



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — Dwain Lingenfelter

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Hickie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce through you and to you to all members of legislature today, a group from the University of Regina taking a local government administration class, seated in your gallery. This class is studying local government authority, which is the first class of four required for certification to work as a local government administrator in our municipalities across this great province. Upon graduating from this course, these students will be well on their way to obtaining their local government administration certificate.

Mr. Speaker, the members of this class have come from as far as Creighton to take part in a week-long session in learning about the democratic process of municipal governments, the role of the council members in creating policy at the local level, and the role of the administrator of the municipality to put into effect the policy of council. They've joined us today to observe the workings of our Assembly, the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, these students represent the future of our municipal government system in Saskatchewan. Please join me in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the minister and welcome the students here from the local government administration class. Mr. Speaker, we all know that this is very important. There are shortages just about everywhere you look, and it's very good to see such a large group interested in seeking local government administration as a career choice. I want to say congratulations to them.

I wish maybe you could have been here yesterday when we were in committee. We were looking at local government elections Act, which was an interesting process to go through with the department and bringing about some changes. But again, congratulations, and I want to join with the minister to welcome the students here and success in your chosen career path.

**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 to all members of the honourable Assembly, I'd like to introduce four people that have helped us to launch a new scholarship initiative this morning. Dr. George Maslany, the vice-president, academic, from the University of Regina is here. Dr. Harley Dickinson, the vice-dean of social sciences

from the University of Saskatchewan, as well as Shaheen Lotun who is a participant in the Saskatchewan legislature internship program, as well as Chris Stoicheff. Chris has just finished his term with the USSU [University of Saskatchewan Students' Union].

There have been several others that participated this morning as well, but these four in particular I'd like to just say a special thanks and offer our sincere appreciation for their work on this initiative. And I'll ask all members of the legislature to join me in welcoming these four individuals to their Assembly.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Dr. Maslany, Dr. Dickinson, Ms. Lotun, and Mr. Stoicheff to the Assembly. They're not strangers to the Assembly, and it's always good when we have guests like this here to participate in important things. And so I'd join with the minister and ask all members to welcome them once again to the Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, it's an honour to introduce a school group from the great city of Swift Current, Saskatchewan. L'École Oman Elementary School grade 5s have joined us today. There's 48 of them, Mr. Speaker, and I'm looking forward to meeting with them after question period and answering all of their questions and refuting much of what they may have heard from the Minister of Health in his heckling just now, Mr. Speaker.

I want to also welcome a number of the teachers and the principal that have joined the students. We have Kevin Regier who is the principal at Oman there. He was, I think, the vice-principal when our kids went to that same school and I'm sure he's bringing that same level of skill and ability to his relatively new role there. Also someone that taught out kids, Deb Linklater, who is a teacher there, and Marie-Anne Corrigan, a teacher at l'École Oman School. They're accompanied by chaperones, well known in our community: Val Choo-Foo, Michelle Wall, Cecile Beadoin-Kwan which is . . . I'm looking forward to renewing acquaintances with Cecile. Deb Steinley, Luanne Cherpin, Deb Bisonette have also joined the class from Oman School. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour today and my great pleasure to introduce one person, a friend of mine, long-time friend Jaime Garcia who is going to be the next MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Regina Coronation Park.

[Applause]

**Mr. Trew:** — Yes. Yes. It's a relief for me too, but you don't

need to be quite so effusive in your applause.

Mr. Speaker, Jaime won a very hotly contested four-person nomination and I know continues to work diligently and very hard every day to make all of our dreams come true. He's a real friend of working people and families, so I ask all hon. members to join me in welcoming my friend Jaime Garcia.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to welcome some representatives from Cystic Fibrosis Canada who are seated in the front row of the Speaker's gallery, and perhaps they can stand when I call their names. Joining us today are representatives of the South Saskatchewan Cystic Fibrosis chapter: Ms. Mary Ann Rippert, Danielle McCallum, and Rita Steiner who is the regional director for Saskatchewan for Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

Mr. Speaker, May is Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month. Cystic fibrosis is the most common fatal genetic disease that affects Canadian children and young adults. The effects of cystic fibrosis are most devastating in the lungs, and ultimately most CF [cystic fibrosis] deaths are due to lung disease. Despite progress, there is no cure, and each week in Canada two children are diagnosed with cystic fibrosis and one person dies from the disease. Only half of all Canadians with cystic fibrosis are expected to live into their 40s and beyond.

Cystic Fibrosis Canada is a national health charity with over 50 volunteer chapters. The organization has their sights set squarely on finding a cure and to helping people and families affected by cystic fibrosis cope with their daily fight.

It is a Canadian success story, Mr. Speaker — it is one of the few diseases where researchers have isolated the cause. Cystic Fibrosis Canada is a global leader in CF research, investing more dollars in lifesaving cystic fibrosis research and care than any other non-government agency in Canada. This research has far-reaching benefits to other diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and HIV/AIDS [human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome].

Research and clinical care funded by Cystic Fibrosis Canada continues to be among the best in the world. These advances help to improve care and quality of life for people with cystic fibrosis. They also present new opportunities for chronic lung disease, chronic disease management, and system cost containment.

Mr. Speaker, during the month of May, Cystic Fibrosis Canada is organizing many activities and events to raise awareness and funds to support vital CF research and care. Cystic Fibrosis Canada is committed to finding a cure. Success is the only option for them. Individuals can learn about this devastating disease and its impact on individuals with CF and their families by visiting [drowningontheinside.ca](http://drowningontheinside.ca).

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome these three representatives from the Saskatchewan Cystic Fibrosis chapter to the legislature today and commend them for the valuable work that

they are doing. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in the east gallery, I'm pleased to introduce a young man here today by the name of Maariu Costa, and I ask Maariu to give us a wave here today. Maariu is a grade 12 student at Sheldon Williams Collegiate and is doing a work-study placement with myself. He is gaining, I hope, experience in both the legislature and the community as a politician.

Maariu is thoughtful, inquisitive, and intelligent, Mr. Speaker. He's also rooted in his own culture and I know that he partakes weekly in a sweat lodge ceremony, Mr. Speaker. I have truly enjoyed working with Maariu and I believe that he has a bright future before him. May I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in welcoming Maariu Costa to his Assembly.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition that calls for the protection of tenants from unreasonable rent increases through rent controls. The petitioners point out that, in the past four years, too many Saskatchewan tenants have faced surging rent increases that are simply making living in Saskatchewan unaffordable. They point out that, since 2007, far too many tenants have suffered monthly rent increases of hundreds of dollars with average rent increases of over 35 per cent in Saskatoon and Regina, meaning many tenants in many cases are paying well over \$3,000 more each year.

They point out that the majority of Canadians now live in provinces with rent control guidelines, including Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island. And they point out that rent-controlled Winnipeg, among other things, generated more rental units than Regina and Saskatoon from 2007 and '09. CMHC [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation] data showing that there were fewer than 300 rental unit starts in Saskatchewan's two largest cities combined. During this same period, Winnipeg generated 1,500 new rental units. The petitioners pray as follows:

That the Legislative Assembly of government take the following action: to cause the government to immediately enact rent control legislation that protects Saskatchewan tenants from unreasonable increases in rent.

These petitions are signed by citizens from Saskatoon and Regina. 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 here in Saskatchewan. And we know that freedom from poverty

is an enshrined human right by the United Nations and that all citizens are entitled to social and economic security, and our income gap between the rich and the poor in Saskatchewan continues to grow, and now one in five children in Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty. Citizens living in poverty have long identified affordable solutions such as the Saskatoon health disparities report and the Canada Without Poverty Dignity for All campaign 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 to act as quickly as possible to develop an effective and sustainable poverty elimination strategy for the benefit of all Saskatchewan citizens.

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

I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to present a petition on behalf of my constituents who live in the neighbourhood of Hampton Village about the need for a new elementary school for their children:

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.

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 citizens of Saskatchewan are the owners of a 1,000 year strategic resource and, as the owners of that resource, deserve to receive the maximum benefit of the resource. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan said that there's a new norm going forward in the world markets for potash, and their \$732 million first quarter I think proves that out. 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 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 Regina, Rouleau, Maple Creek, Leader, Cudworth, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Estevan, Cut Knife, Lloydminster, Mervin, North Battleford, Cochin, Liberty, Southey, Cupar, Churchbridge, Star City, Watson, Melfort, Nipawin, St. Louis, Hoey, Ituna, Melville, Duval, and Yorkton, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

[13:45]

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise yet again in the Assembly to present a petition regarding restoring funding equity to Regina Catholic schools. Regina Catholic schools received \$275 less per pupil than Regina public schools, amounting to a funding inequity of \$2.7 million in total for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. And that debt is growing, Mr. Speaker, because the problem has not yet been fixed. That funding inequity places program delivery and staffing levels at risk, and this affects Catholic school divisions all across the province, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Saskatchewan has denied Catholic school boards in the province representation on the government-appointed committee mandated to develop a long-term funding formula for Saskatchewan school boards. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by residents of Regina, Yorkton, Leader, La Ronge, Duval, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Kindersley, Esterhazy, Sedley, and Swift Current. I so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I 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 to a record that includes the running of deficits and increasing of debt at times of record highs in revenues in this province, Mr. Speaker, three consecutive years of increasing the people's public debt, well over \$1.3 billion. They reference the fact that this province continues to utilize an accounting system that is inappropriate and out of line with the rest of Canada, highlighted again very specifically by the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan here today in Public Accounts, 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 Leader, Moose Jaw, Regina, and Swift Current. I so submit.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

##### Fire Destroys Seed Plant

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the weekend, the Young Seeds plant in Mortlach was burnt to the ground in a devastating fire. The seed plant was a major contributor to the economy of Mortlach and the surrounding area and will be missed this growing season.

Young Seeds employed 20 people and provided exemplary customer service to local producers and producers from all over southern Saskatchewan. Through hard work and determination, this local company grew into a dominant supplier of chickpeas. Their dedication to customer service allowed them to develop and cultivate a loyal and supportive grower base. Over the years, Young Seeds also became known for their ability to capture good value for their producers, earning their loyalty. Young Seeds was able to continually grow their capacity and were processing approximately 40 000 tonnes of large kabuli chickpeas annually.

The owner/operators, Renee and Colin, thank the community for all their support. They also would like to thank their growers, the producer base which made Young Seeds a successful business. Renee and Colin want to apologize for any inconvenience their customers are experiencing, but with that steadfast Saskatchewan determination and dedication, they promise that Young Seeds will be up and running again as soon as possible.

I'm sure all members wish them the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

##### Beauval's Musical Legacy

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I often refer to Beauval as the music capital of the Northwest, as this community of 1,000-plus people have produced many gifted musicians. Local bands such as Just the Boyz, New Horizons, and The Outlaws have dominated music venues throughout Saskatchewan and Canada for years and years. If you visit Beauval, you immediately notice that most everyone can play a variety of instruments, can sing and write their own songs. It's an amazing community with talented people like Calvin McCallum on the fiddle, Derek Maurice singing the blues, or Mayor Fred Roy playing with his band.

It's an amazing thing to watch, Mr. Speaker, the amount of talent, and it all began with a friend of mine that taught and nurtured many young people the value of music, friendship, and entertainment. That friend is none other than Don Corrigan of Beauval. I often refer to him as the godfather of west side music as Don has inspired so many young people to take up the guitar, take up the fiddle, take up the drums, and sing away.

Don Corrigan began his singing career in the early '70s with a band called Northern Lighthouse. He played in thousands of dances, weddings, anniversaries, and concerts. And in fact he played at my wedding, as he's helped many families celebrate through music. I want to thank him, his wife, Leda, along with their sons — Donny, Conrad, and Darwin who are all gifted as well — for all their dedication over the years and the miles travelled to promote music.

I want all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking Don for his musical legacy and to tell him that his work will never be forgotten. His advice to the young people is to learn as much music as they can, and please start writing your own music, and don't ever give up in trying to sing, dance, or play an instrument. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Biggar.

##### Blanche Weir Retirement Tea

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A retirement tea was held in Perdue Legion Hall on Thursday, April 21, 2011 to honour Blanche Weir who retired from the Perdue Housing Authority board after 34 dedicated years on the board. On hand for the occasion was Chuck Tyndal, the Saskatchewan Housing Authority representative, who spoke highly of Blanche's many years of service and presented her with a beautiful hydrangea plant. My constituency assistant Ed Young, representing the Government of Saskatchewan, presented Blanche with a glass clock and thanked her for her many years of service. The mayor, Dave Miller, was also on hand to thank Blanche and offer congratulations on behalf of the town.

A supper catered to by the United Church women was held following the tea for the current board members, spouses, Blanche's family, and a few friends, thus bringing a wonderful celebration to an end. Our thanks to Blanche for her 34 dedicated years on the Perdue Housing Authority board. Thank you.

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

### Regina Catholic Schools Fitness-a-Thon

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Mosaic Stadium was filled with athletes, only not the green and white kind we're used to seeing. Over 2,100 students from many of Regina Catholic schools pushed, pulled, and pressed at the fourth annual Fitness-a-thon. The event was held from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 on Taylor Field at Mosaic Stadium. The students participated in a 60-minute workout. The workout incorporated the physical education curriculum learned and practised on a daily basis by Regina Catholic Schools teachers.

This event is a fundraiser for Regina KidSport, and many of the students participating in the Fitness-a-thon collected pledges from their community, family, and friends. Mr. Speaker, leading up to the event, the Regina Catholic Schools participated in various forms of fundraising such as collecting pledges, selling hot lunches, and donating the proceeds from a school dance. The event focused on physical fitness and raising some money for Regina KidSport, which received a \$15,780 cheque from Regina Catholic Schools.

Mr. Speaker, KidSport is a Sask Sport initiative that removes financial barriers which may prevent youngsters from participating in community sports programs. In the end, some of the proceeds raised will go back into the very schools that were represented on Tuesday, enabling the students to derive additional benefits from their physical fitness and fundraising work.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, we would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to the organizers, teachers, parents, and especially to all the students who participated. Health and fitness is perhaps the most tangible life skill we can teach our young people, and I believe we can all learn from the example set by our young students yesterday. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Southerland.

### Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Awards

**Ms. Schriemer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday the Dakota Dunes hosted the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Awards. The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literary Gala celebrates excellence in Aboriginal literacy by providing an opportunity for learners, elders, practitioners, and educators to come together.

The objective of the Aboriginal Literacy Awards are to honour and recognize Aboriginal individual and organizational effort in the development, enhancement, and promotion of Aboriginal literacy in Saskatchewan; further promote Aboriginal literacy by acknowledging and celebrating achievements; and help fulfill the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literary Network public awareness mandate.

Mr. Speaker, awards were handed out in five separate categories. June Pederson of Saskatoon was presented with the

Elder Award. Edward Mirasty's success in academics earned him the Practitioner Award. One Arrow First Nation earned the best Organization Award for its commitment and success in education. Shayla Tootoosis won the Youth Award for demonstrating a dedication to high academic standards in volunteerism. Gail McAdam won the Learner Award for demonstrating perseverance and academic engagement in the face of personal challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Dakota Dunes Casino and the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network for providing this province with the opportunity to celebrate the successes of these individuals. This event was inspiring, and on behalf of this House, I would like to thank all of those involved for putting on a wonderful evening. Thank you.

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

### Young Philanthropist Wins Award

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, philanthropists come from all walks of life, and as we have learned over the past six months, apparently all ages as well. In December of last year, 10-year-old Connor Kindred had raised about \$13,000 to sponsor the charity WaterCan's efforts to develop basic water and sanitation projects in two Ethiopian communities. Since that time, Connor has more than doubled that amount and his efforts have now resulted in approximately \$31,000 going towards these projects.

Mr. Speaker, \$10,000 of that money is from a donation by the Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association, which chose Connor to receive its Shining World Compassion Award.

Connor, a Regina Wascana Plains constituent, became interested in helping Ethiopia because his parents are adopting a child from that country. His parents Tom and Patti travelled to Ethiopia earlier this year and are expecting to return soon to bring their new son, Daniel, home to Canada. Clearly when it comes to caring for others with love and compassion, the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree in the Kindred family.

The project will mean a secure water source, new facilities, and a hygiene education program for the school's 1,300 students. The second project Connor's fundraising will support is the creation of a well in a rural area. It will service not only the nearby school, but also the larger community around it.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition I would like to congratulate Connor on the award he is about to receive, as well as thank him for all his incredible philanthropic work.

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

### Housing Programs

**Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, Prince Albert City Council voted in favour of applying to the province's recently announced Saskatchewan advantage housing plan by creating two new incentive programs in that city. The two programs help both renters transitioning to

homeowners and also provide incentives to developers to construct rental properties.

Mr. Speaker, a councillor in P.A. [Prince Albert] who also chairs the Prince Albert city's housing advisory committee said, and I quote, "It was the right move for the province to introduce the program." The councillor continues, "The province has for quite some time known that there is a housing crunch, not only in affordability but attainability," he said. And to continue the quote, "We're certainly seeing that here in the city so we've stepped up and opted into a program for anyone that's interested in moving out of rental accommodations."

Mr. Speaker, we're very happy to see cities moving on issues regarding housing concerns. As a government, we are pleased that our programs are being trumpeted as a success at the municipal level. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the councillor who also chairs the city's housing advisory committee, Ted Zurakowski. Mr. Zurakowski's strong support for our government is very welcome but a bit surprising. Mr. Speaker, it's surprising because Mr. Zurakowski is the nominated candidate for the New Democratic Party in Prince Albert Carlton. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all opposition members and candidates to follow Mr. Zurakowski's lead and support our government's plan to continue to move Saskatchewan forward.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Response to Rent Increases

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we have with us today a number of people who have come because they're concerned about the ever-increasing rents in the province of Saskatchewan. A number of them are facing a difficult time even keeping the roof over their head and in some cases, even worse, facing economic eviction because they can't afford the rent.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that many families in this province are having a difficult time in making ends meet, and in light of the fact that rents are going up on average over 10 per cent in our communities in the province . . . In some cases we have found rent increases and notifications today going out up to 60 per cent, being notified that their rent is going up 60 per cent. It's unacceptable.

My question to the minister is this: when will this government come to their senses, put in a form of rent control or a cap on rent, and deal with the issue that even the Premier has admitted is unacceptable?

[14:00]

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

Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. I would ask our guests, first of all remind you that you're welcome in this Chamber, but just ask all guests not to enter into the debate in any form, whether clapping or any other form of entrance into the debate. Thank

you very much. The Minister of Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I want the members opposite to know that CMHC tracks rent increases, and in Regina and Saskatoon last year, average rent was 6.3 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. Mr. Speaker, that is a far cry from the 21 per cent that it was between April of '07 and April of 2008. I know, Mr. Speaker, that rents in some cases are still too high, but they have stabilized.

But, Mr. Speaker, what we do have to do is make sure that we have more units, and that's why what we've done in this budget and in the last year is to make sure that we have put a plan with \$252 million that's going to create 4,600 homes and rental units in this province, Mr. Speaker. One of the plans is the rental construction initiative, and that's going to give us 2,900 rental units. Mr. Speaker, these plans are going to help. We know that there's new homes, and what we do have to do is make sure that people that can buy an entry-level home will have an opportunity, and if they move out of a home, there'll be rental units there. Mr. Speaker, there's more work to do, but I assure you our government has put a lot of time and thought, and we'll do more when it comes to the housing initiative.

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the Minister of Justice had said, when asked about rent control, he indicated that he was interested in looking at a longer period of notification before rents were increased . . . In fact he said, and I quote, "We specifically then asked some tenants as to whether they thought it was beneficial, and the tenants said their preference would have been to have rent control." So in light of the fact that the Minister of Justice has suggested that we have longer wait time before rents were increased, and the Premier is saying that it's unacceptable, why has the minister chosen to do neither? We're not going to extend the notice time and we're not going to have rent control.

Can the minister tell us what the people in the unit on Portnall Avenue, who have had a rent increase notice of 60 per cent up to 100 per cent . . . That notice still stands. What does the minister intend and expect these families will do in order to keep a roof over their head?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, early on in our mandate we appointed former MLA Ted Merriman and former Social Services minister, Bob Pringle . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — To conduct a review. The recommendation of that review was that we not impose rent controls, that the effect of rent controls would be a disincentive to having more rental product put on the market. Mr. Speaker, we've supported and we've accepted that recommendation.

[Interjections]



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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — And, Mr. Speaker, we've heard suggestions that the period of rent notice could be increased further. Mr. Speaker, when you talk to tenants, they indicate that the six months, if they're going to relocate, is adequate. Their preference is of course not to have a rent increase, and certainly we understand that.

Mr. Speaker, we have worked with the owners of the apartment buildings in Portnall place. We have had the Office of Residential Tenancies meet with the tenants there. The tenants were, Mr. Speaker, improperly served with what was a four-month notice rather than a six-month notice. The Rentalsman is working with those people, and, Mr. Speaker, we believe they will come up with effective solutions so that those people can relocate.

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, that's exactly the point. People in the rental units are having a hard time keeping a roof over their head and are having to be forced out of their homes or facing eviction because they can't afford the money to pay their rent. And this is unfortunate. And in a Saskatchewan that's booming and has lots of money, a lot of money — the government has a lot of money; the potash corporations have a lot of money — why is it that working people, the people who do the heavy lifting, the seniors in this province are having to face economic eviction because this government will not lift a finger to help them? Why are you allowing that to happen?

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

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, I know the members opposite are well aware that before we put forward the housing plan, we actually were working on building units as well. We have 860 new units that are already built. We have another 1,100 that are under way at the moment, 436 units for seniors . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. There's half a dozen members that are making it difficult for even our guests to hear the minister's response. I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, there are an extra 436 units are available for seniors and an over 300 per cent increase in the number of student units that are available in Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and Prince Albert. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to remind the members opposite that we do have the rental housing supplement as well.

And under the previous . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Minister of Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, the last year the members opposite were in government and they looked at the rental housing supplement, they spent about \$6 million. I want the members to know that in 2009-2010 we spent \$13,000,700; in 2010-2011 we spent 22,000,500; and this year we intend to spend about \$31 million to ensure that rents are available, that we can ensure that people can afford to live in a home. Mr. Speaker, there's things that we can be doing, and what we're doing is working with people like the member from Prince Albert who's saying what we're doing is the right thing to do: build more units.

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

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, the question to the minister is this: in light of the fact that CMHC's own documents show that in the first quarter of this year, in Regina, 44 rental units were started . . . Now these are statistics from the federal government, and many people who are here in the gallery simply don't believe that you're doing a good job of getting rental units in place and keeping the rent under control.

Now you may be able to convince the people sitting in the backbenches that everything's okay and there's no problem with rent in this province, but I can tell you the families are in a very difficult time and facing economic eviction. Can the minister tell us why we can't today get a motion on the floor of the Assembly to implement rent control or a cap on rent that will protect Saskatchewan families before we leave the Assembly, so that these families have a roof over their head as we go forward in this province, and that everyone can share in the booming economy, not just the CEO of Boardwalk and not just the CEO of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, I think the members opposite pick and choose what they want to actually hear in here. One of our members read a member statement from an NDP [New Democratic Party] candidate who's on the housing committee in Prince Albert. He is a candidate, but what he is saying is our government is doing the right thing, that we're putting money in to new programs to develop new units, Mr. Speaker. The councillor said it was the right, it was right for the province to move to introduce these programs.

Mr. Speaker, the incentive that we put forward has only been on the website for about a week, and we've already had tremendous uptake. Mr. Speaker, there are cities right across the province — in fact to date we've had about 23 different localities across Saskatchewan — that are saying, I'd like to be in on some of this work. You know what we have? We know that there's partnerships because people want to be involved in building their community. They want to build homes for the people right across Saskatchewan.

The members opposite want to turn the clock back and go back to the days when the people left the province. It's not happening.

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

### Cost of Living

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people are facing ever-growing costs to provide day-to-day needs. Affordability is increasingly becoming a problem in our province. However here with our Crown corporations, we can take steps to help Saskatchewan workers and Saskatchewan people make ends meet. To the Minister of Crown Investments: will this government commit to ensuring that utility charges will be reviewed by the government with an eye towards their impact on the cost of living?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments Corporation.

**Hon. Mr. McMillan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, are involved on an ongoing basis to ensure that our costs are competitive with our neighbouring provinces, Mr. Speaker, with the provinces across the country. We do a review of what other provinces charge for all the services that our Crowns offer, Mr. Speaker, and we are very competitive. We are in the top three, top two, Mr. Speaker, in the country. In some communities of different sizes, Mr. Speaker, Manitoba has a lower bundle than we do, Mr. Speaker. In other communities, we are lower than Manitoba, Mr. Speaker.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, our Crowns are committed to ensuring good services to the people of Saskatchewan at a price that is affordable with the mind, Mr. Speaker, of investing in the future of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, that's something that the members opposite when they were in government did not do. They rode, Mr. Speaker, for many years running down the infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, and not investing in the future. And that is something we will not do, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the global food market being affected by pressures brought on by extreme weather, growing global markets, and increasingly using land formerly used for food production directed to biofuel ingredients, we have seen in the world significant increases in food prices. And just last year, Statistics Canada reported food prices in Saskatchewan have increased by almost 4 per cent. And we know food bank use in Saskatchewan is on the rise.

To the Minister of Social Services: what steps is this government taking to ensure Saskatchewan people on fixed incomes, especially those receiving social assistance, can afford to keep food on their table for their families in the face of these unprecedented rises in food costs?

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

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, making sure the people that are on the low end of income in this province is really important to our government. That's why we started by taking 114,000 people off the tax roll, Mr. Speaker. We also did things like doubling the low-income tax credit, and we nearly doubled the number of seniors who are eligible for benefits under the

seniors' income plan. They went from approximately 9,000 to 17,000 people. Mr. Speaker, we've doubled the amount available to low-income seniors through the seniors' income plan from \$90 to \$190 . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Minister of Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, I have no idea why the members opposite don't want to hear the answers to this because this is the kind of information that's important to everybody in the province.

Mr. Speaker, we indexed the rental supplements and the shelter rates six times since we've become government. We've doubled the caregiver tax credit, Mr. Speaker. We've made sure that there's an increase to income dependant tax and supplements to people with disabilities. Mr. Speaker, we've introduced low-income senior and children's prescription drug plan. Mr. Speaker, we've increased funding to CBOs [community-based organization] by 14 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we've increased the amount of money paid to low-income families under SAP [Saskatchewan assistance plan] and we've increased the threshold for those who can qualify.

Mr. Speaker, more things are moving along, but there is an opportunity in the province for what people want to come from, where they want to be, to make sure that we can ensure that everybody benefits from being in our province. Mr. Speaker, people that are on the low end of income are very important to our government.

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Gasoline is getting more and more expensive, and in fact even the federal Conservative government is now looking closely at fuel markets to try and understand these increasing fuel costs despite an overall drop in crude oil prices. Energy costs have increased more than 12 per cent nationally over the last year. Along with all the other increases, it is putting the squeeze on Saskatchewan families.

To the Minister of Justice: what actions is this government proposing to alleviate this and other significant cost increases that are outpacing wages, creating a situation where the success of our province is felt by fewer and fewer people . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Consumer affairs.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you very much for the question. Mr. Speaker, I understand the federal government is carefully analyzing cost of fuel, cost of transportation. Mr. Speaker, we don't serve as a regulatory function. We impose tax on gasoline and of course we watch this very closely and we have discussions on an ongoing basis with the officials in the Ministry of Justice and the consumer affairs branch. And, Mr. Speaker, it has never been the practice of this government, or the members opposite when they were in government, to impose caps on fuel prices. We watch. We raise the concerns

with our federal counterparts because this is largely a national issue, and it would be our intention to continue to monitor things in the same fashion so that people are not adversely affected as the economy plays its way through.

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

[14:15]

### Contract Negotiations with Teachers

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, for Saskatchewan families, high-quality education is a top priority, and parents and students throughout our province value the work of teachers. But the Sask Party government continues to disrespect over 12,000 Saskatchewan teachers. Those teachers want to negotiate a fair contract, but the Sask Party is too busy spreading misinformation.

Just the other day, the Deputy Premier said that Saskatchewan teachers work less than Alberta teachers. Well the way the contracts are structured are different, Mr. Speaker, but it's plain wrong to say Alberta teachers work more than Saskatchewan teachers. At a time when teachers are already feeling disrespected and undervalued by the Sask Party government, why is the government continuing this insulting campaign of misinformation?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what's being disrespected in this province is the NDP disrespect for the collective bargaining process. Mr. Speaker, the trustee-government bargaining team invited the teachers back to the table. They have returned. They are having the negotiations at the table. That is the best place that it should be. We will allow the teachers to negotiate for themselves — not the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, if only the minister took the time to actually speak to teachers like the thousands and thousands who came to the steps of the legislature, she would know the true story about how many hours teachers in this province work. If the minister's rhetoric, if only the minister's rhetoric in this Chamber matched reality. But actions speak much louder than words, Mr. Speaker, and their actions show clearly that they do not value or respect teachers. They've taken out negative ads and they're spreading misinformation with the aim of turning the public against teachers. And they're praising Alberta teachers but criticizing Saskatchewan teachers.

To the minister: how can she possibly claim to be respecting teachers and bargaining in good faith when the Sask Party is so busy criticizing teachers and devaluing their important work?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, again I will say that the

negotiations are happening as we speak at the bargaining table. That's where they need to happen. We thank the teachers very much for returning to that table. The discussions will happen there, not with the NDP and their rhetoric. Thank you.

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

### School Textbooks

**Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, as children in Saskatchewan schools crack open the province's new grade 6, 7, and 8 science textbooks, there are various images of our province. There is pictures of the Snowbirds; there is pictures of Cree leaders; there is pictures of Saskatchewan landscapes. But, Mr. Speaker, if you flip another page, there is one more picture in the book. On the inside of the front cover, there is the smiling face of the member of Canora-Pelly. Now, Mr. Speaker, textbooks are for learning and shaping the minds of young children. They're not for self-promotion and promoting current politicians, but that's exactly what this government is doing.

To the former minister of Education: why did he take Saskatchewan down a road it has never travelled or should never travel by politicizing elementary school textbooks? And, Mr. Speaker, what's next — 8-foot posters of the Premier in school hallways?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we're very pleased to hear that the former minister of Education was smiling for his picture. That's good to hear. Mr. Speaker, it was put in not as a political figure, but as the minister of Education. That is the point of the picture, and I'm sure there's probably a write-up that comes with that picture. So it is as the position of the minister of Education that that would have been included in that textbook.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, schoolchildren do not have a choice as to what textbooks they use. The textbooks are directed by curriculum and teachers have to use them. They do not need to see some partisan picture of a former minister, then the current minister, plastered all over these school books. And, Mr. Speaker, the former minister of Education has turned something that has always, always in the history of Saskatchewan, been non-partisan — the education of children, Mr. Speaker. He has gone down a road that this province should not have travelled.

And, Mr. Speaker, when we are looking at this being grade 6, grade 7, grade 8 that we know of, Mr. Speaker — who knows what else out there? — will the Premier commit to having these pictures removed and the non-partisan nature of education in this province restored by the start of next year?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I know the member opposite has very energetically tried to portray this as a partisan

picture. I believe it was put in as the minister of Education. A lot of schoolchildren, quite frankly, wouldn't know what party that minister was even from. Especially years down the road, they'll probably have to question which party this particular minister represented.

But I do believe there has been situations in schools. I mean there was the Tommy Douglas film that was shown in different schools, Mr. Speaker. There was not an outcry from the Saskatchewan Party at that time, so I'm not sure why there's such an outcry right now from the NDP members.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister's explanation is lacking any type of credibility. For a current minister of Education to have his picture plastered all over textbooks — and I'm told they go into the high schools also — is unacceptable, to politicize education for children in this province.

Mr. Speaker, now you know, I'm willing to give this a shot. Now maybe the minister's right; maybe it's not political. Maybe the Minister of Finance's ego is just so big that he wanted to have it in every textbook across the province. Mr. Speaker, either way it is unacceptable to politicize education in this province, and the Premier needs to do something about it and remove the pictures.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I'm not going to commit to ripping pages out of textbooks. Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, now the member says, well okay maybe I shouldn't be getting upset; maybe this is all fine and dandy. But, Mr. Speaker, it speaks to a number of issues that this government has politicized. Children's education takes it way too far. Or we can look at the intranet, internal Internet services to departments, which feature a link to the Premier's speeches, about 200 of them on YouTube, Mr. Speaker.

And this . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well, you know, yes, yes. Well you know what? You're the Government of Saskatchewan, and you need to look at all of us in this province. It's not just supporting people. Time after time all we've seen from this government is to supporting their friends, legislation from friends, and self-promotion.

And, Mr. Speaker, the education piece is way too far, and this Premier needs to take steps to address it. Mr. Speaker, those are our children. Those are our grandchildren. And we expect the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a non-partisan, stable, quality education that Saskatchewan has always been known for. Will the Premier take steps to address this issue?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I will say this: if I'm going to look on YouTube — and I know the members on my side will probably laugh at the fact that I would even go to YouTube — I'd rather see a well-delivered, very good speech than to have someone attempting to do push-ups and lift weights. I can tell you which YouTube site I'm going to go to first, Mr. Speaker.

I know the members opposite have asked us to rip pages out of textbooks. They're trying to imply that a message from the minister of Education is partisan although it does not state what government or a political party. It is a message from the minister of Education. I think that does come, no matter who the minister is, that is a position of respect that I think schoolchildren do understand. So therefore, Mr. Speaker, I'm not committing to ripping pages out of textbooks.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I'd ask members to come to order.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### 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. 162, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Hickie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill now be read a third time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Municipal Affairs has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 162. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to . . . Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may move to third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 162 — *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2010*

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Municipal Affairs has moved that Bill No. 162, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment be now read the third time and

passed until 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.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Biggar.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to questions 1,067 and 1,068.

**The Speaker:** — Answers are tabled to questions 1,067 and 1,068.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

### MOTIONS

#### Motion Respecting a Private Bill

**Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly:

That the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* respecting private Bills and petitions for private Bills shall be suspended pursuant to rule 108 and, as a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, to facilitate the introduction and consideration of a proposed amendment to *An Act to incorporate The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi*; and further

That consideration of the said Bill be taken into consideration without reference to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and that proceedings shall be otherwise conducted in accordance with the rules and proceedings for public Bills, notwithstanding that the Bill shall be committed to a Committee of the Whole after second reading and that it may be advanced through all stages in accordance with rule 72.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Northwest has moved that, by leave of the Assembly:

That the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* respecting private Bills and petitions for private Bills shall be suspended pursuant to rule 108 as a matter of urgent and pressing necessity to facilitate the introduction and consideration of a proposed amendment to *An Act to incorporate The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi*; and further

That consideration of the said Bill be taken into consideration without reference to the Standing Committee on Private Bills and that proceedings shall be otherwise conducted in accordance with the rules and proceedings for public Bills, notwithstanding that the Bill shall be committed to a Committee of the Whole after second reading and that it may be advanced through all stages in accordance with rule 72.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### Bill No. 907 — *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011*

**Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to move first reading of Bill No. 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011*.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Northwest has requested leave to move first reading of Bill 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011*. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Northwest that Bill No. 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011* be now read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave, immediately.

**The Speaker:** — The member has requested leave that the Bill be now read a second time immediately. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[14:30]

## SECOND READINGS

### **Bill No. 907 — *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011***

**Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011*.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will amend the private Act of incorporation for the sisters of St. Elizabeth in Humboldt to remove outdated and now offensive language regarding people with intellectual disabilities. We've contacted the superior general of this order who has readily agreed to this amendment and advised us that they do not currently conduct any services in this field, and further, that they certainly do not use this outdated language in their operations.

Mr. Speaker, we have assured the order that this step in no way suggests that this Assembly or anyone else is suggesting inappropriate conduct by the order. It is simply that the language used by the legislative drafters to describe the mandate of the order in 1961 is no longer appropriate. This was readily understood by the superior general, and she understood that they were fine with an approach that simply deleted the reference rather than amending them.

Mr. Speaker, in this Assembly of all places we must acknowledge that language is important and that it must on occasion change to avoid sending the wrong message or, worse, where it becomes hurtful. This is certainly our intention with this Bill, and we have directed that similar changes be made where necessary through immediate changes to the few remaining regulations that use this inappropriate language.

Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Northwest has moved that Bill No. 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the opportunity to make a few brief remarks in support of this Bill. And I just wanted to say that this Bill goes a long way to addressing the issue of purging language and making sure our language in the legislature is no longer hurtful but in fact it respects people and recognizes people in the important role that we all play in our communities. And, I

know, that people first will appreciate this and so will the Saskatchewan Association of Community Living.

I was pleased to play a small role in this in terms of my Bill 625, the respectful language Act, but I just want to say that this goes a long way. And I know that the R-word initiative right across North America, if we can move that along further and further, it's a good day.

And so this is a good day for all of us here in Saskatchewan. And I just want to appreciate all members of the legislature that we can show this willingness to come together and work together on it to make sure that our legislature is an inclusive place, a respectful place for everyone in Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Northwest that Bill No. 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — This Bill stands committed to the Committee of the Whole. I recognize the member from . . .

**Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for this said Bill to be considered in the Committee of the Whole immediately.

**The Speaker:** — Member has requested leave that Bill No. 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of the St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011* be considered in the Committee of the Whole immediately. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Committee of the Whole.

**The Speaker:** — I do now leave the Chair for the Assembly to go into the Committee of the Whole.

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY

### **Bill No. 907 — *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011***

**The Chair:** — The item of business before the committee is

Bill No. 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011*. Clause 1, short title, is clause 1 agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

[Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive agreed to.]

**The Chair:** — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011*.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

**Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker I move that the committee report the Bill without amendment.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved that the committee report Bill No. 907 without amendment. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the Deputy Government House Leader that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of committees.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the committee to report that Bill No. 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011* without amendment and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a third time? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 907 — *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011***

**Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the member from Saskatoon Northwest that Bill No. 907, *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St.*

*Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011* be now read the third time 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.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — I understand His Honour is here for Royal Assent. When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Government Deputy House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — At the next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

### ROYAL ASSENT

[At 14:40 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills.]

**His Honour:** — Pray be seated.

**The Speaker:** — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed several Bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour and to which Bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

**Clerk:** — Your Honour, the Bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 153 - *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010*
- Bill No. 154 - *The Provincial Court Consequential Amendment Act, 2010/Loi de 2010 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2010*
- Bill No. 165 - *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Amendment Act, 2011*
- Bill No. 164 - *The Police Amendment Act, 2011*
- Bill No. 166 - *The Renewable Diesel Act*
- Bill No. 906 - *The Bethany College Amendment Act, 2011*
- Bill No. 149 - *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2010*
- Bill No. 150 - *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2010*
- Bill No. 170 - *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2011*
- Bill No. 171 - *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2011 (No. 2)*
- Bill No. 157 - *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2010*
- Bill No. 144 - *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*
- Bill No. 155 - *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010*
- Bill No. 169 - *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2011*
- Bill No. 147 - *The Public Interest Disclosure Act*
- Bill No. 167 - *The Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation Amendment Act, 2011*

Bill No. 159 - *The University of Regina Amendment Act, 2010*  
Bill No. 174 - *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2011*  
Bill No. 173 - *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2011*  
Bill No. 168 - *The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2011*  
Bill No. 160 - *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2010*  
Bill No. 172 - *The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les victimes d'actes criminels*  
Bill No. 161 - *The Election Amendment Act, 2010*  
Bill No. 162 - *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2010*  
Bill No. 907 - *The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi Amendment Act, 2011*

**His Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these Bills.

**The Speaker:** — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour:

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

to which Bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

**His Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill.

[His Honour retired from the Chamber at 14:45.]

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:46.]





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