



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

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Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
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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 Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, with a request to all members for an extended leave, for a leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for extended leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, you'll understand in a moment why I'm a little bit lost for words today. I had the privilege to have lunch with some extraordinary men a moment ago, and I'd like to introduce them to you and through you to all members of the Assembly today. They have joined us in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and in no particular order: Warrant Officer Jeff Dickson, 10th Field Regiment, regular force, Regina, Saskatchewan. If maybe we'll get our guests to just stand and give us a quick wave. Captain Rob Haroldson, deputy commanding officer of the Royal Regina Rifles, reservist, Regina; Corporal Jim Sinclair, Royal Regina Rifles, reservist, Regina Beach; Sergeant Peter Gustafson, Royal Regina Rifles, regular force, originally from Kamloops, British Columbia, now happy to be, well I hope happy to be living in our capital city, the city of Regina.

Mr. Speaker, these four men have received the Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation, which is presented by the Governor General. It is awarded to, and I quote, "a unit or subunit of the Canadian Forces that has performed an extraordinary deed or activity of a rare high standard in extremely hazardous circumstances."

Warrant Officer Dickson, Captain Haroldson, and Corporal Sinclair were members of the 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Their battle group was awarded the Commander-in-Chief's commendation for their combat role on the ground in Afghanistan in the very important time period of January to August 2006. They were the first Canadian battle group on the ground to take the hand-off from US [United States] forces when the changeover from the US-led operation, Enduring Freedom, to the NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization]-led mission occurred in 2006.

Their battle group, task force Orion, or the Hunters, were engaged in almost continuous fighting with insurgents on the ground. They were engaged in 29 major operations. They saw more than 100 firefights with the Taliban. They mastered the very difficult task of dispatching attack helicopters and fighter jets while firing live artillery. They clocked over 1.7 million kilometres of driving. Their efforts secured coalition forces'

ability to deliver humanitarian assistance throughout Kandahar province.

Sergeant Gustafson was attached to the 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment when his unit, A Company, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, was shipped over to support the 1st Royal Canadian Regiment. His battalion received the Commander-in-Chief Commendation for "courageous and professional execution [and I'm quoting] of duty in Afghanistan during August and September 2006 that prevented the capture of Kandahar City by insurgents."

Sergeant Gustafson's unit participated in Operation Medusa, which was conducted to clear insurgents from Panjwaii district of Kandahar province. This operation was conducted alongside our US, Dutch, and UK [United Kingdom] allies as well as the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police. Fighting in extremely difficult terrain and succeeding where other larger forces had failed, the 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment managed to defeat a well-coordinated insurgent force. All of these soldiers were actively engaged in some of the most sustained fighting of the entire NATO mission in Afghanistan, and some of them the most intense combat the forces had seen in some 50 years.

Other Saskatchewan regular and reserve forces who served in Task Force Orion and received the Commander-in-Chief Commendation include Chief Warrant Officer Allan Rishchynski, Bombardier Nathan Betz, Master Corporal Sean Wooley, Major Gwen Bourque, Captain Brendan Clancy, Master Corporal Brian Mollison; Bombardier Tyrel Braaten, retired; Sergeant Rob Crane, retired.

Sadly, five Canadian Forces members from our province who served in the units receiving this commendation were killed during active duty: Captain Nichola Goddard, who grew up in Black Lake and Lac La Ronge, Corporal Bryce Keller of Regina, Master Corporal Jeffrey Walsh of Regina, Corporal David Braun of Raymore, Corporal Shane Keating of Dalmeny. All received this commendation posthumously.

To say thank you to these men seems hardly enough. There's really not anything that we can say except that, and mean it very sincerely as we do, for their willingness to serve their country, to serve freedom, to make us freer and to make us safer, and significantly, to build a better life for the people of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, lest there be any doubt about the result of the actions of these men and their comrades, I want to leave you, if I can, Mr. Speaker, and all members, with a poem that was written by Jeffrey Walsh who, as I just mentioned, lost his life. He wrote this poem for his little girl before he left. He said:

I know that they are out there:
I'll not be ignorant any more:
Pulling the blanket over my head will not keep them
from coming ashore;
Instead I choose to confront them
as afraid as I might be;
Because if I don't stop the monsters
our children can never be free.

Mr. Speaker, it is, as I say, a small thing to pay tribute to these men and through them to the many that they represent, but we do that today with a great sense of pride and an even greater sense of gratitude. Mr. Speaker, we welcome these men to their Legislative Assembly today in Regina.

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to join the Premier in the comments that he made welcoming these four gentlemen, Captain Rob Haroldson, Warrant Officer Jeff Dickson, Sergeant Peter Gustafson, and Corporal Jim Sinclair, and to congratulate them and recognize the commendation that they received, the Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation.

The Premier went into detail on the reasons for the commendation, but I have to say, as a Saskatchewan resident, I think for many of us we feel that we are somehow removed from conflicts ongoing throughout the world, and especially in Afghanistan because of the distance. But when we see regular force members and reservists from our communities that have gone to serve in these conflicts and served with great bravery and distinction, it really does bring home to us the importance of being involved in these conflicts and to making sure that Canada's presence is felt throughout the world because Canada does carry with it a great reputation throughout the world, not only as peacekeepers but of being involved in these conflicts with great distinction. And these four gentlemen really do signify that I think to each and every one of us.

So to join with the Premier and on behalf of the official opposition, welcome to the legislature, and also thank you for the contributions that you have made and carried with you with distinction throughout the world, and I'm sure you will continue to in the careers that lie ahead of you. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Greystone, the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce three new, exciting Saskatoon-based Saskatchewan Party candidates in the west gallery. And these individuals are Ms. Jennifer Campeau who is currently an instructor at the University of Saskatchewan, just completing her Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] in the department of Native studies. She also works with the Saskatoon Tribal Council and with Junior Achievement out of Saskatoon.

As well I'd like to introduce Zoria Broughton. Zoria is also a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan. She has experience as a teacher and community coordinator. She's been an active volunteer with the Saskatchewan literacy, the northern Saskatchewan children's festival, the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, and the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

And I'd also like to introduce Mr. Ali Muzaffar, and with him, his father, Muzaffar Zafar, his brother, Shahzad, as well as their dear friend, Musaddaq. And he's the owner of a construction company and certainly new to Saskatchewan over the course of the last three years. Came here with his family to ensure that they could enjoy the fruits of growth that are under way and contribute to it.

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer's running in Saskatoon Fairview, Zoria in Saskatoon Nutana, and Ali in Saskatoon Massey Place. I ask all members of the Assembly to welcome these three from their vantage point today — and ideally from a slightly different vantage point just after the next election — all these three to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the Premier and the Deputy Leader of the New Democratic Party in adding a personal welcome to Warrant Officer Dickson, Captain Haroldson, Corporal Sinclair, and Sergeant Gustafson to the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier indicated the province's pride and gratitude to these four individuals, Mr. Speaker. But I wanted to add, my late father, William David Taylor, was a member of Regina Rifles out of World War II. When he came home and after he retired, he was an active member of the Regina Rifles reunion organization. He attended numerous meetings and spread the word about the great history of the Rifles throughout the world, Mr. Speaker. When I think of my late father today, I often think of the Regina Rifles at the same time.

I thank these men for their current and personal contributions, Mr. Speaker, but I want the public to know and recognize and remember, they are part — three of them anyway — are part of an organization, a military organization that has served our province and our country with respect, Mr. Speaker, for generations. I simply wanted to say, I add my personal voice to that of the Premier in thanks and gratitude.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly, the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very honoured today to do two introductions. I'd like to begin by introducing a young lady seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery is Meagan Barabash. Meagan is the young lady who was crowned Miss Teen Saskatchewan-World 2011 on April the 10th in Saskatoon.

Meagan is currently attending grade 11 school at Preeceville. And in addition to achieving excellent marks and receiving honours throughout each school year, she's involved in the SRC [student representative council], participating and coaching sports, and participating in the band program. She has advanced to the provincial level many times with cross-country and track, and has received many awards for her musical talents. In her spare time, Meagan volunteers with her school and in the community, most recently with Telemiracle 2011. With all this, Meagan also finds time to have a part-time job. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to have all members join me in congratulating Meagan Barabash on her first achievement, that being crowned Miss Teen Saskatchewan-World here in Saskatchewan, but also wishing her well in Toronto when she will attend the Miss Teen Canada-World.

Also joining her, I have to mention of course, the driving force behind the family and that's Mrs. Shelley Barabash, Meagan's mother. So I'd ask all members to join me in congratulating this

young lady.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my pleasure to introduce, seated in the west gallery, a group of grade 5 and 6 students. I understand 15 of them have made the journey from Springside School to the legislature.

Mr. Speaker, you'll recognize maybe the teacher seated in the front row, Mr. Dean Turchinetz. Dean was a teacher here with the Social Sciences Teachers' Institute, I think last year, the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy]. And Dean has also been involved with explaining to students all about democracy and the role of the government and the role of this Legislative Assembly. So I'm very encouraged that he continues to bring students here to indeed show them what this building is all about.

Also with the group of students and Dean is Ms. Bev Bergman, who is the chaperone as well. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these students and two adults to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the other members of the Assembly, it gives me pleasure to introduce to the Assembly Cathy Dickson who is the Health Sciences Association president from Prince Albert Northcote. And in addition to the tremendous work that she's doing with health sciences, she has been a tremendous asset to the community of Prince Albert, having worked as a gambling addictions worker in the community for many years. So I'd like to have all members join with me in welcoming her to her Assembly today.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce three guests in the west gallery: Chris Hudyma, Métis Elder Doug Witherow, and Samantha Humchitt. If you give us a wave, please.

Mr. Speaker, Chris is the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre which is unique in Saskatchewan. It has collective kitchens, both adult and youth, a mental health support program, a vocational program, a bridging to employment program, a child support program, an outreach program, and a tenant support program. Truly a great organization, and I can attest to that as I have seen what their accomplishments have been.

Now Samantha is a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation and comes to us from Bella on Vancouver Island. Samantha, her two children, and her husband, Rod, have moved to Nipawin where she is completing her social work diploma and also working with the Oasis Centre.

Elder Doug Witherow also works with the Oasis Centre, and

basically Doug and I have known one another forever as his family farmed close to my grandparents' place. He's also from Nipawin and helps with the Oasis Centre. I'd like all members of the Assembly to welcome these good people to their legislature.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to do an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Eastview has asked for leave to do an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, today in the gallery are over 40 people who have taken the bus to the legislature to talk about health care in their communities. And they would like to be recognized, and I apologize to any one of them who I mispronounce their name.

In the gallery today is Shannon Parks . . . And these people are from, Mr. Speaker, from Duck Lake, Big River, Wakaw, Swift Current, Saskatoon, and Qu'Appelle.

Shannon Parks, Susan Prosofsky, Himy Falcon, Cindy Pilon, Brittany Pilon, Chris Wicks, Lorna Reynaud, Ron Mamchur, Shirley Mamchur, Jocelyn Dennis, Linda Caron, Donna Balone, Hennie Boschman, Natasha Danke, Daidyn Danke, Rita Gallon, Annette Scheidl, Joan Parenteau, Barb Hretsina, Janice Platzke, Cliff Palchinski, Renny Woytowich, Sabrina Warner, Irene Abrook, Caroline Frechette, Marcel Sentees, Chris Timm, Margaret Timm, Joan Cunningham, Anne Horachek, Edward Palchinski, Vickie Stoski, Natalie Zakreski, Paul Danis, Anne Dickin, Cliff Schmidt, Marianne Hilderbrandt, Bob Darcey, Carolyn Darcey, Tom Howe, and Barb Cape, president of SEIU [Service Employees International Union] West. Welcome them to their legislature.

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

Ms. Schriemer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to make a special thank you and introduction to Musaddaq Hayat who is a constituent of mine who I met many years ago. Welcome to your legislature from your MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], and it's nice to see you here. Thank you.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members, I would like to introduce an individual seated in the east gallery and that individual is Mr. Catlin Hogan. Catlin keenly observes politics here in Saskatchewan and he's very active in his community, and he's decided to take

his interest to the next level as he seeks the nomination in the constituency of Martensville for the Saskatchewan New Democrats. So I would ask all members to welcome Catlin to the Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome and to introduce a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Lindy Kasperski, sitting behind the bar. He served in this Assembly for a number of years and I would ask that all members welcome him to our Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, through you, and to all members of the legislature, a woman that is seated in our gallery today. Her name is Janice Bernier and she is working very, very hard in the constituency of Batoche. She is going to be the NDP candidate in the fall election in the constituency of Batoche. She's doing her very best as a candidate to represent the concerns and the voices of those individuals in that constituency. And if it's any example of how hard she is working now, she is going to be very well . . . She'll well represent the constituency of Batoche. So I'd like all members to welcome her to the legislature today.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to welcome Corporal Jim Sinclair to the legislature today. Jim Sinclair is not only someone that we are very proud of for the commendation that he has received today and for all the wonderful work that he is doing on behalf of Canadian citizens, but we are also very proud of him as a seasonal resident of Regina Beach. And I know the other residents of Regina Beach feel the same way and would feel proud of making the statement publicly as well.

Jim is not just a wonderful representative of Canada, but he is also a business entrepreneur and a very successful one, and someone that I know and have seen, Mr. Speaker, is one of the hardest working individuals that I have witnessed. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to welcome Corporal Jim Sinclair to the legislature today.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also welcome Mr. Lindy Kasperski to the legislature today. I know that he's specifically come today because it's Syttende Mai, and he is another one of our proud Saskatchewan Norwegian descendants. So I'm very pleased to welcome here.

But I'm also welcoming, on behalf of the member for Regina Douglas Park, all of the students in the east gallery from Regina Christian School. We have 48 grade 7 and 8 students who have come here today to observe the proceedings. They're accompanied by their teachers, Geoff Glasspell and Tanya Foster. And many people might recognize the name Geoff Glasspell because he was a very good basketball player when

he played for the University of Regina Cougars, and he continues to be an excellent basketball coach as well as coaching other sports throughout Saskatchewan. So I'd ask all members to welcome all of these students and their teachers to the legislature.

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last but not least, I hope, Mr. Speaker, and probably the longest introductions in our Assembly history, I'd like to introduce 21 grade 5 students from St. Marguerite Bourgeoys School in my constituency, Mr. Speaker. They're accompanied by their teacher, Deb Bresciani, and two chaperones, Lori and Mike Romanski. They're here to see the proceedings today, Mr. Speaker, and I'll have the opportunity to meet with them a little bit later. And I want all the members to welcome them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — And members, as well joining us today seated in the Speaker's gallery — and I'll ask them to give a wave — from the Saskatchewan Motor Safety Association, Mr. Ryan Bast from Montmartre, and Kevin Mooney from Regina.

I would just like to make one reminder before we move on. All the guests, we certainly want to welcome you to this Chamber, your Chamber, and as guests here. And from now on in, I would ask that members no longer participate in the debate through clapping or any other means. Thank you very much.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition on behalf of residents of Saskatchewan, that for too many of these residents that are facing surging rental increases that are simply making living in Saskatchewan unaffordable. Mr. Speaker, the petition speaks to the issue that since 2007 far too many tenants have suffered monthly rent increases of hundreds of dollars with the average rent increase of over 35 per cent in Regina and Saskatoon, meaning tenants in many cases are paying well over \$3,000 more each year, and that a majority of Canadian residents now live in provinces with rent control guidelines, including Manitoba, BC [British Columbia], Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the government to immediately enact rent control legislation that protects Saskatchewan tenants from unreasonable increases in rent.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed on behalf of residents in Kamsack, Veregin, Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, Ituna, and Melville. I so present.

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 citizens 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 area, and

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

That the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority budgetary reductions ought not to impede the provision of valuable, compassionate, and appropriate health care services to all citizens within the geographic boundary requiring acute care, community and home care, long-term care, and public health care, and

That the Government of Saskatchewan realize that the utilization and value of the full range of professional skills offered by health care providers is promoted through the address of critical retention and recruitment issues and by ensuring safe staffing levels, and

That such promotion can only be achieved through the commitment of adequate public funding to publicly administered, publicly accessible health care.

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 Big River, Wakaw, Prud'homme, and Cudworth. 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 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 we know that Saskatchewan's income gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow, and now one in five children in Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty.

We also know that citizens living in poverty have long identified affordable solutions. Recent national provincial

initiatives include the Saskatoon health disparities report and the Canada Without Poverty Dignity for All campaign. They all call for a comprehensive poverty elimination strategy.

I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government 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.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition on behalf of my constituents who live in the neighbourhood of Hampton Village. And the petition reads:

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that Hampton Village is a rapidly growing community in Saskatoon with many young families; that Hampton Village residents pay a significant amount of taxes, including education property tax; that children in Hampton Village deserve to be able to attend school in their own community instead of travelling to neighbouring communities to attend schools that are typically already reaching capacity.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan cause the provincial government to devote the necessary resources for the construction of an elementary school in Hampton Village so that children in this rapidly growing neighbourhood in Saskatoon can attend school in their own community.

And, Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are residents of Hampton Village. I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of a potash royalty review because the people of Saskatchewan are the owners of a 1,000-year strategic world resource and, as the owners of that resource, deserve to receive the maximum benefit of the resource. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the CEO of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan has said recently that there is a new norm for potash moving forward on the world markets, and their \$732 million first quarter profit will certainly speak to that fact. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: 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 the city of Regina and from Rouleau. I so present.

[14:00]

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 to restore funding equity to Regina Catholic schools. Regina Catholic schools receive \$275 less per pupil than Regina public schools, amounting to a funding inequity of \$2.7 million for the fiscal year of 2009-2010. Mr. Speaker, that inequity is growing of course because it's not yet been corrected. This inequity affects the Catholic school systems all across the province, Mr. Speaker, and the funding inequity places program delivery and staffing levels at risk. 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 residents across the province as it affects the residents across the province, and they're signed by residents of Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Arcola. I so present.

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. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan residents require different levels of care in their senior years, and personal care homes play a vital role in providing seniors who live in them an appropriate level of care. Mr. Speaker, 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 higher levels of care:

Therefore we, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan 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, these petitions are signed by constituents of Saskatoon Fairview and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise once again today 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 specifically to the fact that this record includes the running of deficits and the increasing of debt at times of record highs in revenues, increasing debt for three consecutive years to well over the tune of \$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 your honourable Legislative Assembly condemn the Sask Party government for its damaging financial mismanagement since taking office, a reckless fiscal record that is denying Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses the responsible and trustworthy fiscal management that they so deserve.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Kindersley, and Esterhazy. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Charity Royale Supports North Central Family Centre

Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to tell you and the honourable members of this Assembly about an amazing charity event that took place this past weekend. On Saturday, May 14th, Casino Regina hosted its inaugural Charity Royale black tie benefit in support of the North Central Family Centre.

I am proud to announce that this event raised \$50,610. This amount was then matched by Sask Gaming, bringing the total donation \$101,220. This generous donation will go a long way to supporting the important programs and services provided by the North Central Family Centre.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to being an important employer and business partner in Saskatchewan, Sask Gaming is proud to invest in organizations that make our community a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Last year Sask Gaming contributed more than \$750,000 to organizations across this province. The North Central Family Centre is a great example

of organizations that receive this support. The organizations and especially the volunteers and other people involved in their day-to-day operations are addressing very real needs in our community on a daily basis.

I'd like to congratulate the Charity Royale organizing committee and all of the staff at Casino Regina on a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Martin Collegiate Cultural Community Celebration Day

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it was my honour to join with students, staff, parents, businesses, and the community on Friday, May 13th at Martin Collegiate for its Cultural Community Celebration Day. I want to recognize the leadership that organized this day — the students, the administration, the teachers, and community. It was extremely well done.

I want to specifically thank Mr. Perry Leitner for all his work to bring this very important day together. And I would also like to thank all of the organizations and individuals that led sessions for students and the community. I had the opportunity to sit in many of the sessions myself and found them engaging and enjoyable.

The Martin student body and community is diverse by ethnicity, backgrounds, and traditions. It is enriched and made stronger by this diversity. In many ways it epitomizes our province's multiculturalism and our province's story — a proud foundation of First Nations and Métis people and the continued waves of immigration from countries around the world that continues to shape, evolve, and contribute to our fine province. I am encouraged by the students' pride of and the desire to embrace the diversity of their school community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me to thank the organizers of this special day and to commend the students and the community for demonstrating our province's motto, "from many peoples, strength." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Relay For Life

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 13th, 2011, the communities of La Ronge, Air Ronge, and Lac La Ronge Indian Band sponsored the first Relay For Life fundraising event. The Relay For Life is an achievement of the Canadian Cancer Society geared to raise funds for and awareness about cancer research.

The Relay for Life consisted of 26 teams that had a total of 300 participants walking continuously from 7 p.m. Friday evening till 7 a.m. Saturday morning. Even the outlying communities such as Sucker River, Stanley Mission sponsored a team walking in that event.

Throughout the evening, participants shared amazing stories of struggle, survival, and hope. Mr. Speaker, there is hope. As my

wife is also a cancer survivor, it was an honour for my wife and I to take part in this touching event.

The organization ensured support from Prince Albert Canadian Tire. The company pledged to match fundraising monies up to 50,000. Mr. Speaker, in total the event raised over 140,000. Deb Thome and Chandra McDougald co-chaired the Relay for Life along with their committee and other volunteers. A total of 75 workers worked tirelessly to make this event a success. Deb and Chandra, mother and daughter, also lost their husband, father to cancer just a few short weeks ago.

Seven-year-old Karis Oscienny lost an eye to cancer in 2009. In the fall of 2010, she lost the majority of her vision in her remaining eye due to a detachment retina. Karis, a resident of La Ronge, was appointed as honorary Chair to the relay and attended most of the activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the good work of the Co-Chairs, volunteers, and relay teams.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Arm River-Watrous.

Students Awarded Agriculture Scholarships

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government recognizes that the youth are the future of our agricultural industry. Mr. Speaker, we are taking steps to encourage young people to pursue careers in farming, ranching, and other areas of the industry. One of those initiatives is a Saskatchewan agriculture student scholarship. This morning the minister announced the first-ever winners of this new scholarship. Ten grade 12 students from across Saskatchewan will be awarded \$1,000 each to go towards their agriculture-related post-secondary education. Applicants submitted either a 500-word essay or a three-minute video essay on one of the two topics: the future of agriculture in Saskatchewan over the next 10 to 15 years or agriculture as a way to solve problems facing the world.

The winners of the 2011 Saskatchewan agriculture student scholarship are Taylor Bohay from Regina, Chelsea Hebert from Moosomin, Traci Henderson from Gainsborough, Jessica Hextall from Grenfell, Jennifer Klaassen from Rosthern, Danica Lucyshyn from Saskatoon, Kelsey Richardson from Delisle, Blake Tebbutt from Nipawin, Melissa Turner, Springside, and Erica Yaskowich from Wynyard. Young people such as these 10 students remind us that the future of our agriculture industry will be in good hands.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the provincial government, I want to congratulate these 10 scholarship winners and wish them every success in their studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Norwegian Constitution Day

Mr. Nilson: — [The hon. member spoke for a time in Norwegian.]

Today is Constitution Day in Norway. A constitution was brought in in 1814, so it's almost the 200th anniversary, and people around the world with Norwegian heritage celebrate this day.

In Saskatchewan there'll be a children's parade this evening from the Bessborough Park to Parktown Hotel, and anybody in Saskatoon area is encouraged to join along. In Saskatchewan we have a number of institutions that celebrate this event in various ways. They include the Scandinavian Club of Regina, Saskatoon's Scandinavian Club, the Saskatoon Norwegian Cultural Society, Sons of Norway, and the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Norwegians have brought many gifts to Saskatchewan. We're looking forward, in the next century, that they may also bring forward gifts like prudent royalty policy and perhaps a resource fund.

So, Mr. Speaker, with all of the members of the legislature, which include the member from Regina Coronation Park, from The Battlefords, Saskatoon Massey Place, Saltcoats, Saskatchewan Rivers, and also the former member from Walsh Acres, I ask all members to help celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day. Thank you.

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

Surgical Wait Times

Ms. Schriemer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm proud to announce Sask's health care system and government's efforts to provide sooner, safer, and smarter surgical care is translating into shorter waiting times for patients.

Since the surgical initiative was launched in April of 2010, the number of patients waiting for more than 18 months has dropped by 57 per cent. The number waiting for more than 12 months has declined by 37 per cent. Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by the progress made by health regions in reducing the numbers on wait-lists. The overall provincial surgical wait-list is currently at its lowest level since the current data measurement system was put in place in 2004.

Since 2007 the number of patients waiting longer than 18 months for surgery has dropped 75 per cent, and the number waiting more than 12 months has dropped 55 per cent. The goal of the surgical initiative is that all patients have the opportunity to have surgery within 12 months. I would like this Assembly to recognize the inroads made by the Saskatchewan surgical initiative in assuring that the people of Saskatchewan have access to safe and timely surgeries. It is reassuring for patients to see everyone, including patients and families, working together to improve surgical care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Negotiations with Health Care Workers

Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, this morning members of the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan rallied outside the Legislative Building to bring attention to their stalled

contract talks. These workers, health professionals such as paramedics, physical therapists, psychologists, respiratory therapists, and occupational therapists, tell us that they would much rather be at work providing the medical services they've been educated and trained to deliver. Instead they find themselves here at the legislature, calling on the Sask Party government to act in a reasonable and respectful manner in reaching a new agreement with their valuable health professionals.

[14:15]

At the same time, we find this government hiding behind SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations] while limiting workers' rights under the harsh dictates of Bills 5 and 6. Again this is becoming a trend. They are allowing taxpayers' money to attack their employees through a provincial media campaign, all the while undermining our health delivery system. These 3,000 specialized health care professionals earn an average of 25 per cent less than their Alberta counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, this government has no problem providing big raises and expensive new benefits for health care managers, and yet they have nothing for the health care professionals who actually serve the patients of Saskatchewan. It's time to bring respect back to the workplace and the bargaining table. This government has the responsibility and the ability to begin this process now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Negotiations with Health Care Workers

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Sask Party government was provided a window of opportunity to step back and re-evaluate its position. The Sask Party was offered a chance to send the Health Sciences Association contract dispute to independent binding arbitration. Instead the government chose to ignore the request and continues to offer the over 3,000 professional health care workers a contract that is less than the cost of living. Today 120 of those health science workers were striking here in front of the Legislative Building.

To the minister: Bill 5 has corrupted the bargaining process and Bill 6 allows the government to intimidate and threaten workers in public. Taking into account the complete change in the bargaining atmosphere, will the government agree to send this contract dispute to independent binding arbitration?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you very much for the question, Mr. Speaker. In labour law when you pass this type of legislation, there are invariably trade-offs and decisions to be made. In some jurisdictions they chose to allow for binding arbitration. In some they chose to allow for designated workers to be designated as essential, and those workers would continue to work. That is done in the vast majority of jurisdictions in our province.

We chose to go with the more moderate approach where we did not take away the right of workers to collectively bargain. And also, Mr. Speaker, we did not take away their right to strike. There are designated workers that will continue to work and, Mr. Speaker, we think that was a fair and appropriate choice. And, Mr. Speaker, I can add to that it's similar to what is done in the vast majority of jurisdictions throughout our country. It was modelled on the Manitoba legislation, Mr. Speaker. And what I would like to do is urge both parties, all of the parties to go back to the bargaining table. It is clearly the best situation where a negotiated settlement is the final resolution.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier said that every possible avenue should be exhausted at the bargaining table, and that has happened. Health science professionals have been without a contract for over two years. The government is offering a contract for less than the cost of living and obviously has nothing new to offer. SAHO admits that there is quite a distance between these two sides.

To the minister: the negotiations have come to a dead end. Health science professionals are taking job action around the province, and the government refuses to send the contract to independent binding arbitration. So what is the government's solution? What is it, Mr. Speaker? What do they plan to do to settle this dispute?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Assembly that virtually every jurisdiction in our country has now adopted some form of essential services legislation. The vast majority of those maintain some limited form of strike ability, as have we. The jurisdictions that have imposed by legislation binding arbitration are limited to Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Some other provinces such as Manitoba and New Brunswick do this for firefighters or some designations. We have other methods of resolving labour disputes with firefighters. So, Mr. Speaker, it is only Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island who have chosen to use binding arbitration as a tool within their legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is our position and should be the position of the members opposite that we do not negotiate labour contracts on the floor of the Assembly. We urge everybody to get back to the negotiating table and make the best possible effort that they can to try and resolve the labour disruption, Mr. Speaker. It is the appropriate way of dealing with things. And we feel that to take it to another decision where we impose settlement on them is not fair or appropriate and would rather not go down that road.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, some have said that this essential services legislation is like negotiating with one arm tied behind your back, Mr. Speaker. These are from professional negotiators.

Mr. Speaker, when the government has money to pay health

region CEOs up to 60 per cent wage increases, a contract that offers front-line care professionals less than the cost of living is disrespectful and undervalued of their work. Last week the minister admitted that he had concerns about the financial impact of an independent arbitrator's decision.

To the minister: if the Sask Party government believes the deal they are offering to over 3,000 health science professionals is fair and reasonable, why are they scared of the financial impact of sending the dispute to independent binding arbitration?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to say at the outset, as I've said before, that we value all health care providers, Mr. Speaker, throughout the system. Mr. Speaker, and I think it is shown, it is shown because 90 per cent of all the health care providers in this province have received a contract through a negotiated . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I would ask the members to allow the minister to respond to the question presented. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, 90 per cent of all the health care providers in the province have received a contract that has been negotiated at the bargaining table. That is by far the best place. And I've heard through SAHO that they want to get back to the bargaining table. There's still more to talk about. There's still more to do, Mr. Speaker, and so I would engage both parties or encourage both parties to get back to the bargaining table.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, because only about nine years ago, Mr. Speaker, when the same situation took place, the member from Regina Lakeview said that the best place for a contract was at the bargaining table. In fact the premier of the province at that time said the best place to get an agreement was at the bargaining table, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's the position . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The Minister of Health may finish his comments.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, that's the position of our government that we would ask both sides to hammer out an agreement because, as was said by the former premier and the former minister of Health, that is the best place to determine an agreement.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, it's no wonder it's taking over two years to negotiate the contract with that member's understanding. Mr. Speaker, the government won't send this dispute to arbitration because they know the deal they are offering is undervaluing the work these professionals do.

Mr. Speaker, there's chronic understaffing issues in the health science professions that are putting Saskatchewan families' health at risk. Major surgeries have been cancelled due to lack of perfusionists, and we have the lowest respiratory therapists per capita in Canada. Understaffed ambulance services fail to reach patients daily within national standards for safety. And four infants were given the wrong medication at the Royal University Hospital because of an understaffed hospital pharmacy.

To the minister: how is he putting people's health safety first by trying to bully health science professionals into accepting a contract that is unfair and disrespectful?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the negotiations between SAHO and, I hope, the health sciences will begin very soon so that they can continue to look at finding a common ground, a contract that is good for both sides, Mr. Speaker. I will say though, the last time they were at the bargaining table the health sciences were very concerned at the level of pay for paramedics. That was addressed at the bargaining table, Mr. Speaker, the last time that they met.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the number of employees through this union, we've seen a 20 per cent increase in the number of employees, Mr. Speaker, that have been attracted to this province. If there is one thing that this government has done and has done extremely well, is make sure that we work hard so we have the proper complement of health care providers throughout the province, be it registered nurses, be it doctors. More work to do there and also health sciences. We've seen a 20 per cent increase in that area, Mr. Speaker. Certainly more work to be done, but we believe and SAHO believes that the contract that has been offered to the health sciences when you compare it to other provinces, three other provinces in Western Canada, is fair and competitive.

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

Provision of Health Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, as usual the minister has never let the facts cloud the debate. Mr. Speaker, in the gallery today are people from Wakaw, Big River, Saskatoon, Duck Lake, Cudworth, Swift Current, and Qu'Appelle. And they've come with one common goal and one common concern, and that is their deteriorating health services in rural Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, they're tired of not getting any answers in their communities, so they've come to the legislature today to ask the person who should have the answers.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: what does he have to say to the people in the gallery today that are concerned for rural health care services and for their own health because of doctor shortages in their communities, acute care closures, ambulance cutbacks, and long-term care bed closures?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

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

all communities within the province, Mr. Speaker. We know there are issues. We know there are pressures in certain communities, in certain rural communities. That's why we're working with those communities. For example in the community of Wakaw, I had the opportunity to meet with individuals from that community on February 1st, 2011; March 3rd, 2011; April 7th, 2011; heard their concerns and said, Mr. Speaker, we are absolutely committed to the opening of that acute care centre when we can guarantee we have the proper complement of physicians, Mr. Speaker.

You can't have in-patient services unless you have the proper complement of physicians. We're working hard to make sure that we have that proper complement so that this facility can reopen. In the meantime we've got nurse practitioners, two part-time nurse practitioners, as well as an opening for a full-time nurse practitioner in Wakaw, as well as we've got itinerant services by a GP [general practitioner], Mr. Speaker, that's in that community two days a week. So there are services provided. We want to open the acute care centre, but we can't until we have the proper complement of doctors. I hope that issue is addressed very soon.

The Speaker: — Just a reminder to our guests that, as I indicated before, I'd request that guests not participate in any form, whether clapping or other forms. Thank you very much. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, it would be good if the minister was as committed to having the hospitals not close as he was committed to having them reopen. The problem is, Mr. Speaker, there is no provincial direction. The minister is providing no leadership and communities across the province are being left to fend for themselves. The minister's doctor recruitment agency is nothing but smoke and mirrors. There's a lot of hype and some nice furniture, but no results. These communities are not seeing any doctors come. The recruitment agency has done nothing for any of them.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will he admit today that the recruitment agency is a failure and has done nothing for the communities represented by the people in the gallery today except provide them with some false hope and empty promises?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. Mr. Speaker, when we came to government we knew there was a shortage of physicians. That's why we've done everything in the last three years, number one, to ensure that the College of Medicine is not under probation that we saw under the NDP [New Democratic Party]. We have increased the number of medical seats from 55 under the NDP to 100 in this government, Mr. Speaker. We've increased, doubled the number of residency positions from 60, Mr. Speaker, to 120. More work to do, Mr. Speaker.

The recruitment agency not only is working with the physicians in the College of Medicine and the residents to ensure that they stay in the province, but they're working with colleges of medicine across the world, Mr. Speaker. In fact I received an email from a medical student that was down in the Grand Caymans who was attracted back, going to be attracted back to

Saskatchewan because the only people that talked to him was the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, through the recruitment agency, Mr. Speaker. Success is happening through that agency.

Mr. Speaker, I find it really hypocritical for that member to talk about hospital closure when under their watch they closed 52 of them.

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

Ms. Junor: — This minister's racking up his own number of hospitals that he's closing, and I hope he's proud of that. Last year when asked about the five long-term care beds that were closed in Wawota, the member from Cannington was quoted as saying, which do they want, highways or health care? Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people deserve both.

The Sask Party has left communities on their own to find their own doctors so they can keep their hospitals open. Instead of spending money on infrastructure like water systems and road repairs, communities and municipalities are spending as much as 15 per cent of their tax base in bidding wars to get doctors to their communities. They're bidding against each other. And if they don't have any money, it can't end up in the bid. Yes, this is the new Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why is he making communities decide between highways and health care? Why is he making them choose between maintaining their roads or getting a doctor?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we worked hard, as I said, over the last three and a half years to attract all health care providers into this province. Mr. Speaker, 800 more nurses, 20 per cent more health sciences, 228 more doctors are working in Saskatchewan under this government than under the NDP.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's been our physician recruitment strategy; that's been the strategy that we put into place over the last three and a half years. I can understand they don't like it, Mr. Speaker, but for 16 years, they did nothing. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the member opposite: we're only a few months away from the next election, what is her plan? We haven't heard a word from the NDP on physician recruitment in four years, Mr. Speaker, because I don't believe they have any ideas.

[14:30]

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

Support for Low-Income People

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Regina's Welfare Rights Centre provided a much-needed service to low-income people here in Regina. This help in areas such as housing, advocacy, and family support was vital to people on social assistance in the capital city. This centre

helped about 250 people a year with things they normally couldn't do on their own, but that help is long gone. The centre closed on February 25th because the provincial government cut its entire budget. Since then there's been nothing to fill the void.

Mr. Speaker, why is this government neglecting a vulnerable segment of our society by not ensuring there was something to take the place of Welfare Rights Centre?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to start by thanking all the volunteers that we had at the Welfare Rights Centre. And, Mr. Speaker, I know that there was good work that was being done, and I understand also that there are vulnerable people that are going ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there's work to be done, and our goal is to not only make sure there's an advocacy but also make sure that there are fewer people on welfare. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that the number of people that are on welfare, that the caseload numbers are going down. And, Mr. Speaker, we continue to work with the people that need our help. And that's why we've put 114,000 fewer people off the tax rolls this year because they don't have to pay tax, and that'll give them an opportunity to make sure they can be in the Saskatchewan advantage. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work for people, with the people in our province that need us.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, that's cold comfort for people in North Central today. People who are on social assistance who are in need of advocacy support don't have anywhere to turn right now. Just last week, someone called the Ministry of Social Services, and it directed that person to call the Welfare Rights Centre for help. Of course when they called the welfare rights office, they found the number was out of service.

Clearly the government has no other ideas of where to send people for help. And as for former clients, they are left out, left to fend for themselves, even if the centre was not finished helping them with their issues. Why has this government allowed three months to pass without offering people any alternative to help them with the issues that that centre dealt with?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, there is a number of work that the government has to do. And one of them is make sure that the money that we spend as government is accountable. We had to make sure that public funds were spent in the manner that they were supposed to be spent. We had to ensure there was fiscal accountability of the Welfare Rights Centre. So, Mr. Speaker, there was significant financial irregularity shown within the Welfare Rights Centre and there had to be additional financial oversight.

So the number one priority, Mr. Speaker, was to make sure that the clients' needs were provided, and that's why right now

those services are provided within Social Services. There's a transition plan right now that's being worked out with the Welfare Rights Centre and each client was contacted individually. There's a further assessment of their needs going on, Mr. Speaker. And I assure you, like I said earlier, every one of the people that work with us within Social Services is important to us, and we make sure that we talk to them on an individual basis. And I assure you the staff within my ministry cares about these people.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, today we have in the gallery former workers of the Welfare Rights Centre, and they provided important assistance to people on social assistance, helping the government, that it was not able to do. But now that the government has shut down this centre, its former clients are left with nowhere to turn. Will the minister promise to immediately put something in place to ensure the former clients of the Welfare Rights Centre are no longer neglected and have the assistance they really need?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the member opposite isn't saying that the people that work within the ministry aren't giving assistance to the people that are on welfare. We know that each one of them cares deeply about what's happening. We know that the services are being provided now by the ministry. We know that there are individuals that are being contacted by our ministry, and we are looking into the next steps of what we can be doing, Mr. Speaker.

Our number one concern is the clients and making sure their needs are met, but the second one is accountability. And I'm sure the people of the province want to make sure that the money is being spent in a way that it was meant to be spent. Mr. Speaker, I have updated information on it, and I ask about this to make sure that people are working with our . . . with people on social services continue to receive their cheques and their rights, Mr. Speaker. Welfare Rights Centre was important, but the rights of the people are being looked after right now, and that is our concern.

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

Electoral System Issues

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Over two years ago, the Chief Electoral Officer came to the government with dozens of recommendations to improve elections and election process in Saskatchewan, all of which arose from actual concerns and problems with the conduct of elections.

One example is the need for important improvements to help voters with disabilities. No voter should be prevented from voting because polls are inaccessible, but it does happen, according to many members of the community who raised these

concerns with the Chief Electoral Officer. The Chief Electoral Officer's recommendations would help eliminate this barrier to voting, but nothing has been done.

While this government did nothing with those important recommendations for changes to *The Election Act*, it happily pushed through changes to *The Election Act* forcing people to produce photo ID [identification]. These changes no one, including the Chief Electoral Officer, requested for, and there is no need. Why is the government ignoring the voting needs of disabled Saskatchewan people while ramming through unnecessary and uncalled for changes to *The Election Act*?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's not the desire of this government to have anybody precluded from voting because of accessibility issues. We've worked with the Chief Electoral Officer and we work through regulations to try and ensure, Mr. Speaker, that we do everything we possibly can so that those that have needs, special needs, are able to vote by way of having special doorways, by having things done at one level.

We had saw earlier, Mr. Speaker, that Robin East was in the legislature raising issues regarding visually impaired. We are having ongoing discussions with the Chief Electoral Officer as to what the appropriate type of technology is to try and address that issue.

Mr. Speaker, the concerns that are raised by our citizens are valid concerns, and we want to work with them to try and ensure that those concerns are addressed, Mr. Speaker. They are appropriate, they're valid, and the discussions are ongoing, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quennell: — The disabled are not the only people whose right to vote has been affected. The Chief Electoral Officer has also made recommendations about needed improvements for voting in hospitals. In 2007 and in the by-election 2009, the health region tried to prevent hospital patients from voting, arguing that the health privacy legislation trumped *The Election Act*. The elections office had to fight the health region from preventing people from voting, and eventually it succeeded. However, to prevent this problem from coming up again, the Chief Electoral Officer recommended *The Election Act* be amended to formally indicate that it supersedes health privacy law.

This Assembly has had two years to move on those recommendations. Why is the government putting the voting of hospital patients at risk by not implementing this simple change and focusing instead on unnecessary election Act changes that puts the right to vote of even more people in jeopardy?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it is the desire of this government to try and maintain the integrity of the electoral system as best as possibly can. Mr. Speaker, I can advise that the Government of Canada, the three largest provinces in the

country — British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec — have all adopted situations where they now require voter ID. Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of this government to act on that. The legislation received committee approval last night.

And, Mr. Speaker, during the last federal election, I can advise you that the voter turnout increased from the 2008 election from 58.7 per cent to some 64.1 per cent. So it would appear, Mr. Speaker, that the requirement of voter ID does not impede voter turnout.

We will in fact address the issue of hospitals by allowing the hospital bracelet to be used as voter ID. Mr. Speaker, we think that people in hospitals, as elsewhere in the province, should be entitled to vote, and we will ensure that we take appropriate steps so that that does happen. And we will work to have as broad and all-encompassing system of regulations and various types of ID for that purpose.

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

Mr. Quennell: — The government should be trying to make it easier for people to vote, not more difficult. The minister himself last evening told a very amusing story about how he could not get his own identity papers in order to vote in the federal election, Mr. Speaker.

The Chief Electoral Officer also recommended voting in Saskatchewan could be improved by creating a permanent voters list and by allowing for early enumeration. These are steps the government has been called upon to take. It has not done anything. The government was able to put in the changes that it wanted, forcing photo ID on Saskatchewan voters despite the lack of need for it and the roadblocks it will create. But it hasn't sought any, it hasn't made any of the important changes, none of them, that were sought by the Chief Electoral Officer in his report. Why did the minister reject the important recommendations on enumeration made by the Chief Electoral Officer when it's obvious they could've easily been made in this session of the Legislative Assembly?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the Chief Electoral Officer has made a request regarding early enumeration. We'll have discussions in the Board of Internal Economy that will address that once we've dealt with issues of the rest of the regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I'm always willing to use myself as an example of how to do or not to do things. Mr. Speaker, I'm one of the people that went out, but did not have ID with me for my . . . an address. Mr. Speaker, I would urge all citizens, because this is another layer of process that they have to go through, should check their ID before they go, to make sure that they have the two required pieces: one that identifies who they are, and the secondary piece that shows where they live. It will speed up the process. It will make their life simpler and easier.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for the members opposite to participate in that process. I heard the member from Regina Walsh Acres say that she was choosing not to, that she was going to boycott the process. She does so at the peril of putting her own constituents

at risk. Mr. Speaker, all members should participate in trying to ensure that we have a broad and complete list of things that can be used for identification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education.

Joint Task Force on Education and Employment Established

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to acknowledge the signing of a document that represents a significant step in the evolving relationship between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Discussions began quite some time ago, Mr. Speaker, between the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] and our government on the challenges and opportunities associated with closing the current and historical gaps in both education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis peoples across the province.

I'm pleased to announce the Government of Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations have signed today in this building an agreement to establish a joint task force on improving education employment outcomes in Saskatchewan. The task force will consult widely on practical solutions for improved education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis peoples.

Mr. Speaker, for months officials from the FSIN and various government ministries have been working diligently on details for this joint task force. That work is reflected in the document that was signed this very morning by our Premier and Chief Guy Lonechild.

Mr. Speaker, the joint task force will be mandated to undertake the following tasks: identify evidence-based public policy, program, and practical approaches that have the greatest potential for positive impact on educational and employment outcomes; policy, programs, and practices that are not having the desired effect and offer proposed changes or revisions or elimination if necessary to some of those initiatives; and investments, costs, and the potential reallocation of spending priorities to ensure that we're maximizing those public dollars.

This is a historic opportunity to engage in a dialogue and consult with citizens of Saskatchewan in determining what next steps will lead to the successful educational and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis peoples in our province. The signing this morning reflects a shared vision of a prosperous Saskatchewan, a prosperous province where everyone has access to a high quality of life, both on- and off-reserve.

Mr. Speaker, while we make progress in this area, we know there's more to do. And our commitment is to work in partnership with the FSIN and others across the province to ensure that we can help eliminate these historic gaps, Mr. Speaker, and ensure that people across the province are enabled

to meet their full potential because we know that's the way that our province is going to meet its full potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[14:45]

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for sending across a copy of his remarks in advance, in advance of giving them.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the issue of Aboriginal education and employment, clearly it's an issue that affects everyone in Saskatchewan, and it's a key factor to consider when looking at the long-term health and prosperity of our province. It's clearly something that's very important.

When we look at recent statistics that point to many of the challenges in the province with respect to First Nations and Métis employment levels, latest figures show that the First Nations unemployment rate has increased 5.3 per cent points over the last year. It is now at 26 per cent. In just the last year, the Métis unemployment rate has increased by 5 percentage points to 14.8 per cent unemployment. So we certainly see, Mr. Speaker, that in recent years under the Sask Party government, we have seen a trend going in the wrong direction. We have seen steps backwards with respect to properly engaging First Nations and Métis individuals in the province in meaningful employment.

It's fine, Mr. Speaker, to have a signing ceremony, Mr. Speaker. It's fine to have a signing ceremony, and it's a good day, Mr. Speaker, when First Nations leaders are here in the Assembly and when they are constructively engaged in discussing the future of our province. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is we've seen signing ceremonies in the past. And we've seen signing ceremonies engaged in by this Sask Party government that have not brought fruit, that have not been constructive.

We've also seen actions, Mr. Speaker, by the Sask Party government where they have unilaterally ended programs that have had a negative effect on Aboriginal employment in Saskatchewan. The prime example, Mr. Speaker, is the Aboriginal employment development program that was unilaterally scrapped by the Sask Party government.

So while it's fine to have a signing ceremony, Mr. Speaker, and it's good to engage leadership in the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Mr. Speaker, the real test of the signing ceremony today will be to see what the results are in the long run. The results to date under the Sask Party government have been Aboriginal employment moving in the wrong direction. And I hope, Mr. Speaker, that it will go in . . . I hope that this task force, Mr. Speaker, will bring positive results. That's my true hope because that's what's truly needed for the well-being of Saskatchewan's future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental

Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 161, *The Election Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 161 — *The Election Amendment Act, 2010*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 161, *The Election Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

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

[The division bells rang from 14:49 until 15:16.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion presented by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 161, *The Election Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment be now

read the third time. Those in favour of the motion, please rise.

[Yeas — 36]

Wall	Morgan	Bjornerud
Norris	Draude	Krawetz
Boyd	Eagles	McMorris
Cheveldayoff	Duncan	Huyghebaert
McMillan	Harpauer	D'Autremont
Harrison	Hickie	Reiter
Hutchinson	Brkich	Hart
Schriemer	Stewart	Allchurch
Weekes	Ross	Wilson
Gantfoer	Michelson	Wyant
Ottensbreit	Chisholm	Kirsch
Bradshaw	Tell	Heppner

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

[Nays — 18]

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

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 36; those opposed, 18.

The Speaker: — The motion carries.

Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on Bills No. 629 and 630

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I have a statement to make to the Assembly.

It is the practice of this Assembly and the Speaker's duty to review all Bills in regard to rule 65 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. This rule states in part that any Bill which proposes:

... any new or additional charge upon the public revenue or upon the people ... shall be recommended to the Assembly by Message of the Lieutenant Governor before it is considered by the Assembly.

Speakers have consistently upheld the constitutional principle of the financial initiative of the Crown, including accountability for all public expenditures and initiating legislation that imposes additional charges upon the public. Members of Executive Council are held strictly accountable for all public expenditures and, accordingly, only they may initiate legislation involving the imposition of new or additional charges upon the public revenue or upon the people.

The practice in this Assembly is for Bills to be introduced and read ... Order. Read the first time with their further progress

being contingent upon the Speaker affirming that they are in order pursuant to rule 65 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*.

I've now had the opportunity to review a number of Bills that have been introduced, and wish to draw to the attention of the Assembly Bill No. 629, *The Independent Budget Officer Act* and Bill No. 630, *The Health Document Storage Act*. Both Bills are presently standing on the order paper for second reading under private members' public Bills and orders, items 9 and 10 respectively.

Pursuant to rule 23(3), these Bills could be designated for priority consideration today and considered on Thursday. Therefore, to prevent consideration of Bills that may not be procedurally acceptable, I must now rule whether these Bills are in order.

On May 12th, 2011, Bill No. 629, *The Independent Budget Officer Act* was introduced by the member for Regina Rosemont. The issue that I must address is whether the Bill No. 629 contravenes the principle of the Crown initiative in financial matters.

Clause 2 of this Bill establishes the independent budget officer as an officer of the Legislative Assembly. Clause 5 details the mandate of the independent budget officer, and clauses 8 and 9 provide the legislative authority to enter into contracts and obtain services. The establishment of a new officer of the Assembly would create a charge upon the public revenue.

It is stated in *Erskine May*, 23rd edition at pages 881 and 882 that a particular legislative proposal requires to be authorized by a money resolution when a proposal involves a new expenditure or charge upon the public revenue that is not already covered by legislative authority. Further on page 883, "the expenses connected with the establishment of a new department" require a Royal Recommendation. The establishment of a new independent officer of the Assembly would be similar to the establishment of a new department.

I would also refer members to the ruling of Speaker Hagel on April 7th, 1997. In his ruling, Speaker Hagel found that the creation of a health ombudsman as an officer of the Assembly and the associated office created a charge on public monies. Further, Speaker Brockelbank ruled on March 11th, 1980 that the establishment of an information commissioner required a Royal Recommendation. Similarly rulings on May 6th, 1998 by Speaker Hagel and June 12th, 2001 by Speaker Kowalsky found Bills seeking to create a commission constituted an expenditure of public funds and required a Royal Recommendation.

For these reasons, I find that Bill 629 requires a Royal Recommendation. The member from Regina Rosemont is not a member of Executive Council. Therefore I must rule that the said Bill is out of order and be removed from the order paper.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order.

With respect to the second Bill in question, on May 12th, 2011,

Bill No. 630, *The Health Document Storage Act* was introduced by the member for Saskatoon Eastview. The issue that I must address is whether Bill No. 630 requires an expenditure of public funds and thus contravenes the principle of the Crown initiative in financial matters.

Upon review, clause 3 requires the Ministry of Health to establish a medical file storage facility for both paper and electronic documents. The establishment of a medical file storage facility would require a financial expenditure by the Ministry of Health. Erskine May, 23rd edition at page 884 clearly states that "The authorization of a single payment out of the Consolidated Fund requires a recommendation." Further, Bill No. 630 provides the Office of the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner the additional legislative authority to maintain and organize the medical file storage facility.

I would refer members to Erskine May, 23rd edition at page 883 which states, "expenses arising out of the imposition of new duties on an existing department or authority" require a Royal Recommendation.

The Bill imposes new duties on the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Ministry of Health. I refer members to similar rulings by Speaker Brockelbank on May 20th, 1980 and Speaker Tusa on May 1st, 1990 where they ruled that a Bill that imposed new duties on existing independent officers required a Royal Recommendation.

Order. It is for these reasons I find that Bill No. 630, *The Health Document Storage Act* contravenes the principle of the Crown initiative in financial matters. Bill No. 630 requires a Royal Recommendation. The member from Saskatoon Eastview is not a member of Executive Council and not entitled to obtain such a recommendation. Accordingly, I must rule that said Bill is out of order and be removed from the order paper May 17th, 2011.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Clerk: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — Committee of Finance. I do now leave the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Motions for Supply

The Chair: — Ready? Okay. We're now in Committee of Finance. The business before the committee are three resolutions. I call on the minister to move his resolutions. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Chair, I move resolution no. 1. No. 1:

Be it resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011, the sum of \$484,018,000 be granted out

of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — Thank you. It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that resolution no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2011, the sum of \$484,018,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — I move resolution no. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2012, the sum of \$9,945,632,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the resolution no. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2012, the sum of \$9,945,632,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Chair, I move resolution no. 3:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2012, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31st, 2013, the sum of \$285,300,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

[15:30]

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that resolution no. 3:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2012, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31st, 2013, the sum of \$285,300,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — I move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance to report, the Chair report progress and ask for leave to sit again. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

FIRST AND SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to certain resolutions, has instructed me to report the same, and to ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the resolutions be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First and second reading of the resolutions.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 175 — *The Appropriation Act, 2011 (No. 1)*

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 175, *The Appropriation Act, 2011 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 175, *The Appropriation Act, 2011 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, under Rule 72(2), I move that the Bill be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 175, *The Appropriation Act, 2011 (No. 1)* be now read a second and third time. 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.

Clerk: — Second and third reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the House do now adjourn for committee this afternoon.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Just a reminder to the members, there will be a short CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] annual meeting immediately following the adjournment of the Assembly. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:34.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Education
Provincial Secretary

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Darryl Hickie
Minister of Municipal Affairs

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

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

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

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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