



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

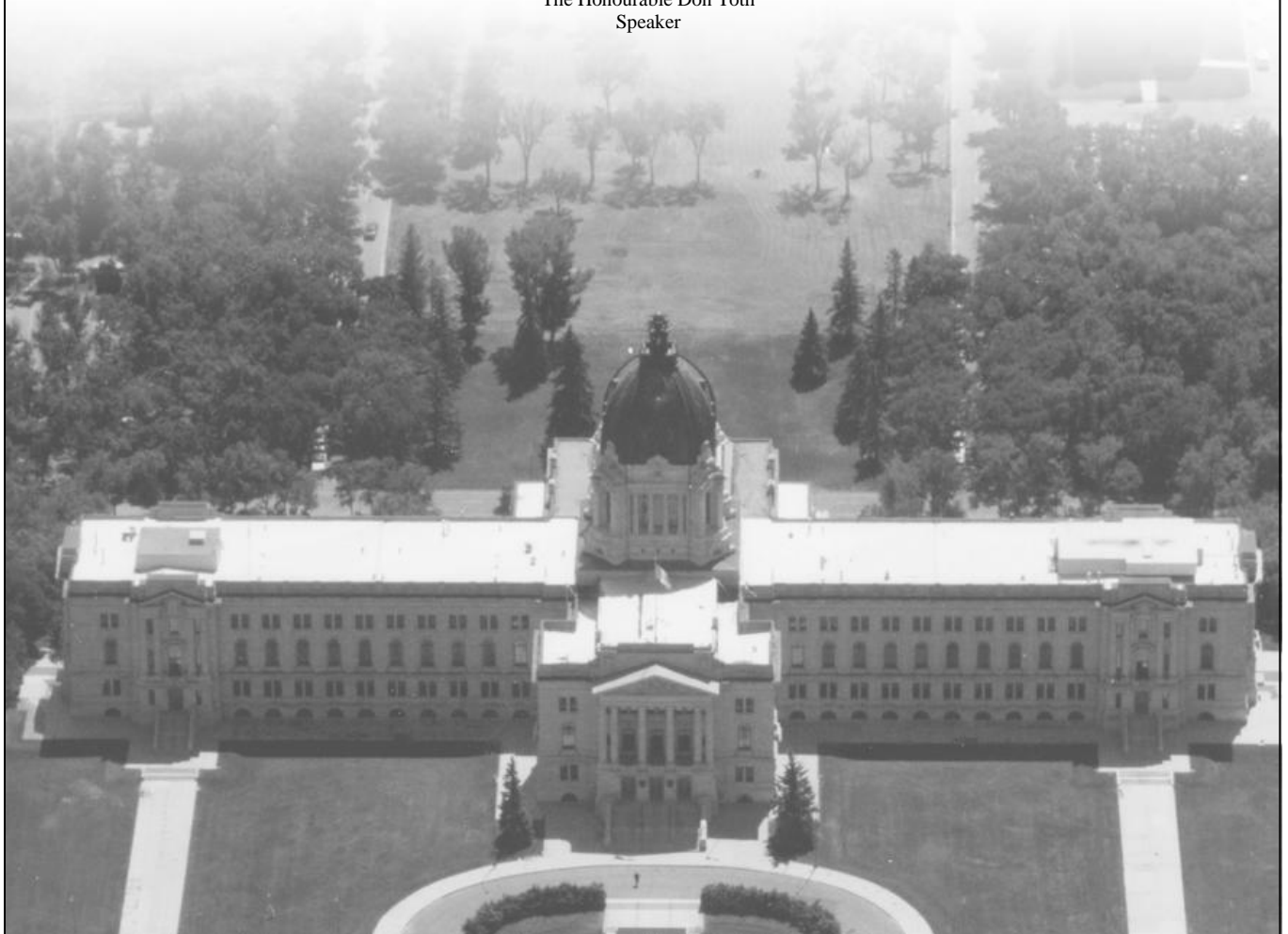
of the

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
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Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
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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
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Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
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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]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosetown-Elrose.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly it's my pleasure to introduce in the west gallery a group of 34 grade 4 and 5 students from Eston Composite School. I had the opportunity to meet with them this morning, had just a great conversation and they're just a fantastic group. It's a pleasure to have them here. Also with them there's a number of chaperones I'd like to mention that are here as well: Verna Robinson, Nancy Powers, Kevin Fox, Christina Hewlitt, Christie McIvor, Shawna Cumiskey, and Larry Betts.

Also with the group are a couple of staff members: Tawna Hansen and also teacher Jodi Bjornerud. Now, Mr. Speaker, you're probably wondering about that last name, and you're right. The very proud father of Jodi is our own Minister of Agriculture, and I do know from conversation that Jodi is also very proud — and justifiably so — of her dad. In fact I'm pretty sure, Mr. Speaker, that he is her second favourite MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly].

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd again, I'd like to welcome the classes and ask all my colleagues in the Assembly to please give them a warm welcome.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to recognize or introduce the members in your gallery, members, Mr. Speaker, from CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] Local 5111, the Prairie North Health Region. Their names are Marilyn Goll — she's supervisor of housekeeping; Pauline Schwartz, cook; Vivian Lavallee, special care aide; Cindy Albers, activity worker and special care aide.

Mr. Speaker, they are all members of the Meadow Lake constituency and they have travelled here today to meet with their MLA who so far has refused to meet with these constituents.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I'd like to introduce members of CUPE Local 4777, the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region. Mr. Speaker, in your gallery, the president, Carol McKnight from CUPE Local 4777. She is a special care aide and she is here to meet with her MLA from Saskatchewan Rivers constituency and who has also refused to meet with her to this date.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these folks are just some of the people trying to meet . . . They are part of the countless health care

providers who are so far been unsuccessful in obtaining meetings with their government MLAs and who would appreciate the opportunity to meet with their elected representatives. I ask all members to welcome these people to their legislature.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you an individual who has just moved into the Douglas Park riding, a young fellow by the name of Levi Cordick who is with us today; works for Oxfam. I want to welcome him here to the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I would also like to welcome all the visitors here, many who came for a special rally to express to the government their opinion on many different issues including SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network], buildings trades, a lack of contract in health care, and other issues. They're here to watch and observe question period and I'd like to welcome them all here today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Visitors in the galleries realize it's a privilege to come and sit in the chambers. And I'd ask members to observe the rules of the chambers and not to participate in any form of the debate. 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 members opposite in welcoming members of organized labour and trade unions to their Assembly. Obviously we know how important these members are to contemporary Saskatchewan. And I would like to welcome all members on each side of the House 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: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Heather Malek with SCN Matters. She and many others today were out front concerned with decisions that this government has made. And Heather and her group is concerned with the privatization of SCN and the manner in which the government has gone about doing it. So with that, I ask us to welcome Heather to her Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I've already asked the members to be mindful, the visitors in the gallery, of the rules of the Chamber.

An Hon. Member: — They don't know what you mean, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I've asked . . . Order. Okay. For the sake of members, members in the gallery, visitors are welcome to attend the galleries but they're not to participate even through clapping of any of the debate in the Chamber. I recognize the Minister of Agriculture, the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the members, I want to take this opportunity and — mainly because I don't get this opportunity very often — I want to join with the member for Rosetown-Elrose and introduce my favourite daughter and my favourite granddaughter, Lauren. Why I can get away with that today, Mr. Speaker, is because I don't think any of my other granddaughters are watching, and I hope not. Anyway I would ask all members to join with me and welcome them to their legislature, along with the rest of the class and chaperones.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you many of the folks who were outside on the lawn, part of the Red Tent campaign calling for a national housing strategy, and what this province could be doing to be part of that. And I know they're starting to come in; they were a little bit late. So I'd like to ask all members to extend a welcome to their legislature, Mr. Speaker. So I'd like everybody joining me welcoming them to their legislature. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley, the Minister of Energy and mines.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with my colleagues and welcome the group from Eston School today to the legislature. It's a rare occasion when a group from Eston attends the legislature. It's quite a distance to come down to the capital. I represented Eston through the constituency of Kindersley from 2001 for three terms, Mr. Speaker, and then the boundaries were redrawn after that, and then they were stuck or they were . . . Then they're now represented by my colleague. But nevertheless I want to extend my voice of welcome to the group from Eston, and we look forward to seeing you later.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce an individual that's here. He came to support the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations], their very clear message, that were here to express their disapproval of what's going on as far as the duty to consult. And he's here from Montreal Lake. He's with the Montreal Lake Cree Nation. He's on the council as one of the band . . . [inaudible] . . . Jarret Nelson. I would just like to welcome him to his legislature and hope he enjoys the proceedings today and thank you for being here on behalf of your reserve.

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

Ms. Schriemer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the House — we've saved the best for almost last — is a group of 37 schoolchildren from Cardinal Leger School. And the chaperones are Dianne Lowes, Tammy Sonsteli, and Trish Cheveldayoff. Thank you and welcome to your legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, in your gallery, I'd like to introduce Terry Parker, director of the Saskatchewan Building Trades, to his Legislative Assembly. I would ask all members to welcome Terry Parker to his Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs, the Minister Responsible for Enterprise.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and to introduce guests in your gallery — my son Carter, a grade 7 student at Cardinal Leger, and my wife Trish who's a chaperone there. So I'd ask all members to help me in welcoming them. And I'd like to remind them that when they look at the legislative proceedings, they'll see that I'm one of the best behaved members so I hope that Carter is one of the best behaved members of grade 7 and that Trish is a well-behaved chaperone as well. So if I could ask, if they agree, I'd ask all colleagues to help welcome Trish, Carter, and Carter's classmates and all students in the gallery to their Legislative Assembly.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, if I may, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members, Mr. Michael Fougere, Regina city councillor, a well-known individual here in Regina involved with the construction association and also an Enterprise Saskatchewan board member. So to you and through you, all members, please welcome Michael Fougere to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join my colleague from Cumberland in welcoming the councillor from Montreal Lake. And very quickly, in Cree:

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

And translation in Cree: I'm very glad he arrived here and to visit us. And I also want to welcome the ladies from Meadow Lake, from the northwest corner of Saskatchewan, the beautiful part of our province. A long ways to travel here to bring the argument to the Assembly but the wonderful ladies from Meadow Lake, welcome to your Assembly. It's great to see you here today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, in your gallery I would like to introduce six students from Swanson Christian School from Delisle. They are grade 7, 8, and 9. And accompanying them today are teacher Rosalyn Wiggers and chaperones Jay, Ruby, Arlen, Jody, and on the floor Mona and Darrel Wohlgemuth. And I'd just like everyone to join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly I would like to recognize,

in your gallery, three individuals: Gord Campbell, president of the CUPE health care workers; Barb Cape, president of SEIU [Service Employees International Union]; and Donna Fredrickson, president of SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union]. I ask you to welcome all these members to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly I would like to introduce two guests sitting very high in your gallery, Mr. Speaker: Lieutenant Gillian Dulle and Major Brad Hrycyna.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Dulle has been in the forces for the past seven years as a proud member of the Saskatchewan Dragoons army reserve in Moose Jaw, and last week she just returned from her first international tour where she was deployed to Afghanistan. She started off as the tour leader, but midway through she was placed in command of psychological operations which consisted of three Canadian units, three American units, and British units. This is a rank that's usually held by a major, but because of her outstanding efforts she was given the position.

Lieutenant Dulle is originally from Coronach and presently resides in Saskatoon with her husband and daughter where she was attending the University of Saskatchewan before being deployed. I understand that she will be starting her post-deployment leave and this fall will be returning to the Saskatchewan Dragoons in Moose Jaw as duty battle captain.

Major Hrycyna is the commanding officer of Saskatchewan Dragoons in Moose Jaw and in June will be celebrating his 35th year in the military.

Members, will you please help me congratulate both of these exceptional Canadian residents for their accomplishments and welcome them to their Assembly.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, I want to join with my colleague from across the floor to welcome Lieutenant Dulle back to Canada and back to her station with the Dragoons, and also Major Hrycyna. I was sitting here, noticed him in the gallery, and was going to introduce him, but I was trying to figure out how I was going to explain to Hansard how we spell his name. That could be a problem.

But, Mr. Speaker, Major Hrycyna does a great deal of work with the Dragoons. He's evident at and present at all events that are held, is very active, sends out an update to many of us in the community as to the activities that are going on.

And I know Lieutenant Dulle is one of many that have served overseas through the Dragoons and we're very pleased to welcome her home. And best wishes on wherever your life and adventures and career may take you in the future, and thank you for being here today.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with members in welcoming Marilyn Goll and the other health care workers who've driven down from Meadow Lake. It's good to see you, and I look forward to our previously scheduled meeting at 3:30 in room 25.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned over the conditions and the safety of our highways. This petition pertains to the calls for the improvement to Highway No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of Highway 1. The petition states that this portion of the highway is a main traffic route to year-round tourist destinations, as well as this portion of highway serves three major grain inland terminals. And the prayer reads as follows:

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 No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of Highway 1 in order to improve the safety for Saskatchewan's motoring public.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Fort Qu'Appelle, Kelliher, Moosomin, and Ituna, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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, Mr. Speaker, this speaks to the issue that *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* protects 3.4 million acres of uplands and wetlands or one-third of all wildlife habitat lands in Saskatchewan in their natural state, and that the government currently has amendments tabled in this Assembly repealing the schedule listing of these designated lands, and these proposed amendments will endanger protection and designation of said lands.

And, Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follow, 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 consultations 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 Saskatchewan citizens.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition from people supporting maintaining quality health care services and that want the Government of Saskatchewan to know that they ought to recognize the essential role of all health care providers as valued members of the health care team, and that such promotion and recognition can only be achieved through the commitment of adequate funding and the installation of good faith in the provincial collective bargaining process.

And the petition reads:

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

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

The petitions are signed by people from Saskatoon, Unity, Wilkie, Watrous, Nokomis, Semans, Drake, Govan, Vanscoy, Warman, Rosetown, Zealandia, Humboldt, Bruno, Creighton, LeRoy, Regina, Esterhazy, La Ronge, Shaunavon, Eastend, Cudworth, Wakaw, Duck Lake, Martensville, North Battleford, Battleford, Meota, Cochin, Meadow Lake, Swift Current, Cabri, Kyle, and Moose Jaw. I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present several petitions calling for protection for renters from unreasonable rent increases. And we know that Saskatchewan renters are facing a dangerous combination of rising rents and low vacancy rates in many communities, for example here in Regina less than point six per cent. And the majority of Canadians now live in provinces with rent control guidelines, some 80 per cent. 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: cause the government to consider enacting some form of rent control with a view to protecting Saskatchewan renters from unreasonable increases in rent.

And, Mr. Speaker, these people signing the petition come from Regina, Estevan, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, and Saskatoon. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — I rise today to present a petition in support of Highway 915. This petition addresses concerns of Saskatchewan people about the quality of Stanley Mission road. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to upgrade and repair Highway 915 as soon as possible.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition is signed and supported by the leadership and community members from Stanley Mission. I so present.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of fairness for university students here in Saskatchewan. It's a petition that calls for the expansion of the graduate retention program. 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 the city of Saskatoon. 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 for financial assistance to the town of Duck Lake water project. The petition is being circulated and signed by residents because of the exorbitant amount that Duck Lake citizens are forced to pay for good, clean drinking water, and it's causing them hardship and actually forcing people to move out of their town. And the prayer reads:

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 their health and safety due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfill its obligation to rural Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, today these petitions are signed by the good folks from Duck Lake; Grand Rapids, Manitoba; and La Ronge. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of protecting the South Saskatchewan River and the MI

canal. The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to the government's attention the following: that the people of Saskatchewan are concerned with the potentially dangerous environmental hazard that may arise from stockpiled and unregulated manure disposal from a 36,000-head feedlot to be located 500 feet from the M1 canal and three and a half miles from the South Saskatchewan River in the RM [rural municipality] of Rudy No. 284.

And 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 take appropriate actions to ensure that environmental requirements maintain the quality of the South Saskatchewan River and regulations are adjusted and implemented to reflect the magnitude of modern-day feedlot capacity.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the residents of Outlook, Conquest, Moose Jaw, Regina, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Humboldt, Dysart, Balcarres, Moosomin, and Cupar. I so present.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — I would ask the member to wait till we've gone through the presenting of petitions. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition in support of the withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Speaker, we all know that members in the building trade unions have a proud history of craft union certification in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the existing construction industry labour relations Act, 1992 has provided a stable environment of labour relations. And the results, we all know, of a stable labour relations environment is quality work with safe construction work sites, Mr. Speaker, and a benefit to all of us in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the existing building trades contracts support apprenticeship system of training which results in a highly skilled workforce. Mr. Speaker, 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 dishonours 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 people from Aberdeen, Air Ronge, Albertville, Alvena, Arborfield, Archerwill, Arcola, Arran, Asquith, Assiniboia, Avonlea, Balcarres, Balgonie,

Bangor, Battleford, Beauval, Bethune, Bienfait, Big River, Biggar, Birch Hills, Blaine Lake, Borden, Border, Briercrest, Broadview, Brooksby, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Buffalo Narrows, Candle Lake, Canora, Canwood, Crean Lake, Carievale, Carlyle, Carnduff, Carrot River, Central Butte, Chamberlain, Chich Lake, Choiceland, Christopher Lake, Churchbridge, Clavet, Cochin, Colonsay, Conquest, Coronach, Coteau, Craven, Creighton, Cumberland House, Cupar, Cut Knife, Dalmeny, Delisle, Dilke, Drake, Dundurn, Duval, Edam, Edenwold, Edgeley, Elbow, Elstow, Ernfold, Esterhazy, Estevan, Eston, Fillmore, Foam Lake, Fort Qu'Appelle, Gallivan, Govan, Grand Coulee, Grandora, Gravelbourg, Green Lake, Grenfell, Hafford, Hagen, Handel, Hanley . . . [inaudible] . . . Harris, Holbein, Holdfast, Hudson Bay, Humboldt, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Imperial, Indian Head, Ituna, Kamsack, Kelvington, Kenaston, Kennedy, Kenosee Lake, Kinistino, Kinley, Kisbey, Koniski, Kronau, La Ronge, Lac Vert, Lake Lenore, Langham, Lanigan, Lashburn, Leask, Lebret, Lemberg, Leoville, Liberty, Lintlaw, Lloydminster, Loreburn, Love, Lucky Lake, Lumsden, Macdowall, Macklin, Major, Maple Creek, Margo, Marquis, Marshall, Martensville, McLean, Meadow Lake, Meath Park, Melfort, Melville, Meota, Milden, Moose Jaw, Moosomin, Mossbank, Muenster, Muskoday, Naicam, Nipawin, North Battleford, Odessa, Outlook, Oxbow, Paddockwood, Patuanak, Pense, Perdue, Pike Lake, Pilot Butte, Portreeve, Preeceville, Prince Albert, Prud'homme, Qu'Appelle, Quinton, Raymore, Regina, Regina Beach, Rocanville, Rockglen, Rosthern, Rouleau, Saltcoats, Saskatoon, Sedley, Semans, Shackleton, Shaunavon, Shellbrook, Silton, Smeaton, Speers, Spiritwood, Spruce Home, St. Benedict, St. Brieux, St. Louis, Star City, Stoughton, Strasbourg, Sturgis, Swift Current, Tantallon, Theodore, Thunder Bay, Tisdale, Turtleford, Vanscoy, Viscount, Wadena, Wakaw, Waldheim, Wapella, Warman, Watrous, Watson, Webb, Weirdale, White City, White Fox, Whitewood, Willoughby, Willow Bunch, Wishart, Wolseley, Wynyard, Yellow Quill, Yorkton, Young, and Zealandia.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

[14:00]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to present petitions once again here today 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 \$1 billion deficits tabled by the Sask Party and they reference the billions of dollars of debt growth under the Sask Party projected by the Sask Party. People in this province are fed up with the deficits that this Sask Party has tabled and they're sick and tired of the debt growth that they know jeopardizes future generations.

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 good folks and concerned citizens from across Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of midwifery here in Saskatchewan. This petition is signed by residents concerned that despite *The Midwifery Act* was proclaimed two years ago, more than two years ago, there are only seven midwives in all of Saskatchewan, five of them in Saskatoon, which isn't even enough to service, not even enough to service the entire Saskatoon Health Region. 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 the 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 residents in Brock, Kerrobert, and Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Saskatoon Fairview on his feet?

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has asked leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all

members of the Assembly, in your gallery, I'd like to introduce three individuals: Randy Nichols, president of the building trades, Chuck Rudder with the insulators, and Tom Graham, president of CUPE. I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to welcome these trade unionists to their Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre on his feet?

Mr. McCall: — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you two individuals seated in your gallery. I'm speaking of Vice-chief Lyle Whitefish with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and his aide-de-camp, Chris Laplante.

They were here today to see the proceedings and participate in the proceedings, make a strong statement on *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* on the lawn of the legislature today together with hundreds of others, of citizens in the province of Saskatchewan. It's good to see them here today in their Legislative Assembly. And I see that they're also being joined by another worker for the FSIN, Danette Starblanket. Please join me in welcoming these individuals to their Legislative Assembly.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

The Battlefords Business Excellence Awards

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the legislature today to acknowledge and congratulate the winners of this year's Battlefords Business Excellence Awards that took place on Tuesday, May the 4th. It was a great evening overall as one of the outstanding recreational and tourist destinations, Table Mountain Regional Park, was named Business of the Year.

There were of course other winners this year. The Heritage Business Award went to Glanvilles Mens Wear, a business started in North Battleford in the 1930s. The Customer Service Award went to Blue Rentals. The Community Contribution Award winner is Innovation Credit Union. The Export Achievement Award winner, Battlefords Airspray; the Marketing Award winner, Anderson Pumphouse; and the winner of the New Business Venture Award, Mr. Ribs restaurant.

The 17th annual business awards program sponsored by The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce also featured the introduction of the Stan Wychope scholarship, dedicated to the internationally known master craftsman who passed away last

year after handcrafting the BBEX [The Battlefords Business Excellence] Awards for the program's first 13 years.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to ask all members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating this year's winners and the organizers of The Battlefords Business Excellence Awards, BBEX 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

New Ward Opens at Royal University Hospital

Ms. Schriemer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand here today to share an outstanding story about health care improvements in our province. On May 13th, I had the pleasure to represent the Minister of Health and the Government of Saskatchewan at the opening of a new six-bed oncology, hematology, blood and marrow stem cell transplant ward at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon.

This specialized ward is the result of a 2007 commitment of our government to fund the \$2.7 million project. This is the first unit of its kind in Saskatchewan. In the past, patients had to be sent out of province and sometimes out of country. Patients are now able to stay close to family and friends, thus enabling a more supportive and comfortable recovery.

A patient's immune system is fragile during this treatment and consequently a cold or a flu could cost them their lives. To that end, a specialized positive-pressure HEPA [high efficiency particulate arrestance] filtration system is needed to keep the rooms free from dust, mould, and bacteria. This summer, the transplant team will have a full complement of doctors.

Transplant patient Patty and her husband Ernie told their story, which highlighted the dramatic improvements to care that this unit will provide Saskatchewan residents. Mr. Speaker, our government continues to move forward in improving health care.

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

The Great Wall

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our Premier has jetted off to China on the taxpayer dime hoping to make himself a national attraction, hoping to make himself the new Great Wall of China and, Mr. Speaker, in some ways he's well on his way. After all, the Great Wall of China is so huge you can see it from space, just like this government's ballooning debt, deficit, and incompetence, Mr. Speaker.

The Great Wall of China is a reminder of something that we have all seen before. Something may be slightly polished, given a new logo, and renamed, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes people who didn't witness the disaster of that era wouldn't even recognize the new wall. But it's still the same old wall, Mr. Speaker, not very good at its job, and ready to fall apart. Some parts of the wall are now in complete disarray: the wall's savings account, Mr. Speaker, and the Crowns, just to give an example or two.

Communication is not so strong along the great wall either. When you're near the great wall at the cabinet table, there is just no desire to talk to anyone. Maybe you feel like you don't have to. Maybe you can just say that you did some talking when you really didn't. But sometimes there's not much talking because of the cloud of secrecy that surrounds the wall, Mr. Speaker. Things just aren't quite clear and transparent. People feel like they aren't accountable for their actions there.

But, Mr. Speaker, no matter how long the Premier spends in China, how many taxpayer dollars he spends in opening a new office, the only true natural wonder of the world will be when the wall falls down.

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

Cystic Fibrosis Month

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May is national Cystic Fibrosis Month. Cystic fibrosis is the most common fatal genetic disease affecting Canadian children and young adults. Cystic fibrosis is a multi-organ disease, primarily affecting the lungs and the digestive system.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain to this Assembly the plight of the children and young adults afflicted with cystic fibrosis. Children with cystic fibrosis experience breathing difficulty. Often this is because of severe infection in the lungs or progressive damage to lung tissue due to inflammation. Unfortunately breathing problems can be worsened by muscle loss in the diaphragm.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. This foundation has 50 volunteer chapters in Canada with two in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there has been progress made in the fight against cystic fibrosis. The Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has developed a program called the basic research therapy program. Though there is no cure for cystic fibrosis, it is uplifting to see progress being made by our Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

I would like to ask all members of this Assembly to keep all Saskatchewan children and young adults afflicted with cystic fibrosis in their thoughts and in their prayers.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TV Channel

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, most residents know that our legislative proceedings share space on the television dial with the Shopping Channel. Before tuning into question period, you might see merchandise sales instead of politics. A shared channel is a potential source of viewer confusion, Mr. Speaker, and it's no wonder these days.

Answers broadcast from the government side are making some wonder if they aren't launching a new Saskatchewan Party

shopping channel in place of SCN. This new TV enterprise, Mr. Speaker, is a going concern. In fact the Enterprise minister claims to be on the air 24/7 hawking his wares. There aren't any takers so far for his 430, \$5 million dome, Mr. Speaker, but his latest showstopper is an authentic replica of Enterprise Saskatchewan's investment attraction office for six easy monthly payments of \$15,000.

The Environment minister has jewellery for sale, Mr. Speaker, and it's no cubic zirconia. She's selling off a crown jewel, 3.5 million acres of public land.

Then there's the Health minister, Mr. Speaker. He's showcasing untendered construction contracts worth millions of taxpayers' dollars for a low, low party contribution of \$18,000. Special financing terms are available.

Mr. Speaker, this government is hardly expert at adding more channels to the television dial, so it's no wonder that most viewers are not buying what they're selling. In fact, Mr. Speaker, so many voters are tuning them out that the Saskatchewan Party shopping channel is set to go to dark on November 7th, 2011.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Easter Seals Camp Day Relay

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saturday May 15th was a special day in Saskatchewan. This marked the Easter Seals Saskatchewan Camp Day Relay. The relay is a great opportunity for individuals, families and friends, and co-workers to celebrate Camp Easter Seal and the difference they make in the lives of hundreds of Saskatchewan children every year.

Mr. Speaker, Camp Easter Seal is a fully wheelchair accessible facility at Manitou Beach near Watrous. Easter Seals Saskatchewan works to ensure that no child with disabilities is left behind.

The Minister of Advanced Education and Labour attended the relay, as did Saskatoon Mayor Atchison. I would like to recognize both Greg Donaldson and Rupen Sambasivan. These two children are the youth ambassadors that participated in the relay by walking a kilometre with the minister and the Saskatoon mayor.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Draggins Car Club who was out there showing their support with their custom cars.

The funds raised from this event stays in Saskatchewan and supports Easter Seals Saskatchewan programs. I am proud to live in a province in which we strive to follow the Easter Seal mandate which is, no child left behind.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mathematics

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We all know the Sask Party math doesn't add up. And yesterday we got our latest update to the Sask Party number count. We all know that with the Sask Party you always get two stories for the price of one, and it's your choice which to believe.

As they take our protected lands from over 3 million acres down to zero, they've taken the finances from a surplus of \$2.3 billion to a deficit of over 1 billion. But when it comes to their friends and cronies, Mr. Speaker, the count for the freebies is in the millions.

[14:15]

And just when we thought we'd heard all the Sask Party numbers, the Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan told the Assembly yesterday that he's been doing consultations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year, Mr. Speaker, just like 7-Eleven, Mr. Speaker.

But his stories are all buy one, get one free. And the truths are only 50 per cent there because when it comes to consultations, Mr. Speaker, we all know the Sask Party scores a big fat zero. Yesterday the minister said he'd even give out his phone number, Mr. Speaker. But I think we already have it: 1-800-for-no-results, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

So what's the Sask Party number count now, Mr. Speaker? One ballooning debt, two consecutive deficit budgets, 37 incompetent members, and only 18 months to a change, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Saskatchewan Communications Network

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, as you know and as members of the Assembly know, hundreds of members from around the province, individuals have come here today to protest the government's mismanagement and incompetence in many, many areas.

And one of those groups represented were those people who were fighting to keep SCN and an organization called SCN Matters. And they have a Facebook group of 4,600 people, and tens of thousands of people have indicated that they want this SCN kept because it delivers service to the people of the province and broadcasting to many, many areas, including the schools in the province. It also is important to know that if that broadcasting licence is given up, it will mean it will be much more difficult to do productions and movies in the province.

My question to the minister is this: in light of the fact that it will mean, to the people of the province, loss of many, many jobs, why has he chosen at this time to privatize SCN?

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister responsible for

Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to take that question. Certainly it was a decision in this budget that government remove itself from the business of being a television station owner and operator, Mr. Speaker. But there is work being done to see if there is interest from others to take over the licence, be it a transfer through the CRTC [Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission] and through the assets, Mr. Speaker. That due diligence is currently under way. A short list has been produced. The evaluation team has met with the short list last week. They will be continuing those meetings this week, Mr. Speaker.

But work does continue with the industry, Mr. Speaker, through the task force that has been put together because obviously television is just one vehicle in which productions are shown. And obviously change has taken place in the last 20 years since SCN has been around. Certainly there's change being driven by the Canada Media Fund itself that is driving how productions are paid for in this country, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to the task force and their work throughout the summer. Thank you.

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

Rental Housing Issues

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, a number of groups came today, and one of them is the Red Tent campaign group who are urging the government to do something about the cost of rent and good quality housing in this province which is sadly lacking. Members will know that rent in many areas of the province is up by 20 and 30 per cent, and many people simply can't afford to make ends meet.

My question to the minister is this: when will this government come to its senses and do something about skyrocketing rent in this province?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, under our government, a family on assistance receives 100 per cent of the average rental rate within the community that they belong. That's adjusted every six months, Mr. Speaker, to address the situation. If they have a disability or a family member with a disability, they receive 110 per cent.

We've increased minimum wage. We've increased the Saskatchewan employment supplement. We've increased seniors' income plan. And we've increased the low-income tax credit to help families and individuals within our province.

What we do not do on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, is displace low-income people by having a member rent a low-income apartment that this government and the federal government is putting millions of dollars into to maintain as a low-income unit. And it is being displaced by one of their members.

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

Habitat Protection and Sale of Crown Land

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, let's be clear that what the minister is suggesting, that working people should go on welfare in order to get their rent paid. That's what she is suggesting. And that is absolutely wrong, and the people of this province should have none of it.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, new question to the minister in charge of *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. We know that tens of thousands of people have now signed the petition and come forward. Of the million people in this province who own this 3.5 million acres, tens of thousands are concerned that that land is being sold without their permission and without any consultation. Today we saw the FSIN, we saw Nature Conservancy representatives in the group outside urging that, even at this late date, that Bill be withdrawn.

Can the minister indicate that she would today, in the dying days of this session, withdraw that Bill so that proper consultation can go on and that the million people in this province would have an opportunity to express their opinion on this matter?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said numerous times, our government is supportive of landownership, Mr. Speaker. We are supportive of this Bill and it is our intention to go forward. And, Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite want to talk about numbers, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities said and I quote, "SARM supports the passage of the proposed changes to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* as found in Bill no. 132."

Mr. Speaker, SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] represents hundreds of thousands of people. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business has said, "A strong majority of Saskatchewan CFIB agribusiness members said that they have completed or are in the process of completing environmental farm plans."

Mr. Speaker, these are people who are protecting our lands. The CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] is supportive of this Bill as well, Mr. Speaker. The CFIB is representative of thousands . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. It seems to me there's probably some people who would be interested in hearing the answer. I'd ask the opposition now to allow the minister to complete her comments without . . . Order. The member from Cumberland will come to order. Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, we have support from organizations that represent hundreds of thousands of people in this province. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we have agreed to do is to re-establish a Crown land conservation advisory committee, and all of these stakeholders will have a

voice, Mr. Speaker, on conservation going forward in our province.

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

Labour Legislation

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Labour. The Minister of Labour knows that before the election, commitments were made to people in the building trades and the building trades organizations that if the Sask Party was elected that changes would not be made to this Act that would lead us to a Bill 80. That commitment was made by the now Premier.

The question to the minister is this: that as a result of the lack of consultation, and in light of the fact that the economy and the building program in the province was at record rates in 2007 when this government was elected, why in the world would this government move to fix a problem that didn't exist? And why doesn't the minister today withdraw the Bill, do the proper consultation that was never done before the Bill was introduced, come to his senses, deep-six this Bill and get rid of it?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to highlight the value of Bill 80, and that is obviously enhancing the choice for working people across the province, creating greater competition right across that sector, Mr. Speaker, and offering greater clarity regarding abandonment.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me quote from last week, from May 8th, the president of the Aboriginal Skilled Workers Association who is looking forward to Bill 80 passing. He says, "We believe it's a good . . ."

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So in addition to going forward with greater clarity and increasing competition and choice, it's also about building greater inclusivity within the construction trades.

The president of the Aboriginal Skilled Workers Association, last week in the *Leader-Post* says, "We believe it is a good thing for the people — it will create equal opportunities in the workforce and we believe it will help conquer a lot of issues we face every day." Mr. Speaker, what we see here is increased inclusivity by Bill 80. Thank you, sir.

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

Health Care Negotiations

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, hundreds of health care workers came to the Assembly today, a number of them who are in the gallery, and want to know from the Minister of Health, in light of the fact that 25,000 health care workers have

been without a contract for now going into the third year, and these 25,000 health care workers make up 75 per cent of the people who work in health care in this province, how is it that when he talks about patients first and their commitment to that program, how can anyone believe that they're serious when they can't even get a contract with the 25,000 men and women, largely women, who do the heavy lifting in our health care program?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll say at the outset that our government values all the workers within the health care system, Mr. Speaker, whether it's in acute care centres, whether it's in long-term care, whether it's in mental health, whether it's in public health, Mr. Speaker. We value all the workers.

Right now there is a contract outstanding for up to two years, which is definitely way too long, Mr. Speaker. We would agree with that. But negotiations are going on between SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations] and the provider unions, Mr. Speaker. Just following through with some of the discussion that's been going on . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I'd ask the backbench of the opposition side, save for two members who are really paying . . . three members paying attention, to allow the Minister of Health to respond.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the negotiations are going on right now between the employer, SAHO, and the employee provider groups, Mr. Speaker. I know that there's been a final offer presented by SAHO and an amended final offer presented by SAHO, Mr. Speaker. Many of the workers that I talk to on an anecdotal basis say, I wish we could just simply vote on that amended final offer.

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

Enterprise Saskatchewan

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, no one is buying the line that this government doesn't have the money to do the programs that they're now talking about cutting. Everyone now knows that the income, the revenues to the provincial government has gone from \$7.8 billion in 2007 to \$10 billion this year, an increase of 25 per cent. And the public is absolutely correct in asking of this government, where has all the money gone? That's what they're asking.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that we have seen cuts to SCN, to kidney transplant, to West Nile mosquito programs, to Dutch elm disease, chiropractic services, even if you didn't have the money to do all the programs and you had to make a choice, why would you choose to cut these programs that mean so much to so many and leave Enterprise Saskatchewan in place? That would have covered all of those cuts. Why would you go to that conclusion to make ends meet?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to answer the question. I'm pleased that the member mentioned Enterprise Saskatchewan because that's why we're working hard to make this economy the fastest growing economy in the country. It's not only that we can stand in this legislature and talk about the statistics, but it's the reason why the statistics are so important, Mr. Speaker. It's because we want the best health care system in the country, Mr. Speaker. We want to be able to afford it.

Having infrastructure deficits in highways, in health care, and education is not good enough for this government. We had 16 years of that under the NDP [New Democratic Party]. That's why people of Saskatchewan voted for a change. That's why they're getting a very different government that make education, health care, and infrastructure a priority, and that's what we will continue to do.

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

Arrangements Regarding Long-Term Care Facility

Ms. Atkinson: — Well, well, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, we know that government's working hard, working hard to reward their friends, not ordinary working people who pay.

Now this government claims that it'll be paying no more than \$185 per patient day to purchase long-term care beds from its friends at Amicus. But you can't pay off a \$27 million loan over a 25-year period on less than \$1 million a year, which is what this government is asking us all to believe. And the agreement with Amicus does make provisions for negotiations on a funding formula before the facility opens, after the next election.

The reality is, Mr. Speaker, is that the debt servicing fees will ultimately be a lot higher than this government is letting on. So to the minister: how much will Saskatchewan people pay, how much will Saskatchewan taxpayers pay to reward the Sask Party cronies?

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I disagree with many of the topics brought up by that member opposite, but I'll agree with one thing. This government is working hard. We're working extremely hard to ensure that our seniors in this province have appropriate care, unlike under the NDP. We're working extremely hard to make sure that there are 13 long-term care facilities that saw nothing but deterioration under the NDP ... [inaudible] ... Mr. Speaker, we're working very hard to make sure that seniors age in dignity, can age with their spouse, Mr. Speaker, and age ...

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we're working very hard

so seniors can age with dignity, can age in place, and age with their spouse, Mr. Speaker, something that former government ...

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The member from Regina Walsh Acres continually, continually is responding or trying to respond. I ask the member to join with the other members who are waiting to hear the response, to allow the minister to respond. The minister may conclude his remarks.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I will finish by saying absolutely this government is working very hard to ensure dignity for seniors in this province, to ensure that they can live in a place that is respectful for the work that they've put into this province, Mr. Speaker. That's what this government is working on.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, well, Mr. Speaker, this government's working hard all right, working hard to reward their friends and shaft the rest of us. Now this government can spin this however they like, but the numbers don't add up. We already know the Minister of Health and the Premier had a hand in this little mess, but with such poor arithmetic, maybe the Minister of Finance had his hand in this big pie as well.

Now I'm going to take it slow so even the minister can understand. The government says they're paying an extra \$29 per patient per day in debt servicing costs. There are 100 beds in the facility. There are 365 days in a year. That's about \$1 million a year. Throw in 25 years of interest costs. It doesn't add up. So to the minister: why is he downplaying the true cost of this government's arrangement with its cronies?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon Health Region and the provincial government has gone into an agreement with a friend of this province, the Catholic Health Ministry that's delivered health care in this province for hundreds of years. I don't know what the members opposite have against the work that was done at the Grey Nuns Hospital here in Regina. I don't know what the members have against the Catholic Health Ministry that supplies services to St. Paul's or supplies services to Estevan or nine other long-term care facilities in this province.

If I followed along with that logic, Mr. Speaker, we'd better cancel every contract that we have with the Catholic Health Services Ministry in Saskatchewan because obviously that's what the NDP would do.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, it's really simple. Public money, public tender equals no graft and corruption, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister refuses to admit that the government has guaranteed Amicus's loan, but the

government has signed an agreement that if either Amicus or the government decides to terminate the contract, the government will, and I quote, “pay to Amicus the amount required for Amicus to repay the outstanding balance.”

Mr. Speaker, if it looks like a guarantee, if it pays off debt like a guarantee, it’s a guarantee. And today’s, and today’s *Leader-Post* agrees, saying, and I quote: “. . . this does seem to fit the definition of a loan guarantee . . .”

So to the minister: why do Sask Party friends get loan guarantees while volunteers for other affiliates hold bake sales, walkathons, car washes, and so on to raise 35 per cent of the cost of building or renovating their facility? Why is this minister continuing the snow job?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe what the member opposite just finished saying. The Amicus is a subsidiary of the Catholic Health Ministry that supplied health care in this province . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, who have supplied health care in this province for a hundred years and more, Mr. Speaker, excellent health care. That member just finished saying, by entering into an agreement, it’s corrupt because it’s the Catholic Health Services Ministry.

I would ask her then to further that. So if we enter into an agreement with an Extencicare that offers long-term care around the province, is that corrupt as well, Mr. Speaker? Unbelievable the accusation that member just made regarding the Stensrud family, regarding the Catholic Health Services, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are long-term care operators in Saskatoon today that are very forward looking to this agreement because they understand that there is a shortage of long-term care beds, Mr. Speaker. And two of them are saying, this looks like a really good deal. This could be a new way to guarantee long-term care beds in Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, Oliver Lodge is building long-term care beds in Saskatoon. And guess what? They tendered the construction of those long-term care beds. But not this deal.

Now, the minister, he tries to duck responsibility by saying the Catholic Health Ministry owns Amicus, but as it says in the *Leader-Post* today, and I quote, “. . . this particular arm’s length seems a rather short one.”

The CEO [chief executive officer] of Amicus is on contract with the ministry. Their lawyer is the brother of the Premier’s chief of staff. The construction company who got the untendered contract to build this facility has donated \$18,000 to the Sask Party, and it was the minister’s department and not the

health region who negotiated a deal that provides a loan guarantee, pays Amicus higher daily fees, and allows Amicus to treat its employees differently than other health facilities.

So to the minister: why is he denying responsibility for this deal when his and his Premier’s fingerprints are all over it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, our government is in no way denying the deal that the Saskatoon Health Region and the Catholic Health Services Ministry have entered into because, Mr. Speaker, it’s going to ensure better care . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I ask members to allow the Minister of Health to respond.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, it’s a good deal for Saskatchewan, but even more important, it’s a good deal for seniors in our province, Mr. Speaker. Under that former government, they’d far rather see people living in acute care centres like the City Hospital in Saskatoon, 60 to 70 beds used up by acute care, long-term care residents in acute care. That is not satisfactory for this government here, Mr. Speaker.

We are ensuring that there are 100 long-term care beds. It’s a good deal for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It’s a good deal because you even, even have people that run long-term care beds . . . and here’s what Randy Kurtz said, “As an existing operator, we’re watching it. If it works, it could help us [all],” Mr. Speaker. That’s what Randy Kurtz has to say, Mr. Speaker, as well as other long-term care operations are watching this model, thinking this could be a real benefit for seniors, Mr. Speaker, in this province.

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

Health Care Issues

Ms. Junor: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier failed to properly fund the health care system, forcing health regions to run huge deficits and to find efficiencies. And, Mr. Speaker, finding efficiencies is translating into staff layoffs and program cuts. It’s starting already. We are hearing that 28 acute care beds are closing at City Hospital in Saskatoon this fall and that layoffs will result. The Saskatoon Health Region is the largest health region in Saskatchewan. Closing these beds will affect thousands of people. The health care of Saskatchewan people is being jeopardized because of this government’s financial mismanagement. The minister has said that regions could manage with their funding. Is this the management he supports, closing beds?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, health regions across the province have seen a 5 per cent increase in this budget. Mr. Speaker, it may be a little less than status quo, so they’re going to have to make some adjustments. They’re going to have to

find some efficiencies, Mr. Speaker. But the issue that that member opposite is talking about is absolutely false. It's absolutely wrong because what is happening in Saskatoon is Oliver Lodge is opening up, so some acute care beds will be taken out of service in a short term to move the members over. Mr. Speaker, there will be no reduction in acute care beds over the long term . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask the opposition members to allow, or some of the opposition members to allow the minister to complete his comments in response to the question.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the acute care centres in our province will be continuing to operate. We saw very good news yesterday, Mr. Speaker, under the Saskatchewan Party government. We saw people waiting 18 months or longer drop by 40 per cent. Mr. Speaker, in the last two years, we saw people waiting longer than a year for surgery drop by 22 per cent. And even better yet, Mr. Speaker, even better yet, people that were waiting for hips and knees over the last year, that wait list dropped by 62 per cent under a Saskatchewan Party government.

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 1,645 through 1,647.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask the member to give me the numbers again, I missed them.

Mr. Weekes: — Table answers to questions 1,645 through 1,647.

The Speaker: — Questions 1,645 through 1,647 are tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to order the answers to questions 1,648 through 1,655.

The Speaker: — 1,648 through 1,655 are ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 132

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 132 — *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is

again my privilege to rise and speak to Bill 132, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* that the Sask Party is putting forward with respect to removing the lands that are currently protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, taking them out of legislation, and putting them into regulation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I said last evening when I was speaking to this Bill, this Bill in itself is of great concern to the people of the province for a whole host of reasons because again it allows the Minister of Environment the sole discretion as to which lands can be sold without an easement and which lands can be sold with an easement and which lands will be retained under the Crown, Mr. Speaker.

But as we know, because the Sask Party government is also putting forward a Bill called *The Conservation Easements Amendment Act*, that even the lands that are sold with a conservation easement attached to them can be then applied to the minister to have those easements removed. And yet again that would be at the sole discretion of the Minister of Environment to remove those conservation easements and then, Mr. Speaker, as an added feature, it is not court challengeable.

So we see here, Mr. Speaker, that people won't find out until after these lands have been sold that that sale has actually taken place, and then we see that there will be little to no recourse in the event that there is serious concerns with the sale that the Minister of Environment has then approved.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I was saying yesterday, there is a tremendous amount of correspondence that I've received, that the Premier's received, that the Minister of Environment has received, and that many others have received with respect to people who are gravely concerned with this legislation and want this legislation either tabled or pulled altogether, Mr. Speaker, because as it's already come clear, there were little to no consultations done on this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Now the Minister of Environment again today likes to blather on about the fact that she may have consulted with an entity or a stakeholder, Mr. Speaker, but that is not a broad-based consultative process, Mr. Speaker, and that certainly doesn't serve in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan.

[14:45]

And, Mr. Speaker, these lands that are protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* belong to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker — all of the people of Saskatchewan, every man, woman, and child. They are not simply the possession of the Sask Party government to do with as they see fit and to simply sell off as they see fit.

Basically, Mr. Speaker, the only reason for it is so that they can find some more dollars, so that they can cover up the financial mismanagement that this government is foisting upon the citizens of this province, Mr. Speaker. We already know that they have spent more than they're taking in, Mr. Speaker. We already know that they've already spent the surplus of \$2.3 billion that was left to them when they became government in November of 2007, Mr. Speaker. We already know that they have destroyed — they have actually destroyed — the good financial management that was taking place in the previous 16

years before they took office in November 2007, Mr. Speaker.

This is something that happened meticulously and deliberately and carefully over those previous 16 years, Mr. Speaker. Because when their predecessors left office in 1991, Mr. Speaker, the province was left in a situation where it was bankrupt, Mr. Speaker — \$15 billion debt with a population of 1 million people, Mr. Speaker. And that is what the previous government over the previous 16 years had to deal with, Mr. Speaker. They weren't left with a \$2.3 billion surplus. They were left with a \$15 billion debt that they weren't even aware of in its entirety until they finally saw the books, because they were not transparent and accountable to the people in the '80s and they're certainly not transparent and accountable to the people now.

In the short three years, in the short three years that they have been in government, we are seeing not the same habits, Mr. Speaker, but worse. We're seeing worse. We're seeing a larger degree of financial mismanagement, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing deals that are cooked in the backroom that they will not provide answers for and be accountable and open and transparent to the people of Saskatchewan. All we get is a bunch of rhetoric and overblown pompous attitude, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the . . . instead of telling the people of Saskatchewan what these deals actually entail, Mr. Speaker.

They are not being truthful, I mean not being open and honest with the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. They are being very nefarious in all of their dealings, and this wildlife habitat protection Act is no better, Mr. Speaker. There is no concrete answer that has yet been given to all of the stakeholders that have the concerns that they do, to all of the people of the province of Saskatchewan who actually own the land, as to why it's so important and why it's so important to ram this legislation through, without the proper consultations taking place with the people of Saskatchewan to ensure that the legislation is sound in the format that they want to put forward, Mr. Speaker.

So the only thing that anyone can conclude in the province, Mr. Speaker, is that this is something that the Sask Party government simply wants to ram through for its own purposes. And so far all we see, Mr. Speaker, is them helping themselves at the trough of the Saskatchewan taxpayers. All we see is them helping the supporters that have given them significant financial donations to their party, Mr. Speaker.

But what do we see the Sask Party government doing on behalf of the actual citizens, of the actual citizens of the province, Mr. Speaker? We don't see much. As a matter of fact, we see almost nothing, Mr. Speaker. We don't see them building a children's hospital like they promised. We don't see them building 13 long-term care facilities like they promised. We don't see them building a surgical care centre to shorten the waiting lists in this province like they promised. All we see, Mr. Speaker, are broken promises after broken promises after broken promises.

We see them spending more than the province is taking in, despite the fact that the economy is doing very well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. But the financial mismanagement of the Sask Party government is once again putting us in jeopardy, Mr. Speaker. Once again, the Sask Party is putting us in

jeopardy with their financial mismanagement of the province, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Regina Dewdney on his feet?

Mr. Yates: — With leave to introduce a guest, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Dewdney has asked for leave to introduce a guest. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce a member of the building trades, one of their business agents, and a very remarkable individual who works with the carpenters' union out of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker — with the millwrights; pardon me — Mr. Clarence George.

Clarence is a dynamic speaker and I have to tell you, at the meeting a couple of weeks ago — or about four weeks ago now — he got up to speak and when he was speaking I had a difficult time not rolling around on the floor laughing. It was a very good little story and I think all the members in this Chamber would love to hear that story. It was about Tinker Bell, Mr. Speaker, and I think it was a great story. And I think people would love it. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Clarence George to this Assembly.

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

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 132 — *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009* (continued)

Ms. Morin: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. So as I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the province of Saskatchewan is not suffering from a bad economy, Mr. Speaker. It's suffering from a bad government. That's what's happening today, Mr. Speaker. So when we look at what's going on with *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* and the amount of concerns that have come in to the opposition caucus office, I want to just quote from a few of the pieces of correspondence we've received, Mr. Speaker.

One of these is from a gentleman named James, Jim Heck, sorry, and it's to the Minister of Environment. It was cc'd to me and to the Premier of the Province. So the Premier is well aware of this gentleman's concerns as well, as were most of the correspondence that I was cc'd on that either went straight to the Premier or went straight to the minister. There were a couple of times, Mr. Speaker, that pieces of correspondence were actually sent to me, and then they were cc'd to the

Minister of Environment and the Premier, but for the most part, it was the other way around.

So this gentleman writes this:

During a time in our province's history when many wildlife populations are declining at an alarming rate largely because of habitat destruction, I am at a loss to understand why you want to remove over a million more hectares of habitat from legislative protection.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is exactly the sentiment that we are hearing from everyone that's contacting us. Everyone is saying the same thing — that they don't understand why it is that there is this great sense of urgency for the Sask Party government to remove this land that's protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* and move it out of the legislation and into regulations where it no longer has that same protection.

Now I want to make sure that anyone that's watching understands what that protection actually entails. In other words, when that land is in legislation and the government decides to want to sell some of that land, that discussion has to come to the floor of the Assembly. So therefore there is an opportunity for that land sale to be scrutinized, the public will be aware of that land sale before it takes place, and the debate can happen as to whether or not it is appropriate for that piece of land to be sold, Mr. Speaker.

That would be the proper way of dealing with any potential land sales for the lands that are currently protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. But the Sask Party government, they don't like to have to be accountable to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that the people of Saskatchewan are the landowners, Mr. Speaker, but they don't want to be accountable to the landowners of Saskatchewan. They just want to be able to do whatever they want to do, whenever they want to do it. And they don't want to have to suffer the scrutiny that would take place if a land sale had been discussed in the legislature before being sold, Mr. Speaker.

They want to simply be able to sell off a piece of land, if that's what they feel like doing, or sell it with a conservation easement to make themselves look like they're being good stewards of that wildlife habitat land. But knowing full well that they've got another ace in their pocket, Mr. Speaker, and that ace would be *The Conservation Easements Amendment Act* where somebody can make an application to the same Minister of Environment and have that conservation easement removed. And then, Mr. Speaker, like I said, as an added delight, it's not even court challengeable. So there is no recourse for anyone if they have concerns with the piece of land that has been sold.

Now, Mr. Speaker, just as a refresher for some of the members opposite that perhaps weren't listening to me when I was speaking last evening, the lands were protected not in the previous . . . I mean, there were additional lands protected, I should say, in the previous 16 years that the NDP was in government. But the lands fell into *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* originally under the Progressive Conservative government in 1984. And as I said last evening, Mr. Speaker, this would be one of those positive legacy items that a government can be proud of when they leave their term in

office, Mr. Speaker.

Now the minister at the time was Colin Maxwell. He was the minister of Environment at the time, and he said this in respect to that particular piece of legislation. He says:

It was unique at the time it was passed. We were the envy of other jurisdictions. It was viewed as visionary. Nobody else had one.

And he also goes on to say, "Whenever there's a conflict between humans and wildlife, wildlife gets the silver medal."

Mr. Speaker, Colin Maxwell and the Devine Tories of the '80s could see that it was ultimately their responsibility as the government to ensure that those lands were protected and not just protected in terms of the wildlife that existed there at the time, Mr. Speaker, but that those lands were protected well into the future for future generations. They had the foresight and they had the vision to know that that was something that was important to do and that it was ultimately their responsibility as a government to ensure that that was done, Mr. Speaker.

Now I'm very pleased to say that under the administration of the NDP, after that land was protected, Mr. Speaker, it continued on. It continued on that many more pieces of land were protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, Mr. Speaker. And that speaks again to the value of the legislation and the value that those lands possessed in terms of protecting them under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* with the Devine Tories, and then again adding to the inventory under the NDP administration that followed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, those are positive legacies. Those are positive legacies by, as I said, the Devine Tories at a time when they introduced the legislation and put those lands under protection. There was, I mean, definitely a positive legacy by the NDP administration that followed in ensuring that the inventory was substantially increased, Mr. Speaker.

Now what is the Sask Party government going to have to brag about as their legacy, Mr. Speaker? Quite frankly I don't know, Mr. Speaker. I'm yet to understand what they've done that's been positive for the people of Saskatchewan. They've certainly done things that they feel are positive for themselves and for their friends, Mr. Speaker. But with respect to what is a positive legacy for the people of Saskatchewan, it's very, very difficult to see, Mr. Speaker.

And so what we're going to see, Mr. Speaker, from this Sask Party government, if they don't come to their senses and immediately withdraw this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is we're going to see a legacy that they are going to have then the worst reputation in all of Canada with respect to environmental protection for wildlife habitat, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're going to see. Because if they didn't want that reputation, they would have the common sense and the sensibility to leave those lands protected under legislation instead of being able to do with those lands as they please by the stroke of the minister's pen, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

It's that simple. The Minister of Environment has full ability to deal with those lands as she sees fit. Once those lands come out of the protection of the legislation, Mr. Speaker, she can do with them as she sees fit. Now what's interesting about that, Mr. Speaker, is this. As I said, those lands belong to the people of Saskatchewan. Furthermore the people of Saskatchewan have not been properly consulted or haven't been consulted at all with respect to how they feel about this happening, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore the minister in committee mocks me when I ask her about the consultations that were not done with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. She then mocks me when I say to her, well you haven't had FSIN at the table. You haven't had FSIN at the workshop. You clearly see that the FSIN has serious and grave concerns with this legislation and is definitely opposed and is asking for the Bill to be withdrawn.

And what does she say to me? She says that "They chose not to attend." Mr. Speaker, that's what the minister's response was to me in committee when I asked her about that, that the FSIN chose not to attend.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the FSIN has been crystal clear to the minister on numerous occasions. First of all, when the invitation came, they explained why they can't make it to the meeting on such short notice — because it was less than seven days — because they have to receive the mandate to be able to speak on behalf of the 74 First Nations.

And let's not forget, Mr. Speaker, let's not forget that the \$300,000 worth of funding for the partnership agreement that had been in existence for 16 years previous was cut by the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. Now that funding went to the issue of the FSIN being able to do the due diligence and the work that is needed on behalf of the 74 First Nations, to be able to represent their voice in discussions with the Ministry of Environment. That is what happened over the years previous. So the Sask Party government clearly saw no value in that and felt that it didn't fit their mandate in terms of duty to consult.

So they felt that was an easy \$300,000 that they could cut, Mr. Speaker. Once again, to offset their financial mismanagement, they were cutting all sorts of programs that had very serious . . . how should I say, great value and could have some serious financial implications going forward into the future, Mr. Speaker, like for instance the Dutch elm disease program, the West Nile virus program, Mr. Speaker.

So we see that they cut the funding to the partnership agreement, so the FSIN couldn't even do the quick and hasty work that would've been needed to be done to be able to contact the 74 First Nations to be able to get the mandate to be able to speak on behalf of the 74 First Nations in that workshop discussion with the other stakeholders that the minister had invited. Only two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker. Not even two weeks ago; it was 10 days ago, Mr. Speaker.

This legislation was rammed into the legislature, has been pushed through like crazy by the Sask Party government. Consultations didn't take place. We've already heard that from a whole host of environmental stakeholders and other stakeholders that were supposedly contacted by the minister,

Mr. Speaker.

And yet the minister doesn't even have the understanding that she does have a duty to appropriately consult with the First Nations of the province, and then furthermore cut the funding to the partnership agreement that allowed the FSIN to provide that feedback from the 74 First Nations to the Minister of Environment.

Now the FSIN has been very clear. In the absence of being able to do that, it is now incumbent upon the Sask Party government, it is now incumbent upon the Minister of Environment, to actually contact each and every one of the 74 First Nations to receive their feedback and consult with them, Mr. Speaker. The FSIN has been very clear on that.

But what has the minister done to this date, Mr. Speaker? I haven't heard from a single First Nation that tells me that they've been contacted. Quite the contrary, Mr. Speaker. I've heard from numerous leaders of First Nations that tell me that they've still not heard anything from the Minister of Environment in terms of consultation, Mr. Speaker.

And as we saw today with the hundreds of people that were on the front lawn protesting the passing of *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, Mr. Speaker, whether they were environmental stakeholders, whether they were concerned citizens, whether they were members of the FSIN or First Nations, Mr. Speaker, everyone is concerned and everyone wants to see the legislation stopped, Mr. Speaker. We want to see that, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to finish off my remarks because there are many questions that we would like to ask and so therefore we're anxious to see the minister in committee with respect to this legislation. So I want to leave the minister with a few, well one quote from an article and then a few quotes just to add some food for thought, Mr. Speaker. So this was written on April 29th and it was in *The StarPhoenix* and the title says, "Short-sighted of gov't to sell protected land." And I'd like to quote this:

At a time when the entire world is becoming increasingly aware of the value of preserving natural habitat for wildlife for the sake of future generations as well as our own, the government demonstrates a breathtakingly short-sighted approach to its duty and obligation to act as a responsible steward of the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think anyone could say it any better than was said here in this *StarPhoenix* article. This is exactly what it is. It's a short-sighted decision to cover off the financial mismanagement of the Sask Party government so that they can make a quick buck to help line the coffers, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to leave these last couple of quotes here. This is an American Native proverb and it is, "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children," Mr. Speaker. And that's exactly what everyone is concerned about, Mr. Speaker. By removing the wildlife habitat protected lands out of the Act and into legislation, we are robbing our future generations of their legacy. We are robbing the future generations of their crown jewel, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, another quote: “In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments; there are consequences.” And this quote is by Robert G. Ingersoll. And, Mr. Speaker, that’s exactly what my fear is, and that’s what the fear is of the people of Saskatchewan — the majority, Mr. Speaker. They’re worried about the consequences of the Sask Party government’s decision to remove the lands, the wildlife habitat protected lands from legislation and therefore have full discretion at the Minister of Environment’s whim to decide to sell those lands, Mr. Speaker.

So I suggest that they please look at this short-sighted decision that they’re making, that they listen to the people of Saskatchewan and their concerns, which are extremely valid and well pointed out and are very clear to understand, Mr. Speaker. I suggest that this Sask Party government table . . . or in my opinion, it should be thrown out altogether, Mr. Speaker. And that is the growing opinion of people of Saskatchewan, that they should kill the idea of this legislation and leave the lands protected under legislation and find out another way to cover off their financial mismanagement, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I would like to adjourn debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question? Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — It’s my understanding, it’s my understanding that the Assembly’s ready for the question. The motion before the Assembly . . . Or the question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Minister Responsible for the Environment that Bill No. 132, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the second time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

The Speaker: — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:09 until 15:33.]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The question before the Assembly is the motion that Bill No. 132 be now read the second time.

Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 32]

Morgan	Bjornerud	Draude
Krawetz	Boyd	Eagles
McMorris	Cheveldayoff	Duncan
Heppner	Harpauer	D’Autremont
Harrison	Norris	Reiter
Hutchinson	Brkich	Elhard
Hart	Schriemer	Stewart
Allchurch	Weekes	Tell
Hickie	Michelson	Ottenbreit
Ross	Chisholm	Bradshaw
Kirsch	McMillan	

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — 18]

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Harper	Trew	Higgins
Nilson	Forbes	Vermette
Broten	Furber	Morin
Yates	Iwanchuk	Taylor
Quennell	Wotherspoon	Chartier

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Mr. Speaker, 32 for; 18 against.

The Speaker: — The motion carries.

Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I’d ask members to come to order. To which committee shall the Bill stand referred? I recognize the Government Deputy House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 132, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to the Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 134

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 134 — *The Opticians Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased this afternoon to stand on Bill 134, *The Opticians Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is a piece of professional legislation that follows the same basic format of every piece of professional legislation in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, earlier when the Bill was introduced, we had serious concerns because the optometrists in the province of Saskatchewan had indicated very strongly that they were in opposition to this Bill, Mr. Speaker. We now have, we have letters from the optometrists, Mr. Speaker, saying that they

support this legislation moving forward, and based on those letters, Mr. Speaker, we are satisfied that this professional legislation is in the best interests of the province.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 134, *The Opticians Act*, be now read the second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill stand referred? I recognize the Government Deputy House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — I designate that Bill No. 134, *The Opticians Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The Bill stands referred to the Committee on Human Services. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the House do now adjourn to allow committees of Economy to sit on Bill 132 and Human Services to sit on Bill 134.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:39.]

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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
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Minister of Education

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
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Hon. Rob Norris
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Minister Responsible for Immigration
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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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