the committee, Mr. Speaker.

There are a number of stakeholders that have had an opinion in and around this legislation, Mr. Speaker. We're happy that it's

moving forward. We anticipate it will pass by the end of this session, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, this is probably not the minister who should talk about consultation. He's got the attention of the United Nations on that one.

Mr. Speaker, the committee conducted public hearings on Bill 80, heard many excellent presentations. But the fact is, Mr. Speaker, this government decided to proceed with Bill 80 based on the advice of just one organization. They made a bad decision and put forward bad legislation because they failed to consult with workers in the building trades, major stakeholders, Mr. Speaker. Then they tried to cover up the fact that they drafted the Bill based on advice of one organization.

To the minister: instead of trying to cover for a bad decision like his colleague, the Minister of Health, will he now admit that failure to do proper consultation led to a bad decision and withdraw Bill 80?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, on March 11th, 2009, the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada offered this press release. It was entitled, "Saskatchewan changes 'a giant step forward for construction workers'". In that press release it said:

The Saskatchewan government's proposed changes to rules governing unionization in the construction industry will give workers more say in their working conditions, and it will help Canada's employment picture, says one of Canada's largest private sector unions.

The announced changes allow construction workers, instead of governments, to decide who represents them at the bargaining tables.

Mr. Speaker, that is just one example, Mr. Speaker, from the CEP [Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada], one of Canada's foremost unions, that they think Saskatchewan's moving in the right direction. They're supportive of Bill 80, as are a number of stakeholders right across the province, Mr. Speaker. We're looking forward to passing this legislation at the end of this session.

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

Management of Provincial Finances

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, clearly and again, as we see here today, there's example after example of why this government and how this government has broken the trust with Saskatchewan people. But the most fundamental example of broken trust is what the Premier has done to the finances of our province.

The Premier inherited a surplus of \$2.3 billion. But he mismanaged that entirely and has run up deficits of more than 1.3 billion. And over the course of the past year, the Premier drained 700 million from our rainy day fund and stripped \$1 billion, more than \$1 billion from our Crown corporations.

To the minister: with such financial mismanagement in two short years, why should Saskatchewan people have any trust in this government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, when this government took office, we faced daunting tasks in terms of . . . daunting tasks in terms . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I guess one has to wonder whether the member wants his question answered. I'd ask opposition members to allow the minister to respond.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there were all kinds of issues that were left outstanding by the previous administration that cried out for address from this government. Mr. Speaker, we made sure that we looked after the infrastructure of this province. It was an important thing because you can only have a defeatist agenda if you don't provide for the infrastructure of the province. We're a growth province, and we intend to stay that way by supporting infrastructure spending, Mr. Speaker.

We also realize it was very important not to leave any of our citizens behind, especially those who are most vulnerable. So we decreased taxes by \$300 million to the most vulnerable people in the province. And I don't hear anybody on that side of the House suggesting that we shouldn't have done that, Mr. Speaker. We also made sure that we were going to address needed infrastructure investments in health care and education and highways and water and sewage plants and those sorts of things. And, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day this government and this province is \$2 billion better off than what it was when we took office from that government.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I suppose the daunting task of having too much money, billion dollar surpluses, and a booming economy was just too much for that minister and that Premier, Mr. Speaker.

Despite his pathetic financial mismanagement, the Premier has plastered his face on billboards all over this province and made false claims about the state of our debt. The Premier's own budget documents refute the message on those billboards. The budget documents show that total debt will increase 55 per cent and Crown debt will increase 116 per cent by 2014. But the Premier's billboards tell a very different story, and they leave Saskatchewan people with the wrong impression about our debt and the management of our finances.

To the minister: is it any wonder Saskatchewan people are

losing trust in this government when the Premier tells Saskatchewan people something that doesn't even match his budget documents?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, clearly the province is better off with the fiscal prudence that we've demonstrated as a government.

Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that when we took office the . . . Mr. Speaker, it is very clear when we took office that we had to make some expenditures on needed programs and initiatives across this province. Mr. Speaker, we know that it's important that this happens. We know it's important that we continue to exhibit fiscal prudence. We're the only province in Canada that budget over budget has reduced their expenditures as we demonstrate living within our means. Mr. Speaker, that's important, and all the investments we made in the people of Saskatchewan and programs for the people of Saskatchewan are as important as well.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know how the minister stands here with a straight face and tries to cover off for the Premier's mismanagement of our finances. The Premier and his government have not only attempted to hide the extent of their financial mismanagement from Saskatchewan people, they have also made false claims about the state of our economy. We heard it here today about a growth agenda of the Sask Party.

The Premier's Finance minister said to the P.A. [Prince Albert] chamber that Saskatchewan wouldn't take part in the global recession. The Premier is constantly pretending that the economy has grown under his leadership. Well, Mr. Speaker, our GDP [gross domestic product] shrunk by 6.3 per cent in 2009, and a quote in the *Leader-Post* summed it up well. I quote: ". . . we just lost all of the gains we made . . ."

Back to the volume, trade volume of 2005: the fact is the economy has shrunk under the Sask Party. After mismanaging our finances and making false claims to cover up their incompetence, how can the Premier or anyone else over there not recognize that they've broken the trust with Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this government has said all along that we were not going to participate any more than we had to in the global recession and . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I would ask, I would ask the member from Regina Rosemont to at least allow the minister to respond. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, it's clear that the world

economy faced the biggest recession in the history of this country and this world since the 1930s and, Mr. Speaker, we have always said that Saskatchewan would be affected. But anyone who uses some simple logic and looks at the facts will recognize that we went into the recession later and we're coming out of it stronger and faster than any other jurisdiction in Canada and maybe in the world. Mr. Speaker, that's the simple truth.

Mr. Speaker, in the GDP numbers, it certainly is a fact that potash particularly has been very severely hit by the global recession, and it's indicated from the fact that 47.9 per cent drop in GDP on the mining industry, particularly in potash. You can't have that kind of a significant drop in one single industry and not have it affect the overall economy.

But, Mr. Speaker, while that was happening, the industry itself was investing billions of dollars into the future of the province of Saskatchewan's potash industry. And members opposite should be grateful for that commitment.

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

Performance of Government and Opposition

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier, and it deals with the secretive nature of this government and the huge changes that are being made in this province without consultation. And whether it's Bill 80 or other legislative changes to labour law — some of them being commented on by the organization, the ILO [International Labour Organization] or a branch of the United Nations — or the wildlife habitat or changes to SCN, all of these changes occurring without consultation with the public.

During the last election, Mr. Premier, you promised, and in your pamphlet and book on being more accountable, the Sask Party said, and I quote: "A Sask Party Government will provide Saskatchewan people with more transparency and accountability than any previous government . . ."

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier: how is it possible that you promised a more open government and we end up with what we saw yesterday where we foster, and this Premier has fostered a culture of deceit and ministers bringing, ministers bringing statements that are questionable to this Assembly?

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. The member's aware of casting aspersions against another member using the word against . . . but spoken directly about the member, not about the government. It was about . . . I heard him about the Premier. I heard it about the Premier.

Order. And I will . . . Order. Order. I would ask members to be mindful of how they place their comments. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in this Assembly, the member that just asked a question, the Leader of the Opposition, said, on his feet, on the record, that he had submitted 100 agricultural questions and only received answers

to 40. That wasn't true. He stood on his feet in the Assembly. The actual truth is, is the Minister of Agriculture got 60 written questions from that member; 54 of them had already been answered.

A few weeks ago, another NDP member said this government had closed beds. That was not true, Mr. Speaker. The member for Saskatoon Eastview made comments attributed to Dr. Shoker in Saskatoon which we know, subsequent to a conversation the minister had with Dr. Shoker, that those, the reflection of those comments were not true. The member for Nutana has alleged that this minister is doing away with educational assistants. It's not true.

Since the election in 2007, Mr. Speaker, together with the help of the people of this province, we've kept 104 promises that we made . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. There may be time for one more question if the members come to order. The Premier can wrap up his comments.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, since the election, we've kept over 100 of the campaign promises. The book that he read from is almost complete. We'll finish them off by the end of next year, Mr. Speaker. The most important promise that we made is that we would keep this province moving forward, that we'd lead the nation in economic growth. That's what's happening today in Canada.

[14:45]

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, what the public's not so concerned about is whether or not this promise or that promise was accepted specifically. The question is all of the things that he is doing, that he promised not to do. That's the problem.

The minister, the minister in opposition did not promise to waste the money of the province, the \$2.3 billion, and not build the children's hospital. In fact, he promised to build it and it's not built. So when people say where is it, where's the money and where's the hospital, they're serious about it. And the Premier laughs.

But I'll tell you that the people of the province are not laughing when it comes to the lack of consultation, when it comes to the fact that the children's hospital is not built, that SCN is being wound down.

The question to the Premier is this: why does he not live up to his word of being open and accountable and carrying out those promises he committed to, to the people of the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, every commitment that's been made in this Assembly by the children's hospital, by this government, Mr. Speaker, is being followed through today. There's \$500 million at CIC. The foundation knows the money

will be there as they need it. The region knows the money will be there as they need it. Unlike members opposite, we don't just issue press releases. We actually set the money aside, prepare for the budget . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the most important commitment we made to the people of the province was to provide prudent management. \$6.8 billion was the debt of the province when we took over. It's now 4.2 billion. There was 1.2 billion in the savings account left to us. There's now . . . Actually there's going to be news very soon about how the last budget . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I find it somewhat offensive that the one member would just be continually interfering with the ability of the Premier to respond. I ask the member from Regina Walsh Acres to allow the Premier to finish his comments.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is the net improvement in the bottom line of the province of Saskatchewan of \$2 billion and growing, and more will come on that in the weeks ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the most important commitment we made was that Saskatchewan would grow, that we would aspire to lead the country. Mr. Speaker, we set our job creation record in the middle of that recession. We set our job creation record; we set our population record.

The province is moving forward. That's why they supporting the government and wondering what planet members opposite are living on, Mr. Speaker.

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 1,586 through 1,589.

The Speaker: — Questions 1,586 through 1,589 are tabled.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to move adjournment of the House for committees this afternoon.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved adjournment of the Assembly for the work of committees to proceed. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The Assembly stands adjourned . . . Order. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:49.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

McMorris	5385
----------------	------

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker	5385
Wall	5385, 5387
Lingenfelter	5385, 5386
Harpauer	5386
Ross	5386
Harper	5386, 5387
Morgan	5386
Toth	5386, 5389
McMillan	5386
Forbes	5386
Reiter	5386
Quennell	5386
Junor	5386
Stewart	5387
Cheveldayoff	5387
Hart	5387
Elhard	5387
McCall	5387
Duncan	5388
Chartier	5388, 5389
Draude	5388
Atkinson	5388
Tell	5388
Iwanchuk	5389
Norris	5389
Bjornerud	5389

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Harper	5389
Higgins	5389
Atkinson	5389
Forbes	5390
Broten	5390
Furber	5390
Morin	5390
Iwanchuk	5390
Quennell	5391
Wotherspoon	5391
Chartier	5391

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Saskatchewan Olympians and Paralympians Honoured

Elhard	5391
Furber	5392

Liberation of the Netherlands

Ottenbreit	5392
------------------	------

Democratic Process

Taylor	5392
--------------	------

Women Entrepreneurs Week

Ross	5393
------------	------

International Day of the Midwife

Chartier	5393
----------------	------

Mental Health Week

Wilson	5393
--------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Health Care Issues

Junor	5394
McMorris	5394

Labour Legislation

Iwanchuk	5395
Norris	5395

Management of Provincial Finances	
Wotherspoon	5396
Gantfoer	5397
Performance of Government and Opposition	
Lingenfelter	5398
Wall	5398
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
Weekes	5399

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
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
Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital
Commission

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