



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

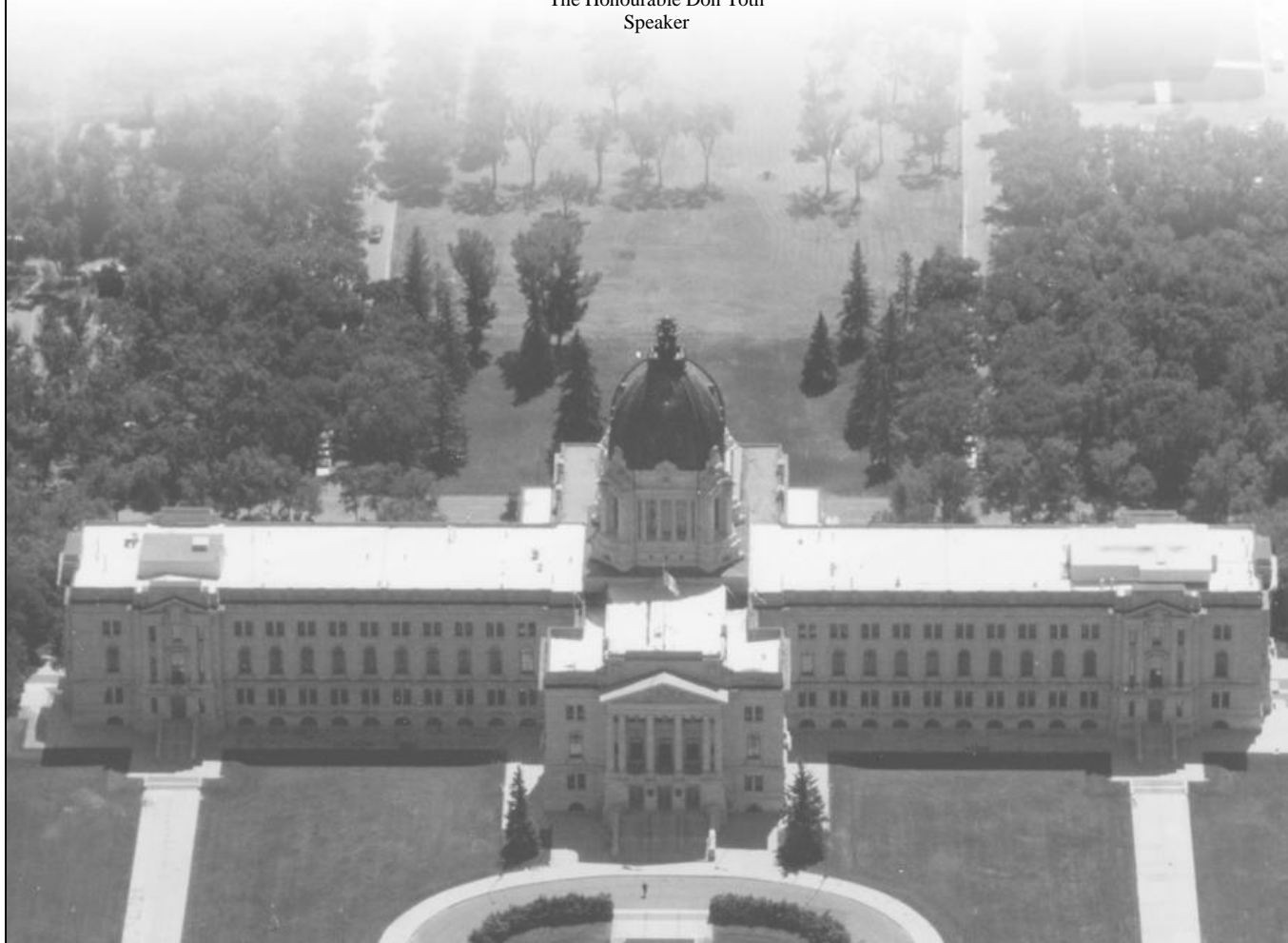
of the

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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Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
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Heppner, 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
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. 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
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Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
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Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Over the last number of years, the government has undertaken an international engagement project and process where various arms of government are attempting to engage the rest of the world with our province on an economic standpoint and from a diplomatic standpoint as well.

Part of that process has involved inviting members of the diplomatic corps in our country, and the consular corps, to the Throne Speech and then coordinating tours around that Speech from the Throne day, around that week of activities in the province. And we had a great delegation to the province. Again I'd like to introduce some of them through you and to you to members who are here, and then we're going to also reference those who had to leave already but who were here yesterday for the Speech from the Throne.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's an honour for me to introduce, seated on the floor of the Assembly behind the bar today, the following members of the diplomatic and consular corps from Canada.

Bernadette Brown, consul general of Switzerland in Toronto and her husband, Mr. Brown, has joined us. Welcome. Jean-Charles Bou, consul of France in Calgary; Miguel Sandoval Tovar, consul of Mexico in Calgary, and his wife; Mohammed Mian, first secretary commercial for Bangladesh; Ramon Fosado, consul of Mexico, in Calgary as well; Heather Goranson, honorary consul of Norway. I guess she couldn't join us today. As well as, we had one more . . . Well no, we have Larry Schneider, an honorary consul of Mexico and obviously no stranger to anybody in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, there were a number who had to leave due to other meetings and other obligations. I'd like to reference them, if I can, for the record. Yesterday we were joined by as well by His Excellency, Richard Turkson, the high commissioner from the Republic of Ghana, as well as Her Excellency, Miriam Ziv, ambassador of Israel in Ottawa; Dr. Chidambaram, principal scientific adviser to the prime minister of India; Johannes Verloed, consul general of the Netherlands in Vancouver; Harlan Hakim, acting consul general of Indonesia in Toronto; Mr. Abul Asri Siregar, assistant to the consul general of Indonesia in Toronto.

Mr. Speaker, I know members will want to join with me in welcoming these guests to the Legislative Assembly today and honour their service to their respective countries in the consular corps and the diplomatic corps here in Canada.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to join with our Premier in welcoming the diplomatic corps here to the Assembly. I also, Mr. Speaker, would like to thank the Lieutenant Governor for the wonderful reception that we had last night. A number of the delegates here today, we had great conversations and look forward to working with you.

Obviously as the Premier says, and I want to reiterate, Saskatchewan's future really is about working with countries around the world. You represent a good component of that. Just remember that your words and work that you do every day is important to Saskatchewan. And I welcome you here to the Assembly today.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all the members of the Legislative Assembly, I'd like to recognize Terry Parker, executive director of the Building Trades here who does extremely hard work for the working people of this province, particularly in the construction industry. So I'd ask all members to welcome Mr. Parker to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Mr. Parker here. I met with him shortly after assuming responsibility for the Labour portfolio and look forward to a productive relationship in that area, and valued the input and advice that was given and would like to welcome him to the legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through the rest of the members of the legislature, I'd like to introduce someone in your gallery and that would be my constituency assistant, Mary Anne Telfer. She's been there and a big part of my organization, and thank you very much. And a pleasure to have her here because she listens every day and loves question period, and today she's here to see it live. So thanks for being here, Mary Anne.

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 concerned citizens of Saskatchewan to present a petition in regards to the deteriorating condition of our highways and the safety conditions of those highways too. 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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of eliminating poverty in Saskatchewan. I'd like to point out that the income gap between the rich and poor continues to grow and now one in five children in Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty. And we know when government cuts programs, it's often supports for social services that are cut first. Mr. Speaker, 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 act as quickly as possible to develop an effective and sustainable poverty elimination strategy for the benefit of all Saskatchewan citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks of Regina, Saskatoon, Melfort, Naicam, Eastend, Lanigan, and Guernsey and Humboldt. And I have many more throughout the session to present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A new Throne Speech and still no fix to the grad retention program. The prayer reads as follows:

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 Regina and the community of Lumsden. I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to present a petition with respect to the potash industry, considering that Saskatchewan has over half of the world's supply, that Saskatchewan and the people of Saskatchewan are the owners of this strategic resource, and deserve to receive the maximum benefit from its development, mining, and processing. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Saskatchewan Party government to publicly demand the following terms and conditions on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan of any foreign owners bidding to take over PCS: to ensure Saskatchewan people receive the maximum benefit, a golden share and preferred shares so

that the public participates in both the corporation's future decision making and its profitability; public guarantees on a strengthened head office presence; support for Canpotex and long-term targets for potash production and employment; Saskatchewan representation on the board of directors; public agreements to ensure no loss of royalties; public commitments to meet world-class standards of corporate and social responsibility; and an independent potash review commission with the power to monitor and enforce all of these terms and conditions.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by good folks from Langham and Saskatoon. I so present.

The Speaker: — Reading and receiving petitions. Did you have a petition?

An Hon. Member: — Yes.

The Speaker: — Oh, sorry about that. The member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of residents, citizens of Saskatchewan who are hugely concerned with the financial mismanagement of the Sask Party government. They allude to the two consecutive deficit budgets, the billions of dollars of debt growth, and the historic opportunity for which the Sask Party was provided with well over \$2 billion in surplus, booming resource sector and thus revenues, and where that's all gone. The fiscal trend line is of concern and negative both to families and to communities . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. I ask the member to go to the prayer, please.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — 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 today are signed by the good folks of Regina Rosemont. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in this House to bring attention to Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Many people across Saskatchewan have been impacted by

breast cancer, one of the most common cancers among women. I can truly empathize with all of those families dealing with the loss of a loved one because I lost my best friend to breast cancer — my mother.

We have lost too many mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, and neighbours to this illness. It may have the power to take away a woman's health but it will never be strong enough to take away her heart, her spirit, and her love. We are making progress in the fight against this illness. Early detection, effective treatment, innovative research, and unconquerable spirits are turning the tide in the battle against breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, today like every day, I want to remember my mother. I want to remember all of the brave women who have been touched by breast cancer. Today we will honour them and honour their courage. Together we will stand united against this terrible illness because we are ready to hope together, to pray together, to endure together, and to survive together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Agriculture Month in Saskatchewan

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. October is Agriculture Month in Saskatchewan. While other revenue generators like potash, uranium, oil, and gas become the focus of our economy in recent years, agriculture remains our province's backbone. Not only does agriculture support Saskatchewan, but Saskatchewan agribusinesses support the world by supplying producers with the goods and services they need to succeed.

This year has been a difficult year. The wet weather made seeding fall behind in all areas of the province and utterly impossible in some. The summer of storms drowned out some crops, but through it all our producers showed their Saskatchewan resolve and determination. Thankfully the weather co-operated with our producers in the fall and there was just enough time to get most of the crop off.

The producers of Saskatchewan put in a lot of long, hard hours, days, and weeks during seeding, haying, harvest, spraying, and calving seasons. These people embody the spirit of Saskatchewan. Their dedication to the land and livestock are among the many reasons why our province continues to move forward.

I'm proud to say that many of the constituents of Thunder Creek are agricultural producers. I'm honoured to be able to represent them in this legislature and truly honoured to call many of them my friends. Even though the members opposite ignored rural Saskatchewan when they were in government, I ask that all members join me in expressing appreciation to the hard-working men and women who put food on the table for all Saskatchewan families and contribute so mightily to our dynamic economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:15]

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

Political Wardrobe

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, those who put style before substance like to say that the clothes make the man. And judging from some of the items in his political wardrobe, it certainly seems that this philosophy suits the Premier to a T.

Speaking of suits, Mr. Speaker, the Premier donned a special one last June to convince everyone he was an action hero. Dressed like George Bush on the deck of an aircraft carrier, he was christened premier jumpsuit. It wasn't his first time dressing up as a real right winger, Mr. Speaker. No, he's been trying so hard to fill the shoes of Grant Devine that he even earned himself the name captain lawsuit when he and his super Sask Party friends transformed themselves into Progressive Conservatives so that they could hold on to \$3 million in the PC [Progressive Conservative] trust fund cache.

Now just in time for Halloween comes his latest costume, Mr. Speaker — Captain Canada. With a maple leaf for a cape billowing in the hot air, the Premier stands proudly in his potash-pink tights, posing as defender of Saskatchewan's resource rights. Just one problem, Mr. Speaker. Moments before he donned his historic costume, he was dressed as an ill-mannered shakedown artist, ready to sell out Saskatchewan's thousand-year interest in potash for \$1 billion from BHP that would help him leap over next year's election in a single payout.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan have taken the measure of this costumed impersonator and they now know he's cut from the same cloth as the emperor who has no clothes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Martensville.

Dalmeny Fire Chief Honoured

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are unsung heroes in all of our constituencies, and every once in a while we have the opportunity to recognize amazing men and women who give so much back to their neighbours and local communities. And it's an honour for me to be able to do just that today.

Rick Elder is the fire chief for the town of Dalmeny. Rick was recently named one of the top 15 firefighters in Canada by *Reader's Digest*. Firefighters were chosen for this recognition based on their courage, caring, and community involvement. His story can be found in October's issue.

Dalmeny is about half an hour from Saskatoon and the nearest hospital. Having dedicated and experienced first responders is so important for many of our rural communities. Seeing the need in Dalmeny, in 1991 Rick, along with his wife Joanne and other volunteers, became those very first, first responders.

Rick's position as fire chief is as a volunteer. His dedication to his community goes well beyond fighting fires. Upon seeing the need for better equipment for grass and field fires, Rick initiated the purchase of specialized equipment. He also steps up to help with community events and can usually be found at local community fundraisers. Rick works full-time in the energy

sector, yet still finds time to work part-time, training others to be firefighters.

It is people like Rick who make communities in Saskatchewan such great places to live. Congratulations to Rick on being named one of Canada's best, and thank you for your service to your community and to your province.

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

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which presents an opportunity to empower both men and women to learn about breast cancer as well as pay tribute to past victims of the disease.

On October 3rd, the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Regina Rosemont, and I joined Regina participants in the 19th annual Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure.

This event had a record participation with 2,277 participants as well as having raised record funds to the total of \$448,000. Nationally there were 170,000 participants in 60 communities, raising a record-breaking total of \$33 million. The monies raised provide much needed funding which is directed towards renowned researchers and clinicians who are contributing to groundbreaking progress in breast cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation was founded in 1986 by a group of volunteers and has become the leading national volunteer-led organization in Canada, and has invested \$230 million since its inception to the dedication of creating a future without breast cancer. Breast cancer continues to be the most frequently diagnosed cancer amongst Canadian women and rates second for mortality.

On average 445 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer every week, an increase of nine women per week from 2009. Over 50 per cent of breast cancers will be diagnosed in women between the ages of 50 and 69. In 2010, on average, 100 Canadian women will die from breast cancer every week.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the tremendous ongoing efforts of Saskatchewan people to protect one of our most precious human resources, that being the health of Saskatchewan's women. Thank you.

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

Statement of Thanks

Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This marks my first member's statement and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped me become the elected representative for the good people of Saskatoon Northwest.

First I would like to thank my family for their great sacrifices from the day that I sat on the public school board to my seven

years on city council, and particularly my wife, Christine. Their support and inspiration was integral to the success of the campaign and my career, and I know that I can continue to count on their support as we embark on our new endeavours.

I'd also like to thank my campaign team. Their dedication and wise decisions led to a well-executed campaign. Our success on election day is owed to all those who came to volunteer. Their work on the doorsteps of Saskatoon Northwest demonstrated the optimism that defines today's Saskatchewan.

I'd also like to thank the other candidates for their efforts. By contesting this by-election, they showed that democracy is well and alive within Saskatchewan.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the good people of Saskatoon Northwest for giving me the opportunity to represent them in this legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Autism Awareness Month

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, October is Autism Awareness Month. I'm going to read several excerpts from a letter that appeared in *The StarPhoenix* October 22nd from Tim Verklan on behalf of the board of Saskatchewan Families for Effective Autism Treatment, or SaskFEAT. I quote:

Saskatchewan may bill itself as the "Land of Living Skies," but across Canada this province continues to be known as "The Autism Wasteland."

It sounds impressive when you hear about all the money being put into autism and all the programs the government is running, but ask families across Saskatchewan about how well this money is being spent.

People with ASD deserve a provincial autism strategy that is supported by evidence-based and proven methodologies. It is needed right now.

They shouldn't have to settle for inadequate services provided by professionals who have no working knowledge or experience of this disability and who are going to "learn as they go."

SASKFEAT maintains that until adequate programs are available, the money should be provided directly to the families so they can hire professional staff.

Our children do not have time to waste while valuable dollars are spent creating expensive, ineffective services that aren't based on evidence and research. Our children need the help of proven therapies before they become another sad statistic lost in Autism Wasteland.

SASKFEAT is demanding immediate individualized funding that is not income tested, until an acceptable and proven autism strategy is in place . . . Our families have been waiting long enough.

Mr. Speaker, enough said.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question's to the Premier, and it deals with an issue that we'll be discussing later in the day, dealing with potash and the control of potash resource in the province of Saskatchewan given the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP [New Democratic Party] opposition wrote to Minister Clement. And I want to quote from the letter that we wrote and sent to him on August 26th: "I am writing to ask for public assurances that the Government of Canada will not approve any takeover of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan by a foreign-owned company."

Could the Premier today admit that the lateness of this debate here in the Assembly does not send as strong a message to the Government of Canada as it would have if we had recalled the legislature and passed this motion six weeks ago? Can he give his assurance today that, in passing this motion, he will travel to Ottawa to explain to the Prime Minister and other leaders why it's important that this strategic resource not be sold off to a foreign entity today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say, through you to the member opposite, a thank you to him and to his party for their support of the position of the Government of Saskatchewan as we laid out Thursday last. Mr. Speaker, I can report to the House some new developments this morning. I can report that after a conversation with . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, members opposite and members on this side of this House will welcome the news that in a conversation this morning with Premier Jean Charest, he has confirmed that, in addition to support from Premier Stelmach in the province of Alberta, Saskatchewan can also expect the support of the province of Quebec with respect to our position with the federal government. And so that's important news.

With respect to the debate that will happen a little bit later on this day, I think a show of consensus and unanimity is important, that this deal — for the various reasons the government has laid out with respect to jobs and investment, with respect to revenue for the province and the Dominion of Canada, and with respect to the strategic position we desire for our province and Canada and the world — that the right answer for this deal today is no.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that Premier Stelmach from Alberta is supporting the position of the province of Saskatchewan and the position the NDP opposition have had for now two months. But I want to ask the Premier another question. Given the story on the front page of the *Leader-Post* today that the Government of Saskatchewan is in secret meetings . . . And I want to quote from the *Leader-Post*:

A group of Saskatchewan First Nations is collaborating with merchant banks, pension funds and Asian investors to prepare a multibillion-dollar bid to compete with BHP . . . [for a] proposed takeover of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.

Given the fact that we're moving an unanimous motion today to stop foreign investment in our resource, how is it that the Premier and his ministers are in secret meetings today and in the past week to sell off the Potash Corporation to foreign interests from Asia? How does that work?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition's contention couldn't be farther from the truth. We have said on a number of occasions that if people want to come forward with competing bids, we'd be happy to talk to them. We had discussions with BHP. We had discussions with PotashCorp. There was all kinds . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I would ask the members to allow the minister to respond to the question from the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — We had meetings with a number of people, Mr. Speaker — representatives from BHP, from Potash Corporation. We indicated that there was lots of media reports that there was maybe other bidders out there. We were unaware of them until last week when a group of First Nations representatives came forward and said that they may be considering putting a bid together with respect to this. We were happy to say to them, certainly we'll take your meeting if you have something to contribute to this debate or something to contribute in the way of bid. We'd be happy to welcome the bid from them.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I find it strange indeed that at a very time that the Premier is giving a speech, Captain Canada speech to the chamber of commerce in Regina, how his response to a foreign takeover of the Potash Corporation is no, that he went all the way from the free enterpriser, the Kevin O'Leary style of Wild West, open for business, to a social democrat position of just say no, that at the very same time, senior ministers of his government were meeting in secret with Asian investors about foreign takeover of that corporation. Can the Premier please square this circle and explain how that works and fits with his speech?

The Speaker: — Before I recognize the minister, I would ask

that members placing the question refer to individuals by their proper name and title. I recognize the Minister for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I find it very interesting that the Leader of the Opposition's position is that we should not meet with leaders of the First Nations here in Saskatchewan. That would seem a very, very strange position. So when we get a call from leaders of First Nations here in Saskatchewan, we are always happy to take that call, always listening to the concerns that they have and any proposals that . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order, order. There are a few members on the opposition side that are greatly interfering with the ability of other members to hear the response. I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, certainly we will meet with First Nations leaders on this topic or any other topic. That would be a very responsible position. That is the position of the Government of Saskatchewan.

And I also find it interesting that the Leader of the Opposition would say we shouldn't be taking these kinds of meetings when, after he laid out his position, he met with officials of BHP. Somehow or another that's acceptable to the NDP, but it's not okay if the government, the duly elected government, meet with First Nations leaders here in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, what is clear from that minister is that there is negotiations going on at the present time that includes Asian investors, that includes Asian investors. This is very different than duty to consult with First Nations, that I never saw much of that going on when 3.5 million acres of habitat land was being sold. Or as that minister says when it comes to resource revenue sharing, he says absolutely no. That's what he says.

I find it interesting when it comes to the selling of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan to Asian investors, who will be the people putting the money up, that he and the Premier have time to meet. But the also hypocrisy of holding a meeting with the chamber of commerce and saying no, while at the same time doing a backroom deal, how does the Premier square that?

[10:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear. There are no negotiations with any parties interested in a takeover of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan from the Government of Saskatchewan's perspective, period.

Mr. Speaker, we have said we will meet with the companies involved, and we have. We've met with BHP. We've met with Potash Corp of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that when the First Nations come forward and say, look, there might

be an interest on their part together with other partners, we're going to take that meeting and hear from them what that proposal is.

There's no negotiations. There's only one bid currently before the people of Canada, currently for consideration in this legislature. It's the BHP takeover bid, a hostile takeover bid of PotashCorp. The answer from the Government of Saskatchewan at this time is a respectful no, and we hope the opposition joins us in that position.

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

Funding for Health Regions

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the 2010 budget cycle, health regions asked for a 7 per cent increase in funding to simply maintain the health services that they currently provide. And they didn't get it. They got half. When health regions are starved of money, two things happen. One, health care services have to be cut. And two, the people that suffer are the people of Saskatchewan who need those services.

Mr. Speaker, why is the minister forcing Saskatchewan families to accept decreasing health services because of his government's failure to properly fund health districts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the budget for the health regions this year for all the Department of Health, the Ministry of Health, is \$4.2 billion, Mr. Speaker, a record amount of spending on health care in this province never seen before. Mr. Speaker, we increased the amount of spending in health, in the Health ministry by \$127 million this year, Mr. Speaker — \$127 million increased spending this year over last year. That being said, Mr. Speaker, health regions are looking at their budgets. They're making decisions, Mr. Speaker.

But what we have said from the outset is that we do not want to see any patient delivery care affected, Mr. Speaker. There are efficiencies to be found, and health regions are finding those efficiencies — efficiencies on overtime, efficiencies on premium time and on sick leave, Mr. Speaker. Health regions are finding those efficiencies. We've asked them to do it. We've asked them not to affect front-line care, and I think the health regions throughout the province are doing a marvellous job.

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

Ms. Junor: — The minister has really been in la-la land most of last year, and now he continues to stay there. This summer I toured Saskatchewan visiting many, many, many communities, and they told me in those communities, thousands of people told me that health care in this province has gotten worse under the Sask Party.

Communities are being forced to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars of municipal tax money recruiting doctors. Seniors are being sent hours away from their families and spouses as long-term care beds close. And people are having to choose

between lab services and home care services — all because of the Sask Party's failure to properly fund health regions.

To the minister: why are Saskatchewan people being forced to suffer under a Sask Party government? What happened to putting the patient first?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I am very aware that the member opposite did a large tour of the province. In fact I saw a map of all the facilities that she went and visited. I would say that, after looking at that map, she's put on many miles through this past summer, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and I would just say that if, in the old Saskatchewan under the NDP, they put a quarter of that much attention into rural Saskatchewan that it wouldn't have been in the mess it was when we took over, Mr. Speaker. If they would have put a quarter of the amount of money into rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that they expect everybody else to do, it wouldn't be in the mess that they left it in.

We are looking at many of the facilities around the province, whether it's long-term care, whether it's acute care facilities, Mr. Speaker, and improving those services and improving those facilities, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to physician recruitment, we're going a long ways on that front too. There are isolated pockets, Mr. Speaker, that there are issues, and I'm glad to say that we've got strong MLAs on our side that represent those communities that make sure that I'm informed. Unfortunately they would have no rural representation and won't for a very long time.

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

Ms. Junor: — I hope the minister didn't spend much money while he was stalking me over the summer.

In July the Government House Leader was asked about three long-term care beds and two respite beds that were being closed at Wawota's Deer View Lodge in his own constituency. His answer was, "People complained about highways and now they're complaining about these beds. Which do they want — highways or health care?" Mr. Speaker, is that the Premier's position: Saskatchewan people need to choose between highways and health care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Assembly and the province of Saskatchewan in no way have I ever or will I ever stalk that member. Mr. Speaker, the Sun Country Health Region has decided to look at the bed allocation

...

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I realize that Sun Country are looking at their long-term bed allocation, and in

Wawota they are looking at the possibility of discontinuing three long-term care beds in that health region. And I realize that is a major impact for that community. I've had the opportunity to meet with Wawota and listen to their concerns directly, as well as the member from Cannington has raised their concerns on a number of occasions to me, Mr. Speaker. But I find it very curious that that member would be so irate over a possibility of three bed closures when under her watch 52 hospitals closed.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the minister rode on those tired, old answers last year. I guess he's going to continue that, the same thing this year. That's all he's got.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier cut the health care budget which caused cuts to health care services. Now he's promising everyone in his Throne Speech that new health care spending is coming. As usual people are getting a mixed message from the Premier and the Sask Party government.

To the minister: given that the government is in a deficit and health regions are forced to cut services, where is the promised money coming from?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I realize again that that member, through information that we've received from the health region, has done a broad tour of the facilities around Saskatchewan. I believe there is about 52 facilities that that member visited, Mr. Speaker, and certainly had a look and talked to staff and had a look at the facilities. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, and the rest of the province, that the last time an NDP Health critic visited 52 hospitals in rural Saskatchewan, less than a year later they were all closed. Rural Saskatchewan will never fall for that again, Mr. Speaker.

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

Fiscal Management

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Fraser Institute recently released a report card on the fiscal performance of Canada's premiers. The *National Post* had this to say about our Premier's grade for runaway spending. I quote, "Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall rolled up a pathetic 22.9." Under the Premier, Saskatchewan is occupying a position of national shame as fiscal managers, called pathetic by national media. This is an embarrassing departure for our proud province, and it comes with negative consequences for all of Saskatchewan.

My question: why isn't the Sask Party government ashamed of this record, this negative national spotlight, and why are they not laying out a plan to improve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an opportunity to stand in this

Assembly as the Minister of Finance and respond to the comments of the member opposite. Mr. Speaker, on Monday and Tuesday of this week I had the opportunity to be in Toronto and to visit with the financial institutions that do business in the province of Saskatchewan — the ones that manage the investment of the province and look at our capital growth. Mr. Speaker, there is tremendous optimism in everyone across this country, in this province, except the member opposite and the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, there have been tremendous gains in this province of Saskatchewan. We have seen the debt of this province go from over \$6.8 billion, Mr. Speaker, down to 4.1 — Mr. Speaker, record, record debt reduction that the people of Saskatchewan appreciate and look forward to continued fiscal management by this government.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — What a joke, Mr. Speaker. The minister speaks of credit rating agencies. What we know is we're not getting a credit rating upgrade this year. What we know, yesterday in the Throne Speech, in the rotunda, is business leaders, financial officials, laughing at the statement that that Premier is still trying to mislead the public with, Mr. Speaker. What we know is that just like health care . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I ask members to be careful in the words they use and how they respond and direct it towards members. Thank you.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, just like on health care, just like on potash, this government is simply not credible and simply not trustworthy. Mr. Speaker.

Let's review a few facts. That government inherited over \$2.3 billion of surplus from the previous NDP administration and a booming resource revenue sector, Mr. Speaker. Through reckless spending and misplaced priorities, they have turned that surplus into deficit of at least \$1.3 billion over the past two years of consecutive deficit budgets. Now even the Fraser Institute and the *National Post* are recognizing this government's pathetic track record on fiscal management with the shameful grade of 22.9 out of 100, Mr. Speaker. Now I know the Sask Party government isn't very good with numbers, Mr. Speaker, so let me be very clear: 22.9 out of 100 is a terrible grade, Mr. Speaker.

My question is this: is the Sask Party government really so arrogant that it refuses to acknowledge its blunders?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, I listened to that member opposite ask questions last year, questions where material that was delivered just didn't seem to be as accurate as it should be.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to tell you exactly where the NDP left this province in November of 2007. Mr. Speaker, the debt, the

GRF [General Revenue Fund] debt in November of '07 was . . .

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the member wants to understand the numbers and will listen, wants to listen. The GRF debt, Mr. Speaker, in November of '07 was \$6.8 billion. Today it is \$4.1 billion. Mr. Speaker, that's \$2.7 billion reduction in debt.

Mr. Speaker, the fund, the Growth and Financial Security Fund, on November of '07 sat at \$1.2 billion — 1.2, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite stretches that to well over \$2 billion. Mr. Speaker, let's be factually correct — \$1.2 billion dollars in November of '07. Today, Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. Speaker, on March the 31st, 2010 — member has seen the public accounts document — that number is \$958 million. Mr. Speaker, an improvement in the province of Saskatchewan of over \$2.1 billion.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Sure, Mr. Speaker, and the Fraser Institute puts that government at the bottom of the heap with premiers of New Brunswick and with premiers of Nova Scotia who have recently been ousted, maybe a little foreshadowing, Mr. Speaker.

Only the Sask Party government would stand in this House and pretend that a score of 22.9 per cent is a good grade. Arrogance. A percentage that is equally concerning — because the minister wants to talk about debt — a percentage that's equally concerning is 55 per cent. The provincial debt will increase by 55 per cent by 2014. How much is that? That's \$4.2 billion by 2014. These are your documents, Mr. Minister, and you can't hide from it.

To the minister, this is a major threat, a major threat to Saskatchewan's future. Why is there nothing in the Throne Speech to turn the Sask Party debt train and financial mismanagement around?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I think there's one thing that I would agree with when the member opposite speaks about a threat. The threat to this province, the threat is from the NDP, and it was shown, Mr. Speaker, it was shown in spades in the by-election in Saskatoon Northwest. That's what the people of Saskatchewan believe about the NDP.

We need to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that we move forward, we move forward with the continued debt reduction, that we move forward with the growth strategy. Mr. Speaker, over the last three years there's been a tremendous investment, Mr. Speaker, an investment in the province of Saskatchewan, a growth strategy. Now I understand that's a foreign term to the NDP —

growth strategy — because for years they planned for decline, Mr. Speaker. Year after year, enrolment decline. Year after year, population decline. Year after year, drop in investments. Mr. Speaker, we're planning for a growth strategy. We're excited about it, and obviously the people in Saskatoon Northwest were just as excited.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth, and the people of Saskatchewan know that full well. This government opposite knows what they were handed — one heck of a strong economy that had been developing for many, many years under the New Democrats.

What has the record been under the Sask Party? Well it's one of static growth. In fact it was one of decline. Static growth, and I'll help you with the math over there, Minister. When you lose 6.3 per cent in one year, in your GDP [gross domestic product], you're back to the same levels that you were in 2006, Mr. Speaker. And when we see ministers go out and try to say something opposite, Mr. Speaker, that creates huge concern for Saskatchewan people.

This is a government that inherited huge surplus. This is a government that has run two consecutive deficit budgets. We're concerned that it's going to be three out of four when the budget's tabled in the spring. This is a government that stripped over \$1 billion out of our Crown corporation and that at every moment misrepresents the true state of our finances by piling up debt in our Crown corporations . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. I ask the member to go to the question, please.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Now we know this minister likes to deflect responsibility . . .

The Speaker: — I ask the member to go to the question, please.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — We know that the chief buck-passer that we have here . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order. I ask the member to go directly to the question.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Minister, my question to the minister: as a new Finance minister here in Saskatchewan, why are you not correcting the reckless pattern that we see instead of defending a very embarrassing record?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, let's clarify the position of Saskatchewan today. Population, Mr. Speaker, up 16,000 over last year. Saskatchewan unemployment rate in August, 2010, 5.2 per cent — lowest, lowest in Canada, Mr. Speaker. CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] business owners in Saskatchewan, very optimistic about the overall confidence in the economy of the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, Potash Corporation and potash companies

expecting to invest \$12 billion in growth.

Mr. Speaker, I can sum it up by a quote in the *Leader-Post* on October 14th, 2010, from the Conference Board of Canada, and this is the quote, Mr. Speaker, about Saskatchewan's increase in numbers, and it says this: "These are numbers that you have to get used to. This is a new growth pattern we're seeing in the province." That's what we're proud of, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to continue with that growth.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on House Services.

Standing Committee on House Services

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to report that it has considered committee membership changes, and I move:

The 10th report of the Standing Committee on House Services now be concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Deputy Chair:

That the 10th report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I lay on the Table, in accordance with the Board of Internal Economy directive 22, the members' accountability and disclosure statements for the year ended March 31st, 2010; and in accordance with directive #23, I also table the financial statements and auditor's opinion statements for the New Democratic Party caucus and for the Saskatchewan Party caucus for the year ended March 31st, 2010.

I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be asking for leave of the Assembly to move a motion with respect to the hostile takeover bid of BHP Billiton of the Potash Corp of Saskatchewan. The wording of the motion has been distributed to all members.

The Speaker: — If the Premier's going to be asking for leave, I ask the Premier to give a short reason as to why the motion and then just to read the motion for the record, please, before I call

the question.

MOTION UNDER RULE 59

Proposed Takeover of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, early next week the federal government, through its Investment Canada investment review process, will make a decision with respect to this hostile takeover bid that will significantly impact on jobs, investment, revenue to the province and to the country, as well as our strategic position in the world as a major source of this important fertilizer. And it's important this Assembly deal with this matter at this time.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for leave to address a question regarding a potash issue in the province of Saskatchewan. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank members for the leave to have this debate today. I know members opposite will want to join in. The Leader of the Opposition is going to want to join in. I think he wants to speak immediately after me and then there will be some other members perhaps on this side of the House. It is a chance for us to send a very clear signal from this Assembly and from the representatives of all of the people in Saskatchewan, of all of the regions of our province, as to the current hostile takeover bid of BHP Billiton on the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to, if I can, summarize a little bit of the provincial government's position in regards to this. Most of those details are getting more and more well known here in the province and across the country, and dare I say around the world, as a result of the coverage that we received from the speech on last Thursday at the Regina Chamber of Commerce meeting where I had the honour of laying out the government's position with respect to this.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government investment review process as it stands now . . . And by the way perhaps we should, all of us as Canadians, should consider that we should improve or add some value to the existing Investment Canada review process in the future. Maybe that's one good thing that will come from this particular hostile takeover bid.

But, Mr. Speaker, I can say that we have used the existing process. Notwithstanding changes that may happen down the road, we have used the existing measure that Investment Canada uses when they look at these deals and either approve them or deny them, or approve them with some conditions on those who are attempting the takeover.

And, Mr. Speaker, the most important measure in that investment review process for our analysis has been the question of net benefit. The federal government, through this

process, asks an important question of these takeovers: is there a net benefit to the country? And we have said quite rightly, and I think it's been supported by federal officials, that in this case because 95 per cent plus of the economic activity of the takeover in question happens in our province, and because it involves a very precious and strategic provincial natural resource, we have said that the question of net benefit to Canada could be read as the net benefit to the province of Saskatchewan.

We're mindful of the mine that exists in New Brunswick and mindful of the fact that this is a proud asset of the entire country, the fact that Canada is home to 53 per cent of the known reserves of potash in the world. But with respect to the net benefit question, if it's not a net benefit to Saskatchewan in this case, our position has been it can't possibly, logically be a net benefit to the nation.

So we've looked at this net benefit question through three different measures, the first being investment and jobs in Saskatchewan. And maybe that's obviously for Saskatchewan families the most important measure for this deal. And again I won't get into all of the details but this takeover puts at risk Canpotex.

I think one thing we can certainly credit to Mr. Kloppers and the officials at BHP Billiton is that they have been very straightforward about their MO [modus operandi] should they become the owner of these mines and these assets in terms of how they will operate them. They have said that their preference is to stand in front of their customers and take the price. They have said that they would like to move out of Canpotex.

Now originally I think they were offering a much shorter transition period than they're now talking about, but one thing hasn't changed and that is their stated position that they'd like to move away from Canpotex as a marketing arm.

I note today, Mr. Speaker, and we received a communiqué today in the legislature; I received word from the Minister of Energy and it's available online, ironically enough that Canpotex today, just weeks after it had signed a 3 million tonne deal with China, has announced a similar sized deal — 3 million tonnes I believe it is, 500 000 tonnes a year, price to be negotiated — with India. That news is out just this very day. So 6 million tonnes of Saskatchewan potash — let's remember when we're talking about Canpotex we're talking about Saskatchewan potash — has been sold under contract over a number of the next number of years by this important agency. So it obviously offers some strategic value to the province, but right now we're focused on the jobs.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that BHP's [BHP Billiton] stated desire to move out of Canpotex means that Canpotex is at risk. Other companies have talked about continuing with its operation but it certainly puts those 80 or so jobs at risk in Saskatoon. We know, by the way, that those are great jobs, international investment jobs. And if you had a chance to go visit with the folks in Canpotex as a result of all of this . . . They said, by the way, it's the first time a premier had been to their offices.

And we had a chance to meet all of the staff there. They're

obviously pretty excited about their role in our provincial economy and the role for Canpotex in the world. And we got to see some of the logistics area of their operations and literally watched ships as they move around the world with Saskatchewan potash. And we know we don't want to lose those kinds of jobs in the city of Saskatoon or anywhere else in our province.

We also are concerned, Mr. Speaker, that moving out of Canpotex, as BHP has said they would, will I think most assuredly put in jeopardy a major railcar upgrade near PCS [Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan] Lanigan. Canpotex has highlighted — and I think they're close to making a decision on this, by the way — that they'd like to make a \$55 million investment in a railcar upgrade facility and that this would employ a number of jobs. There's person-years of construction and I think 20-plus full-time jobs that would be obviously at risk as a result of that.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's something else that's very important in this jobs analysis, and it is the impact of a takeover. And the result is decline in price based on BHP's stated marketing strategy, the impact of a decline in price on the expansions currently under way in the province of Saskatchewan by the other two companies.

Let's be very clear about what's going on in the province. And the Opposition Leader, I heard him say a few things from his seat in question period about questioning the future of these expansions. I'm looking forward to finding out what he knows that the rest of us do not know.

But, Mr. Speaker, here's what we can surmise. If the price falls, as it will because of the model of BHP to run at full production, the expansions at Mosaic and Agrium are under way — with currently at \$6 billion and hundreds of jobs in the province — are at risk. We know that. We know the potash expansion jobs shouldn't be at risk because BHP has said they would, if they were successful, continue with those. But we're talking specifically about the billions of dollars of expansion planned by Mosaic and Agrium.

Mr. Speaker, it's important at this point to ask the question, why are those jobs being added to the economy today? Why are those 12 billions of dollars worth of investment occurring in mine expansion today? Mr. Speaker, it is a direct result of the royalty structure in the province of Saskatchewan, a royalty structure that recently has been renegotiated with the companies and the government through the Ministry of Energy and Resources. And the net result of this royalty structure is that there is an incentive for companies to invest. And the government made that decision with its eyes wide open. We knew . . . In fact it actually builds on a structure set up by the previous administration. They knew and we know that if you provide a tax incentive for expansion, there's a cost to that. It's going to impact on your revenue.

An Hon. Member: — No matter who's doing it.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well the hon. member says no matter who's doing it. That's absolutely true, including if it's Mosaic and Agrium.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a decision we've made as a province — that we want to create those jobs here, that we want to provide the right royalty environment for those companies to expand.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to get into a little bit in a moment the position that we've heard expressed by members opposite as it relates to going together to Ottawa. And by the way, we think there's some merit here, but it's important we have a similar position because we know then that the BHP takeover is a potential threat to those jobs there.

What about the issue of revenue? And obviously there's attendant investment with that.

If I can just very, very briefly touch on the final point, I'd say on employment, it relates to jobs in British Columbia. We know that port facilities at Prince Rupert and Vancouver are Canpotex facilities, and they employ Canadians. Not Saskatchewan people, but this is a Canadian issue, not just a Saskatchewan issue, as we know.

We know that BHP Billiton has quite clearly said that their intent would be to establish their own port in Vancouver, Washington. And so again at least we have called into question the future of jobs in British Columbia, the future of more Canadian jobs. So is there a net benefit then to Canada or the province of Saskatchewan in terms of jobs? We would say no. No, far from it. We think there's a potential for a net loss of jobs.

[11:00]

Because BHP Billiton has said that Jansen Lake, the new mine that they propose there, the greenfield mine, is going to proceed regardless, you have to remove that from this analysis of net benefit then because those jobs are going to occur with or without the takeover. These jobs that are at risk are only at risk if the takeover proceeds. And in a meeting with Mr. Kloppers, he was very direct with the government. We asked him specifically, is the new mine going to go ahead regardless? His answer was yes.

So the second measure we've used for this net benefit analysis, Mr. Speaker, has been the issue of revenue. We had the Conference Board do a report. They've highlighted, we think at the low end, about \$3 billion in risk over 10 years. We think it's the low end of their analysis, Mr. Speaker, because they actually have said that they don't necessarily take Mr. Kloppers at face value when he has said to the world that his model is to stand in front of his customer and take the price and produce at full capacity.

Producing at full capacity, according to the Conference Board analysis, causes a potential 60 per cent drop in price and a potential cost to the Government of Saskatchewan, to the people of Saskatchewan — who deserve a reasonable rent for this resource — of up to \$6 billion over 10 years. So not a net benefit. We know that the corporate income tax is going to be reduced both to the country and to the province — not a net benefit.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, here the measure is not whether this is net neutral or whether this takeover would be okay. The

measure the federal government prescribes is, is there a net benefit to the country, benefit to the province on jobs? The answer's no. On revenue, the answer's no.

Finally and maybe and I think most importantly from a strategic position, Mr. Speaker — we cannot underscore this enough — that this is unlike any takeover in the history of takeovers around the world. Name another one where 50 per cent of a strategic world resource has been, at least indirectly, the subject of a takeover and been located not just in one country but in one subnational, a province within a country. And that's what we're talking about here today — 53 per cent of the potash, the known reserves in the province of Saskatchewan, 25 to 30 per cent at play in this deal to be managed then by a board of directors that is located in Melbourne, or Saskatoon; to be managed then by corporate officers who are predominantly Canadian and from Saskatchewan, or from elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, there is a major strategic question that we need to answer here. In the last few days . . . And by the way, Mr. Speaker, I want to take care of one other question that's been circling around, and I know members in this House have wanted to get into this debate as well, this notion of the negotiations between the province and BHP.

Mr. Speaker, when it became clear to BHP that the government was not seeing a net benefit to this some weeks ago — because I expressed that fact — BHP quite rightly and in a professional way came forward and said, how is it that we can address some of these issues? And so we've been saying all along, we've got issues around jobs, issues around revenue, and issues around strategic position. They began to offer some redress around the first two issues — jobs and revenue. Mr. Speaker, in the course of that discussion, there were specific ideas negotiated — not negotiated, but discussed. Things offered by BHP.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that we couldn't come to any agreement even on those first two issues. Even had we been able to do that, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how you overcome, I don't know how we overcome the third point — the strategic interest of Canada and Saskatchewan at play in this deal.

And just to be clear, Mr. Mackenzie, who is the spokesman for BHP on this issue, was asked about this very issue of this billion dollars negotiation. He was asked, "There has been talk in the past few days [and I'm quoting from the media], did the province and BHP go back and forth in bargaining, where the province said, pay us \$1 billion and we'll support you?" Andrew Mackenzie says, and I quote, "No." He says, I think this was a gross simplification of things that have been discussed.

We listened to them. We listened to them, and we couldn't come to any conclusion even on those two points. And had we, I do not see how we could overcome concerns with respect to the third. And so, Mr. Speaker, if we could just conclude, I'd like to conclude my remarks by talking then about the most important point in all of this — the third consideration, the strategic position of our country and of our province.

And here I'm going to quote a number of people from across the country who are voices of the free market, who are voices of enterprise and of business in this country, who share our

concerns, who believe that it is not incongruous to have a view that certain resources are strategic and ought to be protected and also have the view that we need to have an open and dynamic economy that's welcoming of investment.

Stephen Jarislowsky, I think one of the largest single investors in potash and a major business person in the country based out of Quebec said this and I quote, in his opposition to the deal:

Nobody else in the world gives their raw materials away and doesn't have control over them. Whether it's Australia, Russia, China, Japan, Venezuela, Mexico, [and he's referenced some of the countries we've been compared to but also a number of free market, free trading countries] nobody except a few fools. [These are his words, not mine.] And we have [he says this] fools from sea to shining sea.

Dick Haskayane, for whom the Calgary school of business is named, said this — and of course he's also a former CEO and again a voice of enterprise and free trade for the country — said and I quote, "I have nothing against Australians or, for that matter, BHP. Ultimately, the issue is much broader, concerning the ownership and control of public companies that own and manage a large inventory of our strategic resources."

"PotashCorp is so important for the world because of its enormous reserves. Canada should take a long view and jealously protect the management of that asset considering the interest of shareholders and what is best for Canada," Mr. Speaker. That last part, by the way, was Roger Phillips, formerly of the city of Regina, CEO at IPSCO and a clarion voice for the market and free enterprise, I would say, as well.

Mr. Speaker, there's been no other deal like this, that involves either a strategic marketing arm like Canpotex put at risk by the deal nor reserves in this great abundance.

It's very interesting, Mr. Speaker, to hear the words of the former Chair of BHP Billiton in 2008, by the way, at a time when that company would have been beginning its play into Saskatchewan and considering potential takeovers. Mr. Don Argus, former Chair of BHP Billiton said, in the *Hellenic Shipping News* 2008, "If we fail to remain competitive, Australia will incur a substantial opportunity cost and, in the worst case scenario, our resources will fall into overseas hands and we will become a branch office — just like Canada."

That's the view of . . . this is not a socialist saying these things. This is not someone who advocates for government intervention in a cavalier way. This is a corporate leader. This is a business leader. This is the Chair of the very company that's trying to take this over. This was the view of, obviously of BHP Billiton and maybe others about how Canada has reacted to all of the takeovers that we've outlined in the last number of weeks that really haven't worked for the country because promises made have not been kept. And so, Mr. Speaker, if we agree that this deal does not pass the net benefit by these three measures, then we have to deal quickly with the sometimes quick answers we've been given by others to solve these problems that we have with the deal.

One is royalties, just change your royalties. Mr. Speaker, that is

not a healthy thing for the economy of this province at this time. There are \$12 billion worth of expansion in that industry going on today, thousands of jobs being created today, because of the royalty structure we have. And if we have to somehow contrive a royalty structure to accommodate BHP's new production model and yet keep Mosaic and Agrium whole, how is that good for our economy? How is that the royalty consistency that we need? How is that sending a positive message about our business climate to the rest of the world?

Mr. Speaker, others in this Assembly have recommended something similar, and we don't agree with that either. The New Democratic Party says that they'd like to change the royalties so that government doesn't lose any revenue to tax write off from expansion or construction of new mines even though this was, quite rightly, their policy, one they instituted, one that we have tried to add value to. They now want to change the royalty structure. That's part of the plan the honourable leader has advocated.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that we need royalty consistency. We believe the families that are being employed by those thousands of jobs created because of expansion is a positive thing. We believe \$12 billion in expansion and what this means, not today to the revenues of the government but five and ten years down the road, what that means to this province's vision to be growing then as it is now . . . it's immeasurably important, Mr. Speaker, that we continue along the path that we are on.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is not on for the government. We don't want to change the royalty structure. The royalty structure is creating opportunities today. It's creating jobs for families in the province. It's creating the right environment for expansion — \$12 billion, \$12 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I would also say this. The other quick answer we've gotten from some people about the deal is that they can make promises. BHP can give you a bunch of undertakings. Mr. Speaker, that would feel a lot better about promises and their potential if they've really ever been kept in these deals in the past. When takeovers have occurred, undertakings have been made, and then undertakings systematically have been broken, Mr. Speaker.

So the answer is no for these reasons. We haven't seen the promises that have been kept.

Mr. Speaker, it's a chance now for all members in this Assembly to vote in favour of a motion that sends a strong message. It doesn't just say no to this deal but says yes to the province's future, that says yes to expansion in the industry today as it's happening, continuing briskly — as I say, 12 billion and thousands of jobs. It's a chance to say yes to Canada stepping up and protecting its resources and saying to the world that we're going to be open to these deals, we're going to be approving takeovers in the future, but that this deal is different. It's different because of its size. It's different because agricultural food security is a growing issue around the world, an issue to which Saskatchewan provides many solutions, and we want to be able to provide them in the future with Canadian-led and Canadian-based companies.

Mr. Speaker, it's a reasonable position. It is consistent with a

country and a province that favours the free market and that is a free trading country and a free trading province. It's just as consistent here as it is in Australia or in Spain or in other places around the world who've said we want to trade with the world, but in certain occasions we're required to say no if the strategic interests of our country are not served by any particular takeover.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say as well, in closing, I want to say a thank you to the potash task force that we have put in place. I want to say thank you to those who I contacted early on for some general advice, including Premier Romanow. I talked with Premier Calvert, with Premier Devine, and Premier Lougheed as well, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all of those within government who have helped us, the Conference Board of Canada for their work. I also want to thank our MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] who have been providing input back to us about what they're hearing with respect to this deal. And I especially want to thank the Minister of Energy and Resources for his leadership on the file and the Minister Responsible for Enterprise Saskatchewan for their leadership on the file, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to close with this. We need to send one message to Ottawa. We need to say one message to Ottawa, and that is no to this deal. The answer is no to this deal. We cannot go to Ottawa if one group, one-half of the delegation is advocating the very royalty changes that are the basis for our position to say no. That doesn't make any sense. That would not make any sense. So, Mr. Speaker, we ask all members of this Assembly to simply support the motion as it exists. We are going to look forward to the debate that ensues, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank all members for their attention and for their time.

And so I move, Mr. Speaker, by leave:

That this Assembly calls on the federal government to not approve the proposed takeover of PotashCorp by BHP Billiton.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That, by leave, this Assembly calls on the federal government to not approve the proposed takeover of PotashCorp by BHP Billiton.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to all the people in the province who are interested and have taken part in this great debate, the potash debate, that is going on at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, if I could, by leave also, introduce the Leader of the Conservative Party who has joined us here on the floor. I think it is not by accident that he's here, wanting to be involved by listening in on the debate, and so I want to welcome him here today.

Mr. Speaker, my words will not be long. I want to say to the Premier, I thank him for bringing the motion forward. I thank him because I think it's the right position that we have in place,

and the motion is going to be very important.

[11:15]

I am disappointed that when we approached the Premier over a month ago to ask for the legislature to be reconvened to pass this kind of a motion, we were at that point in time given the brush-off and not a very good explanation of why the Assembly wasn't recalled because I think had we passed this motion six weeks ago, the impact on the federal government and our 13 Conservative MPs [Member of Parliament] in the province would have and could have been much different.

With only three working days left before the federal government is due to bring down the decision on this issue, some will make the argument that it's too little, too late. But I think even at this late date, I want to say thank you to the government and to the Premier for bringing this motion forward.

Before I get to the small amendment that I will make . . . And I explain it to you, Mr. Speaker; it's a very simple amendment that will just say, once we pass the unanimous motion to call on the federal government, the Harper government, to stop the sale of this most important asset, our Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, that we — as leaders led by the Premier and supported by the Leader of the Opposition — that we would carry the message to Ottawa in a personal way and that that kind of impact, I think, would add weight and possibly be the final thing that would push it over.

I know that in the reports on business news this morning, the word is that the federal government is moving more towards the position that we've articulated for the last two months, now joined by the government. But we think that if we take this message strongly to Ottawa that it will have impact and could make the difference if we are seen to be in the capital with the 13 Conservative MPs who have basically gone to ground on this issue. Nobody can find them.

And I think the Premier should be calling them individually and asking them to stand up in a very public way, starting today, to speak out on behalf of the constituents because obviously many of the executives of the Sask Party — for the example, the member from Meadow Lake having represented that area — knows the federal MP very well, should be calling on them and urging them to make public statements today in Ottawa so that we have a solid, consistent voice from the right and the left on this most important issue.

Mr. Speaker, there are seldom issues that get the attention of the public the way the potash debate has here in Saskatchewan, whether it was in the 1970s when the Blakeney government, because of a lack of response from the American-owned potash companies of the day refusing to show the books and refusing to invest in our industry, the Blakeney government took the bold action here in the Assembly of buying the companies, the American companies, and setting up the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan.

And it's interesting today that the Premier is now consulting with Premier Blakeney to get advice on how best to protect the interest of the province of Saskatchewan and consulting with

the then deputy premier, Roy Romanow, to figure out how it is that we can better protect our asset here in the province.

But let me just talk about one of the reasons that we have this debate going on. It goes back to a strategic decision made in 1989. And, Mr. Speaker, you and I will remember those days when the debate going on in the House was the privatization of the Potash Corporation and the deal that was made at that time. And the debate that went on, it was long and hard, and voices were raised and people argued about it in community. But the sale at that time was a fundamental turning point in the potash debate in the province.

Obviously the New Democratic Party at that time, then in opposition, fought hard against the privatization and the sell-off of the assets to a private company. It wasn't only because it was a philosophical matter, but it was the price that we were getting for the asset. And I just want to go through the detail because some of the members may not know the detail, but we sold that asset for one-half of book value and one-quarter of replacement cost, or \$630 million. That was the sale price.

It also included an aspect that forgave a certain amount of debt on behalf of the new company, which was \$662 million, for a net return for that asset of minus \$32 million. And many people referred to that as the biggest economic blunder in the history of this province, where we gave away an asset now worth \$40 billion. We gave it away, and a cheque for \$32 million for taking it off our hands.

That now leads us to the point where we are today where the very people who fought against that sell-off are now being asked for their advice as how to protect. And I find it very interesting that this is a government that in 2007, one of the first Bills they introduced was the potash repeal Act that opened up for sell-off of the Potash Corporation. And the Premier at that time said the assets in the province were wide open for business.

Many of the members, as recently as this spring, were in China talking about having the assets of the province up for sale, including potash. I don't think there was any caveat in any of the press releases that I saw that the assets were for sale with the exception of potash. I didn't see that in the news release, but members can rise in their place and explain how they explained that to the Chinese.

But the point is that the Premier is the creator of the situation we now have, by in 2007 campaigning on an open for business, everything's for sale to the highest bidder . . . We now have people coming to buy those assets that he talked about. They're here and they're now wondering what the rules of engagement are, because when they put their money out to offer to buy assets, they're told no.

And it reminds me of a young man who's playing in his backyard and starts a fire in the grass, and the fire takes off and it's almost burning down the house. And then he gets the garden hose to put out the fire. That reminds me of our Premier. He started the fire and now is patting himself on the back for putting the fire out. That's an amazing transition that has occurred since 2007.

Now I'm not opposed to the Premier coming to our position or the position of Roy Romanow and Al Blakeney of protecting the resource. But it's late, and there are many people who are now more than curious about what the position of our Premier is on foreign investment. Is it that we are open for foreign investment in uranium, foreign investment in the oil sands, foreign investment in potash, or is this a one-off?

And what we have put forward is a concept similar to the way Norwegian people, through their government, allow foreign investment. The rules are set out. They're strategic. They're tough. If you're going to invest in the resource of Norway and the oil offshore, you have to go there for a long interview. It's open and transparent. It's not one-off where you go into the Premier's office and get a shakedown for a billion dollars. That would be seen as very inappropriate business in many other parts of the world, especially in Europe, and has been to this point in Canada. And it's only after the shakedown doesn't work that the Premier becomes Captain Canada. Then all of a sudden we're opposed to the takeover because we didn't get the money we were negotiating.

Now that may be a principled position but I would argue that it is a very, very bad way to do business. What would be much better is if we had a policy on foreign ownership in the province where the Premier would say, look, we either want it, it's open, or whether he would say, here are the terms of engagement from day one.

What is he today telling the Asian investors who his Minister of Energy is saying he's meeting with? What are they telling those people? Is it different than the story they're saying to BHP? And what if there is a large co-operative from the United States in the corn growing area who want to buy the potash? Do we have another story that we're telling them?

And my urging is that when we pass this motion — and it's very important that it pass unanimously today, I hope with the amendment — but that we very quickly work on a policy in this province that would deal with investment that would not send these wild signals to the investors from around the world. And then when they come under the very conditions the Premier has talked about, then the hand is put up and we say, no we don't want your investment.

The other thing that I just want to say to the Assembly and to the Premier is that we need to put in place a written agreement with the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan. We are in a position today where we need to get in writing the commitments that the Potash Corporation is saying they are going to do for the province, whether that's the head office or whether that is a bigger investment in community sponsorship. If we're demanding that in writing from other companies, we should be demanding and using this as an opportunity to get those same benefits, net benefits, and correct some of the wrongs of 1989 privatization at this point in time.

And the people of Saskatchewan need to know that we are, as legislators, working in the best interest of the shareholders here in the province. I've said many times that I don't worry about the Potash Corporation board of directors doing what's in the best interest of their shareholders. They're very good at it. Or that BHP is looking after their shareholders. But I sometimes

wonder whether the royalty rate that we are being paid as owners of the resource is right.

And the idea that the Premier would say we're not going to look at royalties for 16 years is one that we do not agree with, and we are going to be working hard over the coming months up to the next election, explaining to the public how reviewing royalties on a very regular basis . . . And the Premier doesn't agree with this, I know, because he's already made the commitment to keep them the same for 16 years. They're our royalty. They've been in place, but they need to be reviewed. That's the role of the board of directors of any corporation.

Can you imagine the board of Cameco or the Potash Corporation saying to their shareholders, we're not changing anything in our sale price for our product for 16 years. It's madness. In the business world, they're laughing at you because you make that commitment of 16 years. They like it, but they're laughing at you.

And what I would urge us to do is look at a mechanism that would, on a regular basis, look at the royalty structure. That's our job as legislators. It's not your job to protect the shareholders of the Potash Corporation or the shareholders of BHP. That's not your responsibility. Your responsibility is to maximize the return from all of our resources, and that means reviewing your taxation models, reviewing your royalties on a very regular basis.

Also, Mr. Premier, there are many people in this province who believe that there should be a piece of ownership of the potash resource held by the people of the province through their government. You may not agree with that, but there are a large percentage of the people of the province who want to have part ownership of the potash of this province.

Now again, I expect you to make fun of it and mock it the way you did two months ago when we talked about saying no to the potash deal and the takeover of BHP. That was your first response. It was a two-headed, job-killing monster if we pass this kind of a motion. That's what it was. It was a two-headed, job-killing monster if we passed a motion to stop this foreign money coming to the province.

All of a sudden, the issue is a Premier with two tongues. That's the bigger issue. And if you listen to the investors from around the world, they're not worried about the NDP changing royalties and modifying it in the best interest of their people in a transparent way. They're worried about a Premier who says one thing one month and one thing another. That's a job-killing monster. And that's the responsibility of that government, the Sask Party government, here in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, obviously the fundamentals of potash . . . The Premier has enunciated them, and I agree, that with 54 per cent of the world's known potash, we can bargain pretty hard right now. Danny Williams, with only a small fraction of a per cent of the . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . But no, you are bargaining.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the bargain is, would the Premier call the 13 MPs and get them to stand up and be noticed? It is to call Mr. Clement or send him, at least, a letter and ask him to say

no. That's the discussion that needs to go on, and it hasn't happened. And that's why we . . . Well the Premier hasn't even bothered to go to Ottawa to meet with the Prime Minister. Now does that show commitment and does that show a big responsibility to the people of the province that he really cares?

The question is, we need to be firm. Because with 54 per cent of the potash in the world, we're in a great position, great position to bargain in terms of what we demand from any company who controls our potash, any company, whether they're owned . . . Well the Premier says the answer's no. He's not going to get any more for the people of the province.

My idea and the idea of the NDP is, we need to maximize the amount of return we get from all of our resources. We also need to know that this demand will increase as the world, the Premier has said, will grow more food, but also for use in producing replacement for oil in the United States. A full 35 per cent of all the corn produced in the United States this year will go to ethanol. Ethanol comes from corn, and corn uses huge amounts of potash.

[11:30]

We're also part of the energy solution for making the United States, or helping them, become less reliant on Middle East oil. And that goes to corn, and that goes to potash. So it's not only food, but growing by leaps and bounds is the amount of potash that goes directly to corn, to a new fuel supply in the United States. That gives us even more power and more importance in the United States than we ever realized would be possible.

Now my final comment is this. And I am very much hoping — because I really believe that having a common front and presenting this in person by the Premier, a delegation led by the Premier, supported by the opposition, would take this message and motion, unanimously voted on here today, to Ottawa to the Prime Minister, to the 13 MPs of the Conservative Party, to Mr. Goodale, and also to all the leaders in Ottawa, it may make the difference of whether in a close call — we get the will of the people implemented here by saying no to the takeover of potash by BHP. And the amendment that I would move in order to make this work, and I wanted to read:

That the motion be amended to add the following text after the word Billiton:

That the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition travel to Ottawa at the first opportunity to jointly deliver this unanimous motion to the federal government and to meet with the Prime Minister and the leaders of the federal opposition parties to communicate Saskatchewan's position; and

That the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition meet with the 14 members of parliament from Saskatchewan to demand their public support for this motion in order to protect the interest of Saskatchewan people.

And I would so move that amendment.

The Speaker: — An amendment to the motion by the Opposition Leader is as follows:

That the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition travel to Ottawa at the first opportunity to jointly deliver this unanimous motion to the federal government and to meet with the Prime Minister and the leaders of the federal opposition parties to communicate Saskatchewan's position; and

That the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition meet with the 14 members of parliament from Saskatchewan to demand their public support for this motion in order to protect the interest of Saskatchewan people.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to enter the debate and offer some thoughts with respect to the amendment that the Leader of the Opposition has put forward. And I can say that, given the Leader of the Opposition's positions over the last while with respect to this, it's difficult to understand whether he's in favour of the position of Saskatchewan or he's only in favour of the positions that he's articulated earlier. And he has said he thought that it was very important that Saskatchewan go with a common position.

We would agree with him on that. But unfortunately in his speech that he's just given, he has outlined that he has the NDP's position and that's the position that he would want to advance. The Government of Saskatchewan has a much different position, of course, and that makes it very, very difficult for us to want to look at accepting the amendment that the Leader of the Opposition has come forward with. And it's not surprising because it's a plan, it's a plan that they have outlined that we as the Government of Saskatchewan do not agree with.

They have outlined that they are interested in having a golden share. Well that's quite interesting, Mr. Speaker, because the golden share was not only lost, negotiated and lost by the Leader of the Opposition and the NDP, but they've also, in addition to other experiences in terms of golden shares, they gave it away in terms of the Saskoil privatization as well, Mr. Speaker. Interestingly enough something that he was able, not only was he able to negotiate the loss of that golden share as well, he was able to negotiate himself a government relations position with the company that picked it up.

So it's quite interesting that when you see that kind of positions, it's not surprising that we have some reservations about his position and whether he would adopt the common voice that's coming out of Saskatchewan. I would say all across the province people are very, very supportive of the position of the Government of Saskatchewan, the Premier of Saskatchewan, in saying that this is not a deal that's right for Saskatchewan, based on a whole host of evidence that is before the people of the province of Saskatchewan. And that's the very reason why we believe that yes, there is merit in the Leader of the Opposition going to Ottawa, but not if he's not going to adopt the province's position. That's the concern that we would have.

Right from the very outset, Mr. Speaker, we indicated that we had some concerns about this deal. Our concerns were in three important areas: in the areas of jobs, in the areas of the fiscal

impact on the province of Saskatchewan, and in the areas of the strategic interests of this resource. That's very, very important.

The Leader of the Opposition says we should have immediately called the legislature back. Well let's examine that for a moment. The position of the government was that we should get the best advice we possibly could before we lay out the position of the Government of Saskatchewan. Incidentally that was the former leader of the NDP and premier of Saskatchewan, Mr. Romanow's advice as well.

So we did exactly that. We contacted the Conference Board, asked them if they would take a look at this. They agreed to this. The Conference Board, who the Leader of the Opposition has slammed on many, many occasions, although they are non-partisan — certainly a board that has a great deal of respect all across Canada. Governments of all political stripes have used their advice in the past. The Leader of the Opposition said at that point though, he didn't believe that they could add value to it. I would say that they added a significant amount of value because they gave a third party evaluation of this deal that I think was the basis for a very, very important decision that the Government of Saskatchewan made.

So while the Leader of the Opposition just wanted to rush back and have a debate about this before all of the information was in, it was the government's position that we should get all of the information before we made the decision.

And that's exactly what was done, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, the Leader of the Opposition says, did you even talk to the government? Well of course we talked to the federal government. I talked to the Industry minister, Minister Clement, on a number of occasions. We talked to the Saskatchewan MPs on a number of occasions. We talked to a number of other people about it. The Prime Minister and the Premier of Saskatchewan had a conversation about it on a number of occasions.

Myself and the Minister Responsible for Enterprise went to Ottawa. We had a number of meetings and I would characterize them as very, very good meetings. We met with Minister Clement, outlined our position . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . We met with Minister Flaherty. Well it was a little bit difficult to meet with the Prime Minister, as the member points out that we should have, because he was in Europe at the time. Would've been a little bit awkward to do that.

We met with Minister of Finance Flaherty. We met with the Minister of Treasury Board, Minister Day. We met with the other MP from Saskatchewan that's not a member of the government caucus, Ralph Goodale. We met with the Leader of the Opposition, at his request to meet, Michael Ignatieff.

We met with the Saskatchewan MPs that are on the government side in Ottawa. We met with them. And I would characterize every one of the meetings in this similar fashion. We outlined the position of Saskatchewan, our concerns around the three areas that the Premier has outlined: jobs, fiscal impact, strategic importance of potash in Saskatchewan.

We talked to them about our position. We answered any questions that they had, which were a number of questions that

they had. And we said, as a result of all of the information that we have gathered, all of the information in terms of the legal advice that we have received from a very influential law firm that has a very, very strong position in terms of these types of deals, mergers and acquisitions, we met with the . . . I would say that we had very, very fruitful and good discussions with all of those players.

They listened attentively to the concerns of Saskatchewan. They said that they would take those concerns back and deliberate them with respect to Saskatchewan's position, deliberate them and make their decision at some point in the near future, February 3rd or perhaps even earlier than that. So I think it was November 3rd or just prior to that they may make a decision with respect to that.

I think that that is a responsible position that the Government of Saskatchewan has taken. Right from the very outset, we said that we were prepared to sit down and talk to people about this deal. The BHP officials said that they would like to talk to the Government of Saskatchewan. They have a significant investment in Saskatchewan already. They have plans to move forward with their Jansen Lake facility which they said would happen whether this deal proceeded or not. So absolutely we're happy to take that meeting and sit down with those officials, talk to them about it.

They outlined their position with respect to jobs. They outlined their position with respect to the fiscal impact on Saskatchewan. We didn't agree with it on either front there. And of course in terms of the strategic interests of the resource, it's a little bit difficult, I suspect, for them to comment on that, not being Canadians, as this company is controlled by Canadians.

So I found it passing very strange, Mr. Speaker, that in question period today, the Leader of the Opposition says that when First Nations leaders called us up, when Rick Gamble phoned us up and Ken Thomas phoned us up and said, we're giving some thought to putting together a bid on behalf of First Nations people, the Leader of the Opposition's position is, we shouldn't have taken that meeting. We shouldn't have had a discussion with those people. And I would say that probably is no surprise given, given his position, given his position and how he takes for . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — I would say that that position that the Leader of the Opposition enunciated in question period today should be of no surprise to anyone here in Saskatchewan. That he is willing to take those two First Nations leaders for granted, just as he has taken First Nations people for granted . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I ask the member from Regina Rosemont to come to order. The Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — I would say it is, on behalf of the

Government of Saskatchewan, it's a little bit hard to take advice about who the Government of Saskatchewan should meet with in terms of First Nations leaders, when we see him advocating that we should not take a meeting that those very important First Nations leaders are asking . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I would ask the members from Regina Rosemont and Athabasca to allow the minister to lay out his position, and they will have plenty of opportunity to enter the debate as well to lay out their opportunity. I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — So it comes as no surprise to the Government of Saskatchewan that the Leader of the Opposition, in his questions here in question period today, would lay out a position that marginalizes First Nations people and leaders in Saskatchewan and says that just because they're coming forward with a position that he may not agree with, the Government of Saskatchewan should not even meet with them.

Well I'll tell the Leader of the Opposition and members of the opposition one thing — that this government is always willing to listen to the questions and concerns of First Nations leaders when they bring them forward. We indicated that we would be happy to have a discussion with them, that we would be happy to receive any proposal that they might be bringing forward.

We met with them. Absolutely we met with them. That is the responsibility of a duly elected government is to listen to what the people of Saskatchewan want, and most . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I recognize the . . . Order. The member from Regina Rosemont will allow the minister to respond.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — I would say, Mr. Speaker, I would . . .

[11:45]

The Speaker: — Order. The member from Walsh Acres also wants to enter the debate. I ask the member to allow the minister to respond and, at the appropriate opportunity, to enter the debate. I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — And I would say, Mr. Speaker, given the interjections by the member from Walsh Acres . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I would just ask the minister to go directly to the debate and not bring other members into the debate.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, I would just say that we were puzzled by the Leader of the Opposition's questions today and his obvious position that the Government of Saskatchewan should not have met with First Nations leaders. We indicated that we'd be happy to meet with Ken Thomas and Rick Gamble, two First Nations leaders here in Saskatchewan.

They had a proposal that they wanted to present to the

Government of Saskatchewan, or at least that they were seeking information in terms of how they might go about doing that. We indicated to them that, if they have a proposal, I'm sure the people of Saskatchewan would be interested in hearing that. I'm sure that . . . I would expect very likely that the Potash Corporation executives would be interested in their position as well, certainly BHP and maybe the federal government in addition to that.

I would just say that, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we also recognize some of the other things that the Leader of the Opposition was saying here today. He goes into a history of how he believes this all started. First of all he, in grand fashion, introduces the Leader of the Progressive Conservatives, Rick Swenson, into the legislature, presents like they are on common front on many, if not all, issues.

And then he goes into the history of the PotashCorp and the privatization — something that that member voted in when he was a member, voted in favour of — and slams him royally after introducing him, and I would say in grand fashion. So it would be no surprise when I watched, when I looked over there and saw the leader of the Conservatives squirming in his seat. He probably was wondering just how intimate their friendship was.

I guess I would say and to allow other members to take part in the debate here, I would just say in closing that I think that the importance of the question that is before us is the position of the Government of Saskatchewan, is the position of the Government of Saskatchewan that this is not a good deal based on the information that are available to anyone in terms of jobs, in terms of jobs, and the impact on jobs here in Saskatchewan which does not meet the net benefit question.

On the second position, which is with respect to the fiscal concerns and impact on Saskatchewan, does that meet the net benefit here in Saskatchewan when we are going to lose, by the Conference Board's work, that they concluded anywhere from 3 billion to \$6 billion over the next 10 years? Again that does not meet the net benefit question to the people of Saskatchewan. And in terms, of course, of the strategic interests and importance of this industry and this mineral to the people of Saskatchewan, that does not meet the net benefit question as well.

We take the Leader of the Opposition's position very, very seriously when he says that we should be going with a common voice. But yet in his speech, he indicated that they were not prepared to go with a common voice, that they were prepared to go with the NDP's position, as ridiculous as it is. They were prepared . . . So they want to go down to Ottawa and they want to present a position that's different than the duly elected government here in Saskatchewan.

And I would say that the people of Saskatchewan would say, I don't think that that is a very good thing to present two different positions, one that makes sense — the Government of Saskatchewan's — and one that certainly doesn't make sense, the Leader of the Opposition's one particularly when he talks about golden shares. Because all of the people of Saskatchewan know that on two occasions he gave up the golden share. On two occasions he gave up the golden share for the people of

Saskatchewan, negotiated that away for the people of Saskatchewan. Now he says he wants to negotiate it back into any agreement. So it's little wonder that the people of Saskatchewan have some serious doubt about his sincerity when he says he wants to go with a common voice.

And that's the reason why, Mr. Speaker, that members of this government will not be supporting the amendment. I would say, though, that if he were willing to come back into the Chamber and change his position maybe we'd consider it. It'd be about the . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I remind the member that members are not to refer to the absence or presence of other members, and I ask the member to refrain from that.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — If the NDP wanted to come back and change their position and say that we will renounce our position and that we are prepared to accept the Government of Saskatchewan's position, then I think you would have at least some degree of credibility, even though it'd be about the 10th time you've changed your position. Nevertheless it'd be a welcome change this time around.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to conclude on one other important topic, and that's the area of royalties. That's the area of royalties. The Leader of the Opposition says that we should be renewing or reviewing the royalty structure here in Saskatchewan. We just did it a little while ago. We made some changes with respect to the royalty structure in Saskatchewan that has resulted in about \$12 billion of investment in Saskatchewan. We made some changes in the royalty structures on the natural gas side as well, just recently here in Saskatchewan, that have been welcomed by the industry here in the province.

I would say, though, that the NDP's position is always the same when it comes to these sort of things. The answer to these questions are always . . . How can we just simply extract more from the industry or from the people of Saskatchewan? By raising royalties, that's the answer to all of the questions. Just get a bigger royalty grab away from industry or from the people of the province of Saskatchewan, and that'll fix the problem.

Well it won't fix the problem. It has resulted in stagnation in the economy over the last 50 years of NDP, largely NDP, rule. And that's the reason why we see now, where there's a government that has said that there is going to be stability in terms of royalties, that's why we see the kind of growth that we see in the economy. That's why we see the oil sector just booming in our province. That's why we see interest in our province from companies like BHP who recognize that this is a great place to do business, that this is the place that you want to be if you want to believe in the new economies in the world. This is a place that clearly the people of Saskatchewan understand and realize the importance of this resource.

So I just conclude by saying, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan does not accept the position of the Leader of the Opposition and will not be prepared to support the amendment which says, I want to go and present the NDP's position not the Government of Saskatchewan's position.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to enter in debate today for a number of reasons. First I'd like to talk about the ability of the member opposite to twist facts. Now we ought to take with a grain of salt anything that he talks about in this Assembly because this is the same member who's currently being sued by a company for twisting facts about their company. This is the same member who has twisted facts on his own resumé during a leadership bid that says that he is a structural engineer when he took a two-week welding course. Well, Mr. Speaker, the facts are more twisted than any piece of metal he would have welded. It's absolutely disgusting to listen to the twisted facts of the member opposite.

Now another twisted fact is what he says with respect to First Nations people. This is the same member who absolutely refuses to discuss resource revenue sharing, who absolutely refuses to discuss or negotiate deals with respect to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. If there's any group of men and women in this province who has a terrible history of dealing with First Nations men and women in this province, it's the Saskatchewan Party government and their members. It's absolutely shabby.

Who did they negotiate with on *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*? Nobody. Who have they negotiated with on an online gaming agreement? Nobody. Who have they negotiated with on tobacco use? Nobody. Who have they negotiated with on the closure of long-term care facilities on First Nations? Nobody. This is just a terrible record that I've put together in 30 seconds here in response to his absolutely twisted position. So, Mr. Speaker, I think we ought to take with a grain of salt the words that come out of the mouth from the member from Swift Current.

Now I want to make a few things perfectly clear. One is that we're opposed to this deal. I want to make that clear for the member opposite because he's questioning that at this point, though I'm not sure how he could be. We're opposed to this deal. But we're opposed to this deal for principled reasons. We're not opposed to this deal, like the Premier is, because he threw a hissy fit after he didn't get his shakedown of \$1 billion from a multi-national company. That's not what this is about. For us it's a principled position and a consistent principled position that we've held from the beginning. And what is it for these guys? Well it's a fit that's thrown by the Premier the day after his shakedown is unsuccessful.

So now let's talk about the Premier, because currently in Saskatchewan the emperor has no clothes. He's been parading around as the emperor, with no clothes on, convincing everybody that he's a free enterpriser — all his buddies, Mr. O'Leary, the folks on *Dragon's Den*, all the rabid right wingers in Canada he would call his friends just a couple of weeks ago. But now they're questioning everything he says and does because he's a leopard who's trying to change his spots. And what people are finding out about this Premier is that he's wearing no clothes at all, that they were right the first time.

This is the same guy who travels to New York and China and Washington to talk about how Saskatchewan's open for business, but he can't create rules that will enable people to

have any confidence in that. And why is that? Why is that? Because when a multinational company comes in to set up shop, he invites them and — it's like the Leader of the Opposition said — he starts these fires and they get out of control and he puts them out and then he wants the credit for putting them out.

Let me quote, if I could, about the position change of the Premier on this issue. Terence Corcoran, a writer for the *National Post* says this, and I quote, "Sounding ever so much like the head of some mosquito-ridden developing country squeezing dollars of a multinational mining giant . . ." He goes on to say that "The banana republic comparison may seem a little harsh, but the idea comes from the widely reported news that Mr. Wall or his negotiating minions actually asked BHP to pay a billion dollars up front into government coffers."

So the shake down is confirmed by the *National Post*, and it sends an absolutely terrible message to the business community about doing business in Saskatchewan. We are called a "banana republic" and a "mosquito-ridden developing country" by the *National Post* because of the actions of this Premier. It's absolutely abhorrent.

And I'll tell you what, Mr. Speaker, multinational companies operate under conventions. They have certain rules that they have to uphold. And if you offer the Government of Saskatchewan \$1 billion upfront, then the people in Madagascar and the people in any country in the world can ask for the same thing and should be expected to give. So they're asking BHP to operate under rules that they absolutely cannot operate under and as the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan, he should know better. But when he doesn't get his way, then he comes out against BHP.

So there are other people who have spoken out about the actions of this Premier in this case. Another one is Mr. Tom Flanagan in a piece that he'd done for *Mining Weekly*. He's the former senior advisor to Canadian Prime Minister Steven Harper. And Tom Flanagan said on Friday that "Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall's opposition to BHP Billiton's \$39 billion bid for Potash Corp was 'naked self-interest in the most narrowest [case].'" He added that "Harper would likely approve the deal."

He also went on to say that:

A week before Wall's speech, an Insightrix Research survey found that 55% of Saskatchewan residents were opposed to BHP Billiton buying Potash Corp.

Flanagan said that this showed the premier was playing to the populace. "That would be my guess," he commented, saying that Wall's opposition was incongruous with the free-market-oriented conservative Canadian politics that he was rooted in.

So the leopard changing his spots, Mr. Speaker. And he goes on to say this:

I'm disappointed in Wall — though he may be playing games too, he knows it's not really his decision. He could be hoping the federal government might enforce some additional sweeteners.

So on the most important issue facing Saskatchewan people — the Premier's words, this is the most important issue facing Saskatchewan people — he's accused of playing games. It's a sad commentary on the level of professionalism that this government exhibits.

[12:00]

Now it also says in the story that:

Flanagan went on to criticise the upfront levy of up to \$1.5-billion that Wall wanted BHP Billiton to pay for potential future revenue losses. "That strikes me as something that would happen in the third world," he decried. "I can't remember anything like that. This sends a terrible message."

It's an absolute ridiculous way to do business, Mr. Speaker. And it's a terrible way to negotiate with a multinational company. The *Financial Times* earlier said the levy sounded like baksheesh. Now, Mr. Speaker, for those folks who don't know, baksheesh is a term used to describe forms of political corruption and bribery in the Middle East. "Leo Deuel sardonically described baksheesh as, 'lavish remuneration and bribes, rudely demanded but ever so graciously accepted by the natives in return for little or no services rendered.'"

So to have this deal on what he says himself is the most important issue facing Saskatchewan today referred to as baksheesh is absolutely terrible. It's terrible news for the investment climate in Saskatchewan. It's terrible news that puts us again on the front page of financial newspapers for the wrong reason — to be called a banana republic, mosquito-ridden, baksheesh over what again is supposed to be the biggest deal facing Saskatchewan today.

Now let's talk about this though in context with the Premier's performance on a number of other big issues in Saskatchewan. He stated very early on in his term that he wanted to bring nuclear power to Saskatchewan. So they spent again millions of dollars on studies and found out what we'd told them all along, that it was too expensive, and you couldn't do it. So his idea crashed and burned.

Well he scurried quickly from nuclear power to isotope production. So he said he could get a deal with the federal government and add value to uranium through an isotope reactor. So what happened to that deal, Mr. Speaker? Well that deal crashed and burned as well. And I don't know if it's because of this new great relationship that he's got with Ottawa, but it's another deal with Ottawa where he was absolutely ignored.

The next deal was clean coal. He said he was going to invest \$800 million in clean coal. To this date, I don't know if there's a dollar invested. But we want to know where the money went. What happened to the \$800 million that was supposed to be invested in clean coal? And are we any closer to producing clean coal power today in Saskatchewan than we were five years ago? I think that's another one of the Premier's grand schemes that crashed and burned.

Now the next one is carbon capture and storage, another deal

with the federal government where we have to count on the federal government, the same as this deal. And he claims he's got a special relationship with Ottawa. But this is another deal with Ottawa that crashed and burned under the Premier's watch.

He's good at the photo ops, and he's good at starting things, but he can't ever make a deal. And he certainly can't make deals with Ottawa based on this record. Why would anybody believe that he'll get anything done with Ottawa in this case?

Now why shouldn't we believe the Premier when it comes to the issue of the day, the sale of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan? Well he says it's the most important issue facing Saskatchewan today and puts it on page 10 in his Throne Speech and devotes a few lines to it. Well isn't the Throne Speech supposed to be where you lay out your plans for the next year? His plans for the next year include next to nothing for potash. Why didn't he use this as an opportunity to outline what his position is on potash? Passing reference, page 10 of the Throne Speech, barely mentioned. He should have had a strategic plan and outlined a strategic plan for potash, but he chose not to.

Why else shouldn't we trust the Premier on this issue? Well he was part of the group that sold it in the first place. They negotiated a deal where, at the \$600 million level, the asset was still purchased at half its assessed value. He negotiated that deal. That is without the paydown on the debt of that company that the government agreed to which netted the company \$32 million to take PotashCorp off the government's hands.

Now how is it that you can negotiate a deal to sell a company, give the company \$32 million for taking it off your hands, when it was a deal at \$600 million that was half the value of the asset, and then claim to be the great protector of potash in Saskatchewan and a protector of the resource for the people? It's incongruous with everything that he's ever stood for. It's incongruous with his actions. And so I don't understand how people would believe him when he says he's the great protector now.

Now another reason that you might not want to believe the Premier in this case is because he's not looking out for the shareholders, the people of Saskatchewan. He's mad that you didn't get a deal with BHP for \$1 billion so he could buy the next election. It's as simple as that.

And so if he's not looking out for his shareholders, the people . . . And he's said very clearly here today, both he and his minister, that they're not interested in talking about royalties. They're not interested in examining whether or not we've got the right royalty regime structure. They're not interested in getting the most value out of this asset for the people of Saskatchewan. So why would you trust that he would get the best deal in this case if he won't look out for the people of Saskatchewan on royalties?

Now I don't think you'd want to listen to a Premier who doesn't understand fundamentally his own projections on the revenue side on potash. I don't think you'd want to follow that person. I don't think you'd want to believe what they say. But this is the case when it comes to this sale. They don't understand or haven't been clear. And I'm not sure which is worse, Mr.

Speaker, whether they're hiding the fact or whether they don't understand it.

But they don't understand that their projections on the revenue side are flawed, absolutely flawed, because there are writeoffs available after production begins when that Jansen Lake mine is open for BHP. So it doesn't matter who the owner is, whether it's PCS, whether it's BHP. It doesn't matter who owns it. So their own revenue projections are flawed. He doesn't understand them, or he's hiding it from the people of Saskatchewan. We're not sure which is worse.

Now why else wouldn't you believe the Premier in this case? Well, while he's giving his Captain Canada speech, he must have got a run in his tights, Mr. Speaker, because as he's giving the speech, there's absolutely . . . there's talks going on with a consortium who is supported by Asia — countries from Asia, companies from Asia — in order to purchase PCS. So while he's talking to the chamber of commerce about there is no deal that's good enough for PCS, for the sale of PCS in Saskatchewan — there's no deal possible that's good enough — he's negotiating behind closed doors with Asian-backed bids. So why would you trust that he's looking out for the best interest of Saskatchewan people?

So now we get to another point. I have quoted a few folks with respect to this deal and I want to quote, if I could, the great glee that they took in repealing the potash Act that led to this deal. They talked about how they wanted to be open for business and how Saskatchewan's going to be changed by what we're doing here. And so I want to quote from the *National Post*, December 18th, 2007, because this is what led to all of this:

Brad Wall, the Premier of Saskatchewan, is killing legislation that allows his government to expropriate the province's potash industry, part of his broad strategy to show [how] Saskatchewan is business friendly and eager for foreign investment.

The law in question is called the Potash Development Act, an obscure piece of legislation enacted . . . in 1975. The act was never directly implemented, but the NDP government did nationalize a number of potash mines in the 1970s.

No one is worried that will happen today, and Mr. Wall acknowledged that [his] revoking the law is a "symbolic" gesture. For him, it's about sending the world an important message.

"We want to signal our government is looking to create a very investment-friendly atmosphere, both for companies invested in the province and those that are external to Saskatchewan that are looking to increase opportunities here," he said in an interview.

Industry leader Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan welcomed the news.

The company called it proof the government "understands the importance of the potash industry in the province."

So if you trace back to the investment that the Premier desired,

this is exactly the conditions he wanted, and now he's running away from them because he doesn't understand how to do business at this level. And if you look at his own track record for business — I believe he started three and they've all crashed and burned, in addition to all of the other things that have crashed and burned since he's been the Premier — so it's ironic today that he would pretend to be Captain Canada and defend the interests of Saskatchewan people in the potash industry.

Now what he should be doing is negotiating a deal for Saskatchewan people based on ethical principles, based on a plan that he's got for the potash industry and the future of the industry. And many people would argue that that should include an ownership stake. Now there are right wing premiers in Canada who have done this successfully in the very recent past, and these are people whom he has good friendships with and he's idolized and said good things about. Ed Stelmach, the Alberta Premier, is ensuring that the Alberta government is one of the largest oil companies in Alberta through the royalties in Alberta that pay them bitumen directly. The oil sands is going to be developed with Alberta as a major player in part of that industry.

Additionally, if you look at what's happened with the Alberta Treasury Branch, they've expanded their services greatly in the last couple of years and offered services that banks offer directly. Now this is the Alberta government, his Conservative friends, starting and opening up businesses for the Alberta people. So it's good enough for Alberta people to own part of a company and a resource company with the oil sands, but he doesn't think that that's a good fit for Saskatchewan people.

Additionally, Conservative Premier Danny Williams negotiates on offshore drilling rigs and projects a stake, a portion of the deal for Newfoundland and Labradorians. He negotiates that on their behalf so that they own a part of that resource. Now these are two Conservative premiers in Canada and, some would argue, two of the most conservative premiers in Canada, and they see fit to extract for their shareholders the maximum benefit that they can get. And they do that through ownership. So I'm not sure why in Saskatchewan we can't do the same thing. There are simple examples that have been used very successfully in other jurisdictions.

Now there are other methods to do that that he should be investigating. And this is a perfect time in our history to be looking at something like a sovereign wealth fund. If you look at what is going on in Norway these days, they have over \$200 billion invested in a sovereign wealth fund that they've gotten through one-time revenues through offshore oil. Saskatchewan could do the same thing with potash and oil and gas if they had the vision to do it. But the Premier's not interested in a sovereign wealth fund or looking a sovereign wealth fund.

He could be looking at this as an opportunity to negotiate better pensions for the current workers at PCS. Why isn't he asking PCS, whose current CEO [chief executive officer] stands to make over \$500 million on this deal or somewhere close to that depending on the share price that would be finally negotiated? And the Premier won't ask for his shareholders a little more than what they're getting. He won't ask for the shareholders — the people that built this company, the very workers who work in those mines every day — he won't ask for more for them, as

he's got an historic opportunity to do that here and he refuses.

[12:15]

Now as I've outlined, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of reasons why you wouldn't want to trust the Premier when it comes to potash and, specifically, when it comes to defending his shareholders' interest in the province of Saskatchewan because on a number of fronts he's refused to do it. He's had opportunities but he's chosen not to. And if you look at his recent history with big deals and with big projects in Saskatchewan, his track record is worse than the 22 per cent rating he got for his management of our fiscal house for the province. It's zero. He's oh for five on those big projects, so I'm not sure why anybody would trust that he would do a better job in this case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today on this issue, an incredibly important issue for the future of our province. I'm going to keep my remarks fairly short and succinct, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the substance of the amendment to the motion. I know the previous speaker didn't do that; it was your typical rant from the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

But I think one of the important things that we go through before debating this motion, Mr. Speaker, is the way the Canada investment Act process for review functions. And I would point to section 36 of the Canada investment Act, for members opposite, which addresses the privileged nature of communication on the part of Investment Canada, Industry Canada, and the minister responsible for the administration of the *Investment Canada Act*, who's Minister Clement.

What the process, what's important to the process is the privileged nature of that information and it's why Minister Clement has both in the House of Commons and elsewhere been very careful in terms of his comments on the matter.

This extends as well, Mr. Speaker, to other members of the government, both in the cabinet and elsewhere. And with regard . . . The reason I bring this up, Mr. Speaker, is with regard to the substance of the motion from members opposite which calls for members of parliament, government and otherwise, to take a public position prior to the announcement of the Investment Canada decision coming on November the 3rd.

The problem with that, Mr. Speaker, is that if that public position were taken prior to November the 3rd, there would be a situation where the process would be vulnerable. The process has to be pristine in terms of the review. With that process being vulnerable, there's a judicial review mechanism under the Canada investment Act and what could happen is that the proponent company could attack a decision on the basis of the process being flawed.

So we would end up in a situation if the member's amendment to the motion were carried successfully and those impacted did as asked in that motion, that even in the case of a successful answer from Investment Canada, which would be a no obviously, the perverse effect would be that the decision would

be open to attack through the court of competent jurisdiction under that review process. So there's definitely . . . there's a problem on that front in terms of where those members want to go with their motion.

In terms of the other part — and the Minister of Energy has talked about this — if we are going to go to Ottawa, and as the Premier said and the Minister of Energy as well, there would be some merit in the proper circumstances to doing so. We need to have a common position. And clearly the members opposite don't share the same position as the Government of Saskatchewan.

We simply can't have two messages being taken to Ottawa that are contradictory. And they are contradictory. We heard from the Leader of the Opposition today, which apparently is a new policy of the NDP — I don't think we heard it before — that he's in favour of a never-ending royalty review structure. Now this is a problem for a whole bunch of reasons. We heard from the Minister of Energy some of those problems. The stability of the royalty regime has been a major contributor to the economic success in this province — \$12 billion of investment in the potash industry alone has been a direct result of stability and certainty on the part of industry that we're going to have a stable royalty system going forward.

Also interesting, Mr. Speaker, the position of Nexen Energy. A document from 2007, where presumably the Leader of the Opposition was still employed as a junior lobbyist at the time, Mr. Speaker, the position of Nexen states, "The existing regime is working as intended and should be preserved." In that role as that junior lobbyist, Mr. Speaker, he would have been taking that message to the federal government, to the provincial government in Alberta, to other governments across the country — that Nexen's position was that the existing regime is working as intended and should be preserved.

We now hear that he has a new policy that there's a never-ending royalty review, Mr. Speaker. And we just don't share that position. We feel that there's appropriate times where royalties can be looked at. But stability is of vital, vital importance in going forward on these matters, Mr. Speaker.

So you know, another part of the argument we heard from the Leader of the Opposition, and he'd made the argument before as well, was in favour of essential nationalization of the resource and of the company in question. Obviously that's not a position that we support as a government, and taking that contradictory message to Ottawa wouldn't be an appropriate way of putting our message forward.

I'd point out as well that it's somewhat hypocritical for the member to be calling for a golden share when it was he himself who was responsible for getting rid of the golden share that the Government of Saskatchewan previously had in PCS and another company named as well, Mr. Speaker.

So one of the things we have done as a government is very, very assertively put forward the position of our government with federal ministers and others in Ottawa. The Minister of Energy and myself spent days, a couple of days earlier this week. I had been to Ottawa about a week and a half before that as well, meeting with ministers and caucus members from both

government and opposition.

I think we've made some significant progress in terms of the understanding that those decision makers have of our position. We're going to be obviously getting a decision on November the 3rd, Mr. Speaker, and you know, we've advocated very, very strongly what that decision be. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I obviously won't be supporting the amendment and we hope that the members opposite will support the main motion. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always an honour to rise in this Chamber and speak to issues of importance to people of Saskatchewan, and perhaps never more so than today when we're discussing the future of potash — the people's resource — of which, as speakers have referred, Saskatchewan has over 50 per cent of the world's reserves.

And there's been a lot of discussion today about the different parties' positions on this issue, Mr. Speaker. And sometimes it hasn't been by the party; it's been by the opposite party trying to characterize or mischaracterize, I think in some cases, the opposite party's position, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Energy and Resources made a number of characterizations of the position of the New Democratic Party and of the NDP opposition in particular, Mr. Speaker, and I don't necessarily accept those characterizations. But towards the end of his remarks he said something along the lines of this, that it is the NDP position that we should extract the greatest value from this resource and from the resources of the province for the benefit of the people of Saskatchewan. And the word he used I think was extract, Mr. Speaker. Well that's a fair comment, Mr. Speaker. Simply put, that is our position, that we should extract from the resources that belong to the people of Saskatchewan the greatest value and benefit to the people of Saskatchewan.

I may not agree with much that the Minister of Energy and Resources said this morning going into this afternoon, but I do agree with that. That's a fair categorization of our position, simply put, Mr. Speaker, and to a certain extent the rest is detail although it's very important detail.

Now the question's been asked — and I think any reasonable person might now ask this question — is, why are we having this debate today at the eleventh hour. Why did we not have this debate when the opposition called for it six weeks ago or a month ago or three weeks ago, Mr. Speaker? Would not this resolution and any delegation that proceeds from this Assembly, from this government, to Ottawa have far greater impact if it had not been done at the last moment, if the legislature had been recalled — as we suggested — to have this debate, to have a motion like this passed, many, many days, weeks ago, Mr. Speaker?

And the reason it wasn't called back — and I know I'm paraphrasing the Premier of the province — but the reason it wasn't called back was because the government didn't know what their position was six weeks ago or a month ago. They

didn't know what their position was, Mr. Speaker, and they needed time to determine what their position was. They had a lot of reading to do, Mr. Speaker. For example, mostly what they had to do was read the polls. And anybody who's aware of any polling that's been done on this issue could predict where this government was going to land, Mr. Speaker, where they've eventually landed.

But six weeks ago, when we were there, they weren't ready yet, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we haven't had this debate. That's why we haven't had this motion until today. Because the government wasn't ready, because the government didn't know where they were, and perhaps because the government had a long way to go to get to the current position on this matter, Mr. Speaker. That's why we haven't had the debate; that's why we haven't had the motion. It's been a torturous and tortured route for the Premier and for the Sask Party government to arrive at this position.

When he finally got there within the last few days, Mr. Speaker, when he finally got there, that the resources of the province of Saskatchewan belong to the people of Saskatchewan and the people of Saskatchewan should be deriving the greatest benefit from those resources — when he finally got to that position after weeks and weeks, Mr. Speaker — it reminded me of something Robert Bourassa, the premier of Quebec, said in the '70s: we're all social democrats now. And in Saskatchewan, after the long, winding road the Premier's followed, we seem to be all social democrats now. Not quite all of us, Mr. Speaker. I think the Liberal leader is still channelling Ayn Rand on this issue. But for the most part, we're all social democrats now.

And we welcome, we welcome the appreciation, the new-found appreciation that the Sask Party government has for this principle, that the Minister of Energy and Resources put it kind of clumsily, that the resources of the people of the province of Saskatchewan should benefit to the greatest extent the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We appreciate . . . As a matter of fact, I think the Minister of Energy and Resources had to follow even a more long and winding road to get there than the Premier ever did, Mr. Speaker.

But it also reminded me of something that Tommy Douglas said when he was a leader of the New Democratic Party in the Parliament of Canada, Mr. Speaker. And he was asked about his concern about, you know, the Liberal government stealing his ideas. And he said, I don't care that they steal my ideas; I wish they would steal my principles as well, Mr. Speaker.

And we don't care that our ideas are being stolen by the government but we'd appreciate it if they stole our principles as well. We'd feel more comfortable if this was a principled position of the Government of Saskatchewan because, as Tommy Douglas said, if a man's going to steal your pyjamas, it's best he take both halves if he wants to look decent.

Now there's a story that . . . We argued about the provenance of this story in the opposition caucus. I thought it was George Bernard Shaw; it may not have originally been him. But in this particular case, to paraphrase this story, it would go something like this. BHP Billiton to the Premier of Saskatchewan: so I understand that for \$400 million for a domed stadium and \$1 billion to take care of your deficit problem, you'll sell out the

resources of the province of Saskatchewan. To which the Premier would say yes. Now the Premier today says, well even if I got yes to both those questions, I still had a third question, which makes you wonder why he asked the first two. I mean if it's always going to be no because of the strategic value of the resource to the province of Saskatchewan, why did he ask for the \$400 million? Why did he ask for the \$1 billion? It kind of raises that question, Mr. Speaker.

But anyway, the Premier says yes, for \$400 million for a domed stadium, \$1 billion for my deficit problems, sell out the province of Saskatchewan, sell out the resources. BHP Billiton says, you know, Mr. Premier, maybe we can do your domed stadium, maybe we can do that, but we can't come up with \$1 billion — no deal. Will you do this for \$400 million? And the Premier says, no I will not do this for \$400 million. What do you think I am? To which BHP Billiton would have to reply, well I think we've established what you are; we're just haggling about the price.

[12:30]

Now the one thing the Premier can do is put his toe in the water, his finger in the air, and read a poll. And it may take six weeks or eight weeks to do that, but he can do it. And now he has ended up in the position that we have held from the very beginning of this debate, that the people's resources belong to the people of Saskatchewan. And that the principle, as the Minister of Energy and Resources sort of described as the NDP program, which remarkably and disappointingly he seems to think is a bad thing, that the value of those resources should be greatest for the people of Saskatchewan that can possibly be achieved — extracted, I think, was what the minister used and I would adopt that word — yes, that's our position, that the greatest value should be extracted from the people's resources for the benefit of the people of Saskatchewan. That's our position.

Now whether that position can be achieved for the people of Saskatchewan in respect to this hostile takeover now comes down unfortunately to this — the special relationship between our Premier and Prime Minister Harper. And let me canvass for a moment that special relationship, Mr. Speaker.

When this government proposed to build a clean coal plant — for those of us who remember this government's proposal for a clean coal plant — when this government proposed to build a clean coal plant, which is surely, given our obligations as a country, an international obligation in respect to climate change, it is a national obligation of our government. It is not an obligation of the people of Saskatchewan to achieve greenhouse emission targets for the country of Canada. Surely this is a national project, Mr. Speaker.

But it was the position of this government and this Premier and, given the special relationship between this Premier and Prime Minister Harper, that every Saskatchewan resident pay \$1,000 for such a project to any \$10 paid by a citizen of Canada. That was the position of this, that was the position of this Premier, this Saskatchewan Party. And the special relationship that existed between this Premier and the federal government in Ottawa was such that Prime Minister Harper said, too rich for us; no way.

But maybe the best example, Mr. Speaker, the best example of this special relationship is — and it's very relevant to this debate on potash, Mr. Speaker, because it's about resources — is the debate about equalization and resources, Mr. Speaker. When this Premier was in opposition, when this Sask Party was in opposition, and when there was a Liberal government in Ottawa, this Premier stood four-square at that time for the right of Saskatchewan people to benefit from the resources, to extract the greatest value from their resources, and appreciated that non-renewable resources should be removed from the equalization formula. That was the position. That was the position.

When there's a Conservative government in Ottawa, and this Premier — speaking of not being able to trust promises, Mr. Speaker, which the Premier spoke to earlier — this Premier becomes Premier of the province of Saskatchewan, what is the position on equalization? Completely different.

Not only, not only, not only can he not get any deal from the Prime Minister on removing any part of non-renewable resources in the equalization formula, not only can't he do that to maintain whatever this relationship is, whatever value it has; the Premier instructs his Attorney General to withdraw the court reference in respect to the constitutionality of this expropriation of our resources, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party government doesn't even want to know if this is constitutional, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister doesn't want to know, so the Premier doesn't want to know. It is that relationship that we now rely upon to protect our strategic resources in the province of Saskatchewan.

I don't know how sincere or enthusiastic the Premier is when he takes the equalization case to Ottawa, but I know how effective he is. He's not effective at all. I don't know how sincere and enthusiastic he is when he takes the greenhouse gas emissions, clean coal case to Ottawa. I don't know how sincere or enthusiastic he really is in private meetings with the Prime Minister, but I know how effective he is — zippo, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know how sincere and enthusiastic he is in his current position on potash and on this takeover, Mr. Speaker. I honestly don't know. He may be sincere. He may be enthusiastic. But I'm afraid, given his record, of how effective he will be with Prime Minister Harper. I'm afraid he will not be very effective, Mr. Speaker.

So let's be clear about the position of the NDP, and let's be clear about the position of the government. Because the Minister of Energy and Resources said a lot of things about our position; the Premier said a few things about our position. But what the minister said at the close of his remarks, near the close of these remarks, that this opposition believes that the resources of the province of Saskatchewan belong to the people of Saskatchewan and to use his word, extract, we would extract the greatest value possible from those resources to the benefit of the people of Saskatchewan — that's our position, Mr. Speaker.

If that is truly the position of the Sask Party government, if that is sincerely their position, Mr. Speaker, if they don't just want to borrow some of our ideas but want to adhere to those principles, Mr. Speaker, then there's no reason why they shouldn't support the amendment, Mr. Speaker. There's no

reason why the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier cannot go shoulder to shoulder to Ottawa to take that position forward if that is the position of both sides of the House. It's the position of this side of the House. Is it the position of the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the amendment presented by the Leader of the Opposition:

That the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition travel to Ottawa at the first opportunity to jointly deliver this unanimous motion to the federal government and to meet with the Prime Minister and the leaders of the federal opposition parties to communicate Saskatchewan's position; and

That the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition meet with the 14 members of parliament from Saskatchewan to demand their public support for this motion in order to protect the interests of Saskatchewan people.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion . . . I believe that the nays have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:38 until 12:40.]

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion, please rise.

[Yeas — 18]

Lingenfelter	Belanger	Harper
Trew	Higgins	Junor
Atkinson	Nilson	Forbes
Vermette	Brotten	Furber
Morin	Yates	Iwanchuk
Quennell	Wotherspoon	Chartier

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

[Nays — 33]

Wall	Morgan	Bjornerud
Norris	Draude	Krawetz
Boyd	Eagles	McMorris
Duncan	Huyghebaert	McMillan
Harpauer	D'Autremont	Harrison
Reiter	Brkich	Elhard
Hart	Schriemer	Stewart
Allchurch	Weekes	Ross
Wilson	Gantefer	Michelson

Wyant Ottenbreit Kirsch
Bradshaw Tell Heppner

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 18; those opposed, 33.

The Speaker: — The amendment has been defeated. The question before the Assembly is the original motion presented by the Premier, by leave:

That this Assembly calls on the federal government to not approve the proposed takeover of PotashCorp by BHP Billiton.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:43 until 12:44.]

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion, please rise.

[Yeas — 51]

Wall	Morgan	Bjornerud
Norris	Draude	Krawetz
Boyd	Eagles	McMorris
Duncan	Huyghebaert	McMillan
Harpauer	D'Autremont	Harrison
Reiter	Brkich	Elhard
Hart	Schriemer	Stewart
Allchurch	Weekes	Ross
Wilson	Gantfoer	Michelson
Wyant	Ottenbreit	Kirsch
Bradshaw	Tell	Heppner
Lingenfelter	Belanger	Harper
Trew	Higgins	Junor
Atkinson	Nilson	Forbes
Vermette	Brotten	Furber
Morin	Yates	Iwanchuk
Quennell	Wotherspoon	Chartier

The Speaker: — Order. I call members to order. Those opposed, please rise.

[Nays — nil]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Clerk.

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour, 51; those opposed, nil.

The Speaker: — The motion carries. Next order of business. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would move:

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion and verbatim transcripts of the motion just passed to the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Prime Minister of Canada, the leaders of the federal opposition parties, the Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, and Saskatchewan's 14 members of parliament.

I so move.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Government House Leader:

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion and verbatim transcripts of the motion just passed to the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Prime Minister of Canada, the leaders of the federal opposition parties, the Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, and Saskatchewan's 14 members of parliament.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, I would move this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:47.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. June Draude
Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Education
Provincial Secretary

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Darryl Hickie
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Hon. Bill Hutchinson
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Tim McMillan
Minister Responsible for Crown
Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for Information
Technology Office
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and
Gaming Authority

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Workers'
Compensation Board

Hon. Rob Norris
Minister of Advanced Education,
Employment and Immigration
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for Uranium
Development Partnership

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority

Hon. Laura Ross
Minister of Government Services