



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

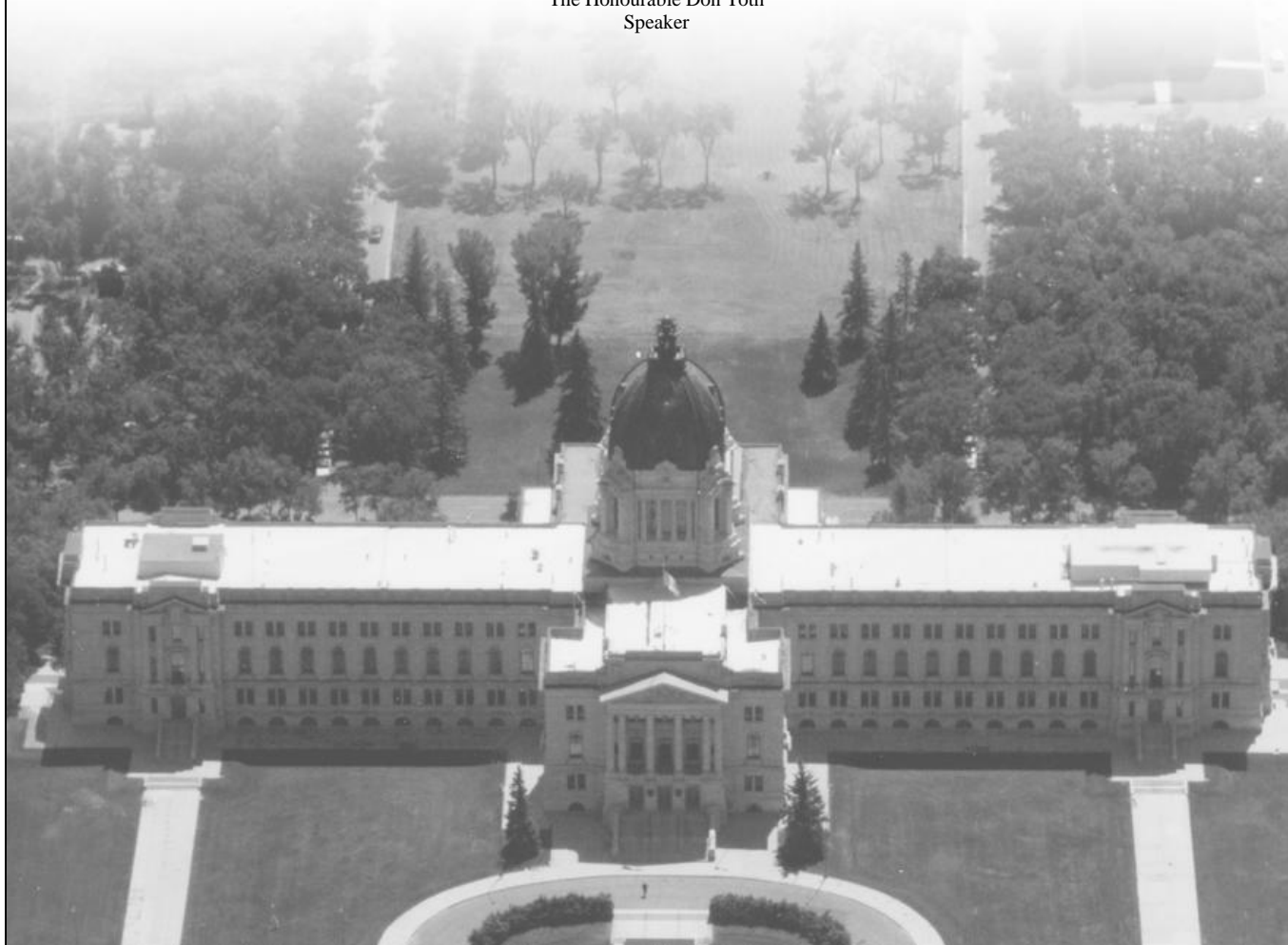
of the

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
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
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
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
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
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly a friend and a good friend of working people right across Canada, the national director of the United Steelworkers, Ken Neumann who's with us here today. Of course the Steelworkers under Ken's direction have been working on keeping control of Canada's resources, whether it's in Sudbury or Hamilton or Timmins, and of course today, concerned about workers at Allan and other parts of the province as it relates to the mining of potash. I know, Mr. Speaker, that all members will want to join with me in welcoming our friend, Ken Neumann, here to the Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the Opposition Leader in recognizing Mr. Neumann and welcoming him to the Assembly. We appreciate and value the work of the United Steelworkers and appreciate how much the potash transaction means to workers in our province. Jobs are something that's absolutely critical in all parts of Canada, but in particular this transaction has a significant impact. And we certainly welcome and appreciate his input in this matter and would like to welcome him to the legislature.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce a person sitting in your gallery, Noah Evanchuk, who is a lawyer here in the city of Regina, but has been working very hard over the past year since nominated as a New Democratic Party candidate in the constituency, federal constituency of Palliser. I know Noah and his wife, Anna-Marie, his daughter, Mila and fairly new son, Isaac have been regular visitors to Moose Jaw. And I know that New Democrats support him and look forward to be able to cast their ballot in the next federal election.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake, the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure in joining with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in welcoming Mr. Noah Evanchuk, proving that NDPers and small "c" conservatives really can be friends. Noah was my roommate for three years in law school, and my colleagues are encouraging me to tell stories, Mr. Speaker, but I think I better not. So welcome, Noah. Good to see you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery here this afternoon are two constituents of mine that I want to introduce, if I may, to members through you, Mr. Speaker. They are constituents, but more importantly, they are my Uncle Frank and my Aunt Maxine. Uncle Frank and my dad, I think they were in business together for 40 years, Mr. Speaker. And our families are very close as a result of the fact that we both lived there and basically that we've grown up together. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Frank and Maxine to their Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments, the member from Lloydminster.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to welcome two of my constituents — my parents, Des and Sharon McMillan, who are sitting in your gallery. This weekend I was back in my constituency and was looking to get to Regina on Saturday, and I thought I could hitchhike or find multiple different routes. And they took pity on me and thought they'd like to come down and watch us in action here today. So please welcome my parents to the legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of the people in Wawota and area, who are very concerned about the closure of five beds in the Wawota Deer View Lodge. They have many family members who are being taken outside of their community, that they feel is very unfair and very dangerous. The petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to stop the closure of these beds.

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

This is the first 500 of many, Mr. Speaker, and they're from Wawota, Kenosee Lake, Moosomin, Carlyle, Earl Grey, Langbank, Maryfield, Whitewood, Kennedy, Rocanville, Fleming, Wapella, and Carnduff. I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of eliminating poverty in Saskatchewan. We know citizens living in poverty have long identified affordable solutions. Recent national and provincial initiatives, including the Saskatoon health disparities report and the Canada Without Poverty, Dignity for All campaign call for a comprehensive elimination strategy. I'd like to read the prayer:

We in the prayer that reads as follows respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan act as quickly as possible to develop an effective and sustainable poverty

elimination strategy for the benefit of all Saskatchewan citizens.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition today come from Rosthern, Christopher Lake, Meadow Lake, Saskatoon, Martensville. And, Mr. Speaker, one signed it, homeless. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well a new session and still no fix to the graduate 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 Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition with respect to the future of Saskatchewan's potash resource, in that Saskatchewan has a thousand-year supply of the world's highest quality potash, but the people of Saskatchewan are the owners of this strategic resource and deserve the maximum benefit from its development, mining, processing, and sale. 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 net 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 and a strengthened head office presence; support for Canpotex, and a long-term target 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 Saskatoon and Regina. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, November is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. The NDP [New Democratic Party] MLAs [Members of the Legislative Assembly] are wearing the official ties and scarves of Prostate Cancer Canada in order to draw attention to prostate cancer and to honour those who were taken from us far too early. We also wear them today as a sign of solidarity with all those who are currently battling prostate cancer. One such individual joined us in the Legislature earlier today to talk about the issue of potash and control of our resources, Mr. Speaker.

Federal NDP leader Jack Layton revealed earlier this year that he has prostate cancer. We have seen that the same determination and optimism which characterizes his work and his life has characterized his battle with this disease. And through it all, Mr. Speaker, he has remained a passionate and effective voice for the issues that matter to Saskatchewan people and to all Canadians. Today we salute Jack for that, and we rally around him and every other man who is fighting prostate cancer.

Mr. Speaker, one in six men will develop prostate cancer. It is important for men to discuss prostate cancer with their doctors when they turn 40 and to go for annual examinations and PSA [prostate specific antigen] tests after the age of 50.

So today, Mr. Speaker, we raise the awareness of prostate cancer. We honour those whose lives have been cut short because of the disease, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with all the men who currently battle prostate cancer. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Health Care Providers' Week

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to recognize October 24th to the 31st as Health Care Providers' Week throughout the province of Saskatchewan. During that week we took time to recognize the thousands of health care providers throughout the province. Their dedicated service to their profession ensures the people of our province receive the highest quality of care.

Saskatchewan's health care system employs nearly 37,000 individuals, and it is comprised of 26 self-regulated professions. In 2008 and 2009, health care providers delivered nearly 76,000 operating room surgeries, over 80,000 CAT [computerized axial tomography] scans, 4.2 million family physician visits, 540,000 immunizations, and over 47,000 mammograms.

Last year these same health care providers were absolutely essential in protecting the people of Saskatchewan from the H1N1 influenza by delivering the largest pandemic vaccination process in the history of our province. No doubt Saskatchewan's health care providers can be counted on, no matter what the situation presents. Their consummate skill and professionalism ensure that everyone who wanted a vaccination received it in a timely manner.

I invite my fellow members to join with me in honouring the dedicated service of our health care providers to the people of

our province. And to our health care workers, your skills and commitment enhance the quality of life for Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Snowbirds' 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with pleasure that I rise to offer congratulations to the Canadian Forces Snowbirds on the completion of their 40th anniversary season. For 40 seasons this dedicated group of men and women has performed with skill, professionalism, and teamwork, delighting audiences across Canada and around North America.

This weekend's 40th anniversary celebrations kicked off with the Snowbirds' traditional year-end show, normally performed for family, friends, and colleagues at their home base at 15 Wing Moose Jaw. This year's audience was considerably larger, with many dignitaries and special guests, including many former Snowbird pilots and technicians and family members in attendance.

The flawless Snowbird performance many would agree was the best show ever, set the stage for a remarkable weekend. I was pleased, along with the member from Moose Jaw North and Wood River, to attend a number of the weekend events associated with the celebration including the year-end show, the change of command ceremony for the honorary colonel, the unveiling of a commemorative wall honouring fallen Snowbirds, the presentation of sacrifice medals, and the Red and White banquet.

Mr. Speaker, the 40th anniversary marks a milestone in the team's history and was an opportunity to celebrate the tradition that has been inherited through 40 years of teamwork.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Snowbirds on this 40th anniversary and wishing them many more years of success. Thank you.

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

2010 Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Saturday the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce hosted the 27th Annual Achievement in Business Excellence Awards, otherwise known as ABEX, at the Delta Regina.

The most coveted prize of Business of the Year went to Regina-based Jay's Moving & Storage Ltd, which also won the service category.

Jay's began as a family-owned and operated trucking business in 1964 and has since grown to 12 offices and warehouses, with a staff of over 400 and a fleet of over 600 trucks and trailers. On Saskatchewan's new road, businesses like Jay's have paved the way for success.

Other winners from the ABEX Awards include NetSecure

Technologies of Regina for the new Sask product. Their SmartSwipe technology protects online consumers. Exit Realty Fusion won for the New Venture Category by showing positive performance of profitability, job creation, and market growth within 3 years. Border Line Feeders Inc. of Ceylon won the Community Involvement Award for their exceptional support of arts, culture, and education. Their community investment program is part of the successful attempt to make Saskatchewan a better place.

Mr. Speaker, the ABEX Awards are a wonderful opportunity to recognize Saskatchewan excellence. I ask all members to join me in congratulating all of the winners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Provincial Debt

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In last week's Throne Speech, the Sask Party government continued their trend of providing information about the state of our provincial debt that's simply inaccurate. Saskatchewan people deserve to know the truth; instead they're treated merely to false rhetoric. The truth about our debt is printed on page 62 of the Saskatchewan Party government's own budget summary document. It shows very clearly that the government debt is on the rise; in fact will go up by 55 per cent or \$4.2 billion by 2014. That's the truth about our provincial debt, Mr. Speaker.

But the Sask Party government would prefer to keep that fact from Saskatchewan people. Here's what one columnist had to say about the Sask Party's rhetoric propaganda when it comes to the true state of our debt, and I quote:

The debt graphic presented by Wall's strategists in their own propaganda was at best misleading and at worst downright deceitful for trying to pass off General Revenue Fund debt as being the same thing as overall Saskatchewan debt which again is on the rise.

That's the columnist's assessment, Mr. Speaker. Again the quote: "at best misleading and at worst downright deceitful." Despite the Premier's desperate attempt to hide the true state of our provincial debt from Saskatchewan people, the truth is this: debt is going up, and Saskatchewan people will be paying the price for years to come.

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

125th Anniversary of Depot Division

Hon. Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring attention to a great organization celebrating their 125th anniversary. 2010 commemorates the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] Depot Division's 125th year.

Mr. Speaker, Depot Division has had a profound impact on more than 59,000 members that have trained there. The reason

for this is Depot's ability to balance its history and traditions while keeping a keen eye onto the future. Depot was in the forefront when they welcomed the first female troop in 1974. Mr. Speaker, Depot Division was one of the first police agencies worldwide to include human relations training in their program.

One hundred and twenty-five years after its inception, Depot Division remains in a unique position to share changes for generations to come. Their pledge to the nation and future generations is to maintain a standard of excellence and to serve in a way that will continue to instill pride and a sense of ownership in all Canadians.

I would ask all members today to join me in recognizing the RCMP Depot Division. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Photo Identification Requirement for Voting

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, this government is very good at coming up with grandiose ideas and policy with very little follow through. Take for example carbon capture, the dome, or a surgical care centre, but they are perhaps even more adept at pushing through legislation which is unnecessary, and even worse, that hurts the people of Saskatchewan.

In their latest version of yet another recycled Throne Speech, the government is attempting to make it more difficult for Saskatchewan people to vote. They wish to make it a requirement to have photo ID [identification] to show up and vote, Mr. Speaker. This is an attack on democracy as well as the people of Saskatchewan. This legislation also targets specific groups, marginalizing and further disenfranchising the voting public. First Nations and Métis, senior, and students will find it even more difficult to cast their ballot.

It seems a strange coincidence that these people would also likely not vote for a Sask Party government, which has routinely ignored them over the past three years. This legislation will only help to drive down voter turnout and silence those who would criticize this conservative government. Voter apathy is already a crisis in North American democracy, and it is legislation like this, which blatantly attacks the democratic right of not just these targeted groups, but all peoples' rights, Mr. Speaker.

Fixed election dates are one thing, but fixing the voter turnout and silencing critics of the government before an election year is quite another.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Proposed Sale of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, my question's to the Premier. Last week on Thursday, the Assembly passed a unanimous motion calling on the federal government to stop the sale of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan to BHP, and

there was a lot of anticipation that the Premier would carry this message to the Prime Minister and to Ottawa, lobbying for that sale to be stopped.

Over the weekend, the Prime Minister announced that the Premier didn't have to bother going to Ottawa. My question to the Premier is: how does that work, that the Premier responsible for this most important issue is refused a meeting with the Prime Minister?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, we want to thank members opposite for supporting the motion last week of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell this Assembly that there's plenty of evidence right across the country that the position of the province of Saskatchewan to stand up in defence of this very strategic natural resource is very well known. From coast to coast. Mr. Speaker, the position of the province of Saskatchewan has received the support of the premiers of Alberta and of Quebec and of the province of Manitoba. We've received the support as well of business leaders across this country.

The federal government understands with absolute clarity as to the position of this province with respect to this takeover, that of opposition to it. Mr. Speaker, there were no decision-maker meetings being taken by any federal officials from here on in until the decision is made. But, Mr. Speaker, I think everyone in this Assembly knows the position of this province has been made abundantly clear and is understood by every Canadian, including the Prime Minister.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the head of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Perrin Beatty, today encouraged the sale to go forward, we now have the largest business organization in the country urging the Prime Minister to allow the sale of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan to BHP to go forward.

In light of that and in light of the fact that the Prime Minister will be making a decision in the next few hours, in the next few days as to whether or not this sale will go forward, in the event that the sale is allowed, can the Premier indicate what taxation, royalty, and agreements we'll put in place, that the government will put in place, to protect Saskatchewan owners of this resource if the sale is allowed to go through?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, let me just say . . . And the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has highlighted a group in the country that wants the federal government to approve this deal. There are many other groups including, I would say, the steelworkers who are welcomed here today as guests and other business leaders from across this country, who are of course saying to the federal government something quite different — including all members of this Assembly through our work last Thursday.

Mr. Speaker, to the member's question — it's an important one — just this morning, Mr. Speaker, there were meetings with the task force that has been set up by the government to look at every angle and every nuance of this particular takeover, including the contingency that the federal government provides a yes to the agreement. Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of specific instruments being looked at, being considered by finance officials as to the best instrument to make sure the people of the province are protected from a revenue standpoint.

I'll make this assurance to the Assembly. We're fighting for no, Mr. Speaker. We're fighting for the interests of this industry. We're fighting for the resources of the people of the province. And if this deal is forced on us, Mr. Speaker, we will take steps to protect the revenue interests of the people of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, obviously the members of the opposition, and I believe the people of Saskatchewan, are pleased that the Premier is fighting for the ownership and the control of the resource to stay in Saskatchewan. What most people are saying though is they wished he would have started a little earlier than seven or eight days ago.

The fact of the matter is this issue has been on the front burner in the economy of Canada for the last two months. But my question to the Premier is this. We have made the comment over and over again that regardless of whether the sale is allowed, which we voted not to take place . . . But if the sale is stopped, this is a huge opportunity for the people of Saskatchewan to gain more from that most precious resource, potash.

Can the Premier tell the Assembly today if the pledge made to Saskatchewan by the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, if this sale is stopped, can you guarantee that there will be, in writing, a guarantee that the pledge to Saskatchewan by the Potash Corporation will be in place, will be signed on, and will have penalties included, if in fact that agreement and deal is broken to the people of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, members of Executive Council and officials within the Government of Saskatchewan have been focused on this issue since we were informed of the hostile takeover by BHP Billiton the night before it went public, Mr. Speaker.

I can tell members of this House, as I've said publicly in the past, that I immediately began to seek the counsel of other premiers who have served in this capacity, including Premier Romanow and Premier Calvert, Premier Devine as well as Premier Lougheed. Mr. Speaker, we undertook to retain the services of one of Canada's finest legal firms in terms of their experience with the Investment Canada review process and M&A [mergers and acquisitions] work in the country.

We've established a task force government-wide that's looked at this potential takeover from every perspective. And we have been developing contingency plans since we first heard of this particular takeover, Mr. Speaker.

And Mr. Speaker, I think it's also well respected and well known across the country that the province of Saskatchewan is well-prepared on this file. We have made a case not just to the federal government but to the country, Mr. Speaker. And we've made it clear that with the support of members opposite, we will continue to stand up for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The deathbed conversion to socialism was well known only after his shakedown didn't work, so people of Saskatchewan don't buy it at all.

Mr. Speaker, *The Globe and Mail* reported recently that PCS [Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan] has agreed to pay any penalty tax that executive Bill Doyle might incur in the case of a sale of PCS. Again, this executive stands to earn over \$500 million if this sale is approved. Does the Minister of Energy and Resources agree that a company with that kind of money to remunerate its executives with could be asked to give just a little bit more to Saskatchewan people in the form of royalties?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it would be helpful if the Assembly was aware of what happened in 1994 with respect to the past Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan reorganization repeal Act, which was assented to in May 19, 1994 and removed all of the restrictions except the head office provision.

The Leader of the Opposition at that time lobbied members of the opposition at the time. There were no public hearings by the NDP with respect to it at that time. And in addition to that, once that golden share was removed by the Leader of the Opposition, he went on to further lobby members of the opposition at the time to repeal and move the head office of Wascana Oil at the time, and comfortably made a position for himself eventually with Nexen. So it would be instructive if we also knew what Nexen pays head officials, as he claimed he was with them.

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

Mr. Furber: — He can avoid the question all he wants, Mr. Speaker, but it's clear they have no plan when it comes to potash or extracting a little more for Saskatchewan people.

Now PCS has made public concessions in the newspaper, volunteering to do more for Saskatchewan people than the Premier's willing to ask of them. Now does the minister agree that paying this company or having this company paying a little bit more to Saskatchewan people for royalties, health care, education, and highways might be a good thing in light of the fact that their CEO [chief executive officer] is going to make \$500 million off this sale alone?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member in his preamble said that the Government of Saskatchewan has no position. Yet on Thursday, yet on Thursday he stood in his place along with all of his other colleagues and voted in favour of the position that this government has.

So while he is saying the government has no position, he votes in favour of the position that the government has, which clearly indicates that he really doesn't know what the NDP's position is with respect to this.

And we all know, Mr. Speaker, that publicly traded companies have the right within their operation to make the decisions with respect to remuneration exactly the same way that they made the decision with respect to remuneration for the Leader of the Opposition.

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

Funding for Health Regions

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, on Thursday last week I questioned the minister about cuts to health services that are affecting the people of Saskatchewan because of his government's failure to properly fund the health regions. And the minister said, "... we have said from the outset is that we do not want to see any patient delivery care affected."

To the minister: how does he believe that cutting lab services, ambulance services, home care services, chiropractic care funding, long-term care beds, acute care beds doesn't affect patient care?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I said last week that we have a record amount of spending in health care never seen in this province at \$4.02 billion, Mr. Speaker, a far cry from any money that was ... a greater increase than any spending under the NDP government, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have seen health regions throughout this province look at their budgets and look at the efficiencies that they can find within their budgets. There have been great gains made in the past year when it comes to premium time care, when it comes to sick leave, Mr. Speaker. Health regions have a done great job in reducing those costs.

Some of those costs are reduced on a direct proportion to the amount of nurses that our government has been able to recruit into this province, a commitment made for 800 more nurses working in Saskatchewan over the next four years. I'm proud to announce we're at over 830 nurses working in this province more, in just three years, Mr. Speaker. Under their government they absolutely would have ignored the plight of nurses within this province.

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

Ms. Junor: — The minister has the same answers he had last

spring. Perhaps he should have spent time actually going out to rural Saskatchewan instead of tracking me out there.

Last week the minister said that five beds in Wawota Deer View Lodge are only possibly going to be closed. I was in Wawota this summer and the beds are empty. The Save Our Beds committee in Wawota told me that they met with the health region last Wednesday and "this was the worst meeting so far ... it was a very unproductive 50 minutes. The beds are closed they said, and they are going to remain closed."

To the minister: will he stop playing games with the people of Wawota and give them a straight answer? Are these beds permanently closed? Because the possibility of closures is long gone?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I find it very, very interesting, very curious this opposition's new-found care for rural Saskatchewan. For 16 years they absolutely ignored rural Saskatchewan. No, that's wrong, Mr. Speaker. They did not only ignore rural Saskatchewan; they closed 52 hospitals in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they laid off hundreds of nurses, and we lost many, many doctors out of this province because they closed facilities. Mr. Speaker, the issue in ...

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, they certainly ignored rural Saskatchewan, and now to have this new-found love for it is pure hypocrisy. Certainly the issue around Wawota is a concern. The Save Our Beds from Wawota met with the health region on Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I was made aware of the results of that meeting on Thursday. The health region says they're standing by their decision. They're closing three long-term care beds and two respite beds. They feel that they have enough beds within the health region to suit the demand of long-term care in that area.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, last week Wawota heard there was a possibility of closures. Now the minister is saying categorically that they are closed, that he's not going to intervene at all. They've only been in government three years and already abandoned rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Wawota isn't the only community I visited this summer that is losing long-term care beds. Canora, Melville, Kamsack, Esterhazy, Carlyle, and Muskeg Lake, to name a few that are all losing their long-term care beds because of this minister and this government's failure to properly fund the health regions.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the people of Saskatchewan how many more long-term beds are being cut in these communities because of his government's failure to give health

regions the money they need to operate?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I want to start my answer by quoting a former NDP MLA, a retired physician, Mr. Speaker, a pretty good grasp of the health care file and a pretty good grasp of the politics of that member opposite and especially the leader. And the quote goes on to say . . .

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I heard somebody from the opposition benches yell across, who writes this material? A former NDP MLA writes this material, Mr. Speaker. Let me go on to quote what he said. He said, and I'll take it from the top:

It is sheer hypocrisy for Judy Junor to carp on about health care. She and the present Leader of the NDP were both part of a cabinet that spent 15 years shredding rural Saskatchewan services [Mr. Speaker], with closing 52 rural hospitals, firing 660 nurses, and leaving 52 rural doctors with no place to work.

Former NDP MLA Lewis Draper, Mr. Speaker. It's a little hypocritical for them to have this new-found love for rural Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Junor: — I think the people of Wawota will now have a new definition of hypocrisy to have in their community. I mean the minister said possible closures; now he's saying absolutely. I don't think somebody . . . Somebody out there is not going to be very happy with the minister's answers, basically, that are recycled from last session. There's nothing new in the letter that the minister read. We've certainly heard that before. I think he'd be well served to go and get new quotes because these are pretty stale-dated.

Mr. Speaker, the demand for long-term care is increasing and the minister's plan to deal with the increasing need, we've seen, is to break the promise to build the 13 long-term care facilities that he had put out in the '09 budget and took away the funding in the 2010 budget.

I visited 10 of those 13 communities, and all across the province families are being separated from their loved ones. They're being sent to communities way far away, and these people are suffering because they cannot have somebody with them in their last days.

Mr. Speaker, why are the minister and his government forcing families to be separated and seniors to suffer because of his government's failure to manage the books?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — I'm very proud of the record of our

government, Mr. Speaker. Of the 13 long-term care facilities that we announced, one has been moved ahead. Watrous had a groundbreaking, and there'll be many more next spring, Mr. Speaker. As communities have come up with their money, as the plans are being formulated, many, many more of those communities . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order. I ask the members to allow the minister to respond to the question from the member from Saskatoon Eastview. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, many of those facilities, the member would've toured the old facility that was looked at under their government for many, many years with very little repair. The deterioration is staggering, Mr. Speaker. That's why our government has moved ahead by announcing 13. We have the money in place. When the communities are there with their money and the functional plans are ready, those facilities will be built.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would say that under the old Saskatchewan and the NDP, they could care less about rural facilities, Mr. Speaker, because they did very, very little. And in the new Saskatchewan, facilities are going to be built, Mr. Speaker. Long-term care residents are going to be living in higher class, in better facilities than they ever did under the watch of the NDP.

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

Voter Identification

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan very much value their right to vote, Mr. Speaker. And the people of Saskatchewan are concerned about the government's proposed legislation which will result in a lower voter turnout and disenfranchise many Saskatchewan voters. Why would the government propose legislation that will take away from Saskatchewan people's right to vote?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're well aware that in other jurisdictions, the Government of Saskatchewan . . . The three largest provinces, Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia all have this type of legislation. And I want to assure the members and the citizens of this province that there is absolutely no intention to disenfranchise anyone. But there will be, Mr. Speaker, a positive obligation on each and every voter to establish their identity and their right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, it can be done by a number of ways. Clearly the preferred way will be by way of photo ID, but we will through regulation, Mr. Speaker, ensure that there are a number of other different options so that people are not disenfranchised or not able to vote. However, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The Minister of Justice may

complete his response.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there will be an obligation on people to establish their identity, so they would be well-advised to have their affairs in order so that they are able to establish their identity and comply with the regulations. There will be, Mr. Speaker, an extensive consultation to ensure that appropriate alternate methods are available for people that cannot afford it or otherwise have photo ID.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, if, as the minister is trying to indicate, that is the process that will be used, the legislation would not be required, Mr. Speaker. You'd simply have to put into the current regulations that photo ID would be one of the options.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just point out to the minister as well, one of the examples he used is the province of Ontario. The provincial government provides two pieces of photo identification free to every citizen, Mr. Speaker — not in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, one of the groups affected is senior citizens, the very people who built this province, who took the time to ensure that this province is the great place that it is today, Mr. Speaker. Many senior citizens no longer have drivers' licences, no longer have photo identification, Mr. Speaker. They're a group of people in our province who have worked hard and built this province and made it the great province it is. Why does this government want to disenfranchise senior citizens?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I share the member's sentiments with regard to senior citizens. I am rapidly approaching becoming a senior citizen myself. And, Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no intention on the part of this government to disenfranchise senior citizens.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the process for senior citizens to obtain photo ID is in fact already in place. Senior citizens in our province are already, and have been for some time, entitled to obtain from SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] photo ID at no charge to them, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, in response to the member's question, we already had that situation addressed before we even announced this legislation or announced that we were taking steps. So his point is valid but the answer is there, and it exists already, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the member should know, many senior citizens don't have ready access to SGI dealers in order to get photo identification, Mr. Speaker. In many remote and rural communities, access is denied; it's not accessible in those communities readily, Mr. Speaker. Those in senior citizens' homes don't have access

readily. So, Mr. Speaker, every senior citizen has to have the same right, the same right to have that vote, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, other groups that are hurt and disenfranchised by this government in this move, Mr. Speaker, are both Métis and First Nations people, those who live in remote communities, those who are steadfast critics of this government in many ways, Mr. Speaker. Why does this government want to take away the right to vote from those who are critical of the actions of this government, our Métis and First Nations people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I believe that this government has got good support from senior citizens and within our First Nations and Métis communities, and it would not be our desire to disenfranchise . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask the opposition members to allow the minister to respond to the question. The Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — It would not be the desire of this government to disenfranchise seniors or any other group. That is why we will have other methods enshrined in regulation, so that there will be other options that are available.

Mr. Speaker, it is a given now in our society that when you go somewhere, you are expected to produce ID. You open a bank account, you have to produce ID. You rent a hotel room, you want to see a doctor, a variety of other things, obtain a prescription, you are required to produce identification.

Mr. Speaker, what we're saying to people is, you should plan for this over a period of time. For senior citizens the photo card is already available at no cost. If you do not have access to a driver's licence, an ordinary citizen who is not of senior age would be entitled to get a photo ID from SGI without incurring any significant cost because it's available for \$10 for each and every other citizen, Mr. Speaker. It is the intention of our government to ensure that each and every other citizen is going to be able to vote, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resignation of Deputy Chair of Committees

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I would like to inform members that the member for Cypress Hills has resigned from the position of Deputy Chair of committees on October 31st, 2010.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, with leave of the Assembly to move a motion appointing a new Deputy Chair of committees.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for

leave to move a motion to appoint a new Deputy Chair of committees. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave is granted.

MOTIONS

Appointment of Deputy Chair of Committees

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

That Mr. Fred Bradshaw, member for the constituency of Carrot River Valley, be appointed to preside as Deputy Chair of committees of this Assembly.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. It has been moved by the Government House Leader, by leave of the Assembly:

That Mr. Fred Bradshaw, member of the constituency of Carrot River Valley, be appointed to preside as Deputy Chair of committees of this Assembly.

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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's indeed a great pleasure for me to rise today in order to move the Throne Speech in this, the 16th Throne Speech that I've been in attendance at. But before I do, I'd like to offer my congratulations and the congratulations of this caucus to the new member from Saskatoon Northwest for his election in September.

Mr. Speaker, this place is an interesting and wonderful place in many ways — some of them not so much and others very, very memorable. I think on Thursday last, we had a memorable day when we all voted unanimously to protect the rights of Saskatchewan citizens in the potash industry. That's very, very important. There's been other times in this Assembly when things have not been that memorable in a good way. But, Mr. Speaker, it's indeed a great honour and privilege to serve in this institution.

Before I get into the text of my Throne Speech, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for some very important people, firstly to Carole and the family. In over the 16 or 15 years, going on 16, that I've been a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I can't count on the family occasions that you've had to miss in order to discharge your duties in the Assembly. And I know members on both sides of the House have experienced this in many times in their own careers, and we couldn't do that without the support and love of our family and our spouses.

And so I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Carole for 15 years of being at my side in this endeavour. And actually it's closer to 20 years because I ran unsuccessfully four years before getting elected in '95. So it's going on 20 years that we've been involved in politics in Saskatchewan, and it's been something that we have been very important to us.

So . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, my colleagues are reminding me that it is my only wife, and not my current wife which I think is one of those not-so-memorable occasions that I spoke of earlier.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also thank my constituency assistants, Laurie Hookway and Peggy Gordon. Without their help and dedication over the years, you couldn't discharge your duty and keep your office organized. And that's always very important.

I'd like to thank my constituency association and the many members that have participated in that over the years. And as well, without the help and support of these individuals as volunteers in this game of or profession of politics . . . Sometimes it seems like a game, other times as a profession — unfortunately not enough of the latter and too much of the former.

And finally I'd like to thank the people of the Melfort, and before that the Melfort-Tisdale constituency, who I've had the pleasure to represent over these many years, and point out that they're a very particular bunch. They represent a big chunk of northeast Saskatchewan, a very big chunk of the entrepreneurial section of the province with many short line dealers and manufacturers, with many entrepreneurs, with men and women who are raising their families, who are farming, who are raising livestock and cattle and poultry and hogs, who are farming grain farms and expanding their operations and believing in the future of this province. And I would like to thank the people of my constituency.

For me today, it's a little nostalgic, and I think over the course of this Throne Speech, it'll be bit a nostalgic for others in this Assembly who will give their last presentation in regard to a Throne Speech.

But it's an honour for me to move this very important Throne Speech. And it's an honour for me to speak to the Throne Speech that's going to move us down the road in a direction that the Saskatchewan Party government has embarked on and which is being so welcomed by the people of the province. I'm very proud to stand with my Saskatchewan Party government colleagues and talk about the direction of which we are heading into the new years going forward.

We touched on many initiatives in our Throne Speech, of what we have accomplished and what we're in the process of accomplishing, and I want to make sure that I talk about a few of them because over the course of the debate I know a number of my colleagues will speak on many of these topics. And so I don't want to hog the limelight and speak to everything, but I want to talk about some things that are important.

The first one I'd like to speak on is one that's very topical briefly, and that's the potash industry. Mr. Speaker, we welcome BHP's proposal to build a new mine in the Jansen Lake area. It is important in the province. It's important to my constituency because it happens to be in the constituency of Melfort that the physical mine is going to be built. I've been out there on several occasions and seen some of the work that is going on. And it is indeed a project that the people of that area are very much hopeful will go forward and become an integral part of the potash industry in Saskatchewan.

And so we have to say it's not about BHP, and it's not about their desire to expand and to move into the potash industry as a corporate initiative. It's not about that. It's about the particular transaction of the potential hostile takeover by BHP of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan and what it means for the impact of this province and indeed this country.

In the whole exercise the government did a thorough and a careful review of the proposal, and they came to three pretty important conclusions that I'd like to speak briefly about each. Mr. Speaker, about the jobs. BHP's stated initiative of running the new acquisitions flat out and becoming a price taker instead of a price setter is very problematic to the industry. And, according to the Conference Board, it places over 750 permanent direct jobs and over 8,000 person-years of construction jobs in jeopardy. And, Mr. Speaker, that simply is an unacceptable reality.

The reality is as well is that there's a potential great negative impact on the royalties of the province. And, Mr. Speaker, I for one know very clearly what impact decreased royalties of potash can mean to a provincial budget, as we went through that exercise a couple of years ago. And it wasn't fun, I can assure you. But if we have this situation go forward, the potential for reduced royalties are very real in the province of Saskatchewan.

And perhaps most important of all, there's strategic implications of this initiative being allowed to go forward. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a tremendous share of the potash reserves of the country. Indeed this one transaction could end up with the company that is foreign owned controlling a third, 30 per cent, of the potash of the world. And, Mr. Speaker, we believe Saskatchewan has a responsibility to that same world to ensure that this strategic resource of potash, which speaks so intimately about fertilizer and food and food production and feeding the world, should remain in the hands of the province of Saskatchewan.

And just as BHP is doing and moving in the direction they are because of a responsibility they feel to their shareholders, the people of Saskatchewan are behind the Government of Saskatchewan because they are our shareholders and the people of Saskatchewan are the owners of the resource.

Mr. Speaker, I remember very well the pressures that came on the province of Saskatchewan as a result of the worldwide recession that we have just come through experiencing. Mr. Speaker, it was a very, very serious economic downturn in the world, and I think without the interventions across the world that there would be much more serious consequences that would have happened. Mr. Speaker, we have come through it relatively unscathed.

The Speaker: — Does the Leader of the Opposition want to speak?

Mr. Lingenfelter: — With leave, to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member from Melfort for giving up a spot so I can introduce the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to introduce a good friend and a friend of Canadians, Jack Layton, who has joined us today. Jack is in town today to talk about potash and control of resources. And of course one of the main issues that our leader has stressed, both here and across Canada, is how Canadians can benefit more from controlling in a greater way, through royalties and talk of potential ownership, many different ways that Canadians can get involved in resource ownership and taxation and royalty.

And we've had many discussions. And I just want to say to you, Jack, welcome to the Legislative Assembly. I know you're working hard, everyone knows, fighting some pretty serious health issues but winning. Because I just want to say, with the support of your family and Olivia and others, you know that Canadians are on your side in that struggle. And I believe in the next federal election they'll be on your side in other areas as well. So welcome to our Assembly, and I wish you all the best.

The Speaker: — Why is the Deputy Premier on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, to ask for leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Premier has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the members for also allowing leave. And I'd like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in extending, on behalf of government, extending our welcome to the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

As indicated by the member opposite, it is a very important time in the province of Saskatchewan as made clear last week in the debate here in the Legislative Assembly. And we want all people, all leaders in the federal parliamentary system to understand the position of Saskatchewan, to understand how important this is. And we extend first of all a thank you to you for being here in the Legislative Assembly and continued expressing that point of view on behalf of Saskatchewan people. So again, welcome to the Saskatchewan legislature.

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'm pleased to have interrupted my remarks to welcome Mr. Layton to our Assembly. Welcome, sir.

As I was saying, that Saskatchewan largely escaped the downturn of the economy over the last couple of years. And that is good fortune, good planning, and good luck I suppose all wrapped into one. But at the end of the day, Saskatchewan, while we went into the worldwide recession later than anyone, it seems that we're coming out quicker than anyone. And that is a very, very hopeful thing.

For example, some statistics I would like to share, that our population is at an all-time high of 1,045,622 souls. This represents an increase of 4,877 persons from April 1st, 2010 and that's a very good sign. Four point nine per cent in September 2010, the unemployment rate is tied for lowest in Canada. In September there were 528,000 people working in Saskatchewan, which is 6,300 more than September of 2009. In the first nine months of 2010, employment in Saskatchewan increased by an average of 5,900 compared to the same period in 2009.

And so, Mr. Speaker, as we look at it going forward there's still a sense of optimism in Saskatchewan and a belief that our best years are in front of us. And in fact a survey of Regina and Saskatoon employers indicated that 91 per cent in Regina, 100 per cent in Saskatoon believe that staffing levels are going to stay or increase into the new year. And that's very, very promising indeed.

We had some challenges with the weather this year, Mr. Speaker, as everyone remembers. It sort of is interesting that we've talked about establishing in the province a rainy day fund. Well if anything happened this year, it certainly rained. And it rained and it rained and it rained, and that created some great difficulties for almost everyone in the province from east to west and north to south. Our farmers watched in frustration as they were unable to get into a great deal of their cropland as they watched the rain soaking their fields and soaking their opportunities to get a crop in in a timely manner. And so that has created a great deal of stress over the course of the summer, as a great percentage of Saskatchewan grain cropland was not seeded.

[14:30]

And the government responded, Mr. Speaker, by creating a special excess moisture program of \$30 an acre, that it was eligible acres. And it was the largest provincial agricultural disaster program in Saskatchewan history. And the crop insurance program has paid out over \$250 million to date, and that is an important way that we can help our farm families get through this rather unique climactic circumstance.

It also created hardships in a number of communities across the province, from flooding that happened with the excessive moisture that was going on, and right from Yorkton to Maple Creek and North Battleford and right across the province. There were many communities that experienced rather severe flooding, and that certainly created challenges as well.

Changes were needed and made to PDAP, the provincial disaster assistance program. And they included bringing in adjusters and other professionals to help flood-stricken areas in the province so that their adjustment could be done in a timely fashion. Deductibles for private claimants were reduced from 20 per cent to 5 per cent. The maximum amount of financial assistance available to principal resident claimants increased from \$160,000 to \$240,000. The maximum amount of assistance to eligible small business, non-profit organizations, boards, and primary agricultural enterprises increased from \$160,000 to 500,000.

And so, Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of improvements to this program that have been of great assistance to the people that have suffered these disasters. And the Saskatchewan government was there to help these people at their time of need, and I'm very, very proud of that.

Throughout all of these challenges, you were able to see the strength of the people of Saskatchewan and their determination to move forward bravely into the future. And that is a testimony to the strength of the people of this province, when they face the kind of weather challenges that we faced this year.

Mr. Speaker, one of the ongoing and important topics of discussion and debate in the province is health care. Mr. Speaker, one of the most prideful things that I was ever able to do in my term as a member of the Legislative Assembly was to set aside \$200 million for a children's hospital for Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. And I was very, very pleased to see that that money was transferred this summer to that project, and it is moving ahead promptly and favourably. And I think that in time we'll all look back at this as something that we can be very, very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also very proud of the fact when the Premier stood up and said that the province of Saskatchewan would be willing to fund clinical trials to establish if the liberation procedure for multiple sclerosis was indeed a viable option. I think right across this province, over the course primarily of this summer, all of us in our communities, I'm sure, have experienced friends and neighbours who have availed themselves of this liberation procedure somewhere in the world, and many have returned with anecdotal stories of a great deal of improvement in their condition.

And I think it's only appropriate that Saskatchewan, that seems to have the highest percentage of people in the country with MS

[multiple sclerosis], would lead the way in terms of finding the clinical resources necessary to make sure that this liberation therapy is indeed used appropriately and can be properly channelled to make sure that MS patients have the answers they need going forward. And that if it is proven to be a useful therapy, that we can look forward to the day that this useful therapy would potentially be provided for right in our own country and our own province.

Mr. Speaker, the other announcement I heard this summer with a great deal of satisfaction was the announcement that we have not only exceeded our target of 800 registered nurses — increasing the number of registered nurses in the province by 800 — we've exceeded that. And it's some 830-odd, I believe, is the number currently. And I think right across this province in our hospitals, in our health care system, long-term care, we see the results of these extra registered nurses in the system. And I am sure that it is helping with the overtime that's needed to be worked and making the work life of our registered nurses a lot more viable.

And so it's great to see that the SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] and government partnership that has worked to get this reality has laid the foundation of positive and collaborative relationships of creating a much more stable and patient-oriented health care.

Mr. Speaker, the government's goal of providing stable, high-quality health care services was also important in not only looking to the issue of nurse recruitment and retention, but also physician retention and recruitment. And a three and a half million dollar recruitment strategy for physicians right across this province was initiated, and Mr. Edward Mantler has been hired as the CEO of a physician recruitment agency and has made the whole process of looking for needed physicians much more organized and professional in the province of Saskatchewan. And I'm sure that's going to bring forward some great results.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't take a few words to talk about the proposed STARS [shock trauma air rescue service] program in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, a good number of years ago, I had the opportunity to see a STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] mission in action across the backyard of our children in Calgary, where a STARS helicopter landed on a schoolyard and picked up a lady who had been hit by a bus and had a brain injury. And it happened to be rush hour in Calgary, and so the ground ambulance was unable to transport her to appropriate care in a timely manner. And so the STARS helicopter landed just outside the backyard of our kids in Calgary. And from that moment on, I was fascinated about the potential of this service and what it could do to make the situation on emergency measures more effectively dealt with in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, STARS in Alberta is a model that I think that we can build on and work with in order to move forward with an improved EMS [emergency medical services] system in Saskatchewan. Currently we have a very good fixed-wing service that has been around for an awful long time. I believe it's the oldest air service for emergency measures in Canada and perhaps even in North America. And Lifeguard, as it's known,

has provided and does continue to provide and will continue to provide important services for the fixed-wing service in Saskatchewan. Working in collaboration with the current fixed-wing program and the ground ambulance program, the rotary program will round out and make much more professional the opportunity to provide needed emergency care services to the people of Saskatchewan in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that an indication of the support of this concept is coming from companies like Crescent Point Energy who have pledged \$5 million over four years to this project and who, indeed with other companies in Alberta, have become major contributors to make sure that this service that is so important to their companies and their companies' employees is going to be possible in Saskatchewan, not only for people living on drilling rigs and commercial enterprises, but also in rural Saskatchewan. Not only people who live there, but people who travel through rural Saskatchewan are going to benefit from this enhanced emergency service as well.

Mr. Speaker, in STARS currently in Alberta, STARS operates a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week program. On each flight, a paramedic and a flight nurse, advanced trauma nurse, are crew members, both with critical care skills, and two pilots on every mission. In addition, at about 20 per cent of the calls, an emergency trauma physician is also included as the response team. And that's a model that I think will serve us well in Saskatchewan as it has in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, it's important that we move in as many areas as we can, and that we understand some of the sensitivities of the province. Our government understands that we have a responsibility to the land and to be good stewards of the land, not only for ourselves but our children and their children in turn. So we must protect the habitat, like the Great Sand Hills in the Southwest.

We must make sure that we protect our forests and green spaces. And it's important to note that our government wants to double the wind power capacity to 400 megawatts by 2015, so it's important we also make sure that our electrical generation is also green. Mr. Speaker, more than anything I've mentioned in Saskatchewan that has changed, I think it's important to say that what is really changed is our attitude.

Mr. Speaker, the attitude of the people of Saskatchewan have moved from the former government of a have-not province to the current government where they say, why not. Mr. Speaker, they're here to build their lives and the future of the province and there is nothing that will deter them. And we certainly want to make sure that the Government of Saskatchewan is there to facilitate those changes and that new wonderful change of attitude from have not to why not.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected, we used to say you could tell when it was a holiday season — Christmas and Easter — because you'd see all the Alberta plates in the driveways of our communities. They were our children who are coming back for the holiday with their family.

Now when you see Alberta plates, it's probably someone who is moving to Saskatchewan to seek their fortune here instead of in Alberta. Our kids are not only coming home, they're staying

home, and they're building this province with us. And this is a tremendous new and exciting opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, there is many other things that could be spoken about in this Throne Speech, but I would like to say that I am proud of this government. I'm proud of everyone that has contributed to the direction of this government. And I'm particularly proud of our Premier who's led us through these challenging three years. And I look forward to seeing him lead us into the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to move, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Northwest:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor:

To His Honour the Honourable Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has pleased to address us with at the opening of the present session.

I so move.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion presented by the member from Melfort, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Northwest:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor:

To His Honour the Honourable Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, it's my great honour to stand in the House to second a motion put by the member from Melfort.

Mr. Speaker, on October 18th, the voters of the constituency of Saskatoon Northwest gave me the distinct honour of electing me as their MLA. As each member of the honourable House knows, it's an honour and a privilege to be given the trust of your constituents to represent them in this Assembly. Their confidence is truly humbling.

Saskatoon Northwest is a very diverse constituency. Not only is there a significant urban component, but there is also a

significant rural component extending north of the city wrapping around the city to the south to include Pike Lake. The constituency also includes the majority of Saskatoon city's industrial properties, which in great measure help speed the economic prosperity of this great province.

In addition to thanking my constituents for their support, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank my family for the great sacrifices from the days that I sat on the public school board to my seven years on city council. Without the remarkable support of our families, we're unable to properly serve. Mr. Speaker, to the many people who helped with my campaign I extend my sincere thank you. I'd also like to thank the other candidates for a respectful campaign. A vigorous campaign is a sign of a strong democracy.

I'd also like to publicly thank you my partners for not only recognizing my desire to serve the public, but for providing me with their support and guidance throughout my time in public life. And, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier and the members of the government caucus for providing me their encouragement and support. Without that encouragement and support, I would not have the honour of addressing this Assembly today. And to the hon. members of this legislature, my sincere thank you for the unanimous support of the Bill, which was passed last week allowing me to take my seat. My pledge to my constituents and this legislature is that I will do my best to serve the people of Saskatchewan to the best of my ability.

As we look forward to the upcoming session, it's important to look down the road that's led us here, Mr. Speaker. The Throne Speech made mention of the expansion of emergency medical services within this province, particularly the co-operation with the shock trauma air rescue service in Alberta. While this province already possesses high rate ground and air ambulance services, they do have their limits. Slippery road conditions, which our province is notorious for, can make a treacherous journey which is not a luxury in a time of need. Even highway closures can result in people of Saskatchewan not receiving the medical services they need and deserve.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, the advent of human flight represented a major innovation for civilization. More importantly, when this innovation was utilized for the purposes of medical treatment, it meant that geographic location did not limit the level of care that a patient could receive. Air ambulance services meant that all of Saskatchewan could access emergency medical services within a reasonable time frame. But airplane ambulances do face obvious limitations.

And now, Mr. Speaker, our government intends to advance and enhance ambulatory services throughout Saskatchewan with a helicopter-based system that would supplement existing air and ground ambulance services. The STARS program will save lives. With 25 years of success in Alberta, Mr. Speaker, my heart is warmed by the stories of those who have lived, whose lives have been saved by this service.

Two stories highlight that. In 2001 Jason MacLeod was hit by a drunk driver. It took emergency services over an hour to extricate him from his vehicle. Mr. Macleod was in such critical

condition that a STARS helicopter had to meet the ground ambulance he was travelling in and rush him to hospital. To quote Mr. MacLeod:

If it wasn't for STARS, I wouldn't have made it. With my vital signs, I was in very, very critical condition and if I'd been driven, I would not have lived.

STARS has had a profound impact on Mr. MacLeod and he is now a nurse at the Foothills hospital and is waiting to gain the emergency experience necessary to one day join the STARS team.

Kelly Hulstein, another grateful patient of the STARS program. In December of 1985, she and her twin brother Travis were born two months premature. If it hadn't been for the STARS program, she would not have survived the long ground ambulance ride from Lethbridge to Calgary.

These are but two of the lives saved from the invaluable STARS program. Mr. Speaker, while incidents of acute trauma are unfortunate, I'm encouraged by a program like STARS which has proven to mitigate the damage of such incidents.

Another great step forward for this province can be seen in our Premier's commitment to investigate claims of what is now being commonly referred to as the liberation procedure. The unconfirmed benefits of MS liberation procedure offer hope to the patients of MS sufferers and their families. For months no one has had the courage or fortitude to take the bold step in investigating the medical viability of treatment therapy.

Our Premier was the first to announce that Saskatchewan would host clinical trials and fund the research needed to test the liberation theory. Premier Wall was moved by the stories of MS patients willing to travel to the farthest reaches of the globe and to receive this treatment in less than desirable facilities. He was also compelled to action by the debilitating effects of this disease, the high rate of incidence within the province of Saskatchewan, and the amount of dollars Saskatchewan families were willing to spend on hope and promise that the procedure appeared to provide.

Our Premier remained committed in the face of a federal government that refused to participate or help fund the trials, even though a sample larger than Saskatchewan would be needed. Instead our Premier brokered co-operation among other provinces willing to move forward on MS research. As of today, our government is the first of its kind to fund clinical trials of MS liberation procedure. Our Premier's leadership has also caused the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to spend \$320,000 on an observational study of MS patients who have undergone the treatment.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier's bold step in the direction of research and innovation will likely influence more governments within Canada and around the world to participate in this all too important field of research. Hundreds if not thousands of Canadians are seeking solutions to MS outside the country. They are spending thousands of dollars because they've been told by others that the liberation procedure works. The truth is, we don't know if it works and we don't know if it doesn't work. What we do have is a theory, a cohort of MS patients who have

sought the treatment outside of our borders, and they are coming back with a variety of results. We owe it to them and all those who might be afflicted with MS in the future to investigate this claim.

Skepticism is healthy, Mr. Speaker, especially within scientific research, but inaction masquerading as skepticism is not. It is our hope, it is the hope of our government that more and more jurisdictions will increase support for MS research regardless of their own personal views on the efficacy or validity of the procedure. This is not a political football, but an opportunity to let the science dictate what directions government should take when it comes to addressing the symptoms of MS.

Now, Mr. Speaker, our government has made no promises on the validity of the MS procedure. We did promise to fund research into MS liberation procedure, and that's what we have done. We put up \$5 million for clinical trials. And as duly elected officials, we are obligated to ensure the well-being of those we represent, and our funding of clinical trials into MS procedures is another example of our commitment to the people of Saskatchewan.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, on the issue of revenue sharing, this government will fulfill its promise of 1 full per cent of the provincial sales tax made to our municipal partners. Mr. Speaker, the fulfillment of this commitment recognizes the need for municipalities to have stable and committed revenue and further recognizes the commitment of this government to our municipal partners.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to return to the road that has led us here today. For decades Saskatchewan has travelled down the all too familiar road of mediocrity and squandered potential. Previous governments were always taking Saskatchewan down the same old road, yet expecting to arrive at different destinations. In 2007 the people of Saskatchewan signalled that they were willing to take a different path. Their desire for a better future for their families was a cue for our government to embark upon a road less travelled. And in this year, 2010, the Saskatchewan Party government will take another step along the road less travelled. We maintain a strong resolve, an unrivalled compassion, and a clear vision guided by our anticipation and confidence that Saskatchewan will achieve further greatness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you . . .

The Speaker: — Pardon me. Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — I like Massey Place just fine, Mr. Speaker, so thank you for the recognition.

It's a pleasure today, Mr. Speaker, to stand and join the debate in our responses to the Throne Speech that was delivered here in the Assembly a few short days ago. It's a pleasure to be back after the summer break and our time in our constituencies and to be in the Chamber once again debating the issues in this venue that are truly important to Saskatchewan people.

It was, on a personal front, Mr. Speaker, it was a tremendous summer. My wife and I, we welcomed a baby daughter to the world and we named her Ingrid. So we've been enjoying that new stage of life, Mr. Speaker.

I would also like to say hello to my grandma, Ferne Vincent, living in Outlook. I know she watches this channel faithfully, and I appreciate all of her prayers and support.

I'd also like to take a moment, Mr. Speaker, before I get in to my Throne Speech remarks, just to say thank you to the many people that allow us as MLAs to do the job that we do. To Donna, my main constituency assistant, as well as Ruben and Bev who help out in the office, as well as the caucus staff here in Regina who provide tremendous support and work very long hours, I'd like to thank them.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the people of Saskatoon Massey Place. Over the summer we all have the opportunity to spend time with our constituents, whether they be people directly involved in the NDP or whether they're average individuals not involved in partisan politics but have views that they want to share. It's good to hear from them, whether it's at a barbecue or on the doorstep with summer door knocking.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with all members in the Assembly in welcoming the new member from Saskatoon Northwest. The member just gave his maiden speech. And I'm sure it's an important time for an individual as well as a family, so I do offer him my congratulations. And I would also like to . . . As he's aware of now, the environment in this Chamber is perhaps a little different than council chambers, but I'm sure in no time he'll feel right at home.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech which was delivered last Wednesday . . . I'm going to be honest right off the top, Mr. Speaker, that I won't be supporting this Throne Speech for a number of reasons.

The title of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, was "The New Road." But I think I found it interesting the following day in *The StarPhoenix*, when they were speaking of this Throne Speech, the title of one editorial there was, "Wall's new road pothole-ridden." And that was from Thursday, October 28th. And there clearly are a number of potholes that this government is hitting now in its third year, going into the final year of its mandate, Mr. Speaker.

There's a number of areas that stand out in the Throne Speech that I will be addressing today. And the first area that I'd like to speak to, Mr. Speaker, is the issue of potash. Now this will certainly be an issue that probably all members in the Assembly in their response to the Throne Speech will be addressing.

What I have found most interesting about this discussion, Mr. Speaker, on the issue of potash, is how it has demonstrated how members opposite are ideologically adrift at present, how members opposite are currently taking an approach that is so contrary to what most of them have espoused for many years when it comes to their ideological foundations and the approach that they have taken as a ruling party at present and an opposition party for some time.

Of course there are a number of players involved in this potash story, but we have to look closely at the role of the Premier at the present. If we look at the Premier's track record, Mr. Speaker, when it talks . . . when we look at remarks that he has made over the past years in the role of government in a modern economy, steps that he has taken, it seems contrary to this new-found position that he has taken on the issue of potash and say no to the possible takeover of PotashCorp by BHP Billiton.

We can all remember — it was among my first days in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker — the very first piece of legislation that was brought in by this Sask Party government was *The Potash Development Repeal Act*. And they made a show of it. They invited industry individuals into the gallery, and they talked about this new-found era of this and that, Mr. Speaker — the normal rhetoric one might expect in the Throne Speech, especially in a government in its first days in power. But it appears that three short years later, Mr. Speaker, after all this talk that the Premier made about this and that, the actions he's taking now is contrary to some of the things that he said back in those days.

So I know for my issue with this is that it's hard to take the Premier, it's hard to take the words of the Premier seriously when this conversion which he has had so recently goes against what he has talked about for such a long period of time. And I think, Mr. Speaker, it certainly goes against the philosophical . . . the words the members opposite have said for many years on the issue of what sort of role government ought to have in ensuring that the benefits of the resources in the province are maximized for the people of Saskatchewan.

So it would be interesting to see how the members opposite, how they actually feel on this position when the door is closed and they're able to have a frank discussion. We know members opposite do read polls very well and very closely. We know that their position can evolve quite rapidly, based on what they are reading in the polls. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier's new-found belief that it's appropriate for his government to say no to this takeover is more based on polling than opposed to any sort of deep conviction he has on this issue.

If we look at remarks that members opposite have made over the years, there's quite a bit of evidence to suggest that the Premier's not alone in this new-found desire to take a proactive step and ensure that benefits are maximized for the people of Saskatchewan.

The member from Wood River in his Throne Speech . . . This is the member who at length, any chance he's given, goes on about talking fighting communism and the evils of the left and any sort of government involvement in the economy. This is his bread and butter of any speech when he's able to give it, Mr. Speaker. In his Throne Speech the member said — this is page 116 from March 26, 2001:

And part of my duties, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a fighter pilot was I was part of a defensive structure in the free world to defend against the spread of communism. Now isn't that ironic, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

He goes on to say, "An economy controlled by the government rather than business, I totally disagree with."

Mr. Speaker, now perhaps the member opposite, he is on the more extreme end of his caucus. I actually think he represents more of the norm within caucus, but it's clear he's gone on record any chance he has very early on, stating his opinion of what sort of involvement the economy . . . what sort of involvement government ought to have in the economy.

Another individual, Mr. Speaker, an individual who's served in cabinet at different points and is no longer in cabinet, in his maiden speech, the member from Thunder Creek near Moose Jaw, in his maiden speech on page 118, he said, "It is our duty as residents of Saskatchewan to see that government ceases to be master and tax collector and begins to be the facilitator for economic development and prosperity."

Well, Mr. Speaker, we have talked now of the Premier talking about the possibility of a special tax if a deal were to go through. If we have the Premier talking about how government ought to take a stand here and stand up for the people of Saskatchewan, I think many people would understand my hesitancy to take members at their word on these issues when we look at their track record of statements in so many instances and that they have told and conveyed a very different story.

[15:00]

And I wonder, Mr. Speaker, how this makes members opposite feel as MLAs but also, Mr. Speaker, members of Executive Council who are working for the Sask Party government at this time. We can recall . . . When I think about a government who has lost its way, I'm taken back to the remarks that the Premier once made about how he saw it as a huge advantage to him that he was part of a government that had lost its way. Now he was talking about the former Grant Devine administration and the charges and the convictions that ensued out of that period of time, that dark period of time for Saskatchewan people. Well the Premier talked about how this for him was a benefit because it allowed him to see what not to do and the errors of when a government loses its way.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think there's a new generation of tiny Tories in Executive Council who are working now and someday may make a similar remark about how it was a problem . . . or a similar remark how it's a benefit that they were a part of a government that had lost its way. Now they'll be speaking about it in ideological sense based on a conservative world view of the role of government in the economy.

And let me be clear; I support the NDP position when it comes to saying no about the possible takeover of PCS by BHP. But in the same way that we've seen the Harper Conservatives in Ottawa betray their philosophical and ideological roots on many issues, we see a similar instance happening now here with members opposite. And it'll be interesting to see how that affects the rank and file and the average member within the Sask Party.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think when we look at the potash issue, it's clear that members opposite have been making up their approach as they go along. They've been trying to buy time, buying time to read the polls and come up with some sort of position that is opportunistic for the short term but is certainly not a reliable position, in my opinion, when we look at their

track record over the years. So on the potash issue, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, members opposite are certainly ideologically adrift.

The next issue I'd like to speak about, Mr. Speaker, is the issue of long-term care facilities which is mentioned in the Throne Speech. Now this is an interesting discussion because it comes out of . . . The issue of long-term care facilities comes out of a discussion we were having last session.

And last session, those that follow closely at home, follow the news, and members in the Chamber will remember the debate that we had, and most likely will continue to have, about the proposed . . . or about the Amicus deal in Saskatoon. And we talked about, at length here in the Chamber, how the rules were not the same for everyone in the province. How with the Amicus deal there was a deviation from what had been the traditional approach for the development of long-term care facilities in the province.

The traditional approach, Mr. Speaker, and for those at home, is that the local community raises a portion and then government chips in a portion. That the split, the ratio is set. It's predictable. Communities know what to do and they carry on their plans. So members opposite can think of facilities in their own constituencies where this has occurred. Oliver Lodge is in Saskatoon Massey Place and the good people that are the backers of Oliver Lodge have been working for years, through bake sales, through fundraisers, through planned giving, all sorts of initiatives to generate their share of the project.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it comes out through, not in an open way, not through a public way and a way of being clear and upfront with the people of Saskatchewan. It comes out that there's a sweetheart deal for one group, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't have to go and do all the fundraising. Doesn't have to ask for the planned giving. Doesn't have to do the bake sales. Doesn't have to do the raffles. They, Mr. Speaker, get a special premium on the beds that they would be building, a premium that would provide additional revenue for the group and thereby pay for the facility.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I've been very clear that the criticism of this project is not a criticism of the organization that is behind the project. Those individuals are very good people and contribute a great deal to the province, as does the Catholic Health Ministry. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is a one-off sweetheart deal with this government with a certain group and how it is not fair for the many, many Saskatchewan communities who are engaged in the pursuit of a new long-term care facility. And then, Mr. Speaker, we learn of untendered contracts and different aspects that are just all the more troubling. So in this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, there's talk of an innovative approach to the issue of long-term care facilities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let's look at a bit of the record of members opposite when it comes to long-term care facilities. In February of '09 there was an announcement of 13 long-term care facilities. And there were announcements, reannouncements, there was a great deal of fanfare about this, Mr. Speaker. Well then just a short time later, last November in '09, we get word that the funding is cancelled and these projects are all deferred. So it stopped the train; the community's hopes were raised and

now . . . then notice was given to communities that the funding is not there. And now, Mr. Speaker, we hear that it's an urgent issue and the government is once again consulting, consulting with these communities.

So it's puzzling to someone who has been watching the budgets, to someone who's been watching the mid-term updates, to have this new concern for long-term care facilities after just cancelling the funding for things that they reannounce more than once. To me, Mr. Speaker, it shows that it's more about content for a Throne Speech and less about doing what's right in the area of long-term care facilities.

And we'll look at the financial decisions the Sask Party is making. When we talk about this innovative idea for long-term care facilities, the Throne Speech is quite vague on details about what this innovative approach for long-term care facilities means. Causes me to be puzzled about what it is going to look like, because there are no details there. Will this mean that the sweetheart approach that the government has taken will be okay for some communities, not others? Will it be an expansion of the sweetheart?

So the question to me is, how would you get on the Sask Party sweetheart list? Members at home can come to their own conclusions on that one. Or does it mean . . . What does it mean for long-term debt implications for the province? Is this a repeat of a Grant Devine approach in opening facilities that . . . where the funding is not in place at the present time? So when it comes to long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, the financial mismanagement and doublespeak of this Sask Party to me is very apparent.

I've talked about potash, how members opposite are ideologically adrift. I've talked about long-term care facilities, which addresses some of the on-and-off-again language and the financial mismanagement we've seen from the Sask Party.

The next area, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address in the Throne Speech is the issue of the environment. Now there have been, in the Throne Speech, there's mention of new steps that members opposite, that the government plans to take on the environment and some new steps which in and of themselves could be good things. We'll see what the details are like and what the legislation looks like and how the government plans on carrying this out.

But the Great Sand Hills, of course, it's a sensitive area. It's an area that Saskatchewan people love. It's an important area. It's important for the community. It's important for the people of Saskatchewan. It's important for the wildlife there. That's a good thing perhaps. We'll see what the legislation in fact looks like. But at face value, protection of an endangered area sounds okay.

EnerGuide, the extension of EnerGuide, Mr. Speaker, okay, well if there's a plan that does help individuals make some steps, again we'll see what the details are, but this could be an okay thing.

What this Throne Speech though, when addressing the environment, what it fails to do is take into consideration the gigantic missteps that were made in the last session on the issue

of the environment. And I'm speaking of, Mr. Speaker, of course the changes through WHPA [*The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*] that the government made which eliminated protection for up to 3.5 million acres of sensitive wildlife habitat.

And this was a big issue last session as we talked about it many days in the Chamber, and individuals . . . It was a hot topic for question period. It was a hot topic for the minister at that time. And it was an issue that concerned many, many people in Saskatchewan. I imagine there was considerable debate within that caucus. But again, it was piece of legislation — the 3.5 million acres of Crown land, land that's owned by everyone in Saskatchewan, put up for sale, protection removed from the land, Mr. Speaker — widely seen as an error by the Sask Party.

I believe it was in the same newspaper article, Mr. Speaker, that this issue was being talked about in the editorial piece the day following the Throne Speech. And on this issue of how the Sask Party in this Throne Speech is completely blind, completely ignores the huge error that they made last session by removing protection for up to 3.5 million acres of land, the editorial reads:

However, it only serves as a pre-election reminder of this government's utterly boneheaded move last year to remove nearly 3 million acres of Crown land from the protective umbrella of the wildlife protection Act.

So recognition by many members in the province that some huge errors were made last session and some errors ought to be corrected.

Well what do we see in this session, Mr. Speaker? We see some steps perhaps in some good areas, but steps that don't address the errors, the huge flaws that the government made in the previous sessions. So it's a preference on the environmental front that we see, a preference over tokenism as opposed to actually addressing, recognizing errors, correcting them, and addressing the most important issues.

I won't get into at length, Mr. Speaker, the cancellation of the green fund and any sort of coherent overall plan in addressing greenhouse gases. I'll let another member address that issue. But it's clear that — well in my opinion it's clear, Mr. Speaker — that on the issue of the environment, we see a preference for tokenism over real positive change.

This is a little bit of an aside, Mr. Speaker, but I think it's important to mention though. There's another lesson that's learned by the misstep, the misplay that we've seen in the environment over the past two sessions. The legislation that was introduced, Mr. Speaker . . . I'll back up one second. I think it's important to talk about this because it speaks to how the Premier takes responsibility for his actions. It speaks to how he can recognize a problem and how he ought to take corrective measures. We saw with the changes to the protective land, the legislation that the previous minister introduced in the last session before the Cabinet shuffle.

The current member from Martensville introduced this legislation. Mr. Speaker, this wasn't her legislation. This was government legislation. I don't think the member from Martensville was up late at night and thinking about, oh, how

should I take away protection of protected land, up to 3.5 million acres of protected land? How should I do this? This, Mr. Speaker, was a decision. This was legislation that came from the Premier.

So the Premier brings forward this legislation, taking away protection of land. Protection, Mr. Speaker, that was appreciated by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, by Ducks Unlimited, by the nature society . . . many different groups supported this legislation. The Premier makes this decision, Mr. Speaker, to remove the protection of the land, to put it up for sale.

And he asked the former minister of the Environment, the member from Martensville, to do some tough slogging. I don't know how the conversation would have gone. But he clearly would've, I think, would had to have said, I know this isn't your piece of legislation but it's something we need to do. I won't talk about motives now why he would want this done. But I need you to go out and push this through. We need it through.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite pushes it through, says all the lines that she's told to say. And how was she rewarded, Mr. Speaker? A female, a strong minister in the cabinet, does what the Premier asks. And how is she rewarded for doing this? Well, she's removed from cabinet, Mr. Speaker, and she's put to the back benches.

To me, Mr. Speaker, that's not how a premier ought to recognize the errors that he has made. Take responsibility for them. Instead it's passing the buck to someone else and allowing them to be the scapegoat for unpopular and, as *The StarPhoenix* editorial says, boneheaded legislation. I don't think that's the proper way to handle it. And it would be curious to truly know what all the members of caucus and cabinet think on that issue. But I don't expect we'll be getting the details.

So, Mr. Speaker, I've talked about potash, how I think it shows that the members opposite are now ideologically adrift. I've talked about long-term care facilities, how we see how truly financially misguided and messed up members opposite are. Talked about the environment, how there may be positive steps but it's a focus on tokenism over positive change.

The last area, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk about is the area of advanced education and some of the things that are mentioned in the Throne Speech on this topic. First off, I'd like to say in the last couple of days, Mr. Speaker, since we've been back I've been reading the petition on the grad retention program. And we still do not see a correction to the errors that were made when the Sask Party changed the program. They left out master's and Ph.D. graduates, some of the people that we truly want to have in the province. I think that most people would agree with that. And I know I have and many other members have heard from master's and Ph.D. students who were concerned about being left out from this program. So the Throne Speech is quiet on that and doesn't mention any sort of desire to fix the misstep, to fix the error.

[15:15]

We also see silence, Mr. Speaker, on the issue of tuition. We've seen over the past two years tuition steadily climb on university

campuses beyond the rate of inflation. We see no talk about that in the Throne Speech and how that may be a concern.

There is talk, Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech about a new scholarship fund. And I'll perhaps take a similar tack as I did with the environment legislation. This could be a good thing. We have yet to see what the details are and to hear from student unions on the issue. But again the devil's always in the details, so it's interesting. It will be interesting to see how the plan develops and unfolds in the coming weeks and months.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, if tuition is going up at a steady rate, at a rate beyond inflation, and that is costing students a greater amount every year, if more dollars are being taken out of the left pocket and only a few are being returned through the right, it's still not necessarily a fair approach for all students. So we'll see what the details of the plan are and hear from students on that.

So when we come to the area of advanced education, to me, similar to other areas where we've seen the government act. It's murky on the details, and we'll have to reserve a decision until we figure out what the details are. But we do know the track record for Saskatchewan students is that life has become much more expensive.

Mr. Speaker, I've talked about potash, how members opposite are ideologically adrift. I've talked about long-term care facilities, which demonstrates to me that members say one thing one day, say another another day, and aren't quite sure what they are able to afford and when they're able to afford it. I've talked about the environment, Mr. Speaker, which in my opinion demonstrates a favouritism of tokenism over real positive change. And I've talked about advanced education, which suggests that things are still rather murky, and we will wait for the details — not a great deal of clarity.

So, Mr. Speaker, based on just those four topics, and I know members opposite will address different issues as they see fit and the issues that stood out to them as positive or blunders in the Throne Speech. But because of my observations in those areas, I'm not able to support the Throne Speech.

I would though like to move an amendment, Mr. Speaker, to the Throne Speech and I'll read this amendment at this time:

That the following words be added to the government's motion:

This government has lost the confidence of this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan because of the government's lack of vision for the future of our province and its failure to address the important issues facing Saskatchewan today in the Speech from the Throne, including maximizing the benefits for Saskatchewan families from our resources, improving the quality of our health care, addressing critical issues of affordability, and returning to sound financial management.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move the amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Massey

Place has moved the following amendment.

That the following words be added to the government's motion:

This government has lost the confidence of this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan because of the government's lack of vision for the future of our province and its failure to address the important issues facing Saskatchewan today in the Speech from the Throne, including maximizing the benefits for Saskatchewan families from our resources, improving the quality of our health care, addressing critical issues of affordability, and returning to sound financial management.

I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my honour to second the motion, the amendment to this tired old Throne Speech, this recycled Throne Speech from the Sask Party government. But following the great speech that my colleague, the honourable member from Saskatoon Massey Place just gave, it's really an honour to follow that gentlemen.

My first words, Mr. Speaker, are of course going to be words of welcome to the new member for Saskatoon Northwest who just not very long ago gave his maiden speech in the Assembly, and we look forward to continued contributions from that hon. member. And welcome, sir. Congratulations on your election to this most honourable of places that we have here.

My second words, Mr. Speaker, are words of gratitude to my constituents, the good people of Regina Coronation Park. What a wonderful constituency that is full of people that get up every day and they think, how can I make my area of Saskatchewan, of Regina, of the world a better place. And you know, they industriously go about going to work every day and taking care of their families, whether that's children or whether that's aging parents, it doesn't much matter.

We've got the whole mix in Regina Coronation Park. And, Mr. Speaker, I truly have been blessed to represent what I honestly feel as the greatest constituency in all of Saskatchewan. And I know other colleagues on both sides think their constituencies are pretty darn special as well. But I really have a special place in my heart for all of the good people of Regina Coronation Park who, for the most part, are not a group of complainers. They're a group of doers. They're a group of people that just go about their business and make things happen.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about the Throne Speech, and I started by talking a bit about it being a recycled speech. And I was reflecting as I was preparing for this. You know, people thought that after 16 years in government that the NDP was pretty old and tired and you know what — the voters are right. I'm not going to argue with that. It was probably . . . Probably we were showing signs of being tired and starting to recycle some of the things that we believe in and stand for. I happen to think most of those things were good things, but clearly the Sask Party got elected on a theme of change, on a theme of let's make some things happen in a different way. And they were elected with a great deal of goodwill, with a great deal of hope

and, as I've mentioned, a desire for change.

Well the results three years in, Mr. Speaker, are just like the recycle circle with the three arrows going around and round. And in three years, it's just zip, zip, zip. Gone full circle recycling old promises, and let me just pick one out of the air. They talk in this Speech from the Throne about filling a promise made to municipalities. Well last year's promise was that municipalities would get the equivalent of 1 per cent of the PST [provincial sales tax] guaranteed as part of their stable funding. Now this year it's promised again. Isn't it amazing? You know we keep hearing from government members, we keep hearing about all of the promises that are being kept, but we never hear a peep out of the ones that they're unable to fulfill either now or never have been an intention of fulfilling those promises.

Another thing just before I lose this little tidbit of information from my memory banks, Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech talks about health care. It talks about rural facilities and rural doctors. Well the reality is that in — what was the year? — in 2005, there was 117 physician vacancies in the province when we left office — 117. There was 94 then. Ninety-four. Look at that. I look at the numbers and I get them flipped; 94 in 2007 and 117 today.

An Hon. Member: — Which is best?

Mr. Trew: — Which is best? I hear members heckling, which is best? Ninety-four vacancies under the NDP under physician vacancies in Saskatchewan, and 117 now under the Sask Party. And they ask which is best?

Is it small wonder that people are scratching their heads and saying, what a tired government the Sask Party government is? What a dismal failure it is. Health care, particularly rural health care was one of the pillars that they stood on. Oh they decried how the NDP were mistreating them, how we in government couldn't deliver the services. There may be some truth to that, Mr. Speaker, in some specific areas. But let's assume that there is some truth to it in physician vacancies — 94 vacancies under us; 117, the latest number, under them.

If we were a failure, what does that make the Sask Party government? The answer is, a dismal, dismal, dismal, unfortunate failure. And the people of Saskatchewan deserve better. They deserve more. They deserve a government that they can trust, Mr. Speaker.

More recently, we witnessed yesterday in question period and in an emergency debate around the issue of potash, Mr. Speaker, we had an opportunity to be arm in arm and stand united. We did. New Democrats stood together; we voted with the government respecting the ownership of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan.

There was one thing that we wanted to do to make it absolutely beyond any doubt for a long, long time. The one thing we wanted to do was to have the Premier go to Ottawa, which he was planning to do anyway, and we wanted our Leader of the Opposition to join the Premier so that they could go together to the nation's capital and lobby respecting the ownership of PotashCorp. Well in a small-minded move, the government said

no, we're only going alone. No Leader of the Opposition. No way. This after we had stood in this legislature and voted with them, they said no. No, we're going alone. We don't want the Leader of the Opposition to make it crystal clear that Saskatchewan is united in its stance respecting potash.

Well that caused me, Mr. Speaker, to reflect a little bit on well what is it, what is it that makes great leaders? And, you know, I've only been in a position of an MLA for just over 24 years now. I've seen leaders, I've served under some tremendous leaders. I've seen leaders come and go on both sides of the legislature, Mr. Speaker. I've seen some leaders that were better than others. And then I reflected, not only in here but in all of my life's experiences, what makes a good leader? And I'll tell you one of the key things that makes a good leader is someone that will surround themselves with the very best expertise they can, someone that will accept that it's possible to have someone who's more expert in an area with them as opposed to shutting them out.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier shut out an expert in the Leader of the Opposition, shut out an expert, someone who has served in a publicly traded capacity, intergovernmental relations with Nexen which is an oil company that serves all around the globe, all around the globe. I don't know how many countries but virtually every oil-producing country in the world, and I suspect a few more.

[15:30]

And this Leader of the Opposition was the vice-president in charge of intergovernmental relations, so he knew his way around government. Never mind his experience in this Chamber, never mind his experience as deputy premier, never mind his experiences here — this is an expert that would know what to say and how to deal with the federal government. And the government members opposite were so small-minded, they denied Saskatchewan that opportunity.

Now I'm going to leave that for the moment and go to the next little insult. You know it was August when Billiton announced that it wanted to take over PotashCorp. It was August. And what's the latest thing? Now the latest is that the Premier's thrown off going to Ottawa to lobby, that somehow the deadline — which the public knew about a week ago — the deadline for the federal government snuck up and bit him, and now we don't have an opportunity to go to Ottawa. The Premier lost, squandered, wasted the opportunity to go to Ottawa and look the Prime Minister, his cousin, his political cousin in the eye and say don't do this. Don't do this. He lost that opportunity.

Now what a shame because here we are again at the mercy of 13 federal MPs [Member of Parliament], Conservative MPs from Saskatchewan, 13. I'm hearing some terminology, Mr. Speaker, that I don't think is necessarily parliamentary about the value, the efficacy of the 13 Conservative MPs whose silence is absolutely deafening on this issue, 13 members of parliament that the people of Saskatchewan sent to Ottawa to represent Saskatchewan's best interests. Now who's out of sync? Is it the Legislative Assembly, both sides of Saskatchewan that's out of sync with all Saskatchewan people, or is it 13 federal Conservative MPs whose silence is deafening? Mr. Speaker, what a shame that this resource of

potash is left to the vagaries because of 13 MPs that are very, very silent.

Mr. Speaker, one of the issues in my constituency that has been coming up again and again and again and continually is that of affordability. It's that of just simply people trying to have enough payday at the end of the month to make it to the next, to get through the hoop, so to speak. Mr. Speaker, the months seem to be getting longer between paydays for my constituents. There's an awful lot of belt-tightening going up.

Housing prices, rents have gone up more than \$200 a month on average in Saskatchewan in three short years, this at a time when the government has done precious little on the way of affordable housing. I heard some bragging in the Throne Speech. The number that comes to my mind was 117. I don't know if that's the number of new social housing units. I think 117. It was a very relatively small number anyway, three years into a term of government, especially from a government that was blessed with an unexpected windfall in excess of \$2 billion that they seem to have squandered because not only do we not have significantly more social housing. We have lost the lowest cost utility bundle that people of Saskatchewan had enjoyed.

And I note, I can absolutely see government heads coming up because they're going to say ah, but we just lowered the SaskEnergy rate last week, just lowered the SaskEnergy rate. I think it was 7 per cent. Well two days later I'm watching the news, and Manitoba lowered theirs 12 per cent. Manitoba lowered theirs 12 per cent, their natural gas.

So Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is the bundle of utilities that Saskatchewan people used to take to the bank, for granted, we were going to pay the lowest bundle rate in all of Canada, and that has gone by the board. There's no guarantee of it, and in fact there's been no delivery of it under the Sask Party government, no delivery of the lowest cost bundle, period. And people are struggling with affordability issues, whether it's paying their power bill, their gas bill, their phone bill, their insurance and, as I've talked about, their mortgage.

Mr. Speaker, housing, I'd started this little bit about housing because housing . . . All of the credible studies that I've ever seen or heard about say that one of the greatest things that we can do to help children have a good outcome is to provide a stable home. And by a stable home, this doesn't even, doesn't even go so far as to say that mom has to be Ms. Perfect or dad has to be Mr. Perfect. I'm not trying to make excuses for less than perfect parents, but the reality is, as parents, most of us fall short at some time or another. Most of us don't always meet the grade.

But the greatest thing that we can do for our youth — whether they're our own children, our grandchildren, our family, or our neighbours, our constituents — is make sure that they can have stable, affordable housing, decent shelter, and that they aren't forever into this cycle of having to move because the apartment that they've rented is condominiumized. Or whatever the reason, you know, they move into some very poor, ghetto-like housing and are of course looking to improve themselves. But decisions have to be made very, very quickly when it comes to rent because of the very low vacancy rate.

So for renters it is, it is absolutely imperative that there be some supply of affordable, low-cost housing available, or else it just keeps driving the market up with respect to rents. And that's what we're seeing. Not just Regina, not just Saskatoon — you see it in all of the cities of Saskatchewan, and I think it's even spilt over into many of the towns and villages in our province. So we need to be working on social housing.

Just before I forget it, the latest number, if you care to check on the realty market, shows that there's five, three-bedroom houses or apartments for rent in all of Saskatchewan as I stand here and speak — just five. I mean if something happened in the last day and that doubled, that'd be all the way up to 10. I feel so terrible, Mr. Speaker, for any family that needs a three-bedroom or larger facility.

Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech is leaving all kinds of things out. It's not shown much of a charter, if I can describe it, for people. It started . . . I remember sitting right here when His Honour was reading the Speech from the Throne, and he started off bragging . . . well he's reading the speech, so I don't want to attribute His Honour . . . He's reading the speech. The government prepares the speech and the Lieutenant Governor delivers it.

But the speech started by talking about population growth, population growth. And we welcome that Saskatchewan has a growing population. This is good news. This is really good news in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. The second thing that was said was we have to take steps to protect the economic growth of Saskatchewan. We have to protect it so that it continues to grow.

Well you have to be very, very selective when you're a Sask Party supporter to know, well when is it that you want to start? You want to start before or after the 6.2 shrinkage in one year in Saskatchewan's gross domestic product — 6.2, the biggest shrinkage. The economy shrank the most under the Sask Party watch than it has shrunk since the 1930s. The biggest shrinkage happened under the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

And the economic growth has been somewhat anemic since we're caught in . . . and we can argue well we're caught in a worldwide recession and, you know, the list of excuses just keeps growing by the day. But the harsh reality is, Mr. Speaker, that the economic growth has been negative under this government in total. Three years in power and the sum of those three years is negative growth. And we're supposed to do, somehow do something to protect that growth. I think not. I think not, Mr. Speaker.

I think our job is to point out what's wrong with what the Sask Party government is doing, how they're failing our constituents and their constituents, the people of Saskatchewan. I think our job is to point out that there is a better way. There are things that can be done. There are things that should be done, Mr. Speaker. In the Throne Speech, one of the pieces that caught my ear was the bragging about the budget for Agriculture being the largest ever. Well, Mr. Speaker, in March when the budget speech was delivered there was \$99 million cut from the budget. I guess that makes this one the largest ever.

There is selective . . . The point I'm trying to make here, Mr.

Speaker, is that there is selective memory by Sask Party government members — a selective memory. They'll say one thing today and something different tomorrow or next year. And you know, the people of Saskatchewan deserve more than that. They deserve a government that they can trust. The people of Saskatchewan are a pretty darn resilient bunch. Overall, we're a pretty darn resilient bunch. We know that the government isn't going to save us from ourselves. We know that no government in Saskatchewan can protect us 100 per cent from our own idiosyncrasies, our own foibles. We know that.

But we need a government that's in our corner, and we need a government that we can trust. When a government says the economy is growing, has grown under our watch, it should be true. It should be accurate. The people of Saskatchewan deserve that kind of integrity, that personal fortitude, that personal honesty. Mr. Speaker, they need not the Orwellian doublespeak that we heard in this Throne Speech, but they deserve the truth, the unvarnished truth.

Just before I take my place on this important Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, I want to touch on natural disasters. And there was reference in the Throne Speech about a government being nimble and quick in its response. When there's a natural disaster, you're now nimble and quick. In the new Saskatchewan, it's nimble and quick.

Well not three weeks ago I heard a relatively young woman from Maple Creek talking about them not having a furnace in their house. The paperwork was in Regina. The paperwork was in Regina, and they weren't getting an answer. And the paperwork had been here for some two to three weeks at that point, and they didn't know if they could get a new furnace. They clearly didn't have the money.

This young mother was the mother of twins, two twins less than a year old, Mr. Speaker, and didn't know how she was going to keep her kids warm in the shoulder season, never mind as you go into winter. And this is the nimble and quick thing that's being bragged about. She's not alone. Her and her husband aren't alone in knowing that the new nimbleness and quickness is just rhetoric, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

People in Maple Creek, like people throughout this province, understand that there must be rules when there's an emergency response. They know that the first thing you have to do is make sure the people are fed and safe. That's a responsibility I think that the provincial government could take on.

But then what they expect is that there has to be rules, but there has to be a certain amount of care from the government. The government must put the resources in to make sure that, in this case, the paperwork could be done so that that couple could get on with trying to hire a plumber so they could purchase and get installed a furnace in their home.

Mr. Speaker, for this and all of the other reasons that I have outlined in my speech, and many, many more, I will not be supporting this Speech from the Throne. This tired, old government, this tired, recycled Speech from the Throne, I will not be supporting. I will be supporting the amendment. Thank

you very much.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the opportunity to stand up and offer our sincere and substantive support on this Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to do is highlight, as the Speech from the Throne reinforced Robert Frost's famous lines about taking a road less travelled, we understand what that means in Saskatchewan where this is a journey between those who have helped to build our province, Mr. Speaker, and those that are inheriting our province. And the road less travelled is one filled with optimism today, Mr. Speaker, versus the years of pessimism and declining expectations on offer after too many years of NDP rule.

Mr. Speaker, what we would like to do is highlight some of the key aspects in this speech, but I'd be remiss if I didn't take a couple of initial opportunities to first and foremost offer sincere congratulations to my colleagues, and most especially the Premier and our newest MLA from Saskatoon Northwest, who waged a very, very, I think, strategic and impassioned campaign and as a result saw his support increase for the individual and also for the party, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to make sure that I recognize and appreciate the people of Saskatoon Greystone, that on an ongoing basis I am honoured and humbled to serve these individuals, these families, this community in our province as it works with great industry and impressive results right across Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, and obviously well beyond. The people of Saskatoon Greystone are deserving the very best that this legislature has to offer on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker. All of us endeavour to ensure that their needs are met and certainly I'm among the most vocal cheerleaders of this constituency and the people that I have the honour and opportunity to represent.

Mr. Speaker, there are some key elements that we obviously continue to address in the province of Saskatchewan that are reinforced and reflected within the Throne Speech. The issue of potash. Obviously in a vote taken in this very Assembly last week, we've seen the Assembly speak with one voice that protecting the jobs of the people of this province, ensuring the revenues for not just today but for future generations, and to ensure that we maintain an eye on the strategic significance of this valuable mineral, Mr. Speaker. Obviously we have heard from the Premier, from this government, from this legislature, this is an impassioned time in the country and in the province and the resounding response from Saskatchewan is a simple word, no, that is echoing across Canada with great resonance.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to ensure that we touch on the significance of the clinical trials and our continuing efforts — not in isolation, but with many others — to combat MS. There are a couple of aspects in this. Certainly we see the significance of wedding both hope and science together as offering the best opportunities to ensure that we have empirically based data and answers for people across this province and well beyond. And we know how important it is.

This initiative has also allowed us to begin to participate in and hear from others more broadly affiliated with issues of clinical trials in Canada. And we have heard from many corners and quarters the comment that Canada and all Canadians need to be attentive to this, not just in MS — certainly we know how significant that is here within Saskatchewan — but actually on an ongoing basis across the country. There is more work for Canadians and Canadian health researchers to do in this area. And the commentary has been that this is a very significant step forward: (a) in research regarding the fight against MS; but more broadly, a broader fight for healthier communities, not just in Saskatchewan, but across the country.

Obviously there are other themes. I'll select a couple of others before getting into some of the details that I'm more familiar with, Mr. Speaker, on an ongoing basis because of the ministerial responsibilities that I have.

One relates to STARS, and that is the capacity to complement the services available today for the people of this province with those that have been demonstrated over the course of many years in other provinces, and most especially we can point to the model, to our western neighbour in Alberta. This is a significant endeavour, and certainly we applaud the efforts that are under way to ensure that the people of this province have access to this very valuable and very important health service, especially for emergency response.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to highlight the significance of the context of the speech because it allows us to better understand this road that we are travelling together.

We can see that within Saskatchewan we have more than 528,000 people working today, more than 6,300 jobs year over year that have been added to the Saskatchewan economy. And in fact what we've seen is employment records for each of the last eight months. Mr. Speaker, importantly we applaud the private sector here because we've seen that the private sector and entrepreneurs have created more than 7,000 new jobs year over year, helping to fuel and facilitate the growth that's under way. It's one of the reasons that within Saskatchewan we point to the second lowest unemployment rate in the country. And we certainly know that there are more initiatives to undertake to ensure that we continue this growth.

But importantly, and as our Premier has said, growth is not simply an end in itself; it is a means. And the means, Mr. Speaker, can be reflected in some key statistics. For example, all-time record earnings based on average weekly earnings are at over \$852 per week. That's up almost 6 per cent year over year, Mr. Speaker. That is, on average, Saskatchewan wage earners are in a better position than they were last year, and certainly what we see is the benefits of this growth being shared with the people right across the province. In fact what we can see is real earnings have increased by more than 5 per cent.

What we have, Mr. Speaker, today on the saskjobs.ca website, we have more than 7,300 jobs open and available to the people of this province and well beyond. In fact the amount of interest in this website has seen more than 7 million people visit this site just simply since January 1st, already breaking the 2009 record of 6.9 million people.

And what we know, Mr. Speaker, is that this is just one instrument, but an important instrument, for us to ensure that people across the province, whether it's sector by sector or community by community, are aware of opportunities that are available and open.

Mr. Speaker, we also know that within these statistics there is more to do, and we know that on a very real, human level, on a community level. And certainly we know this applies most especially when we look at statistics for First Nations and Métis peoples across the province. We certainly recognize, not in isolation but in partnership with many others, there is much more to do.

What we can see is that we are making some progress. In fact First Nations and Métis employment has increased for the fifth straight month. That's up over 1,400 jobs for members of those communities year over year. Now what we also realize is there is much to do in helping to close the gap, especially in both education and employment, when it comes to First Nations and Métis people and others in Saskatchewan.

That's one of the reasons that our government rolled up its sleeves and undertook to ensure that there was a sustainable response to issues that for too long had been overlooked. In fact the basic policy of the NDP previous had been, regarding First Nations University, a blank cheque and a blind eye to issues that were on the rise, Mr. Speaker. That's one of the reasons that we made sure, that we made sure that we were helping to address outstanding issues on this key issue. That's one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, that we ensured that an MOU [memorandum of understanding] was signed, Mr. Speaker, that there were a number of other agreements put in place.

And while there's more work to do, Mr. Speaker, certainly, Mr. Speaker, what we've seen, what we've seen is most recently a new board of directors appointed, and this institution making difficult and disciplined decisions as it continues to move forward, Mr. Speaker, something that the members opposite for too long overlooked.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to this, Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, what we've just seen is we've been able to celebrate the opening of a new Aviation Learning Centre in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, that has connected multinational corporations from around the world all the way through post-secondary programming with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology and SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] programming, all the way through to Mount Royal High School.

The government is very proud — very, very proud — to be partnering with a variety, with a variety, Mr. Speaker, of partners to ensure that after many years of deliberation we were able to actually move forward on this initiative. And so we have, in one institutional home, we have SIAST commercial pilot training programs under way, Mr. Speaker, and at the same time we also have an aviation mechanics program under way. More than 50 post-secondary students are going to be trained in that centre of excellence, Mr. Speaker, supported, supported, Mr. Speaker, by multinational corporations, by the federal government, provincial government, numerous private sector entities, as well as numerous First Nations and Métis

organizations, as well as a number of other post-secondary institutions.

This complements, Mr. Speaker, in fact, a recent opening, a recent opening — where I know the member from Saskatoon Nutana was also, and there were others present from this — and that is the Saskatoon Trades and Skills Training Centre. Certainly that training centre appreciates the bipartisan support that has seen, that has seen millions of dollars, millions of dollars offered, millions of dollars offered, Mr. Speaker, and invested into this skills training centre to ensure that there are more opportunities in the skills training areas, Mr. Speaker, especially for those from First Nations and Métis communities, but from a variety of others as well.

Mr. Speaker, this past year we've seen an investment of more than 5 per cent increase within the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration budget for those dollars pertaining to First Nations and Métis learners. We know there's more to do, but substantively, Mr. Speaker, we see that there's progress being made in very, very real and substantive ways.

[16:00]

Mr. Speaker, from there what we can see more broadly is that in key areas of post-secondary education, again this has been recognized across the country, more than 5 per cent increase for post-secondary education this past year, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, obviously this is a key area for our province. When we look at the track record of members opposite on tuition, Mr. Speaker, so for the University of Saskatchewan while they were in power, Mr. Speaker, more than 90 per cent increase. At the University of Regina more than 80 per cent was the increase, and, Mr. Speaker, more than 200 per cent at SIAST. These are some key indicators that the members opposite have as part of their track record in supporting students.

Mr. Speaker, what we've done is we've worked with the institutions and our students to ensure that we are keeping post-secondary education defined by some key elements. Obviously echoing the report that Bob Rae offered in 2005, we're focusing on excellence. We're also focusing on program innovation. And you can see that on an ongoing basis, Mr. Speaker, across this province. Mr. Speaker, we're also putting an emphasis on greater inclusion. Making sure, Mr. Speaker, we are making sure that with any greater inclusion there's greater affordability, accessibility, and obviously, Mr. Speaker, greater equity that can be addressed right across our post-secondary institutions. That's why we were so delighted to be able to highlight a new initiative for graduate students, Mr. Speaker, as well as highlighting that we're going to be making some progress as it relates to a new scholarship, a new scholarship initiative, Mr. Speaker.

As we continue to focus on the key advantages of ensuring that we're investing in post-secondary education, Mr. Speaker, again in some areas working to overcome an uneven track record offered from the other side, in other areas continuing to build on areas where there was some success, Mr. Speaker — all focusing on our students. And one of those areas that we've obviously focused on, Mr. Speaker, the construction is under way on the academic health science wings, Mr. Speaker. This is

a far cry from the College of Medicine that was put on probation when members opposite were in power, Mr. Speaker.

We've also continued to work to increase the number of seats for doctors, Mr. Speaker, those being trained as doctors, as well as residents. Mr. Speaker, we are also continuing to invest in nurse training, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, just a couple of weeks ago here in Regina we saw, the Minister of Health and I, what we were able to participate in and see was third-year medical students being trained here in Regina, Mr. Speaker, as an initial step to help ensure that they're gaining experience with their fourth-year colleagues and residents being trained here, right here in Regina.

We also are beginning to see — with an example in Swift Current where medical residents are now under way, Mr. Speaker — in very real, tangible ways for this province we continue to see that there are increased numbers of health care providers being trained within the province of Saskatchewan. And we know how significant that is for helping to ensure the health care of communities right across Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, here is something . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, the member from Nutana continues to ask about things that are original. Mr. Speaker, here is a point that I hope she gives some consideration to, because Tony Blair asks a very simple question in his recent book about those jurisdictions that are losing people, Mr. Speaker, and those that are gaining people, Mr. Speaker. The answer is, under the former government what we saw was 35,000 people leave this province, Mr. Speaker, in the decade preceding the last election. Mr. Speaker, in three years we've seen those numbers already increase. In fact Saskatchewan — more than 1,045,000 people. An all-time high, Mr. Speaker.

Going back to Tony Blair's very simple question, are more people moving into a jurisdiction or more moving out? Under the NDP they were moving out. And, Mr. Speaker, under this government and the leadership that we see offered right across the province, Mr. Speaker, we see a very, very resounding echo of optimism when it comes to the road that's being travelled because more people are on it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, one of the aspects that I think is most impressive about this Throne Speech is that it resonates for people right across the province. Certainly as I've had an opportunity to hear from people, they have understood that this government is standing up for the interests of the people of this province. They understand that this government is investing more than ever in post-secondary education. They understand that this government is helping to work with partners in playing a leading role on the fight against MS.

Mr. Speaker, on file after file, on case after case, they see that Saskatchewan is playing a leadership role. Mr. Speaker, this culminates in being the fastest growing province in Confederation, Mr. Speaker. And that's a far cry from where we were with those individuals in power.

Mr. Speaker, while there's more to do, the road is ahead, and it's one that's defined by optimism. And there are a lot of people sharing that sense of optimism on the road today, Mr. Speaker. That's one of the reasons that I will be ensuring that

we support the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, and the vision that it represents for the people of this province, not just for today, but in the future as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure to stand here and make a few comments about the Speech from the Throne. It all has to do with the growth of Saskatchewan. And as the growth of Saskatchewan is paramount, so is the growth of my community of Moose Jaw. And I'd like to say a few things about Moose Jaw.

The new multiplex is certainly going ahead of schedule or at least on schedule. I toured it a couple of months ago, and I was absolutely amazed at the construction and where it's been. The exterior — the landscaping — is a little bit behind simply because of the fact of the weather we had all summer. But it certainly is an asset to the downtown sector with the curling rink and the skating rink. I think it could be probably best summed up with words . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Member from Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you again. In regards to the multiplex, I think the . . . [inaudible] . . . and the attitude of the people of the province or the people of the city could be best summed up with the words of my five-year-old grandson as we drove past the multiplex about a couple of weeks ago. And he saw it and he said, Grandpa, I'm going to be so glad when I'm six because that's when the Moose Jaw Warriors will be playing in the new rink. So it just shows the kind of attitude that is in the people of Saskatchewan.

On this very day, Mr. Speaker, the indoor soccer field is actually hosting its first competition, as it is complete for competition. It's not quite totally finished, but a tour of it just last week showed that the field is ready. It's a nice green turf. It's got a nice walking track, a gym attached on the upstairs, concession, as well as a meeting area for meeting groups, and an observation deck.

Congratulations to Scott Clark, who is the new manager for both the multiplex and the indoor soccer field. Scott comes from Ontario, and he's returning to Saskatchewan where he grew up in the city of Regina.

Other things are happening in Moose Jaw. Of course the pork plant will be opening up in the near future. The amenities of this great city as being the tourist capital of Saskatchewan with the tunnels, the Temple Gardens Mineral Spa, the murals, the museums — it's all part of a great place to live.

In part of the community is the Wakamow river valley, Wakamow Valley, and our government just spent \$314,000 in improving the trails there. Along with the Wakamow Valley is the new footbridge from the bridge that was taken out in the flood of 1997 and is now under construction to be replaced. So we're pretty proud of that as construction and improvements come into the city.

Other things that happen in the Wakamow Valley are the Relay for Life, the Harvest Moon Festival. We have the dog jog, the moose jog, and the viewing of the Stanley Cup that took place in Moose Jaw this past summer. It took place in the beautiful Wakamow Valley, as besides the weddings and reunions that also take place there.

There's a lot of things that happen in this community. And I've got to thank my wife Debbie for accompanying me on as many as we can, as we go to a lot of the events like the Festival of Trees that is coming up in a couple of weeks. And of course the home of the Moose Jaw Warriors, and we're certainly proud of the team and their winning streak of three games now. So I appreciate what they do for the community.

I want to acknowledge two special people that work in my constituency: Tanya Tuck, who now joined our staff just a short while ago — a tremendous little worker, likes to be busy and does a lot for the constituency office; as well as Denise Arnold, who has been with the office since its inception. In fact it was Denise that found the original location, and these two individuals work very hard for the people of Moose Jaw, and as well as many of the citizens of the province.

It's interesting to note that the number of concerns that come into the office from outside of our constituency far outnumber the ones that come from within. So you can see that there is a need for good people, and we've got them. And they rely on us for their help, and we certainly appreciate the work that they do in our office.

The Speech from the Throne serves Moose Jaw very well, as well as the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, it was three years ago that the people of the province selected this new road, a road of optimism. A road of vision and a road of growth, of change, and of fairness. A road to benefit the people of the province. And, Mr. Speaker, it was the right road. The road from the Speech of the Throne clearly states that we will continue to work to improve the lives of the people of this province.

Now some of the members opposite have mentioned that it's more of the same. Well I guess we can take that as a bit of a compliment, Mr. Speaker. When you have more of the same economic growth, that's great. When you have more of the same of population increase, more of the same employment opportunities, optimism, enthusiasm — that's part of what we're looking at in this province. You know, and the Speech from the Throne will continue to work to improve the lives of the people of this great province moving forward. More of the same of what we've done.

More of the same would be the municipal revenue sharing where we will fully implement the municipal revenue sharing formula, that is of one full percentage point of the PST. This is the highest operational support ever given to the province and to the municipalities by the province, and it's a great opportunity.

Now municipalities can look forward. They can plan long term. They know that the support from the province will be there, and it will certainly help to increase the infrastructure investment in all parts of the province and move us forward. The historic \$4.6

million of revenue sharing in 2010-2011 was an increase of 64.5 per cent from 2007-08 when the last government was in power.

Another thing that's more of the same is the education property tax. We will fully implement the final phase of the education property tax reduction plan. Yes, that is more of the same. And this is especially good for my community of Moose Jaw simply because we have the highest assessment of anywhere in the province. Reduction to the education property tax means that from 2008-2009, residents of Moose Jaw saw average tax reductions of approximately \$1,900 on homes assessed at about \$200,000. That saving was \$2,800 on homes assessed at \$300,000. A Moose Jaw homeowner with a 2008 taxable assessment of just over \$80,000 paid 486 less in education tax in the 2009 and 2010 compared to the 2008 tax bill. This is a tax cut of about 31 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

We can talk about health care for a few minutes — \$200 million for construction of the children's hospital. What a great, what a great asset that is, will be, to this province. Our goal to reduce surgical wait times to within 90 days over the next four years. It's an aggressive goal, but it's a goal and we've worked toward that already and made some great steps. And, Mr. Speaker, the funding of clinical trials for the new MS treatment is making Saskatchewan a leader in health care. We can see the significance of this research and how it could apply to many of our residents.

But what the Speech from the Throne highlighted most was the expansion of the emergency medical services through the helicopter-based ambulance system, the Shock Trauma Air Rescue. It's all part of improving the health care of Saskatchewan people. That's more of the same, much unlike the closing of the 52 rural hospitals that the previous government did — 52 rural hospitals closed during their administration.

[16:15]

There'll be 170 additional education seats in addition to the 130 already added. The assessment of international medical grads is a new system that we've developed in Saskatchewan so that we can attract the grads from different parts of the world, and they can pass those preliminary tests without having to come to Saskatchewan to do it. It's increasing the availability of doctors in this province.

And I'm happy to announce that, just last week, the South Hill Medical Clinic in Moose Jaw announced the addition of three new MDs for our community. The health ombudsman within the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman will address health issues. And then an additional 100 long-term addiction recovery spaces, it will be a welcome asset to this province.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I think I should mention the Moose Jaw Union Hospital. Last year we designated almost a half a million dollars — \$450,000 — for a study that is currently under way. A month ago there was a presentation done by the Five Hills Health Region specialists telling us about the new concept. It's from an architectural firm in the United States that is looking at a different way of delivering hospital care. In the example they use, they would cut down the stay time in the hospital just about in half or more than half in some cases. And

it's a new idea that will be the first of its kind in Saskatchewan. And there's only one or two in all of Canada.

When I saw this, I liked it — the work that is being done toward this study there. And when I . . . The optimum words that I came up with, you will like it. The study will take a little longer. They say that it will be out in about June, which was different from their original forecast. But it was quite exciting about how the modular system will fit together and how they're studying it, how it can improve the service for the people of Five Hills Health Region.

We can talk about children and youth. And, Mr. Speaker, in past years the exodus of our youth, our prime resource in this province, was huge. In fact the chamber of commerce back in the late '90s under their Action Saskatchewan program did a survey and found that children in grade 7 were planning to leave the province. My son at that time was in grade 7. When I went home, I asked him. I said, what's your intentions after graduation? And he informed me without hesitation he was leaving the province.

Well fortunately we had some time to turn that around and I can say that Brent graduated from high school. He graduated from the University of Regina right here and now has a major in chemistry and a minor in math, and is working in the education system right here in Regina. In fact I'm quite proud to say that my four children are employed happily in Regina or happily in this province, looking for a living in this province that we call home.

Part of the youth retention was from the graduation retention program that we brought in just after our election. You know I attended the SIAST career fair and colleges from out of the province don't like that one very much. They say it's a lot harder to attract graduates from Saskatchewan now that we have the graduation retention program. And now with the Speech from the Throne we've brought an additional scholarship fund that will augment that. Does that sound like more of the same? Does that sound like something better? Mr. Speaker, as far as youth are concerned, there are more jobs available. There are higher average wages. There's every reason to make our home in Saskatchewan, and more of them are doing it.

We talk about youth. We talk about daycare spaces. Twenty-nine hundred new licensed daycare spaces by the end of March this year. That's an increase of about 30 per cent. And since our government came to power there will be approximately 525 child care spaces allotted in Moose Jaw alone.

In education, the Minister of Education will have the school challenge healthy kids program that will introduce 30 minutes of physical activity each day. We have an athletic support program for high performance athletes to a maximum of \$6,000 a year.

And utility costs. We've enjoyed the lowest utility costs, some of the lowest in Canada. And we will remain among the lowest with the 7 per cent decrease on the average residential natural gas consumer effective November 1st — that's today, Mr. Speaker — making life better for our Saskatchewan people.

With that we're doubling the wind power capacity to 400 megawatts by the year 2015.

I like the idea of the new provincial parks, beginning to identify locations for the new provincial parks. I enjoyed being part of the official campground opening at Buffalo Pound. It was a brand new campground that happened in July. And, Mr. Speaker, that's the first new campground this province has seen in over 20 years. Tourism is a big part of this province and we want to keep that advantage.

Mr. Speaker, we should talk a little about potash and it's been talked about a lot. Potash belongs to the people of Saskatchewan. We've made that perfectly clear. We've consulted with many and concluded that there would be no net benefit for the people of Saskatchewan or for Canada. And I think the Premier spoke very eloquently — the answer is no. And, Mr. Speaker, it would be a dangerous position to have one company control the potash supply for the world, both from a resource availability to our province, but having it affect the world supply of food. The answer is no.

In agriculture we've been responsible. The largest provincial agricultural disaster response in the history of Saskatchewan we did for our agricultural producers this last year. We're also allotting \$30 million over 10 years to restore and repair the irrigation infrastructure. Public safety is important; 90 new officers and 30 more to come in the next budget.

Mr. Speaker, we've got so much to be proud of in this province. More of the same is a good thing on the track record that this government has done in the last three years — employment, social programs, education, health, agriculture, safety, tourism, more economic growth, more population, employment opportunities, optimism, enthusiasm.

Mr. Speaker, I speak in support of the Speech from the Throne. God bless Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today on this reply to the Throne Speech that was delivered in this Chamber the other day — a Throne Speech that the government has entitled *The New Road*. Mr. Speaker, I'll have a few things to say about titles of throne speeches in a short period of time.

But in beginning my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say once again, thanks for the opportunity to be able to rise and speak on behalf of the constituents of The Battlefords first and foremost, Mr. Speaker, and on behalf of other citizens of the province of Saskatchewan who I've enjoyed conversations with over the course of the last year, Mr. Speaker.

Throne speeches are, on the one hand, not very specific documents, Mr. Speaker. Throne speeches are traditionally a time when the government lays out an agenda for the coming year; some would say the vision for the coming year, Mr. Speaker. But on the other hand, throne speeches provide individuals within the province, Mr. Speaker, with a road map that allows them to make certain plans for the course of the year. It's much like a budget that comes, in our case in

Saskatchewan here, later in the year, Mr. Speaker.

When a budget is delivered, businesses, individuals make plans. Could be tax planning. It could be business planning. It could be infrastructure planning within their immediate environment, Mr. Speaker. But a Throne Speech is very much the same thing in the sense that the citizens of the province are given an opportunity to know where this government's going to take them over the course of the next year.

Well, Mr. Speaker, over the last three years, the three throne speeches of this government have failed to deliver Saskatchewan people with a road map that during the course of the year they could make business decisions, could make individual decisions, Mr. Speaker. And this Throne Speech is not much different.

And I'll be a little specific about what I mean, Mr. Speaker, in talking about what people in The Battlefords have told me. And the message out of The Battlefords, Mr. Speaker, this year is not a whole lot different than it has been in the past. We, whether again it's business or personal matters, Mr. Speaker, we in The Battlefords are indeed enjoying a period of substantial economic growth. We are seeing construction activities taking place around us. We are seeing business growth. We are seeing confidence being expressed by individuals within our community in investments that are being made, in charitable contributions that are being made, in support for municipal initiatives that are seeking to further develop the growth within The Battlefords.

But, Mr. Speaker, the issues that the individuals and business community in The Battlefords think need addressing by government have not been addressed by previous throne speeches or budgets, and certainly, Mr. Speaker, are not being addressed by this budget. For example, Mr. Speaker, an agenda of growth which this government started off in 2007 by saying that this was part of their vision. An agenda of growth, Mr. Speaker, recognizes that in a growing economy there are challenges that are faced by everyone, Mr. Speaker.

One of the most significant challenges that the people in The Battlefords face and that I've addressed in previous years, Mr. Speaker, and still is not being addressed by this government, is labour shortage, Mr. Speaker. As of this morning on saskjobs.ca, Mr. Speaker, the number of jobs available in The Battlefords is listed at 247. Mr. Speaker, this number fluctuates from week to week, month to month, Mr. Speaker, but that number has remained significantly high over the last four years, Mr. Speaker. If you talk with a number of the industries and manufacturers that have been in The Battlefords for a lot of years, Mr. Speaker, they will tell you that the most significant challenge that they face is lack of a skilled labour force.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that having been identified, there are a number of things that need to go along with being able to attract a skilled labour force. Mr. Speaker, the number one issue in The Battlefords that's keeping people from coming into the community to work in these businesses, manufacturers, and industry, Mr. Speaker, the most significant reason why people aren't being able to do that is lack of housing. Mr. Speaker, for several years now we have noticed a considerable decline in the number of rental units in The Battlefords. This Throne Speech

in front of us, Mr. Speaker, identifies affordable housing as a need in the province and has said there'll be 1,000 affordable units built, Mr. Speaker, but the word rental doesn't appear in this Throne Speech.

The new program that the government is talking about is an affordable purchase program, Mr. Speaker, an affordable purchase program that doesn't address the issues that the business community and the individual community in The Battlefords have been talking about, Mr. Speaker. There could be a place where you need to have affordable homes for purchase, Mr. Speaker. I'm fully supportive of initiatives like that.

We in The Battlefords had a My First Home program that was going great guns, Mr. Speaker. It was meeting a need in the community. It had an active volunteer board that was endeavouring to ensure that individuals who wished to own their own home had an opportunity to do so. Mr. Speaker, we supported that initiative. We worked with the community on that initiative, and it was fine. But, Mr. Speaker, there is a large number of people for whom that program was not appropriate and would not be appropriate into the future.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, individuals who are moving into The Battlefords to go to school in order to gain the skills necessary to work in the jobs that are currently available, Mr. Speaker, those who are moving into The Battlefords to go to school, whether it's at the regional college level or at the high school level, Mr. Speaker . . . We have a unique circumstances in The Battlefords where we have a First Nations high school, a First Nations high school that anyone can attend. It's overseen by the public and separate school boards in addition to the tribal councils. Government has been very supportive of that initiative as the previous government was. A unique circumstance, Mr. Speaker.

You have individuals who are finishing their high school diplomas in one form or another, and we have a regional college that is delivering skills training, Mr. Speaker — something else we all support. But both those schools, Mr. Speaker, are losing people to their programs because there is no student housing available, no housing available for students.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in Meadow Lake it took a couple of years for that community to argue successfully for the development of a residence for the regional college in Meadow Lake. Mr. Speaker, we have residences at our universities. There should be a way to acknowledge, in a growing economy, the need for education and skills development. We must be able to ensure that students who come from a distance can go to the school because they have a safe environment in which to study. That's a home, Mr. Speaker.

And we could create very easily a residential facility, Mr. Speaker, similar to that that was just done in Meadow Lake in the community, Mr. Speaker. But no mention whatsoever in this Throne Speech, no vision expressed by this government, Mr. Speaker, in meeting the needs of young people who are interested in furthering their educational requirements, ultimately benefiting the labour shortage problem that we have throughout The Battlefords.

Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech talks about the road less travelled, Mr. Speaker. There is a road less travelled in The Battlefords as well, Mr. Speaker — transportation. We have seen a large number of people from other countries of the world move into The Battlefords. We've seen a large number of people from First Nations communities move into The Battlefords, and we've seen a large number of people from rural communities around The Battlefords come into the city, Mr. Speaker, seeking employment.

Mr. Speaker, when they find a place to live, it is almost always in the centre of the community. Mr. Speaker, most of the jobs are not in the centre of the community but they're in our industrial park or they're in Battleford in the industrial park, Mr. Speaker. And we have very limited ability within the community to move people from where they actually find a place to live to where they could go to work, Mr. Speaker.

The city of Lloydminster has begun to examine transportation of people from the core of the city to the industrial park. Mr. Speaker, the people in North Battleford are starting to do the same thing. Mr. Speaker, the people in Weyburn are talking about the need to move people from the heart of the city to the industrial parks where the jobs are, Mr. Speaker.

No mention in this Throne Speech about this government's ability to see beyond the roadway that's in front of them, Mr. Speaker. There's a great need in this province, Mr. Speaker, to help our municipalities to develop — outside of Saskatoon and Regina, Mr. Speaker, I make that clear — a great need to develop a transportation infrastructure within our municipalities to assist our communities to meet their own growth agendas.

This government came into office in 2007 saying, ready for growth. Everything they've done since then, Mr. Speaker, has indicated they weren't ready for the growth of the province. And now, four years in, the fourth Throne Speech, the last Throne Speech before they go to the public in a general election in this province, still no vision about the way to meet the needs of a growing province, Mr. Speaker.

I've mentioned housing. I've mentioned labour shortage. I've mentioned transportation, Mr. Speaker. These are critical parts of any growing community and, Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that this government — any government in the province of Saskatchewan — is willing to work with communities and work with the people who live here to ensure that we can achieve all of our goals, individual and business goals.

Mr. Speaker, a personal goal, an individual goal of a person living in Saskatchewan today is to improve their quality of life. And, Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech, providing a vision for the people of Saskatchewan, providing an opportunity for individuals to develop a plan for going ahead, Mr. Speaker, no one reading this Throne Speech today or last week or next week, no one reading this Throne Speech at all, Mr. Speaker, could actually make a personal or business plan going forward because we still don't know what the vision of this government actually is.

One of the things, Mr. Speaker, that has been lacking by this government over the last few years has been consultation with the public. Quite often, Mr. Speaker, we've seen legislation

introduced into the Chamber; the public has said, we don't like it, and the government has said, we'll do some consultation.

Mr. Speaker, the single most inappropriate use of consultation was last session with the introduction of the wildlife habitat land Act, Mr. Speaker, when the government said, here's legislation; we have not consulted. Actually the government said, we did consult. But everyone the government said they consulted with turned out; they said no, we haven't been consulted on this at all.

Mr. Speaker, the government chose, in legislation, to remove vast tracts of land from protected habitat status in the province so the government could turn around and sell off that land without actually having to be accountable for that sale, Mr. Speaker. The legislation angered those who the government said they consulted with. It turned out, Mr. Speaker, that consultation occurs after the legislation comes in, and I understand we may even see some amendments to that Act this year, Mr. Speaker, because of consultation occurring after the fact.

In this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, the government is saying, we're going to do that all over again. They've introduced or they've told us that they're going to bring forward a Bill that's going to require photo ID in the province. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they couch it a little bit. They say they're going to give municipalities the authority to require photo ID when consulting local elections. In other words it's up to the municipalities to decide what they want to do in the municipal elections.

But then the Throne Speech said the government will also be introducing similar Act requiring voters to produce photo ID when voting in provincial elections. Well, Mr. Speaker, no one in The Battlefords, in any of the communities I've been in this summer, or across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, no one has said to me, boy we really need photo ID in elections; the government's got to do this. Most important. Government's got to do it. Nobody. Not one person, Mr. Speaker, told me that was important for them and yet, Mr. Speaker, it's one of the key points in this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. Today the Minister of Justice says we're going to consult with the public and then, Mr. Speaker, in referring to what's going on in Ontario and other provinces, he talks about photo ID being part of the option package.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech was very clear, very clear. And I'll repeat it again and I'll quote, "... introducing a similar act, requiring voters to produce photo ID ..." The Minister of Justice said they're now going to consult on this. They're going to consult, Mr. Speaker, but they're going to say this is the way it is. This is our way. It's going to be our way or no way but we'll talk to you about mitigation. And the Minister of Justice went so far as to say all the seniors can go and get free photo ID from SGI.

Well, Mr. Speaker, my mother's in a long-term care home in Saskatoon, in fact probably even in the Minister of Justice's riding. My mother would go to the mobile voting station at the time that the election occurs. My mother's never driven. Mother's 86 years old. She never had a driver's licence. She has no photo ID. In fact the only photos that she has are of myself

and my brother, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure she can't show those at the voting booth.

But you know how difficult it's going to be for my mother to go to the mobile station in her building and see the people sitting there who have taken care of her for the last seven years and be denied a vote by those people because they say, could you show us, Mrs. Taylor, your photo ID? And my mother will say, you know who I am; why can't I vote? No, the Minister of Justice says you can't. The Minister of Justice says you can't vote because you don't have photo ID.

You know, Mr. Speaker, my mother will just say, well I guess I can't vote, and she's been disenfranchised. Eighty-six years old, voted in every election in her life that she was able to vote in, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister of Justice — I think her own MLA — is telling her that she's got to get a taxi ride down to SGI someday and sit there and wondering where she is and why she's doing this to have her picture taken so that on one day in 2011, she can show the people in her building that she is who they've known her to be for seven years.

And the Minister of Justice says, we're going to consult with the public about this. This is another, another indication, Mr. Speaker, of how this government says, what we think goes and what the public says doesn't matter, and their consultation occurs after the fact.

I am hoping that if the Minister of Justice brings this legislation forward — actually I'm hoping he doesn't bring it forward, Mr. Speaker — but if he does, if the Minister of Justice brings this forward, I hope he'll bring people into this gallery to say, we want this, we demand this; we want our government to disenfranchise seniors and students and people from remote and rural areas in Saskatchewan. I want to hear the public in Saskatchewan stand up and say, this is the best thing the Minister of Justice has ever done because, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the Minister of Justice can find somebody to do that, Mr. Speaker. And that doesn't include the Premier, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, consultation is important. There are lots of things, Mr. Speaker, that this government has failed to do, but consultation is perhaps the most important. We need to ensure that when the government puts a vision forward, the vision is put out there after consultation with the public or expressing an interest in consulting the public on a particular area. For example if the government knew last year that it wanted to pursue photo ID for voting in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech last year could have said, we will engage the public in a consultation about photo ID. Did they do that? Not at all. Were they thinking about it? Absolutely they were, Mr. Speaker; the legislation is drafted. They didn't do it, Mr. Speaker.

There are lots of things that this government could be inviting consultation on. I talked about transportation earlier. One of the things that would really be helpful in northwest Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and probably throughout the whole of Saskatchewan, is a public consultation about rail transportation. Wouldn't it be interesting, Mr. Speaker, if we could talk about moving goods again on rail lines instead of on our highways?

Highway 4, going north between North Battleford and Meadow

Lake, is loaded with super-B trucks right now, Mr. Speaker — 40 a day. Forty a day coming down that highway because we don't have a railway anymore. Those 40 trucks, Mr. Speaker, are blowing out that highway and creating unsafe conditions, all because we aren't talking about supporting a highway anymore.

[16:45]

The rural municipality in Meadow Lake, the town of Meadow Lake, the rural municipalities that come down through Shellbrook and Hafford into The Battlefords have all been talking about this for quite a number of years, Mr. Speaker. It's time the government picked up its ears and thought, we could be doing something to support transportation. The railways treat our highways as branch lines. They don't pay a penny for that branch line maintenance, but the taxpayers of Saskatchewan certainly do.

And the safety of those who are moving on those roads, Mr. Speaker, has deteriorated to the point whereby people are looking to go in other directions with their trailers, their boats, their motors, their recreational vehicles, Mr. Speaker, because their normal recreation routes have become branch lines for the railways. And there are massive trucks moving goods from Meadow Lake to the CN [Canadian National] line in North Battleford, Mr. Speaker, and I think government should be consulting the public on that.

And while they're at it, goofy idea, but why don't we consult about passenger trains again in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? And let's talk about a line between Regina and Saskatoon. Lots of people have talked about that. And anybody that had to travel on the road in the last few days would have given anything to have got on a train, Mr. Speaker, to travel between Saskatoon and Regina.

Mr. Speaker, government should be thinking about the long-term future of a growing province. They talk a lot about what's going on in Alberta. What are they talking about in Alberta? Passenger rail service, Mr. Speaker. Let's start thinking about that again, and let's start thinking about re-evaluating movement of goods and services.

Mr. Speaker, I said earlier, Throne Speeches are important. We do remember in 2007 the first Throne Speech that the government came out with was called "Securing the Future." Mr. Speaker, the future is far from secure, three years after the vision of this government was securing the future.

Mr. Speaker, in 2008 the Throne Speech was "A Stronger Saskatchewan. A Better Life." Mr. Speaker, we're still searching for that better life for all Saskatchewan people. That 2008 Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, was the Throne Speech that said this: Saskatchewan is no longer next year country. It's this year country. It was also the year in which this government put all its eggs into the potash basket, Mr. Speaker, making everything next year country — most of which, Mr. Speaker, we aren't even at yet.

Last year, 2009, the Throne Speech title was "Moving Forward." Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech spent most of its language, its paragraphs, talking about moving backwards, Mr. Speaker, how everything that was good in this province was the

result of Sask Party activity for two years.

And now, Mr. Speaker, we have the fourth and final Throne Speech before the election in 2011 called "The New Road". Well, Mr. Speaker, this isn't much of a new road at all. This is another patchwork road, Mr. Speaker. It's a road with a thin membrane put on it again, Mr. Speaker. This new road of the Saskatchewan Party will be beat up just like a lot of those thin membrane highways in this province in the past, Mr. Speaker, because it's just recycled, tired, old Sask Party rhetoric, Mr. Speaker, that's posing as a new vision for Saskatchewan. Bottom line, Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech misses the mark for a growing Saskatchewan.

The public of this province is desperate, Mr. Speaker, to know that if they make an investment, if they show confidence in their community, if they donate money to support municipal and community recreational infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, if they do the things that they want to do to build their community, that the province around them, Mr. Speaker, is going to be there to support that continued growth. There's no evidence of that in this Throne Speech. There has not been any evidence of that in the three previous throne speeches, Mr. Speaker.

I look forward to the budget in March which will give us a further indication, Mr. Speaker, of what we can expect before the year-end and the public goes to the polls. But I can say right now that if this is the election platform of the Saskatchewan Party for the 2011 election, Mr. Speaker, the public will stand up and reject this without even blinking an eye. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health, the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It truly is a privilege and an honour to rise in my place again and address and reply to the Speech from the Throne. I guess this would be about the 12th Throne Speech that I've had the opportunity to . . . I haven't replied to all of them, but most of them. And I would say that the last three throne speeches I've enjoyed much better than the first seven or eight that I had the opportunity to reply.

The other interesting part is when you get to reply to the Speech from the Throne how you can have really quite a wide-ranging conversation line and speech line. You can talk about a lot of different things, whereas normally on the government side now when you're addressing a Bill, you're pretty specific to the Bill. You don't get the opportunity to range quite as far as you normally would, for example in the reply to the Speech from the Throne.

So I want to do some of that at the start. I want to talk a little bit about my constituency, the people that I need to thank. I want to talk about some of those things. Then I will get into the heat of the most important part of my remarks, I guess, the issues around health care and some of the comments that have been made by the opposition.

First of all I would like to, though, congratulate the new member, the new member from Saskatoon Northwest who recently won a by-election, Mr. Speaker. Not only won the

by-election quite handily, but increased the margin of vote that the Saskatchewan Party received compared to the 2007 election. We saw that the opposition party actually decreased their percentage of vote in that by-election.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, when there is a vote on government popularity, which a by-election quite often makes, when there's a vote on a government and a by-election, quite often it's easy to change that vote because it doesn't change the government. Instead of changing the vote and moving towards an NDP member, not only did the people of Northwest still select a government member, but they increased the percentage of votes for the Saskatchewan Party.

And I guess that's significant in a couple reasons because we've been in power for three years and we're gaining support throughout the province. Not only in urban but — hard to believe we could be gaining in rural; I think we are — but definitely gaining in urban Saskatchewan, a vote of confidence for the government.

But even more importantly it was a vote of confidence for the member that they selected. I've known the member not for a very long time, but I do know that when I had the opportunity to knock on a few doors, the member was very well known from his public service over the years previous. And I do believe that not only was there was a bit of an increase on the party support, but I think there was a huge vote of confidence for that particular member. And I think it's indicative of that member.

I want to also thank my family, who of course . . . like every member, could not be in here to do the work that they do without the support of family. I want to thank my wife Cindy and our two boys, Craig and Mark. It has been a different year this past year. Our one son, our oldest son has graduated, and our other son isn't quite graduated but never seems to be at home. They're both gone quite a bit so the house is quite a bit quieter than it had been in years previous. So that's a bit of an adjustment. But I do know that even though the two boys aren't in the province very much, I think they are still supporting. I haven't had a chance to ask them, but I think they're still supportive.

I also want to thank the people of Indian Head-Milestone. I happen to have had the privilege to represent this constituency since 1999, even though the boundaries changed a little bit about eight years ago. But I've had the privilege to represent the people of Indian Head-Milestone over the last number of years, and I think we would all say that the area that we happen to represent in the province is the best area. I certainly would say that Indian Head-Milestone and the people within that constituency are some of the finest in the province, for sure.

It's an agriculturally based constituency that has had its struggles this year. I would say for the most part, probably 70 per cent of the crop got in. Some of it flooded out but what was there, what was combined, even though it was stressful getting to that point, was overall an average crop. Average-to-better with bushels, quality down a little bit. Prices are up a little bit, so most of the people that I've had the opportunity to talk to over the last couple of months has been very positive. They realize it wasn't the best growing year, but they feel that they

can move on.

I would say that probably in the area that my farm is located, would have to be one of the hardest hit areas as far as moisture. In our area, right where my farm is, I think probably I would say a 50 per cent seeding intensity was probably max. And then after that 50 per cent was seeded, I would say a quarter of that was drowned out through summer rains. But again with the resilience of farmers, what was there was pretty darn good. And through the great work of the Agriculture minister and increasing the unseedable acreage portion, most guys are saying that it was an average, it's a break-even crop. And that's coming off of probably two years of some of the best crops we've had in the constituency.

So agriculture is by far the base, but I can never talk about my constituency without talking about the beautiful Qu'Appelle Valley that makes up the northern border. The main community in that area of course is Fort Qu'Appelle and the lakes up and down the Calling Lakes chain, whether it's Pasqua, Echo, Mission, or Katepwa. A beautiful part of the country.

And it's interesting, when I'm stopped on the streets in Fort Qu'Appelle, it would be probably the only part that we wouldn't talk agriculture. We'd talk tourism and fishing. And the ski hill is there for the province — one of the provincial ski hills, I should say. So it's a pretty good constituency to represent, and I'm very fortunate.

I also want to, as all members in this Chamber would realize, the absolute importance, probably the most important person in the constituency, wouldn't be the elected official. It would be the person that the elected official hires, called the constituency assistant, who fields so many of the phone calls. Some are good; some aren't so good. And they have to deal with the issues that come in from the constituency level throughout the constituencies. And yes, the phone calls are good or not so good. All the constituency assistants are very good.

But the phone calls can vary a little bit. And so I would say that we're all very blessed with strong constituency assistants. I would say that my constituency, Nicole, who has been with me for the past three years, just does an absolute excellent job of fielding those calls and keeping the office going.

I think, you know, it varies from opposition to government. And then I think it varies a little bit maybe even from government to a government member that would be in cabinet, the amount of time that you get to spend in your constituency now, as opposed to what we were able to spend in opposition, and even perhaps on the government side but not in cabinet, I can tell you that I'm not in my constituency as much as I used to unfortunately. I try and get out there as much as I can. But as a result, your constituency assistant — or mine does — really I'm relying on her to carry on some of that business that I can't get to just because of time constraints.

I also want to thank a number of people within not only my office but also in the ministry. In my office, I'm blessed to have some great people working within my office here in the building, whether it's Christy, Kristen, or Crystal — that's always a bit of a mouthful — those three, or Lindell, Megan, or Robin. All do great work for me and certainly keep me as

briefed up as I need to be and work very hard to make sure that I'm aware of the issues that are coming into the office. They do an amazing job in my ministerial office, as well as the people that have since left that office.

We've had an interesting time within the Minister of Health's office in the turnover. And I, you know, I don't know how the proper way to term it is, but we've had a number of pregnancies. We've had three ladies off on maternity leave, and now my chief of staff and one of my ministerial assistants, their wives are pregnant as well. So it is a very fertile office, I guess you could say. A very productive office, I think, is probably the proper term to use — a very productive office.

The other people that I would like to thank would be the people within the ministry itself led by the deputy minister, Dan Florizone, and his assistant deputy ministers. As well as many other officials within the Ministry of Health do absolutely marvellous work for the province of Saskatchewan. I admire them all and thank them all for the work that they do — not to mention the people that work within the ministry, but also the people that work within the health field itself. The front-line providers, Mr. Speaker, are second to none in this province. Around the province — whether it's in acute care, whether it's in long-term care, mental health, home care, Mr. Speaker — the individuals that we have providing care on a daily basis to the citizens of Saskatchewan are second to none, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank them on behalf of the government of the province of Saskatchewan. The Premier as well, Mr. Speaker.

Quite often it's not something that you can hang on a wall or put in the bank that is the most important; it's a simple thank you for the work that you do. And so on behalf of the government, I want to thank those individuals for all the work that they do for the Saskatchewan . . .

The Speaker: — Being now 5 p.m., the Assembly will recess until 7 p.m. this evening.

[The Assembly recessed until 19:00.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Lingenfelter	5705, 5714
Morgan	5705
Higgins	5705
Harrison	5705
Wall	5705
McMillan	5705
Krawetz	5714

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Junor	5705
Forbes	5705
Brotten	5706
Furber	5706

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Brotten	5706
---------------	------

Health Care Providers' Week

Ottenbreit	5706
------------------	------

Snowbirds' 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Higgins	5707
---------------	------

2010 Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

Tell	5707
------------	------

Provincial Debt

Furber	5707
--------------	------

125th Anniversary of Depot Division

Ross	5707
------------	------

Photo Identification Requirement for Voting

Morin	5708
-------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Proposed Sale of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan

Lingenfelter	5708
Wall	5708
Furber	5709
Boyd	5709

Funding for Health Regions

Junor	5710
McMorris	5710

Voter Identification

Yates	5711
Morgan	5711

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resignation of Deputy Chair of Committees

The Speaker	5712
-------------------	------

MOTIONS

Appointment of Deputy Chair of Committees

D'Autremont	5713
-------------------	------

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Gantfoer	5713
Wyant	5717
Brotten	5718
Trew	5723
Norris	5726
Michelson	5728
Taylor	5730
McMorris	5734

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