



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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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
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Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
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 member from Regina South.

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to members of the Assembly it's my great pleasure to introduce a group of very special guests in your gallery today. They are high school students and their chaperones from high schools in Stanley Mission, Pinehouse Lake, Turnor Lake, and Fond-du-Lac.

From Rhoda Hardlotte Memorial Keethanow High School in Stanley Mission, we have Josiah Charles, Daryl McKenzie, Deborah McKenzie, Lauren Charles, James Ballantyne, and their teacher, Alexis Wenzowski.

From Minahik Waskahigan High School in Pinehouse, Mr. Speaker, we have Lorelle Natomagan, Kelsey Lariviere, Faith McCallum, Colleen Georges, Markel Tinker, and teacher, Elsie Forsythe.

From Birch Narrows Dene Community School in Turnor Lake, we have Keenan O'Connell, Trent Moberly, Chanise Harkins, and Colten Oneeye, and their teacher, Kristin Doile.

From Father Gamache High School in Fond-du-Lac, we have Loretta Randhile, Josseline Mercredi, Georgianna McDonald, Ivana Adam, and Frank McDonald Jr., and accompanied by teacher, Laurie McFadden.

Mr. Speaker, these students are here today to take part in the Youth Mentorship Program, which was sponsored by the Government of Saskatchewan in partnership with Cameco Corporation of the Government House Foundation. This visit is an opportunity for these fine young men and women to learn more about our system of government in Saskatchewan and to consider a career in public service.

It's my pleasure to introduce them today, and I ask all members to welcome them to their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with my colleague opposite to also welcome the students from northern Saskatchewan, and to point out very quickly that I see three of the groups are from Athabasca, which is the best constituency in the whole province. But I want to say, especially to the Cree-speaking students from Pine House:

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

Then to the Dene students, both from Turnor Lake and from Fond-du-Lac:

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

So I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure having these Aboriginal students here and let them know that this House is yours. There's a lot of room, and I'm really, really pleased that they're here today. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats, the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the legislature a group of students from Langenburg, Saskatchewan. There's 24 grade 8 and 15 grade 12 students. They're accompanied by Fallon Prince, one of their teachers, and Christine Neustaeter. And I would ask everyone to welcome them to their legislature.

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

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to recognize several constituents in the Speaker's gallery. First of all, Patti Hughes who is president of my constituency, Sask Rivers, and she's a former media person and private entrepreneur. And I also see Jeanette Wicinski-Dunn up in the gallery, from Big River, and Sandra Gilbert. So we'd just like the Assembly to welcome them to their gallery. Thanks.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce through you and to members of the Assembly, Jeanette Wicinski-Dunn who's here from Big River. She is a former town councillor there. She was on the local forestry task force, the doctor recruitment committee. She is a former CEO [chief executive officer] of the chamber of commerce in the area and is also a small-business owner, Mr. Speaker. She's been an entrepreneur in that area for a good long time, was born and raised in the Big River area and will be a tremendous candidate for us in the upcoming provincial election. I would ask all members to welcome her to her Assembly today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly I would like to introduce five members from the Northern Lakes recruitment committee from Spiritwood. They're here today joining the delegation from Big River, and they're seated in the Speaker's gallery, Mr. Speaker.

The members are Betty and Martin Taylor, Joyce Willick, Helen Mack, and Leanne Sawatsky. They're here to view the proceedings of the legislature. And I welcome them and I'd ask all members to help welcome them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join with the member and welcome these folks from Spiritwood

today. And while I'm on my feet, if I can, Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery is a gentleman from the province of Alberta who has become a friend, Mr. Speaker. He's a businessman in that province and for some time lent his good abilities and counsel to the Premier of Alberta, Ed Stelmach. He also has a background in journalism in the province of Alberta. He's here for some meetings in Regina today. His name is Tom Olsen, Mr. Speaker, and I'd just ask all members to welcome Tom to this Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd just like to acknowledge the students that are here. And we'll be having supper with them tonight; we're going to join them in 218. It will be an honour to gather with them. And that they're here as youth mentorship and to understand and work with, I guess, both sides of the House — the official opposition and the government. And I just want to welcome them here. And of course we had, one of the students is from Stanley Mission, my constituency, which is Cumberland. And I just want to welcome them here.

But I want to welcome all the students that are here to learn about the process of government and official opposition. And just seeing them here, I just want to welcome them, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their legislature. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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 here in Saskatchewan. And we know that freedom from poverty is an enshrined human right by the United Nations, and that all citizens are entitled to social and economic security, and that the income gap between the rich and the poor in Saskatchewan continues to grow and now one in five children in Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

I do so present. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today again to present petitions on behalf of people who support maintaining quality health care services:

The petition of the undersigned citizens of the province of Saskatchewan humbly showeth that the Government of

Saskatchewan ought to recognize the need for timely access to comprehensive and quality health care services for all communities within the province, including Wakaw and surrounding areas, and that the disruption of emergency services and in-patient services at Wakaw Hospital will not serve the needs of the residents in this community and surrounding areas; and

That the cuts in access to timely and accurate diagnostic and laboratory tests within the community of Wakaw and surrounding areas will also not serve the needs of the residents.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintain quality health care services through the commitment of necessary funding to address critical retention and recruitment issues.

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

The signatures on these petitions, Mr. Speaker, are from Nipawin, Regina, Carlyle, and Central Butte. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand up today and present a petition in support of maintaining the educational assistants throughout our great province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It's amazing that the educational assistants that are being cut in great numbers, Mr. Speaker. It's part of the Ministry of Education's document of enhancing opportunities through full-time school divisions whereas, Mr. Speaker, they will have a seven-year plan to reduce the number of EAs [educational assistants] in the classroom by more than 70 per cent, which to date represents 230 full-time positions. And, Mr. Speaker, the petition reads as follows:

Cause the government to provide appropriate funding for the required number of educational assistants to provide intensive-needs students with the supports that they require to maintain a positive learning environment for all Saskatchewan students.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petitions are from Weyburn, from Moose Jaw, from Regina, from Melfort, and from all throughout the land, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to a record that includes the running of deficits and increasing of debt at times of record highs in revenues, Mr. Speaker, the last three years increasing debt by over \$1.3 billion, and this year alone increasing debt by \$548 million, Mr. Speaker. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the honourable Legislative Assembly condemn the Sask Party

government for its damaging financial mismanagement since taking office, a reckless fiscal record that is denying Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses the responsible and trustworthy fiscal management that they so deserve.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Nipawin, Lumsden, and Regina. I so submit.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan concerned about the detrimental effects that Bill 160 will have on human rights law if enacted. And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan withdraw Bill 160 from consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and hold extensive public consultations informed by a public policy paper before any amendments to the Human Rights Code, the law that supersedes all others in our province, are even considered.

Today the petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon, Martensville, Maymont, Wynyard, Watrous, and Humboldt. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition in support of personal care home funding:

That Saskatchewan residents require a different level of care in their senior years; and

That personal care homes play a vital role in providing the seniors who live in them an appropriate level of care; and

That the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health currently does not fund personal care homes, although it does fund special care homes which provide services to seniors requiring high levels of care.

Therefore in the prayer that reads as follows:

Respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to cause the government to provide a subsidy to personal care homes permitting the seniors who rely on them to live in dignity and independence without bearing an undue financial burden.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents of Vanscoy and Saskatoon, and I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise

again today to present a petition regarding restoring funding equity to Regina Catholic schools. Regina Catholic schools receive \$275 less per pupil than the Regina public schools, amounting to a funding inequity of \$2.7 million for the last fiscal year. And that total is growing, Mr. Speaker, because that problem has not yet been resolved for the past year as well.

That funding inequity places program delivery and staffing levels at risk, and this is throughout the entire province of Saskatchewan that this funding inequity affects, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Saskatchewan has denied Catholic school boards in the province representation on the government-appointed committee mandated to develop a long-term funding formula for Saskatchewan school boards. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to address the funding inequity between Regina Catholic schools and Regina public schools that provides \$275 less per pupil funding for Regina Catholic school students, totalling \$2.7 million, and make known that the continuation for another school year of funding inequity places program delivery and staffing levels at risk in Regina Catholic schools; and in so doing, immediately restore funding equity to ensure that every student in Saskatchewan, whether enrolled in a Catholic or public school, receives equitable resources to ensure every student in Saskatchewan has access to a quality education.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the residents of Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords . . . [inaudible] . . . Prince Albert Northcote.

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct. I rise again today with a petition in support of a potash royalty review because the people of Saskatchewan are owners of a 1,000-year strategic resource and deserve to receive the maximum benefit of that resource. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the CEO of a major potash company in Saskatchewan has said that there's a new norm for potash, and first quarter earnings of \$732 million proves that. So, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the government to begin a comprehensive, transparent, and public review of Saskatchewan's potash royalty system with a view to maximizing the return from this strategic resource for its owners, the people of Saskatchewan, who wish to use these additional potash royalty revenues for needed investments in health care, child care, education, affordable housing, infrastructure, and other social programs as well as public initiatives such as debt repayment.

Mr. Speaker, today's petition is signed by good folks from Saskatoon, Yorkton, and Manor. I so present.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of Saskatchewan teachers. The petition reads:

That teachers are vital to the future of Saskatchewan through educating our most valuable resource, our young people;

That a competitive offer to teachers is needed in order to demonstrate respect to teachers and support the teaching profession over the long term; and

That teachers have supported job action with a 95 per cent in favour vote, indicating their level of dissatisfaction with the stalled bargaining process.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to call on the government to immediately stop disrespecting Saskatchewan teachers and return to the bargaining table with a willingness to bargain in good faith, thereby demonstrating that teachers are valued, respected, and central to the success of Saskatchewan's future.

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

Mr. Speaker, the hundreds and hundreds of people who have signed this petition are from right across Saskatchewan. With that, Mr. Speaker, I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Women of Distinction Awards

Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May 9th to 15th is Women Entrepreneurs Week in Saskatchewan. The rise of female entrepreneurship has had a significant and increasing impact on Saskatchewan's employment and economic activity. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a few female entrepreneurs whose businesses have received recognition at the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] annual Women of Distinction awards.

Nikki Lamb won the award for Leadership and Management. She is the regional manager for the prairie region of the Neil Squire Society, executive coordinator of the NSS annual job fair for people with disabilities, and founder and director of business development for the Neil Squire Society.

The next group recognized was the Breast Friends, Circle of Friends. Mr. Speaker, Breast Friends is a group of 10 friends from Foam Lake who have raised well over 1.1 million for local and national cancer charities through their bestselling cookbooks.

Angeline Panio received the Contribution to a Rural Community honour. She has dedicated her time to many

worthwhile organizations and has helped improve the rural communities of Montmartre, Kendal, and Wadena. Mr. Speaker, Jill Arnott was also recognized for Community Leadership and Enhancement for her work at the Regina women's centre.

There are but a few examples of female-run businesses that are providing the people of Saskatchewan with valuable services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Woman Entrepreneur Achieves Success

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the second week of May in Saskatchewan, we celebrate Women Entrepreneurs Week. In 2010 over 33,000 women were self-employed in this province. This has a significant and an increasing impact on Saskatchewan's employment and economic activity.

One woman entrepreneur in particular has had an incredibly successful year. When she started her business, Rachel Mielke wanted to create an investment-worthy jewellery line that is fashionable, beautiful, and functional. The designer and owner of Hillberg & Berk, an attainable luxury jewellery line, has succeeded tremendously on all these counts.

Rachel launched her jewellery business in 2007 and since then has achieved much renown. She has appeared everywhere from CBC's [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] *Dragon's Den*, where she convinced Brett Wilson to invest in her company, to the Oscar red carpet where she was invited to attend the pre-Oscar luxury gifting lounge in 2008. Today, celebrities including Sarah McLachlan, Michelle Obama, Carrie Underwood, and Celine Dion wear her luxury pieces. Recently, Rachel was named the Business Development Bank of Canada's 2011 Young Entrepreneur Award winner for Saskatchewan.

Small business is the backbone of our province and woman are leading the way. Rachel is a wonderful role model for women entrepreneurs, for all entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan. She has turned her passion for fashion in jewellery into a business success. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in celebrating Rachel's achievements, as well as all women entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Prairie Scene Celebrates Saskatchewan

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, Prairie Scene, the fifth in a series of regional art festivals hosted by the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, has just wrapped up. Judging by box office numbers, we're hearing that this was the best Scene yet — 200 Saskatchewan artists, writers, dancers, musicians, actors, playwrights, craftspeople and even chefs exhibited their work or performed in front of new audiences and connected with national and international talent scouts and booking agents. Prairie Scene told the Saskatchewan story and helped to show

the world that our province is a great place to visit, invest, and enjoy a great quality of life.

Adding to the fun was the same green scene which was such a big hit at the Olympics. Three hundred people had their photo taken with a Saskatchewan scene as a background. We even had a special performance of Riders on the hill, Mr. Speaker — literally, that is. On Saturday, with the help of Rider legend Al Ford, we showed Ottawa a little Rider pride by staging a green and white touch football game on Parliament Hill.

Mr. Speaker, supporting this festival was one tangible way our government helps artists. The government's direct investment in our artists has helped propel their careers and has allowed us to showcase not only Saskatchewan's great talent but also the natural beauty and high quality of life in our province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

National Aboriginal Hockey Championship

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan hosted the National Aboriginal Hockey Championship at the Jemini arenas in Saskatoon March 26th to 30th. The tournament featured teams from across Canada. And, Mr. Speaker, National Aboriginal Hockey Championships provides a forum for the elite Aboriginal hockey players throughout the country.

Two teams represented Team Saskatchewan — one male, one female — and they're both comprised of the bantam and midget A athletes. Mr. Speaker, the event celebrates the athletic abilities of the Aboriginal athletes from across this great country.

Team Saskatchewan won both the men's and the women's division. The men won a 4-3 overtime thriller over E.D. & N, which is a team comprised of players from northern Ontario and Quebec, and this is their fourth straight national title. Meanwhile the women's provincial team steamrolled to a 7-3 win, earning their first championship as one of the more dominant teams at this year's tournament. The men were expected to have a strong chance of winning, but the women's victory was a breakthrough for the team. For the athletes, winning a national gold in an Aboriginal tournament is a huge honour.

Mr. Speaker, Aboriginal people are an under-represented segment of the population when it comes to sports, and the success of these athletes is a great inspiration to people across this province. The players carried themselves well, both on and off the ice. They are great role models and ambassadors and everything we want our young Aboriginal people to become.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating these inspiring First Nations youth and great hockey champions of Saskatchewan.

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

Small-Business Optimism

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The April 2011 Canadian Federation of Independent Business monthly *Business Barometer* reveals optimism for the year ahead among small-business owners. According to the *Barometer*, the optimism of Saskatchewan business owners increased by 1.5 points in April to 76.7 from an index of 75.2 in March and well ahead of the national index of 70.7. Fifty-nine per cent of Saskatchewan small-business owners rated their overall state of business as good compared to 38 per cent nationally. Twenty-nine per cent also planned to increase full-time employment in the next three to four months — the highest in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] survey shows that Saskatchewan business owners are on a positive trajectory. Their hard work and vision for a better future contribute to the high quality of living that we enjoy in this province.

Owning and running a small independent business is a risky venture, and we know that not everyone is successful. However, Mr. Speaker, we do know that positive government policies contribute to a healthy economic climate. Our Saskatchewan Party government is proud of its record of supporting small independent businesses but, Mr. Speaker, we are even more proud of the business owners and workers who continue to drive Saskatchewan's economic engine forward.

Mr. Speaker, increasing business optimism is yet another example of the Saskatchewan advantage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Contract Negotiations with Health Sciences Association

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, last Thursday we had our province's 12,000 teachers take job action. This morning members of the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan, representing more than 3,000 health care professionals, hit the picket line in Prince Albert after issuing a 48-hour strike notice on Friday. There seems to be a pattern developing in the Premier's new Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Workers have been without a contract for two years. These workers are the people on the front line of our health care system who work tirelessly to ensure that the residents of our province receive quality medical care. Workers who walked off the job this morning in Prince Albert include addictions counsellors, assessors, coordinators, and mental health therapists as well as dietitians, exercise therapists, health educators, occupational therapists, pharmacists, physical therapists, psychologists, and speech-language pathologists. Mr. Speaker, they are our family members, our neighbours, and our fellow citizens.

The public services that they provide improve our quality of life and strengthen our communities. Many of these workers rallying in Prince Albert today with their co-workers are calling attention to the Sask Party government's frustrating and

disrespectful process at the bargaining table. The government does not recognize the important role that our health care providers provide in our province.

Many people feel disrespected with the way this government is treating workers at the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan as housing prices have skyrocketed, utilities cost more, food prices are increasing, and this Sask Party government offers a little more than 1 per cent a year in compensation. I call on this government to take immediate action in recognizing 3,000 employees and the pivotal work that they do in our health care system every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in last week's 75-minute debate, the member from Saskatoon Nutana told the people of Saskatchewan that STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] would pick and choose who to save based on the size of their wallets. She said, and I quote, “. . . if a citizen who hasn't made a corporate donation to the STARS program is injured at the same time as a worker whose company has given a donation to STARS, how will STARS pick and choose where to go, Mr. Speaker?”

Mr. Speaker, STARS has a 25-year history of making medical and ethical decisions based on patient need. The emergency physician is the one that makes the call based on all available information regarding missions, and there has never been a situation where a donation changed the carefully triaged mission response. STARS has had and will continue to have a sterling reputation for putting patients first.

I am dismayed that the member from Nutana would resort to cheap political shots and fearmongering regarding such a respected life-saving organization. Bringing STARS to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is about saving lives. As a former Health minister, I expected a debate based on fact from the member from Nutana, not misinformation and fearmongering. I, for one, am proud to be part of a government that continues to put patients first in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Negotiations with Health Care Workers and Teachers

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, today 60 health care professionals withdrew their service in Prince Albert and withdrew because of the failure of this government to provide a contract for 3,000 health science professionals here in the province of Saskatchewan. They're concerned about the fact that they're being treated with disrespect. And the fact is that for two years now they've been doing everything they can to get a contract. They would much rather be at work today, but in order to highlight the position of no contract, they've decided to withdraw service — 60 members of their association — for today.

My question to the Premier: in light of the fact that these workers, these professionals are being offered less than 1.5 per cent per year and in that same region the CEO was offered and received 60 per cent increase this year, how is that fair? And how does he expect, how does the Premier expect to get a contract with this unfair situation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that as a result of adjustments for out-of-scope health care workers and managers, there's been some increases that will take them to be about 65 per cent of the average of their counterparts in Western Canada. Fortunately with contracts that are already settled with thousands of health care workers, we're now well over the 90th percentile in terms of front-line health care workers being competitive with other Western Canadian averages, in some cases well over 100 per cent. So we are actually paying more here for front-line health care workers than any other Western province.

Mr. Speaker, we also want to be competitive with the very valued people in the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We value their work. We also value the collective bargaining process.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that in 2002 under the NDP [New Democratic Party], services were withheld for 28 days. I can tell you there was a strike in 2007 under the NDP. I assume they would say that then the NDP government valued and respected those workers. The same is true today. We know the solution to this is at the bargaining table, and we look forward to those negotiations continuing.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, at a time when the workers have withdrawn their service because they're being offered less than one and a half per cent, I think it's unfair that the Premier indicates that they're the highest paid in Canada. It's just not accurate, and the workers in Prince Albert know that. In fact one of the reasons they've withdrawn service is because of the underfunding and understaffing of a number of important areas in health care and the professions they represent, most importantly, and importantly the area of ambulance service. And each day in this province, in rural Saskatchewan, seven times a day people are waiting more than recommended by this government for ambulance. In the city it's more than that; it's 10 times a day. In fact in Coronach my understanding is that last week a family waited one hour, more than an hour, for an ambulance, putting the life of the individual at risk.

Can the Premier tell me, at a time when we have record profits from resources in the province, more money than ever for the revenues in Saskatchewan, how is it that these professional health care workers are being offered less than 1.5 per cent for a three-year contract?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the offer on the table is 7.5

per cent over four years, Mr. Speaker, and we understand that the Health Sciences Association is not comfortable with that and they've taken . . . They're on strike today in certain locales, Mr. Speaker. We understand that's part of the collective bargaining process, and we respect that.

In the preamble of the member's question, he highlighted the fact that there's human resource issues in . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we welcome the fact that the Government of Saskatchewan and SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations] and regions have been working hard to deal with the human resource deficit left behind by the NDP in terms of nurses, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the number of doctors. We're also happy that there has been a settlement with thousands of public sector workers across the province. Obviously more work needs to be done with respect to this contract. That work needs to happen at the bargaining table, and we look forward to negotiations continuing.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, last week 12,000 teachers in this province took job action. Three thousand of them came here to the Legislative Building to try to indicate to the Premier and to this government that the wages being offered, the increase in wages being offered, simply is insufficient. And in fact it's the first time in 78 years that teachers in this province have withdrawn service and I think that indicates the fact that this Premier and this government are not paying attention to the people who are doing the heavy lifting in teaching our children.

Today, today we have 3,000 health service professionals who are indicating the same concept, that they just are not being treated with respect and are not being given a contract that is meaningful to their families. And at a time when inflation is high for housing, for food, for gasoline, to be given an offer that is less than the rate of inflation is absolutely inadequate.

And my question to the Premier is: when will this government realize and recognize the hard work being done by the teachers and the health care professionals in this province and give them a meaningful contract?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, as we indicated last week when the teachers were here, the government-trustee bargaining committee has rejected the request, the demand on the part of the Teachers' Federation for a 12 per cent increase in one year. We know that the teachers are rejecting the initial position of the government-trustee bargaining committee, and we're happy, Mr. Speaker, that negotiations are going to continue and this matter will resolve at the table.

We believe the same is true for the Health Sciences Association, Mr. Speaker, and we have confidence in a proper resolve to this because since 2007, Mr. Speaker, 90 per cent of the health care employees in this province have reached an

agreement without need for arbitration with the public sector employer, Mr. Speaker. In addition to that, we have made significant progress over the massive deficit left behind by members opposite, where there were 1,000 too few nurses in the province, where there were too few doctors being trained.

Mr. Speaker, we can't fix the problems left behind by members opposite overnight. But the good news is, we're making progress and 90 per cent of health care workers have signed a contract, Mr. Speaker. And we're looking forward to the fact that these other very important public sector employees will see a new contract and the matters will be resolved at the bargaining table.

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

Health Care Issues

Ms. Junor: — I think what the Premier misses, Mr. Speaker, is that it took Bills 5 and 6 to get those contracts settled — nothing to do with good bargaining.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of people in the gallery today from the communities of Big River, Spiritwood, and Kamsack. They're very concerned about the government's failure to provide health care to their communities. Spiritwood and Big River have lost their hospital emergency services, and the government is giving the Prince Albert regional health, health region CEO a 60 per cent wage increase, with a 10 per cent bonus for meeting efficiency targets. People in these communities say they are suffering death by management.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: since none of the P.A. [Prince Albert] CEO's performance is based on any deliverables in rural Saskatchewan, how can rural communities like Spiritwood, Big River, Kamsack have any faith that more services won't be cut to secure personal performance bonuses for CEOs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we're working very diligently with the health regions, Mr. Speaker, who are working with the communities to ensure that we have the proper complement of health care providers, in this case a number of physicians, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we have the proper complement of physicians around the province.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that work has begun over the last three and a half years. Unfortunately, the work should have been begun much earlier, Mr. Speaker. It should have begun much earlier, and it didn't. Mr. Speaker, under the former government, you can imagine when you only have 55 medical seats for a province, Mr. Speaker, of 1 million people, it simply was insufficient. We've increased the number of medical seats; we're increasing the number of residency positions to match a growing population, Mr. Speaker. We're optimistic about this province. It's too bad those members weren't when they were in power.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's optimism isn't doing anything in rural Saskatchewan. Communities like Big River and Spiritwood are working hard to raise money to recruit doctors. Spiritwood has raised over \$110,000, and all the physician recruitment agency that the minister has put together has done to help them is to tell them to keep raising more money.

In the new strategic plan issued in March 2011, where the Health ministry outlines their direction for the next two years, the word rural is not even mentioned once. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: if the government has such a huge emphasis on fixing rural health care, can the minister tell the people in the gallery today why is he rewarding health region CEOs with huge wage increases for cutting rural services, and why the word rural is not mentioned in the minister's strategic plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I can say unequivocally that the physician recruitment agency is working diligently in rural Saskatchewan, as our government is, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we have the proper complement of health care providers. I find it interesting that that member opposite is now interested in rural Saskatchewan. I could certainly quote a quote about her dealings in rural Saskatchewan if she wants me to. It has something to do about hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker. For 16 years under the NDP government, they absolutely ignored rural Saskatchewan. That isn't the case under this government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'll be the first to admit that there is more work to do in many of these communities. That's why we're working closely with the communities. That's why we've actually put a physician strategy in place, Mr. Speaker, something that was never in place under the NDP. I think it probably stems back to the fact about nurses. They were too scared to set a target because they just wouldn't do it. It was the same with physicians on that side.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the government has ignored the . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I'd just like to remind our guests in the gallery that, while you're welcome to be here, we ask that you not participate in any way, including clapping. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has ignored the health care needs of far too many rural communities, many of which I visited over the last summer with my colleague from Saskatoon Fairview.

Rural communities have been forced to set up their own recruitment committees. When rural communities are talking to each other about doctor recruitment, ambulance services, or long-term care facilities, the biggest word of advice the communities have for each other is, stay as far away from the regional health authority as you can.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: what kind of message is he

sending to rural communities when they are telling each other to stay away from him if they want to keep whatever health care they have?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, over the past number of years we've worked hard to make sure we have the proper complement of health care providers, including health sciences. Mr. Speaker, we're working diligently.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting because under the former government if we ever went back to those days, I'm sure we'll cut the College of Medicine down to 55 seats. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we are the only province in Canada that was in risk of losing their College of Medicine under that government, Mr. Speaker. The College of Medicine went under probation under that government, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely unacceptable.

Under this government, we've increased the number of seats. We're going to increase the number of physicians working in this province. That's why we've changed the assessment process, Mr. Speaker. We no longer rely on Manitoba with the CAPE [clinicians' assessment and professional enhancement] process. We're self-assessing so that we can spread the number of countries that we attract physicians from, not just to the seven that was under the old NDP, but all countries across the world. Once our assessment process has been qualified through the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Mr. Speaker, we'll be able to attract more internationally medically trained grads to complement the Saskatchewan citizens we'll be training here.

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

Ms. Junor: — The minister, Mr. Speaker, thinks he's at an SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] meeting still. Mr. Speaker, while the government is giving a 60 per cent wage increase to the CEO of the P.A. Health Region, he's allowed 30 long-term care beds to close in Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and leave unopened five long-term care beds in Hafford.

Mr. Speaker, on any given day in Prince Albert Victoria Union Hospital, half the beds are taken up by long-term care patients waiting for placement. For additional 750,000, the government could keep the 30 long-term care beds open in Muskeg Lake and take some of the stress off the wait-list for long-term care beds in the region.

Mr. Speaker, on November 10th, 2010, when talking about Muskeg Lake, the Premier said, and I quote, "If it's important for First Nations to have that long-term care, to have accommodations, the Government of Saskatchewan said we're going to be there."

To the minister: where's the government now, and are they going to put up the additional 750,000 to open the Muskeg Lake long-term care facility?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the member was right that yes, last week I was at the SMA convention. In fact, Mr.

Speaker, I was at the SRNA [Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association] annual convention on Thursday as well, Mr. Speaker, and received a very positive response, something that I don't think those members ever did receive when they were in government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker. when it comes to long-term care, we won't take any lessons from them. In 16 years they closed 1,200 beds in this province. That's the NDP record, Mr. Speaker. Under our government, we'll be opening new facilities, not under the old formula of 65/35 under the NDP; we've changed the formula to 80/20 so that those projects will go forward, Mr. Speaker. We're getting it done in Saskatchewan. We've got a long ways to go yet, but we've come a long way from where they were under the NDP.

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

Natural Gas System

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have a serious situation in south Regina. In the past few weeks, there have been several occurrences of fires and explosions in and around homes, Mr. Speaker, as a result of leaks of natural gas. This has involved homes, garages, and serious injuries to individuals. It's obviously a public safety issue, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the minister is this: what steps is the minister taking to ensure that the backyards and the neighbourhoods of south Regina are safe?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the member for his question. This is something that the Government of Saskatchewan and all of our officials at SaskEnergy take very seriously, Mr. Speaker.

We know that the very wet weather that we've had over the winter and this spring has led to some incidents across the province, Mr. Speaker. An investigation is under way, as members will know from the Whitmore Park, the incident at Whitmore Park on April 10th and 11th; as well, Mr. Speaker, a garage that the member opposite refers to.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I do want to note that SaskEnergy has increased the amount of public advertising they're doing to alert people of what to look for or smell for or hear for when there could be natural gas. And, Mr. Speaker, letters went out to every single household in the province, Mr. Speaker, last week, to give more information to the people across this province.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, increasing advertising doesn't fix the problem. Last week, a serious explosion which sent an individual to the hospital, to intensive care, Mr. Speaker. And one of the neighbours called SaskEnergy looking to have their yard checked, Mr. Speaker, and they had to insist upon it. They

came and checked the yard, said there was nothing. But lo and behold, the next morning they're digging up the backyard to fix the gas line.

Mr. Speaker, these occurrences are occurring far too frequently in south Regina. If the government needs to bring in more resources and check every neighbourhood in south Regina, Mr. Speaker, the people deserve it. This is a safety issue. People's lives should not be put at risk. So can the minister tell this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan what he's prepared to do to protect families in south Regina?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can tell the member opposite that SaskEnergy is taking corrective action, not just for the safety of people in south Regina but for people all across this province. Mr. Speaker, that's why, in fact, since the members opposite were the government of Saskatchewan, there are 69 . . .

[Interjections]

[14:15]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Most members have been allowing the questions and the responses to go ahead without a lot of interference. A couple are having difficulty. I ask them to allow the minister to respond. The Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I can tell the members opposite that since the government changed in 2007, there are 69 more individuals working for SaskEnergy that deal specifically with emergency gas leaks. That's over a 10 per cent increase in the personnel.

As well, Mr. Speaker, SaskEnergy made the decision to take more of a visual approach to identifying where leaks took place, as the member opposite has stated. That was a decision made by the corporation to do a more in-depth investigation and to excavate areas where they believe that there may be a problem.

While I'm on my . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask the member from Regina Walsh Acres to allow the minister to respond to the member's question. The Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I want to commend the individuals and the people that work for SaskEnergy and, Mr. Speaker, that respond to these incidents, whether it be the incidents that the minister, or the member opposite is speaking, referring to, Mr. Speaker, or, Mr. Speaker, the gas leak that was discovered on Saturday morning a block away from my house, Mr. Speaker.

This work is being done in Regina. It's being done all across the province. Whenever there's an incident, SaskEnergy takes this very seriously, Mr. Speaker, and we ask for everybody's help in identifying any leaks.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we're not faulting the workers. There is something wrong with the integrity of the system when there are so many leaks occurring in the system. So if this problem is escalating, Mr. Speaker, it's incumbent upon the government to look for new tools, new techniques, new ways to ensure the integrity of the natural gas system in our province. That is the responsibility of the provider, and the government in this case that is the provider, Mr. Speaker.

So can the minister tell us what steps that this government is doing or taking to ensure that the future integrity of our system is maintained so people can go to bed at night without worrying about somebody dying in their family, Mr. Speaker? Does somebody have to die before we deal with this problem in a serious way?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for his question. And I want to state very clearly: the Government of Saskatchewan and everybody at SaskEnergy — from the board of directors to the management to the front-line workers, all 1,000 people, plus people, that work for SaskEnergy — take this extremely seriously, Mr. Speaker.

In the last four years, the budget dealing specifically for the integrity of the gas system has increased by about 16 per cent or over \$30 million. Under the members opposite, it was less than \$25 million. That budget has increased. We've increased the individuals that deal specifically with emergency responses when it comes to gas leaks, Mr. Speaker.

We know that over this winter we had, in large parts of this province, over 200 per cent of the 10-year average when it comes to snowpack and snowfall, so we know that we have extremely moist conditions out there, Mr. Speaker. That can have an effect on the integrity of the gas system. But this is something that we're responding to in a very serious manner, Mr. Speaker.

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

Relationship with Teachers

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the Premier said that if the Sask Party government were to give teachers a competitive wage increase, they could face massive layoffs or be forced to work up to 20 per cent more hours. My question is this: when teachers are already feeling undervalued and disrespected, why on earth is the Premier threatening them with increased workloads and massive layoffs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I strongly suggest that the member opposite read *Hansard*. That is not what the Premier said, Mr. Speaker, because . . . Perhaps he didn't hear it because members on that side tend to talk above the answers,

Mr. Speaker, so he might have missed it. He can read it.

That is not what was said. What he said was, we do not want to be in the situation that Alberta's in. We do not want to see the massive layoffs, because we do value and we think that we need all of our teachers, Mr. Speaker.

I'm very happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that the invitation that has been extended to the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation], they have accepted and they are going to return to the bargaining table.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, when the Premier threatened teachers with massive layoffs and increased workloads, he wasn't just speaking off the cuff. The threats are part of the Sask Party's strategy on this file. The same threats are included in a draft of a letter that was accidentally left in the men's washroom of the legislature. This letter's intended to be used by Sask Party MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to respond to frustrated constituents and the aim of it is very clear — to try to turn the public against teachers. The letter even urges parents to demand that the STF reimburse their child care expenses from last Thursday.

To the minister: again, how does it make sense to threaten teachers and try to turn the public against them, when teachers are already feeling undervalued and disrespected?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I must apologize. I wasn't in the men's washroom so I don't know what letter he was referring to. But however, I'm sure he'll provide a copy at some point in time because he does, he does like to come up with all sorts of mysterious anonymous letters, etc.

Mr. Speaker, we definitely do value teachers. That's why we believe that they should have a fair, competitive offer. However, we believe that the negotiations need to take place at the negotiating bargaining table, and we're very, very pleased that the Teachers' Federation is going to return to that table. I know there is a number of areas that can be discussed, Mr. Speaker, and that is where those discussions need to take place, not with false accusations from the members opposite.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, when it comes to anonymous letters, I think the Minister of Advanced Education can vouch for my track record.

Mr. Speaker, the draft of this letter has the following sentence crossed out: "Saskatchewan teachers do a great job." They actually crossed out that sentence, Mr. Speaker. I guess when the rest of your letter is bashing teachers, threatening them with massive layoffs, and trying to incite public anger towards teachers, you don't want to start by acknowledging that they do a great job.

The letter also argues that the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation "ordered its members to go on strike." That completely ignores the fact that 95 per cent of Saskatchewan teachers voted in favour of taking job action. To the minister: why is the Sask Party misrepresenting the facts, trying to turn parents against teachers, and continually undervaluing and disrespecting teachers? [The Assembly adjourned at 14:25.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, again and again the member opposite just sends out accusations. He doesn't want to listen to the answer. I will say the negotiations need to take place at the bargaining table. We're very pleased that the teachers are returning to the bargaining table, and we wish both sides all the best in making those negotiations work for what's best for the education system in this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 174 — *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2011*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 174, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved first reading of Bill No. 174, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered a second time? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move this House do now adjourn to accommodate committees this afternoon and this evening.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that, in order to allow the work of committees, this Assembly do now stand adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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