



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

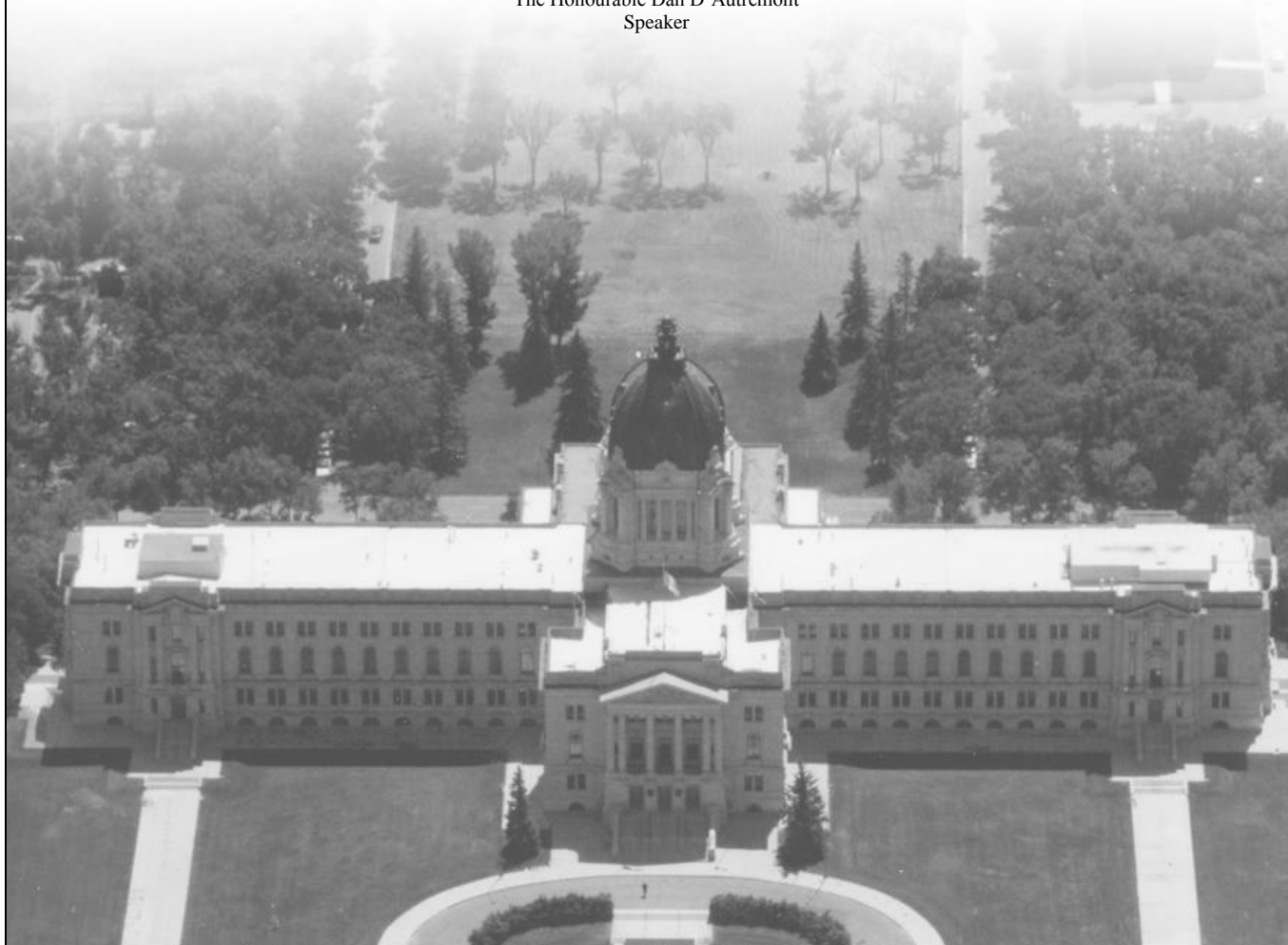
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — John Nilson

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
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

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

EVENING SITTING

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Deputy Speaker: — Members, the business before the House is reply to the Throne Speech, and I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, to have this opportunity once again to jump in on some of the content about the Throne Speech having carried the debate up until the supper hour.

Mr. Speaker, as we come back to the Assembly here, in my earlier comments I of course thanked the many people who were involved in my re-election in Saskatoon Massey Place. I'm very appreciative of all the help and assistance that people have provided and am very honoured and thankful to the people of Saskatoon Massey Place for the opportunity to represent them here in this Assembly for the next four years. So you can never say thank you enough, and so to the people of Saskatoon Massey Place, thank you so much for the trust that you've placed in me for this period of time, and I will strive to do my best.

In my remarks before the supper hour, Mr. Speaker, I was talking about some of the experiences and some of the conversations that I've had with constituents as I was door knocking over the spring, summer, and fall, as many of the members that made it to the Assembly were doing over the past months. And when we go door to door, Mr. Speaker, one never knows what is behind the door, when we knock on it or ring the doorbell. And often it's a surprise; often we may approach a door with a certain stereotype of what the story or the situation may be. And the experiences that I always appreciate most from the doorstep are when my own assumptions about how things may be are turned upside down. Because, Mr. Speaker, it causes us to think about the views that we express and it causes us to ask ourselves how best we can represent the constituents that we represent in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, before the supper break I shared a few stories, issues to do with affordability, Mr. Speaker, especially with families that are working hard but still struggling very much so to make ends meet. I addressed, Mr. Speaker, about many of the concerns I've had relayed to me by many people, especially young people, about the environment and the need in our province to look at renewable energy sources in addition to the other traditional activity that has occurred, Mr. Speaker.

I talked and relayed a story about child care needs and a young mother that I met who was carrying on with her school but did not have child care arrangements made for her local area, Mr. Speaker.

I talked about some of the seniors that I remember meeting and one couple in particular who were struggling with providing care to one of the partners in the relationship who was suffering

with Alzheimer's and how a few additional supports for that person would have made a world of difference for their quality of life and their ability to stay in their home over the long term.

I talked about job training needs, Mr. Speaker, and the many families that are in Saskatchewan who are unemployed and looking for work, and being aware of that as we head into the Christmas season. And, Mr. Speaker, I also mentioned the issue of AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] and HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] in many of our Saskatchewan communities and talked about how that does affect many of my constituents. And, Mr. Speaker, I also talked about the need for . . . concerns that people related to me about education, specifically in the neighbourhood of Hampton Village and the need for a new school in that area for that community, Mr. Speaker.

And as I think of those encounters that I had with voters and think of those views that were shared with me, and as I pledged to those people that I would speak up for those issues and carry those issues forward to the legislature, and as I conduct my work over the coming years if I was successful to be re-elected, I find myself now, Mr. Speaker, I am re-elected in this 27th legislature, and I'm still concerned about these issues that people brought to my attention.

And so when I look at the Throne Speech that was presented, Mr. Speaker, when I go through the content, and as I sat yesterday and listened to the Lieutenant Governor read the speech, it's these people, these situations that I keep in mind when I evaluate whether or not I will support the Throne Speech. And in my view, Mr. Speaker, on many of those issues that I raised, the measures that are taken in the Throne Speech in my opinion aren't adequate. Many of the measures that are presented in the Throne Speech I do not see as a proper response to the issues that are being raised by these constituents and by these encounters that I had with people over the past months. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I won't be supporting the government motion. I will be supporting the motion from the opposition.

And I say that, Mr. Speaker, at the same time recognizing the reality of this Assembly and recognizing the reality of the last election. As our leader said earlier on in the day today, Mr. Speaker, we understand that the government does have a majority, and a strong majority that allows them to carry through on their mandate. That however, Mr. Speaker, is not a carte blanche for government to do anything. And that, Mr. Speaker, also means that the concerns that were raised with me by my constituents, I am still responsible and feel an obligation to carry those concerns forward and present those concerns to the government. And my pledge to the people of Saskatoon Massey Place is that I will do my best over the coming four years to bring their concerns to the legislature and hold the government to account on the things that the government wants to do.

So while we certainly know and recognize that we have our work cut out for us, our conviction in holding government to account and our conviction speaking up for our constituents, Mr. Speaker, has never been stronger. And I know I speak for all opposition members when I make that point.

And it's with that recognition, Mr. Speaker, that I will conclude my remarks and indicate that I will not be supporting the government's motion. I will be supporting the opposition's motion.

And, Mr. Speaker, in closing I simply want to say once again a huge thank you, and I have a huge sense of appreciation to the people of Saskatoon Massey Place for choosing me to be their representative for the next four years. I take that seriously and I will do my best to represent their concerns. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. First and foremost I would like to thank the members on both sides of the House for their warm welcome, and I would also like to include all the people that work in this glorious building in that welcome or that thanks. My appreciation is extended to the Premier of the province, Premier Brad Wall, for his support and encouragement during this period, during this time when our learning curve is going pretty much straight up.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss in not thanking my predecessor, Rod Gantfoer, for his guidance and kind words over the last year — great guy. Mr. Gantfoer will be a tough act to follow, and my goal will be to leave the legislature when the time comes with as much respect and integrity as Mr. Gantfoer has.

As all of the hon. members who are married know, it would be difficult, if not impossible, without the support of your partner.

[Applause]

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you. In my case, my wife April has supported me. She has stood beside me. She has been a tower of strength, and I sincerely thank her for that.

I would also like to thank, Mr. Speaker, my campaign manager, Laurie Hookway, and my entire campaign team. Over the four years of the writ period, there wasn't a harsh word. There wasn't any added stress, and I didn't get yelled at once. And I was pretty happy about that. Thanks to all those who helped me in the campaign.

And especially thanks to the citizens of the amazing constituency of the Melfort constituency for the confidence they have shown in me. It is truly an amazing constituency, a constituency, Mr. Speaker, that has the BHP Jansen Lake potash mine on the southern tip. On the northern tip we have the Pehonan hydro dam and we have the Shore Gold diamond mine. This is going to be the constituency to watch in the next decade.

But even without those multi-billion-dollar mega projects, the Melfort constituency is one to be envied. We have world-class manufacturers, such as Bourgault Industries and Schulte Industries; Michel's Industry; Koender's Manufacturing; Failure Prevention Services, FPS; and Sapphire Water. As well we have growing industries, like M & K Welding, Worley's Iron Works, Holmspun Hoppers, and many others, all creating a manufacturing base in the constituency.

And also in the constituency, Mr. Speaker, we have some of the richest farm land in the world, and we have the leading-edge farmers that go with it.

I grew up in small town Saskatchewan. You're envious, aren't you? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, I grew up in small-town Saskatchewan — Kinistino to be exact. And I have led a life of security, and family, and community. It was a place where each of us looked after each other and watched out for each other. It was just the way things were done and the way things still are done.

I had three older brothers and one younger sister, and it has always been my feeling that if I'd had, say, two older brothers and one older sister, I wouldn't be here or anywhere. I would just . . . But I feel that an influence on my life was the fact that I had three older brothers because I learned the art of negotiation very early in life.

My mother was first generation Canadian with her parents immigrating from England. My grandfather arrived in Vancouver a few years earlier than my grandmother so he could build a life in the new country. Then my grandmother arrived some four years later and they were married. Much of my grandfather's efforts were destroyed by the stock market crash of 1929, although through perseverance and hard work they were able to achieve a good life for their family.

On the Phillips side of the family, I am eighth generation Canadian with my ancestors arriving in Canada from Scotland in the mid-1800s. I like to think my father was long ahead of his time because he moved from Alberta to Saskatchewan in 1940, then was called to the war effort, then opened the newspaper, *The Kinistino Post*, in 1945. They had planned to be in Saskatchewan for maybe a year or two, build up the business, and move back to the warmer climates of Vancouver. But they fell in love with the community. They fell in love with the residents, and they were still there some 60 years later.

My parents taught me a lot of things, but probably the most important thing that they taught me was empathy, that if you can appreciate what other people are feeling, then that's the beginning of solving any situation or problem that you may have and that they may have. Other strong memories and philosophies of my childhood were sayings like: you can learn something from every person you meet, and it's a poor, poor day when you don't learn something. Now those philosophies are integral to the newspaper business, but they're pretty good in life in general.

My own political career started with a protest and a challenge. There was a point in the '80s when the Melfort school division had decided that they would rotate the principals around the schools. And we thought in our south side community that we had the best principal. Of course every community thought that, but we were sure we were right. So we protested against the policy. But keep in mind we weren't protesting against anything. We were standing up for the elementary school, and after we presented them with our ask, they rethought their decision.

But the result of that was that following fall when the school board elections came up, I was asked to put my money where

my mouth is and run for the school board. And that started nine years on the school board, four as facilities chairman and three as board chairman.

Five years ago I was asked to run for mayor of the city of Melfort, a position that I had wondered about before. Why couldn't good things happen in Melfort? Is there anything that a municipal government could do to make good things happen?

In the year before I became mayor, there were four houses built in Melfort. In the first year we pushed that number to over 20. Was this because of the new mayor? Far from it. It was because we built the team of council, of administration, and of citizens who were excited.

There are many reasons as to why those things happen. One of them, the city had built up reserves before 2006 which allowed us to move on opportunities. A new progressive attitude began in Melfort, and the citizens finally started to believe that good things could happen in their community. We built a new multi-use community centre with performing arts theatre, new residential, new commercial, and a new sense of confidence. And that, Mr. Speaker, is why I am a member of the Legislative Assembly today, is because I saw that same positive attitude, I saw that same excitement in our Premier and in the Saskatchewan Party.

[19:15]

In my years as mayor, I found that Premier Brad Wall's government backed up their words with action. The SIGI program, Saskatchewan infrastructure growth initiative program, allowed communities to borrow interest free for a five-year period to meet some of the growth problems in their municipalities. In 2008 the municipal economic enhancement program injected \$100 million into the infrastructure of municipalities right across the province.

The revenue sharing problem that had been worked on by the previous government and the government previous to that . . . And that government was long on promises and short on delivery. This government, the Brad Wall government, picked up the challenge, adopted a formula to raise revenue sharing to a full 1 per cent of the 5 per cent PST [provincial sales tax]. The municipalities now receive more dollars from the provincial government than ever before, and their funding is predictable and sustainable.

Mr. Speaker, it is strange how one line can change a person's life. And in my case it was the line, will the last one out please shut off the lights? That was the line that was said about Saskatchewan from the people right across Canada, joked about Saskatchewan from the people right across Canada. Our sons and daughters are the most sought-after workers in the country. We have the resources. We have the expertise. We have the people. We have the agriculture. And yet we were a have-not province. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, it was embarrassing.

Two weeks ago I was driving home on Highway 6 North and I noticed a glow in the west, and it would be 7 miles off. And I thought maybe a new city had sprung up somewhere in my travels. But the glow was amazing. Five or six weeks ago I visited that site. It's the site of the possible new BHP Jansen

Lake potash mine which one day may become the world's largest potash mine. And I looked at the land, and it was all on one small section of the property, and I wondered to myself what the government received five years ago from that section of land, what the people of Saskatchewan received five years ago from that section of land. And the answer is basically nothing.

What would change if, on that empty section of land, there was the world's largest potash mine? How would our great province be different? For those few years, the people of Saskatchewan would co-operate and work with this world leader and build the new potash mine, and the cost to us would be nothing. But what do we gain from it? We gain 2,500 estimated people working out there during the construction stage. We're talking about wages of 150 to \$180 million each year — all the income taxes comes in from that, all the PST that comes in from that.

And the total investment from BHP, when it gets completed, of \$12 billion. Now they talk about a number of seven times when it's spinning in the economy — \$84 billion of economic opportunities spinning in Saskatchewan from that empty section of land. And what was the cost? Nothing.

We'll have houses that have to be built. We have vehicles purchased. We have businesses started. We have schools that are filling with children, and our small villages are growing for the first time in decades.

Then after construction, and this is important, BHP will start paying the highest royalties honoured. They will be twice, nearly twice the royalties of the Kingdom of Jordan. In fact BHP estimates in the 70-year lifespan of that mine they will pay \$90 billion in taxes and royalties, \$60 billion to the people of Saskatchewan alone. And the cost to us? Nothing.

All those jobs, all that activity, all that growth, all from an NDP [New Democratic Party] policy that the Saskatchewan Party fully supported. The cost of the former leave-it-in-the-ground policy was the one that kept Saskatchewan as a have-not province year after year after year. Remember the billions of dollars in benefits, the good that will come from this huge project. And remember the world's highest royalties and remember the cost — nothing.

In this past election, Saskatchewan had a choice. The people chose Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party to keep Saskatchewan moving forward.

The Deputy Speaker: — I'd just like to remind the member that members are to refer to other members by the seat that they hold or the office that they hold. I realize that the member is new to the Assembly, and we'd like just to inform all members that that is the tradition of the House.

I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Phillips: — As I was saying, the past election Saskatchewan had a choice, and they chose. And the results could not be, the results could not be any clearer, especially in this House.

The people of Saskatchewan are no longer satisfied with being

a wee province, one that will always be in and out of equalization as suggested by a former leader of the opposition. The new Saskatchewan is one that leads the nation in growth, leads the nation in trade, and will soon lead the nation in wages. A wee province? Not today, not tomorrow, not ever. Not in the new Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this government will continue to help the most vulnerable with programs for senior citizens such as building more long-term care facilities and by providing the pioneers of this province with a personal care home benefit of \$3,000 for low-income seniors residing in personal care homes. This government will also increase the seniors' income plan, providing a monthly supplement and access to extended health care benefits. This income supplement will raise over 40 per cent in the next four years. It had already doubled, Mr. Speaker, in the last four years. That is how the Saskatchewan Party government helps the senior citizens of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

For decade upon decade, the post-secondary students have struggled financially. It happened way back when. It happened now. It happens, but all over the world, not only in Saskatchewan. But we will help families prepare for those educational costs by instituting the Saskatchewan advantage grant for educational savings, by matching up to 10 per cent of the annual contribution to a child's RESP [registered education savings plan] to a yearly maximum of \$250. Plus, the new Saskatchewan will help to reduce the cost of post-secondary education with up to \$2,000 over four years for new high school graduates. Then when the student graduates from a post-secondary institution, the Saskatchewan graduate retention program provides up to \$20,000 for grads staying in the province.

Now some people here in the Assembly may ask about young families. Well we have lower income taxes. We have PST exemption up to an 18-year birthday on clothing, activity tax credits, affordable housing projects, first-time homebuyers benefits and, Mr. Speaker, there's much, much more coming in the new Saskatchewan. That, Mr. Speaker, is why BHP Jansen Lake potash mine and all of the other incredible developments under way in Saskatchewan come in.

Our strong and multi-faceted economy allows this government to help those who are most challenged: the seniors, the students, the young families, the disabled, the First Nations, and others. In the old Saskatchewan, it was raise the taxes or more equalization from the feds or add it to the debt. Not anymore, not in the new Saskatchewan. Like the BHP potash mine, the new Saskatchewan is about moving forward, paying down the debt, and making life better for residents of this great province.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this Throne Speech will keep Saskatchewan moving forward, and that is why I will be supporting the government motion and I will not be supporting the opposition amendment.

Just as a final note, Mr. Speaker, I hope, sincerely hope that there is never a day when I walk into this hallowed Chamber and take it for granted in that I realize daily what an honour it is to serve the people of Saskatchewan and be a member of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a moment to congratulate you on your election as Speaker, as well as I would like to congratulate the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood on his acclamation as Deputy Speaker. I would also like to congratulate all returning and newly elected members on both sides of the House.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you what an honour and a privilege it is to address the Assembly here today. Having this opportunity, as I am sure my colleagues would agree, is the culmination of hard work and commitment of not just ourselves but our campaign teams and our families. I might mention that the same efforts and commitment was also required for those individuals in teams that were not successful, and I would like to acknowledge those efforts as well.

Mr. Speaker, Rosthern-Shellbrook is geographically a very large as well as a primarily rural constituency. The stability of agriculture and tourism as well as the strength of the people and the businesses that service these and other industries is resulting in growth of the Rosthern-Shellbrook constituency. Tourism alone generated over \$15 million in revenue and employed about 750 people in the last year in our region.

The reduction of small business tax as well as a decrease in the education portion of the property tax are positive changes for our business climates in Rosthern-Shellbrook. By funding programs like the AgriInvest, AgriStability, and crop insurance at the outset each year, as well as providing relief for those that experience disaster events, this government has provided a more secure environment for our agricultural producers to operate in. Mr. Speaker, small business and agriculture are part of the spinal cord of our economy, not just where I live, but across this great province. This government's commitment to debt reduction and competitive taxes while continuing to invest in agriculture is conducive to continued growth for not only our constituency but our entire province.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that when you live in a community, you need to give back some time and some effort to maintain and improve facilities and programs that are available — in other words, leave things just a little bit better than you found them. Throughout my travels these past months, I am happy to report that Saskatchewan people in the Rosthern-Shellbrook constituency are extremely busy volunteering their time and expertise to all types of different projects that benefit not only their community but the residents within, whether it's upgrading local arenas, working to maintain health professionals, building a park, general economic development, or seniors conducting a major cash lotto to upgrade and improve their hall, such as the case in Blaine Lake.

[19:30]

Mr. Speaker, while we are discussing seniors, I would like to discuss my first public engagement as a newly elected MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. Each year the Lions Club in Spiritwood organizes a seniors' appreciation supper that I was asked to attend. That evening it was asked how many

years this event has been happening. After much discussion, it was determined that it had been an annual event for 31 years. I said it that night and I'll say it again here today: to organize a supper each year to honour the people that built your community that you now live in speaks volumes as to the depth and the integrity of the people in Spiritwood.

I am sure many here today can speak to similar events that happen in communities all across this province. Our ability to come together as individuals within a community and communities within this province is something that sets us apart and makes Saskatchewan strong and great.

I would be remiss if I did not discuss rural health care as our constituency has three towns — Spiritwood, Shellbrook, and Rosthern — that offer medical care and service to residents and to neighbouring communities while facing a common rural challenge of ensuring the appropriate complement of health care professionals. This challenge is not unique to my constituency or to our province, and it did not transpire over a few months although sometimes the resulting change in services makes it seem that way. The challenge of rural health care is a result of many years of not training sufficient replacement numbers of medical professionals locally here in our province.

Our government has increased the number of seats for physicians as well as created the central recruitment agency known as the physician recruitment agency of Saskatchewan. There has been a large initiative taken to recruit and retain physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals. Additional measures in the five-point plan — such as the forgiveness of student loans for health care professionals that choose to relocate to rural areas, the STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] air ambulance service, as well as the formation of a 20-physician locum pool — are truly appreciated by the rural people in this province. This is in addition to initiatives that benefit all of Saskatchewan residents, such as our commitment to lowering surgery wait times to three months by 2014, construction of a new Saskatchewan hospital in North Battleford, and a new children's hospital in Saskatoon.

I look forward to working with our government, the good people of Rosthern-Shellbrook, and the people of Saskatchewan as we continue to build rungs in the ladder to climb our way to success regarding Saskatchewan health care and keep our province moving forward.

I would like to talk about just one of the reasons why I chose to apply to the constituents of Rosthern-Shellbrook for the honour of representing them here in this Assembly. It involved discussion on future career plans with my son and a few of his friends as they neared the end of their grade school education. My son indicated to me that he was thinking of entering engineering at the University of Saskatchewan, and he was wondering where he could live and work upon completion. And I proudly explained to him that you could live and work anywhere you like — New York, Vancouver, Toronto, and so on. His face dropped a little and he asked if he could live and work here, where he grew up, in Shellbrook. His wish is my example of why we need strong growth and opportunity in our province. This will enable us to retain the most important and valuable natural resource that we have, which is our youth.

This government's commitment to implementing the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship, the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings, along with the already functioning graduate retention program, will enable many of our students that are from here and allow them to choose careers that will allow them to be here.

None of us were able to get here on our own, and I was no exception to this, as we had a superb campaign team and countless people volunteer their time throughout the past few months. We had a great mixture of youth and experience. Mr. Speaker, for many of us it was our first campaign and to have people available with the level of experience and dedication they each possess was truly appreciated. It was an honour for me to be associated with so many hardworking individuals: Bevra, Lyle, Les, Richard, Anne, Keith, Heather, Jason, Tonia, Darrin, Lanny, Harold, Ruth, Dave, Grant, Tanya, and I will miss many, I know. To each of you and the others, words cannot truly express my gratitude, but thank you.

Mr. Speaker, the decision to venture down the road that leads to this Chamber is a commitment that is made by families, not by individuals. And I'm sure many will concur that without the full support and agreement of your family, the decision is over before it begins.

I would like to thank my mother and father for always being supportive and available when I needed them. My mother has always encouraged me to keep life's events in perspective, and this was especially helpful the last few months. My father is one of the most hard-working, genuine, unjudgmental people that I have ever met. He has always allowed each of us kids to choose what we were interested in, and then he supported us wholeheartedly. My parents, along with my wife's father and her late mother, have been a tremendous influence on both Krista and I. We are thankful for the family values, the work ethic, and most notably the integrity that has always been displayed and encouraged by both of them.

I would also like to thank my son, Carter, and daughter, Taryn, for all their support over the last months. Children give up some time with their parents so that we may come to serve publicly in this Assembly. This is a sacrifice on their part, and it's one that I definitely appreciate.

I would like to thank my wife of over 18 years, Krista. When we made the decision that I would run for this position, I was very fortunate to have her full support. This was extremely evident over the past year, and I am forever thankful for the person that she is.

Lastly I would like to thank all of the people in Rosthern-Shellbrook. These last few months have been a tremendous opportunity for me to purposely travel the entire constituency and meet many, many, many people. I can't help but feel that many of these communities and the people in them have been a part of my upbringing. I'm truly humbled with the support that they gave me and honoured to represent them and to represent all the good people of Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Speaker, this past election, the people of Rosthern-Shellbrook gave me their approval to represent them with a four-year lease on this seat in this Assembly. These

people voted to move forward with myself, this team, our Premier, and the Saskatchewan advantage growth plan. The people from Rosthern-Shellbrook constituency agree with the present government's vision, and I quote from the Throne Speech, ". . . *that Saskatchewan will be the best place in Canada — to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.*"

It is for these reasons, on behalf of all the constituents of Rosthern-Shellbrook, that I will be supporting the motion to move the Throne Speech. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on her feet?

Ms. Eagles: — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Estevan has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this honoured Assembly, I would like to introduce two constituents of mine who are in the gallery: Pat Ferguson and her son Mark. They were here for the diabetes reception, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, fellow members, it is indeed with great honour and humble pride that I join my colleagues in this hallowed Assembly today. Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that I will forever marvel at the grandeur of this renowned Chamber. The sheer magnificence of this entire building provides us with a better understanding of the tremendous vision, the energy, and the foresight of our dear forefathers.

As most everyone here knows, Regina was the capital of the North-West Territories when these vast territories included nearly 34 per cent of Canada's land mass. That area included Alberta, the territories, and an area that ran clear across, taking in part of Ontario and Quebec. I am so proud to acknowledge that our forefathers had plans and dreams as vast as the massive territories they so aptly governed.

Mr. Speaker, I feel deeply privileged and humbled to represent the constituency that was the home of the original Government House to the North-West Territories, the town of Battleford. To think that decisions pertaining to that huge portion of our country were debated and passed into law from our town certainly inspires a sense of pride in our town's celebrated history.

Mr. Speaker, I, like so many other residents of The Battlefords, was devastated the day our beloved Government House burned to the ground. In my former profession as a realtor and many years before that fire, I was requested to conduct a full evaluation of Government House for insurance purposes. Allow me to say that, although not as grand as this Chamber, the Government House in Battleford was a beautifully appointed building with amazing architecture and remarkable furnishings. We truly lost a treasured piece of our history that day, and I feel so fortunate to have a very clear and profound memory of that historically grand structure.

In point of fact, Mr. Speaker, our Government House was truly a major attraction to The Battlefords and a deep source of pride for all of our constituents. Anyone who has visited The Battlefords knows what a rich history we have in our community. A quick tour would include a visit to our Town Hall, with its unique opera theatre on the top floor, then a stop at our historic Fort Battleford, followed by a stroll through Colonel Otter Park where today you can still see the trenches from battle preparations from years gone by.

Mr. Speaker, one building that was ancillary to our Government House still stands proudly on Government Ridge today. That building is of course the original Land Titles Building for the North-West Territories. This was the first Land Titles Building west of Winnipeg and today it boasts of being the oldest brick building in Saskatchewan. Upon close inspection of this building, you can actually see bullet holes in the bricks from one of the last First Nations skirmishes in the area. As a participating realtor, I was pleased to be involved in a decision to make a sizeable donation to begin the historical restoration and preservation of that landmark.

Mr. Speaker, we can all be proud of our heritage and our past. But we are equally proud of today's Saskatchewan and doubly proud and excited about the Saskatchewan of tomorrow. We have only begun to realize our potential as we constantly strive to fulfill the vision rooted in the dreams of our forefathers. We know we must continue to build on that vision, a vision that is clearly outlined in our Throne Speech. A vision such as a province of 1.1 million people, a province steadily eliminating the general revenue fund debt, and a province caring for our young people, our seniors, and those with disabilities. We continue to take steps to put that vision into action. We need only look at the progress and growth we have experienced in the past few years.

I read with great interest the SaskEnergy year-end report for 2010 which indicates there were 5,470 new gas connections in that year. And now for the first 11 months of this year there is another 6,227 connections. Mr. Speaker, that's nearly 12,000 new homes, apartments, businesses, or industries that are now calling Saskatchewan home. These new homes, apartments, and businesses will become the roots of the new fibres that in fact will grow in and strengthen the very fabric of our province. New and existing residents now have opportunities to stay in communities, to stay in Saskatchewan. These same individuals will help build our communities in the future along with our schools, our churches, our rinks, our playgrounds, and our parks.

[19:45]

Mr. Speaker, I first began thinking about wanting to become an MLA because I was totally appalled by the number of young people who were leaving Saskatchewan, leaving their homes in order to seek opportunities elsewhere. Like so many of us who were here last spring I heard the emotion in our Finance minister's voice when he so proudly confirmed his family was now living closer to home. Mr. Speaker, that same emotion lived in my own heart.

In 2006 two of our three children were working in Alberta. Today two of our three children have returned to Saskatchewan and hopefully our third will find opportunities here shortly. We certainly did not relish the idea of spending every long weekend travelling to Alberta to visit our children and grandchildren. I humbly thank this government for all they have done to create the opportunities that have allowed our young people to stay at home.

Mr. Speaker, when my wife Linda and I did make the decision that I would run, the clear choice was to represent the Saskatchewan Party. I had read a paper entitled a vision for Saskatchewan, prepared by our leader at that time. This document clearly outlined a plan for this province, a plan for a better future and, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to be a part of that exciting new future. In my opinion, so many things needed to be improved to make this province more appealing and to allow it to reach its full potential.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see in this Throne Speech we are continuing to replace and develop our infrastructures. In the last four years, we have spent \$2.2 billion on our highways alone, fixing, repairing, or rebuilding over 6000 kilometres of our highways. According to Google, Canada is 9306 kilometres wide at its widest point, so already we've built, rebuilt, or fixed a highway equal to two-thirds of the distance across this great nation. In addition to this, we have now committed another 2.2 billion for the next four years. Great news for Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned that the Saskatchewan pothole as we once knew it may soon be coming onto the endangered species list.

We have again included many growth agenda items in this Throne Speech, such as our Saskatchewan advantage housing plan. This government recognizes that along with our population growth there becomes a housing affordability issue. We will work towards our target of 4,600 new entry level units, and we will implement new growth tax incentives. Our secondary suite program will provide \$2 million to develop 70 to 100 new secondary suites. Also, we will provide a tax credit to first-time homeowners because we truly believe, and I quote, "... the best way to make life more affordable for Saskatchewan families is by ensuring they keep more of what they earn."

In the last four years, we've removed 114,000 people from our tax rolls. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to provide further relief with such measures as increasing the PST exemption on clothing for children under 18 and by providing the active families benefit to the same age limit. We remain committed to funding up to 80 per cent of the cost of 13 new long-term care facilities, and we are steadfast in our goal to have no surgical wait times longer than three months by 2014. Mr. Speaker, these are our commitments to the people of Saskatchewan, our

commitments to bring our vision into action.

As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, my journey to become the legislative representative for The Battlefords began quite some time ago. As one colleague quipped on election night, you kind of took the scenic route. Well we both chuckled at first, but then I realized that the scenic route has prepared me to be a more effective representative for my constituents. My first campaign experience was a manager for the 2003 election. Then I ran unsuccessfully in 2007.

But, Mr. Speaker, I believe the past four years have given me an honest appreciation of the work and dedication exhibited by the members of this Assembly. The scenic route, if you will, has allowed me to carefully observe and learn what is involved in becoming the best representative I can possibly be. It has allowed me to accept invitations to functions such as an elders' round dance at the Sweetgrass First Nation, numerous chamber of commerce events, and participate in many worthwhile fundraising projects. Along with this I have been able, on a personal level, to assist fellow citizens with questions or concerns with various government departments.

Over these past four years, The Battlefords have experienced some significant growth, not unlike the rest of this province. We now are home to a new Saskatchewan Power peak gas turbine power plant, and soon our Northland Power plant will be open as well. We are all excited about the potential for growth that that brings to our area.

Our new multi-purpose facility, the CU Plex, is now taking shape and hopefully will open soon.

Some of our best news came this past August when our Premier announced that at long last a firm commitment was being made to replace our Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford. That new facility will bring a whole new environment to the patients and staff who have endured their outdated surroundings for far too long.

The Battlefords are positioned as a gateway to the North on our side of the province, and we are happy to see the outstanding improvements being made to the highways in our area. These improvements will assist in handling the increased activity in the oil and gas, forestry and agriculture, and we look forward to even more improvements as outlined in this Throne Speech.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I was not to take this opportunity to thank the many people who supported me in becoming the MLA for The Battlefords. As I mentioned before, mine has been a five-year journey. It began with a nomination, a contested nomination in 2006, a narrow defeat in 2007, another contested nomination in 2010, and finally election this fall.

My greatest supporter through all of this has been my wife, Linda. I will never be able to thank her enough for her strength, her encouragement, her support, guidance and her great insight into things that I on occasion missed. Along with Linda's support came the unwavering and loyal support of our three children, they and their partners. They make us proud every day.

So many people provided such strong support and influence to all of my steps on this great journey. I certainly cannot name them all here today, so to each and every one of you I say a heartfelt thank you. I will never forget all of your efforts. To the residents of The Battlefords constituency who have put their confidence in my ability to represent them, I thank them for their trust. I will work every day to continue to be worthy of their trust by honestly and faithfully representing them in this Assembly.

And as it was so clearly and correctly pointed out in yesterday's Speech from the Throne, this chair is on loan to me. That statement closely aligns itself with the principle that I've held onto ever since I heard it some 35 years ago. A principle that has guided me both in my real estate career and in my various endeavours in community involvement and associations, and that statement simply put, and I quote because I didn't originate this, "Service is the rent you pay for the space you occupy." I am 100 per cent committed to serve this Chamber, this great province, and certainly the residents of The Battlefords to ensure my rent is paid fully each and every day that this chair is available to me.

And now, Mr. Speaker, that brings us to this special moment. Today I stand humbled to be here in this Assembly with my respected colleagues on both sides of this Chamber, humbled to be able to be here in this place with so much history, proud to be able to participate in debate on this message from the Throne. We have already heard much discussion about the Speech from the Throne, and I wish to add my voice in support of the vision and action that is included in this speech.

It is imperative that our government continues in its commitment to provide opportunities at home for our young people, to continue to make life more secure and affordable for seniors and for those with disabilities. It is equally important to make Saskatchewan the place to be by improving highways and schools and hospitals, by providing a stable economy in which to invest, by paying down our debt, and by further reducing taxes — all the while staying the course within a balanced budget. These are the kinds of actions, the kinds of stewardship required to ensure that Saskatchewan will continue to lead the nation in job growth, employment growth, population growth, and in opportunities that are in fact the envy of so many other jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, the members of this Assembly have the energy, the optimism, the courage, and the great responsibility now to unlock the tremendous opportunities that our pioneers envisioned. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I will be supporting the motion to move the Speech from the Throne and not the amendment to that motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Doherty: — I seek leave to introduce a guest.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Northeast.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a guest in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. It's a former colleague of mine in the pharmaceutical industry, Mr. Geoff Squires. Geoff hails from British Columbia and is in town here this evening supporting the Canadian Diabetes Association dinner that was held earlier this evening. His company — I believe it's Novartis Goeff is with right now — was one of the sponsors of the dinner and the educational program that was afforded to a number of us from the Legislative Assembly earlier this evening. So welcome, Geoff, and thank you for spending your hard-earned dollars in our province.

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

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate this opportunity to rise and speak on this very important occasion, the reply to the Throne Speech 2011.

First, some important notes of recognition: I'd like to congratulate yourself, Mr. Speaker, on your election. It's an important vote of confidence by the House that we believe that you'll act in a very fair and appropriate manner to your position. And we appreciate that. And also I want to thank the former Speaker. We have a long tradition of good Speakers in this House, I believe, and the member from Moosomin served us well as well. I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker elected by acclamation, Last Mountain-Touchwood. I am looking forward to working with him over the next number of years, and I have a lot of confidence in him as well. And as well, the former Deputy Speaker, the member from Arm River served us well, and of course these are of some recognition.

I also want to take a moment and recognize our Clerk and the staff at the Table for the good work they do, and the Pages and everyone behind the scenes who makes this House flow. And it is critical that we have good people. And they are good, and they do a very good job to make this place work.

I also want to offer my congratulations and best wishes to those newly elected to this House. We have one on our side, many on that side. But I do want to wish you all the very best and congratulations on your election to this House, well-deserved, and I think you folks will do a good job.

It is pretty special to have the confidence of your neighbours. It's something when your neighbours do vote for you, and I have been fortunate to experience that. I wish you all the best here. It's a very special and honourable calling that we have to serve in the legislature, and our duties are very, very important. I also wanted to say congratulations and best wishes to those who are re-elected. You know, we develop some interesting relationships while we are here in the House. Sometimes we

look like we're right at each other, particularly during question period, but other times we work really hard to make things work for this province.

And I want to say what I do reflect on over the past when I have seen the best work done in this House and in the legislature, it's because we have the common value of doing what's best for all of Saskatchewan citizens. And I truly believe that. It is not one side against the other side, it's all of us for the people here in this province. And it's my hope and my belief that if we can keep this core value alive in this legislature, we can do some outstanding work, and we will continue to do that. We have our role in opposition to hold the government to account and we will do that.

I also want to congratulate the government on its re-election. Of course, it was a hard-fought battle and we have these every four years. And we know, we can see what's happening in the Middle East over the battle for democracy, and we cannot take that for granted here in Saskatchewan. We must always value our democracy and the fact that we have an opportunity every four years to make some choices. And we did that this fall. So congratulations.

[20:00]

And of course for us it was a bittersweet election. And we have to — and our leader has talked about it; of course we will be selecting a new leader — but it's a time for us to reflect on our values and a period of renewal and rebuilding. And that's going to be an important part of what we do here. And of course every party goes through this. And it's one that we often don't look forward to, but we are where we are. And we'll be working hard in this House, making sure people in Saskatchewan get the best, best work from this legislature.

I am looking forward to my new role — well partly new, partly old. I'm continuing in housing, in Sask Housing Corp. I'm looking forward to that, but also returning to the area of Labour. And I'm also looking forward to Municipal Affairs. That will be very, very important. So I think this will be very, very interesting, and I am going to be asking some good, tough questions on that. So I'm looking forward to that.

But I also want to, and probably most — well, not probably — most importantly I want to thank the good folks who have given me this very precious opportunity to serve. And I speak of course about my constituents of Saskatoon Centre. I think Saskatoon Centre is a very unique constituency. We have the whole range of demographics, and it's a diverse community. We have people who are living in poverty and people who are doing very well. We have some beautiful theatres downtown. We have some wonderful restaurants. The economic buzz in my riding is phenomenal, and it's a pretty special place. And it is probably one of the most urban of all constituencies in Saskatchewan, and so I think it's unique in that. But of course, Mr. Speaker, I do need to give a big thank you to my team that put me over the top. And I've got to tell you that this was a tough battle, and I really do appreciate the good work of Erica, Dennell, Alexa, David, Ryan. And of course my own family, Dawn, Cam, Alison, and Reilly, they were always there for me. And I truly appreciate it and I want to give them a big, big thank you. Thank you.

I also want to make note, my constituency assistant, Leslie, has moved on in the last week or so. She is in fact in Florida now; I don't think she will be watching this at all. But she served me well for seven years, and she's decided to move on and go into retirement. So this is a big change for her. And I wanted to put on the record, thank you very much, Leslie. You served me well. Some very tough, trying times, and I do appreciate all the good work that she had done.

Well, Mr. Speaker, our job as opposition is to hold the government to account. And we know the government side will talk about the positives and the things that they see as good things in the Throne Speech, and our job is to say some of the concerns. Because whenever you put forward a document, there is a reason to scrutinize it and go over it rigorously and say, so is this living up to what the people of Saskatchewan are expecting from a government?

And I have to say, and we will hear tonight and we will hear over the next few days about promises kept and that type of thing, and a lot of promises were kept, and I want to say that I recognize that. But you know, particularly on this day — on this day, December 6, the day that we recognize violence against women — one of the most, and to me one of the biggest promises that was not kept from 2007 of course was the promise to re-enact the all-party committee for children who are exploited through the sex trade. And it's been four years and I know for some reason this government has not decided that it would act on its promise. And it was a promise in 2007 that it would do that, and it didn't do that. And so I think that it's particularly fitting on this day that we think about vulnerable people, that not all promises were kept. It's not a completely perfect record.

And what I'm also concerned about, Mr. Speaker, are promises that are made, and we have them and we have their record, but we have the actions that were not promises in 2007. And we saw what happened. We had a minister in question period today talk about how actions speak louder than words. And what we saw in the last term, and I can just think and I'll just say really quickly three things that happened that were not promises. Nobody knew in the campaign of 2007 that this was going to happen; of course, there were a lot of people who speculated. But of course we can talk about Station 20 West in my riding that saw a cut of \$8 million. And of course we're very fortunate now to see that project go forward, largely because of the good work of the volunteers who were deeply committed to Station 20 West. But this government did not make a promise that they were going to cut \$8 million from that project, which they did.

As well, we saw some horrendous, horrendous labour legislation passed very quickly in the last legislature. Those were not on the campaign bill that they went and campaigned on, but they did it anyways and now they are the law. And of course one in particular is *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. There were no promises in the campaign in 2007 that they were going to do a Bill like that, but they did it anyways, and in fact it led to one of our more raucous sessions.

But those are some examples, and so when we look back and we say actions do speak louder than words. And we will be looking for things, not only the promises that were in the book, but the other ones that weren't in the book that they presented

to the people of Saskatchewan but they feel they have the right to put forth. Now of course every government has to respond as they see accordingly, but those are some that were not done without public consultation. And clearly we have some concerns as opposition.

I want to talk about three words that I could not find in the Throne Speech, and maybe they're there, but I didn't see them. First they did talk about housing, and that's very important and I'm glad to see that there's going to be more work in that area. And today we had some questions about that. But I am concerned that we did not hear any reference to homelessness. It is a new reality in Saskatchewan, and we have to face the facts. This is becoming a bigger and bigger issue, and we need to act on it. And I know in my hometown of Saskatoon and I know in Regina this is an issue, and there are alternatives being put forward like Housing First. And I was hoping to see something more concrete about that in the Throne Speech, and it wasn't there.

And of course the member from Battlefords alluded to it briefly today in his comments, but the whole issue around mental health which I think we really need to take a much more aggressive . . . work much more aggressively on. And I think this is one that I think I'm looking forward to seeing over the next four years, more work done around mental health.

The other one that now that I'm critic for Labour I'll be looking to see, but I did not see anything in the Throne Speech about safety. And I raise that as something that I hope that we will see much more. I know this government has a Mission: Zero policy and is working hard on that. But I know that there is a committee of review that's working for the Workers' Compensation Board, and we hope to see some of those recommendations come forward. And I'll be watching for that very carefully because I think this is important. When a person is injured at work, it is a horrible, horrible thing. We all expect and we all hope when people leave in the morning to go to work that they'll be coming home. And when they don't, it's a sad, sad day but the impacts are huge. And so, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that we'll be talking a lot and looking for safety.

Now I just want to go to the book just briefly, quickly, and there are three things that I just want to say. And one is I'm looking forward to hearing more details about the seniors' income plan. I know in the last four years there's been more money raised for this, and of course seniors are facing more and more challenges. And of course we raised issues about the fact that rents are going up for seniors. And so more, more funds that go to seniors can be a great thing, but we know what happened in the last time the government raised the funds. Of course they talked about 10,000 going onto the rolls, but then it soon became clear it was going to be 8,000.

And the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, there's only two people, two people who work on the seniors' income plan. Now I could be wrong, they may have changed that, but I hope there's more people working so people can stay on that plan and make full use of it. Because quite often people go on it and then they go off it, and they don't even know they do that because it's tied into the federal program. So we're looking very carefully at that.

And the other one that was very interesting was about the Global Institute for Food Security. I think also a good concept but it reminds me of the saying, think globally, act locally. When we have poverty here in Saskatchewan — in a province where we produce such abundance, such a wide range of foods — that we should have poverty and people going hungry and that the use is up in food banks, and we have this kind of institute, I think this is the time where we put in that saying, think globally, act locally. I think this is critical.

To conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I do want to recognize and I do appreciate that the government in its Throne Speech has said that it will consider ideas from all sources, including Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. So expect no shortage of ideas from our side. And I do want to say, and I think about the Minister of Agriculture, last year when we did the animal protection Bill and how we were able to work together on that and a respectful language Bill. We did some good things. And we can work together, and I think this is a good thing. So I think this is a . . . There has been some good work that we can, some models of how we can make this work.

And I do want to say that when the government has said that it will reach out, when they have no labour legislation in consideration right now but it will be listening to all views of all stakeholders, including unions, employees, employers, and the public, I think this is an important thing. And we will be holding the government to account to make sure that they do.

I was a little disappointed this afternoon when I asked about the public consultations on the new ideas around the voluntary tenant protection initiative that the government has, and they said that they're not going to have any public consultations on that. I think that's too bad. I think there's a lot of good ideas out there in the public, and I think this is critical.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will not be voting for the main motion, but I will be voting for the amendment. Because I think that it's not quite right; I think we have to do better, and we can do better. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first thing I'd like to do is congratulate you on your election as Speaker. And I'd like to thank the member from Moosomin for the good work that he'd done over the last four years even though I wasn't part of the House then.

I wish to thank my colleagues for this warm welcome, and I'm humbled by the opportunity to represent the constituents of Moose Jaw Wakamow during this twenty-seventh sitting of the legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some of the people that, without their help and support, it would be not possible for me to be here. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of this journey, my wife, Marjorie, has been the source of my strength and encouragement. And I am sure that all the hon. members here can confirm that running for public office is not for those faint of heart. Perhaps no one knows this more than our spouses. Since my nomination 14 months ago

and throughout the election period, my wife has been at my side, and I sincerely want to thank her for everything.

To my boys, who gave up their evenings and weekends all summer long to knock doors with me and always encouraged me to keep going, I have never been so proud and so thankful for their support.

For my team, under the leadership of my campaign Chair, Cole Schulz, I was truly blessed by his hard work and support. His notes of encouragement and endless efforts mean more to me than you can imagine. Our team included a large youth component that were so exuberant to the cause, and they kept the whole team energized. And for many of them, this was their voting for the first time and only confirmed why I made this decision to run for public office.

I can never express enough sincere gratitude to the people of Moose Jaw Wakamow, from the amazing rural constituents to those within the city of Moose Jaw who gave me their support and trust. And I give them my word to do all that I can do to represent them with all the respect and honour that they warrant.

Mr. Speaker, as a child growing up in this province, living in communities as small as Coleville and Bienfait, as well as in cities like Estevan, Swift Current, and Moose Jaw, I have learned that one of the main things that tie the people of this province together, other than their love for the Riders, is their work ethic, commitment to family, and community. And I am proud to call Saskatchewan home and happy to see the change in the attitude in its people, knowing that there are great things that lie ahead.

[20:15]

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about our city, Moose Jaw. It's an important railway junction for the area's agricultural production. The city is known for its giant historical murals on the exterior walls of its buildings in the business district, and its tunnels which also have a colourful history.

It's also home to CFB [Canadian Forces Base] Moose Jaw and it's a NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] flight training school, which is home to the Snowbirds as well as Canadian military aerobatics flight demonstration team. Moose Jaw also has the casino and geothermal spa, and we have the Sukanen Pioneer Village Museum in our riding of Moose Jaw Wakamow.

The riding also has a rich Aboriginal history as well. Moose Jaw was originally settled as a traditional Indian fur traders' camp. A narrow crossing of the river with plenty of water and game for food made this an ideal place for settlement. It was a winter encampment for both Cree and Assiniboine nations and there is said to be a burial ground in the vicinity. The natural protection of the Coteau range provided the valley with many a warm breeze and the Cree word — I hope I say it right — Moose Gaw, meaning warm breezes, was translated to our city's name, Moose Jaw.

The recent announcement by K+S Group to develop a potash mine near Moose Jaw is great news for the city and the

surrounding area. The \$3.25 billion potash mine is expected to employ over 1,000 people during the construction and create 300 permanent jobs when the mine opens in 2015. Having K+S once again investing in Saskatchewan is especially great news since this same company was chased out of the province when the former NDP government nationalized the potash industry.

Mr. Speaker, now I'd like to speak to the Throne Speech. It starts with our vision which, with the unprecedented support of the people of Saskatchewan, shows that in contrast with the lack of vision the opposition has, that this is what people of our great province, the best in the country, want to see. And, Mr. Speaker, we will do this with action. As stated in the Speech from the Throne, we will take action to sustain growth and opportunity, to address affordability issues, to maintain a competitive tax and royalty regime, to improve our quality of life, and to ensure we remain responsible, responsive, trustworthy, and accountable to the people of this province. We are a government of action.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about growth with our Saskatchewan advantage growth plan and our continued commitment to it, it has keys to success, and they are stated: continued debt reduction, balanced budget, competitive taxes, and promoting global trade. Some of the other keys include further highway improvement over and above our record that we set in our last term, as previously stated, with more than 6000 kilometres of highways being improved and in this term another \$2.2 billion being invested. Then there is the digital and electronic infrastructure that is essential to the new economy, so much so that in the current budget year another 100 million is allocated, with 75 million being allocated over the next three years for the next generation in wireless technology.

Also, Mr. Speaker, when speaking to affordability, tackling some of the housing issues with Saskatchewan advantage housing plan which is on target to have 4,600 new entry-level housing units to be created over the next five years. On top of this, we will explore new growth tax incentives to boost construction of new affordable housing with improvements to the secondary suite program, with another \$2 million which will be available to develop 70 to 100 additional secondary suites. And then there is the Saskatchewan first-time home buyers tax credit, saving first-time home buyers on average \$1,100.

Mr. Speaker, the list goes on. Our first promise kept, making life more affordable for families — exempting children under 18 their clothes from the PST and the active families benefit expanded to all children under 18 on November 15th.

Now to add to all of that, the graduate retention program which has paid out over 53 million and which will remain in place. We now have the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship for every new high school graduate who will be eligible for a \$2,000 credit towards post-secondary tuition. And we're not done. The Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings, which is a new program that will help parents save for their kids' education — again, Mr. Speaker, showing Saskatchewan is the best place in Canada to live and raise your children.

Mr. Speaker, it's not only about our children. We're here to help our seniors. Today in Saskatchewan, one in seven of our

people is over 65. We have renewed our commitment to build 13 new long-term care facilities under the new funding formula. We have made great improvements to the seniors' income plan, doubling the maximum benefits and increasing them by 40 per cent over the next four years. And this is to have tripled compared to what we took over in 2007. Mr. Speaker, we have also introduced the seniors' personal home care benefit.

Mr. Speaker, we have a quality of life here in Saskatchewan that is unparalleled anywhere else in Canada. From our abundance of natural resources to our people and everything in between, Saskatchewan is simply the best place to live. But we need to make it better though. To do this we're going to help with creating an additional 2,000 child care spaces. We're going to improve support for people with disabilities. We're going to increase support for autism, Mr. Speaker, and the list goes on.

We are continuing to reduce our surgical wait times. We're improving health care access in our rural communities and improving services for people with diabetes. So children with . . . The insulin pump program will be extended to people under 25 years old, up from 17 years.

And, Mr. Speaker, it continues with a further \$10 million over the next four years for our provincial parks, also an additional \$2,500 a year to help about 750 municipally owned indoor rinks to run. Mr. Speaker, my family and I love living in the new Saskatchewan.

So I'd like to speak in favour of this motion but not for the amendment.

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

Mr. Parent: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate you on getting elected as the Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker from Last Mountain-Touchwood constituency. And thank you to all my colleagues on both sides of the House for their gracious welcome. It is a great privilege to be here today to represent my constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin and to provide some opening remarks in this Chamber. I am truly humbled and honoured to be appearing here among colleagues who have made a positive impact in our great province, including our Premier.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that it's been almost a full month since we have all been elected. In that time, I have learned a lot about the role of an MLA and my respect for those who have gone before me has grown immensely. With this title comes great responsibility and I will work hard to fulfill this role and serve all of the constituents, not only those who voted for me, but everyone in Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Speaker, I have so many people to thank for helping me along this path to this House. I would like to acknowledge my dear wife Sheila. She is a rock for me and is my best friend. Thanks to my daughter Shanaya, who has helped me knock in two elections, as a 16-year-old and this time as a 20-year-old, and her boyfriend Kyle, for their strong support. Without them, I would honestly not be standing here today. I owe so much to

them for their dedication and understanding as I continue down this path to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to acknowledge my friends, my campaign team, and I apologize if I've missed someone: Lorne, my campaign manager; Bernadette, membership and data control; William, Lorne and Bernadette's grandchild; Gabriele, our office manager, who made sure that of the five girls that we had, that the office was open every day from 9 to 8; and the other four ladies are two Joannes, Lesia, and Connie.

Joanne, of course, also was my e-day [election day] food coordinator, and she did a fabulous job. She had 200 boxes of meals for the volunteers that she made the sandwiches and she made the treats in them, the juice, and I had the privilege of delivering them to all my helpers out scrutineering. She also made sure that every time a runner went to pick up the bingo sheets, they were delivered something to drink and another treat, so she did a fabulous job. Lesia also was . . . pretty much did every function there was in the office for me.

There is also Chad, Terance, Mark, Ryan, Stefanie, John was my e-day Chair, Sally, Edward, and Jack, his counterpart, John, Barry, Mathew, Wally, Carol, Carl who has helped me in three elections, Elizabeth, Terri who is another political nut just like me, Randy, Joe, Jean, Blaine, Lauren, Mike, Nick, Cheryl.

Milt, who commented one day at the doors when we were door knocking that he was being selfish and door knocking for himself because since the Saskatchewan Party had got elected four years ago, two of his sons have moved back to Saskatchewan because there's actually jobs here for them. Sheree and of course Sheree's daughter, Ava, who was my next door neighbour at one time. She really puts a bright smile to my face.

Trudy, Cynthia, Lynne, Murray, Rita, Carolyn, Mel, Daryl, Robert, Anne, James, Brigitte, Donna, Nadya, Anne, Joan, Marjorie, Rita, Pat, Nathan, Venessa, Tim, James, Pat, Fran, David, Ian.

I had a large team.

An Hon. Member: — They did great.

Mr. Parent: — Yes. Kathy, Andrea, Brad, Don, Bonnie, Lyle, Ray, Wilma, Annette, Michelle, Russel, Debbie, Erin, Terri, Edna, and Henry, Dwayne, Ruth, Lois, Garth, Art, Bryan, Wayne, Wendy, Howard, Doreen, John, Peter, Barbera, Charles and Elva who came all the way from Melfort and spent the last three days on my campaign helping me.

And of course the last one, Wcar from Pakistan, who is a new immigrant to Saskatchewan and able to vote. He went door knocking with me where all the immigrants stay in this . . . there's about 24 apartment blocks and in those apartment blocks 90 per cent are immigrants. And he was well-dressed, in a suit and everything, and I'd go to the doors and I'd knock and if the person . . . I'd ask them where they were from, and if they said India, he'd wait until I was finished talking to them and then he'd say . . . in their language, he'd talk to them and ask them if he was supporting the Sask Party or not and he'd convince them that they have to vote for the Sask Party.

Well on the third building, we go downstairs to start on the basement and I turn around and look and who do I see but my NDP counterpart door knocking the same apartment block. So anyway, Wear and I, we continued door knocking and as we walked by our NDP counterpart, he took a double look. He looks at Wear and he looks again like that. He knew what was going on. But that was a real pleasure that day.

I thank you all for believing in me and also my colleagues who came and helped door knock with me like Greg and several others. I thank you all for believing in me and for your support. I am not sure who you believed in more, me or our Premier. Either way, I am glad to see we are both in this place today.

[20:30]

Mr. Speaker, my roots are here in Saskatchewan. I was born in Prince Albert and have spent most of my life in Saskatoon. I am proud, proud to call this great city home and continue to marvel at the beautiful Saskatchewan River running through the Meewasin constituency. Enjoying the beautiful river view along the Meewasin Trail is truly a beautiful experience. We are very blessed to have such a natural beauty right in the heart of our city. Although there has been discussion about bringing a white water rafting park to this central area, we cannot dispute that nature's creation is also a great attraction.

Mr. Speaker, this urban constituency in Saskatoon is split among residential, businesses and industrial areas. Residential areas along the west bank of the South Saskatchewan River contain older, upscale neighbourhoods. The other main residential area is west of Idylwyld Drive, Circle Drive. Circle Drive and Idylwyld Drive are major service and retail districts. This constituency is bounded by 51st Street on the north side, the South Saskatchewan River on the east, 29th and Queen Street, and Avenue D on the west.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan institute of applied technology, SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology], Kelsey Campus is located here as well as the city's only indoor golf dome, the mall at Lawson Heights, and the Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatoon Meewasin was created as a new constituency in 1995, but the boundaries were altered before the 2003 election. It now includes some polls formerly in Saskatoon Idylwyld and Saskatoon Northwest. Mr. Speaker, my fellow residents of Meewasin have the privilege of living close to this breathtaking view, and I invite everyone to experience it. I have spent the last five years getting to know my neighbours and it is truly an honour to now be able to serve them in this capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I have lived in the Saskatoon Meewasin constituency area for more than 25 years, and I am so proud to call it home. However, I am even more proud to serve the people of this vibrant community. Again, thank you to all who supported me. And to those who did not mark an X beside my name, I am here to serve you as well.

I am pleased to be on the team moving Saskatchewan forward and to work together to make great things happen in our province. From the booming north end of Saskatoon Meewasin

to the growing downtown, it's clearly a time of expansion we intend to keep moving forward, welcoming new business, residents, and working with the municipal and federal governments to improve and provide the necessary infrastructure and supports to keep the province on track. This province has given my family so much opportunity and now it's my turn to give back.

Mr. Speaker, a few short weeks ago, our government presented the people of Saskatchewan with a clear, concise, and forward-looking vision for our province. Voters responded by providing the government with its second mandate.

I would like to reference the Throne Speech. This government is humbled by the confidence Saskatchewan people have shown us, and we vow to approach the coming four years with an attitude of humility and service.

[This] . . . government vows to keep Saskatchewan moving forward, to keep its commitments and to work to achieve the vision outlined in the recent election campaign.

. . . a province of over 1.1 million people by 2015;

a province that is steadily eliminating its General Revenue Fund debt;

a place where young people get the best education and opportunities;

a place where seniors are treated with dignity and respect; and

a place where people with disabilities get the best care and support available in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, through a continuing commitment to its Saskatchewan advantage growth plan, this government will foster population growth and nation-leading economic performance. This government will build on the Saskatchewan advantage housing plan by exploring additional new-growth tax incentives to encourage construction of new affordable rental housing.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people enjoy a sense of community and quality of life that is simply unrivalled anywhere in Canada. Our natural resources, our pristine environment, our people, and our communities make Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to work, to live, and to raise a family.

But there is always more work to be done, and this government will take action to continue improving Saskatchewan's quality of life. Many families have expressed concerns with the school year starting before the Labour Day long weekend in September. Further, a desire was expressed to achieve some measure of consistency in the schools' start date across the province. To address these concerns, this government will introduce legislation to standardize the start of the school year so that the instruction will begin after the Labour Day long weekend across the province.

Mr. Speaker, four years ago this government received a

renewed mandate to keep Saskatchewan moving forward. Today governments all over the world are facing the dire consequences of overspending, deficits, and debt. So it is not surprising that the people of our great province in their collective wisdom provided this government a mandate that included a strong word of caution: live within your means.

Today Saskatchewan has a tremendous advantage — balanced budgets, less debt, declining interest payments, a growing economy. Saskatchewan people have told this government: make sure you keep our advantage. This government has heard this message. This government will keep the budget balanced. This government will keep the economy strong. This government will live within its means. And finally, this government will keep Saskatchewan moving forward.

And with that, I support the motion to move the Throne Speech, and I do not support the amendment. Thank you.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to introduce myself and thank you for the podium. I'd like opportunity to introduce myself to my distinguished colleagues on both sides of the House. I would first of all like to congratulate all elected members on their successful campaign. It was a very hard fought battle but I'd like to . . . just glad to see everybody here that is going to participate in this session of the legislative process.

Congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, as well for being successfully elected to the Speaker's post for the first time. I look forward to your guidance during this session.

I am being given the honour to represent the people of Saskatoon Sutherland for the next four years. Sutherland is one of the oldest communities in our great city of Saskatoon, and I am very humbled by this opportunity. On November 7th, I realized a dream of mine. That dream, Mr. Speaker, was in any way possible to help this province reach its full potential. I believe morally, economically, socially that this government has the means to accomplish this.

Over the past four years, I have witnessed this change, the change that has started. And hopefully, Mr. Speaker, I will be able to add my assistance to this government to help keep the province on the current track of prosperity. That track that we are on was laid out in the Throne Speech yesterday, our vision — a province of over 1.1 million people by 2015, a province that is steadily eliminating its General Revenue Fund debt, down over \$3 billion in our first term, Mr. Speaker, a place where young people receive the best education and opportunities, a place where seniors are treated with dignity, respect, and a place where people with disabilities will receive the best support in all of Canada.

How we're going to accomplish this, Mr. Speaker — to sustain growth and opportunity in our province, to make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people, to maintain a competitive tax and royalty regime within Saskatchewan, and to improve the quality of life for all?

The affordability side, Mr. Speaker. The legislation to extend the notice periods of rent increase from six months to one year for property owners who choose not to participate in the newly created tenant assistance initiative established by the Saskatchewan rental industry association, building on the Saskatchewan housing advantage by exploring new growth tax incentives to encourage construction of new affordable housing in Saskatchewan.

Our quality of life. The next four years, an additional 2,000 child care spaces will be created. Further, said benefits will increase over the next four years by \$100 a month for those in residential care, \$350 a month for a single person living outside residential care, and \$400 a month for couples. Working with community-based organizations to develop and implement better programs and services for adults with autism, and bringing the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society emergency medical helicopter service to Saskatchewan to provide an added emergency coverage to complement our existing road ambulance service.

Now a little bit about myself, Mr. Speaker. There are four main reasons why I wanted to become an MLA and keep Saskatchewan moving forward. These reasons are very personal and somewhat selfish. The reasons are Courtney, Carter, Cassidy, and Keely. These are my children, Mr. Speaker.

I grew up in Toronto, and my family moved to Saskatchewan in 1988. This was certainly bucking the trends in the late '80s to move from what we considered a thriving metropolis of Toronto to smack dab in the middle of the flatland in Regina, Saskatchewan.

The move came with its ups and downs, Mr. Speaker. One of my first memories of living in Regina was when my parents purchased their pride and joy, a new Buick Park Avenue. They took this gleaming blue car out to the air show in Moose Jaw while I stayed home to watch TV with some newly friends that I had just met. Halfway through our show, Mr. Speaker, our neighbour came across the street, came barrelling through our front door yelling something about our roof had been torn off. Not knowing what he was talking about, a series of storms had moved right across southern Saskatchewan to greet us in our newly arrived home in Regina. It picked up all of the shingles on the back side of our house that we had just purchased and quietly deposited them on the front street, with us inside the house not knowing any different. My parents arrived back from the air show in Moose Jaw with a completely hailed-out Park Avenue that was unrecognizable. They caught the storm just outside of Moose Jaw.

This amazing thing happened, Mr. Speaker. After the storm was finished, the entire neighbourhood came out of their houses, saw what had happened, came down the street with rolls of plastic, hammers, ladders, and climbed up on our roof and started to proceed to repair the roof without saying anything. I instantly knew, even though I had left all my friends and family in Toronto, that this was a very special place we were now calling home.

Mr. Speaker, I first visited the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly soon after I moved from Toronto. I was amazed at how many people would spend their summer days in and

around this beautiful building. I remember spending hours upon hours around the Legislative Building playing football, baseball, Frisbee or just hanging out with my friends trying to avoid all the little treasures that the local geese had left for us on the playing field. I was awestruck by the sheer beauty of this building and the surrounding grounds and how people could not take a trip to this great city without stopping by this beautiful building.

When I called Regina home, I lived not too far from where we stand right now, Mr. Speaker. I graduated from Campbell Collegiate, so I was literally raised in the backyard of the leg [legislature] as we so eloquently called it.

Mr. Speaker, my political journey started in 2003 when my father, Ted, was first elected to represent Saskatoon Northwest in the Saskatchewan legislature. I joined my father's campaign team and in several areas along with his number one supporter — my mother, Marie. I learned many lessons from my father and my mother: treat everyone like you like to be treated, help those in need, and family comes first. I would like to thank them tonight for tuning in while they are out of the country on vacation.

[20:45]

My strong Catholic background, God always played an important role in my life. Now that I am the father of four and married to a good, staunch, French Catholic girl from Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan, I am good to see that he is guiding my decisions and my conscience.

I have had an exciting career over the past 20 years, Mr. Speaker. Lately I have had the honour of being the executive director at the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre and helping people in and around the community of Saskatoon in various ways. I was a business owner of three businesses. I owned a car wash detailing centre, a painting company as well as another small business. As well as I worked at SaskEnergy for nine years in their salvage operations, helping that corporation save millions of dollars by recycling and refurbishing their material. I have worked with members on both sides of the House of this Chamber to help those in need and hope to continue this work helping my community which now includes Saskatoon Sutherland, Saskatoon, and the great province of Saskatchewan.

I would not describe myself who was someone very politically active when I was younger. I voted in every municipal, federal, and provincial election though. I was deeply intrigued by the election process when my father ran in the by-election in 2002, in Riversdale, against former Premier Calvert and worked with my father on his victorious election in the general election of 2003.

Once elected my father's passion for serving the people of this great province inspired me. Now I have been awarded this great privilege and responsibility to represent the constituency, and I will work for the people of Saskatchewan.

Yesterday this Assembly was filled with both party supporters, media, Saskatchewan enthusiasts waiting to see how this government will map out its second term. There were several

phrases that jumped out at me, but the one that impacted me was contained in the conclusion, and I quote, "I ask that you remember every day that your seat in this place, hard fought, well earned, is on loan. It was purchased with the blood of our soldiers and the toil of our settlers." This statement and the message that I have been receiving from veteran MLAs of humility, honour, and patience resonates with me.

I would not be here today if it wasn't for the support of my family, and most importantly, my wife, Leane. Leane was there on the doors with me every night. After a gruelling day of running her own business six days a week, she would cheerfully pick up her clipboard and would be off to the knock. Leane taught in the inner city school of Saskatoon for nine years until her seven-year-old daughter told her, mommy, follow your passion. So she did. She resigned from teaching, cashing in her pension and opening up the best shoe store in Saskatoon. Now eight years later, she is a successful businesswoman and allowing me to follow my passion. Without her unwavering support of all of my dreams, I would not be here.

I want to thank my campaign manager, Dan Wiks, and his wife, Arlene, as well as my campaign executive of Ron Hicks, Sumith Kahanda, and Lori Pusher, and the entire team who worked hundreds of hours during my 15-month campaign.

One person I would like to single out is my predecessor, Joceline Schriemer. Joceline worked tirelessly for the people of Saskatoon Sutherland over the past four years. Joceline quickly became a friend and a mentor to me. She worked for months leading up to the writ and was in the office every day during the campaign, coordinating all of the volunteers, Mr. Speaker. Joceline, you were a great MLA, a great mentor, and most importantly, a good friend. I wish you all the best returning to your career in policing in Saskatoon.

I also want to thank the people of Saskatoon Sutherland for putting their trust in me. I will make sure that I represent you to the best of my ability throughout my term. I do not take this responsibility lightly, Mr. Speaker, or for granted, and will conduct myself in a respectful and honourable manner.

I will not be supporting the amendment to the speech, but I will be supporting the motion moved by my colleagues. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise and enter debate in response to the Throne Speech here tonight. And I'd like to start with congratulations to yourself, Mr. Speaker, in accepting and in taking on that new role as Speaker to this Assembly. And I know you and I both have a shared interest in common, and that is, pursuing the beautiful pheasant in southeastern Saskatchewan and often in your constituency. And I look forward to the leadership you'll provide this Assembly and the fair hand that you'll provide.

I'd like to also recognize our Deputy Speaker, the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood. And what I will say is that, through a time, working . . . significant time with our Deputy Speaker as the Vice-Chair of Public Accounts, I earned a great deal of

respect as to how that individual went about a course of business. Of course we differ on some political matters and the way we see the better Saskatchewan being fulfilled, but I know he'll serve us honourably in the role as Deputy Speaker.

Coming out of the election, just a month out of the election here, I want to specifically thank and recognize our local team in Regina Rosemont, a very, very special local team of volunteers and individuals that come together with great sincerity and purpose to what we work towards. And I want to thank those individuals. I want to thank our exceptional and dedicated organizing team: Trevor, Deb, David, Gloria, Donna, Bob, Taren, Hazel, Gerri, Nicole. The list goes on. And then that's the primary organizing committee. And of course I want to thank the countless volunteers, the door knockers that make things happen, that make it such a delight to go about the process, Mr. Speaker.

We had an impressive team, Mr. Speaker. I have never seen it like this. So many what we called mat leave moms that would come out on afternoons, Mr. Speaker, with babies in tow, whether by way of a stroller or with a carrier, and there to work for something that they cared about, Mr. Speaker, a very special bunch. And it has been my privilege working with them through that process.

And certainly our organizers, by way of activities and all aspects of a campaign, Mr. Speaker. There's many roles and there was many individuals that fulfilled those roles. I want to thank each and every one of them, and simply say thank you to them for their leadership and their work within our constituency, and their work to fulfill a better province, Mr. Speaker.

I want to specifically recognize my wife, Mr. Speaker, Stephanie, for her love, her support, and her advice, and certainly for the fact that she comes by politics and bettering her community in a very sincere way, Mr. Speaker. And whether it's her teaching or her coaching, her graduate studies or the fun and love that she provides to our friends and family, to our constituency as a whole, I want to thank her for all that she provides, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to as well thank our extended families that play such a significant role in the lives of Stephanie and I, and in the lives of us both from a political perspective, but also in all those important and blessed ways that we are as a family, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank our constituency assistant who has served us so honourably and represents the casework that comes into our office in such a delicate and fair fashion, always keeping the constituents' best interests at heart, Mr. Speaker, and keeping those front and centre in making sure we deliver the kinds of advocacy and the kinds of responses that they deserve, Mr. Speaker.

And it's fair to say that we don't arrive in this legislature because of our own merits or because we're so special ourselves. That would be both self-righteous and incorrect. We come here carried on the backs of our constituents, our families, our friends, our volunteers, and certainly those that have served before us and led before us, Mr. Speaker. And for that it's

something that I have a great respect to, and something that we should remember and keep in mind as we go about our deliberations in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to recognize the two other individuals that put their names forward in Regina Rosemont, Mr. Speaker, and pursued service within the constituency. And I want to recognize both Tony Fiacco and Allan Kirk, Mr. Speaker. And at this point in time I'd like to in fact recognize all of the candidates that put their name forward for the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party, both for nomination but also for the general election, and worked so hard to serve their constituencies and better their communities. And I can say, Mr. Speaker, this was a team that was dynamic, that was diverse, that was incredibly able, and a group that pursued the betterment of their community and their province in a sincere fashion, Mr. Speaker. And to all those individuals I say thank you to them for pursuing that important service. Thank you for their contributions to their communities, to our province, Mr. Speaker, and it doesn't go unnoticed.

I'd certainly like to thank and recognize the many MLAs, Mr. Speaker, who served as hard-working MLAs that haven't returned to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And I think of some of our past colleagues and I wish each of them well, thank them for the leadership they provided, and I wish them well into the future. And certainly their contributions will be remembered and have been important, Mr. Speaker.

On this note, I would recognize that certainly we accept the will of voters and recognize the smaller caucus that we have here at this point in time, the nine members that are here. I would like to say that of the nine members or the nine members that are here certainly are an able, talented group, intelligent group that will go about the work of Saskatchewan people in an earnest and sincere way and do that work, I know, in strong fashion, Mr. Speaker, will do it with spirit, will do it with purpose, and will serve Saskatchewan people very well in holding a government to account, in playing that role of an opposition, but also in of course representing their own constituencies, Mr. Speaker, and of course in that role of proposing and putting forward the policies that will better our fine province, Mr. Speaker.

I want to at this point in time welcome all members on both sides of this Assembly, all new members specifically to this Assembly. And I've enjoyed sitting in the chambers here today, Mr. Speaker, and hearing the maiden speeches of many of these members and understanding who these individuals are and how they fit into our Assembly and how they fit into our province, and also understanding what motivates them to serve, Mr. Speaker. And to each of these new members on both sides of the Assembly, I welcome those members and I thank them for the service that they'll pursue and the service that they'll provide, Mr. Speaker.

When I look to our side of the Assembly, I know specifically I want to recognize a new member, a new colleague that's an exceptionally strong individual, the member from Saskatoon Nutana. And I know this member will make a significant mark in representing her constituents but also in bettering our province. And as members in this Assembly and as the public get to meet this individual, they're going to recognize how intelligent, how hard-working, how devoted this individual is.

And although we're a nine-member caucus right now, I can certainly suggest that that member will play a significant part — of all these members and all of us — doing the work we need to, to better circumstances here in Saskatchewan for all Saskatchewan people.

And the member from Nutana certainly brings with her the background as a lawyer, exceptional background, and the files that she was working on. But she certainly also brings with her a family's history to serve us in this province, and to economic development, specifically as it relates to agriculture, Mr. Speaker, as with her grandfather and her family being instrumental in the development of the Wheat Pool in this province — in fact her grandfather having some relationship with my great-grandfather, Mr. Speaker, back at that important time of development. I know just as those weren't insignificant accomplishments, I know that our new member, the member from Nutana's accomplishments will be significant as well, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . That's right.

I'm honoured to serve the great people of Regina Rosemont once again, Mr. Speaker, an exceptionally special constituency, Mr. Speaker, hard-working people, strong families, young people building their lives here in Saskatchewan, many new Canadians that are making their way in our province and as well bettering us as a province at that same period of time and evolving who we are as a province, Mr. Speaker, and many seniors that have played that instrumental role in building out what's important to us as a province and a community. And certainly I'm going to work in earnest to represent the needs of my constituents, Mr. Speaker.

[21:00]

I want to highlight specifically some of the strengths of our constituency. And I would highlight the volunteerism and the community leadership that occurs, specifically by way of our community associations, Mr. Speaker, and individuals that are committed to bettering both our community but also our province. But whether it's McNab or whether it's Rosemont, Mount Royal, or whether it's Prairie View or Dieppe or Normanview West, these are community associations and community leaders that work, in many cases tirelessly, to make important improvements both to our community but also to the lives, significantly to the lives of people within the community. I thank them for that leadership and for that service.

I'd like to just maybe make a mention that the, in the role of serving the public and in through that process, the relationships that you build and that you maintain, so both those that are new and those that are lifelong, are something to cherish and something that I value. And I truly appreciate the open relationship that I've been provided with so many of our constituents, in working to better understand what's important to their lives and how we can best move forward in making sure we're making those improvements that are meaningful to my constituents and their respective lives, Mr. Speaker.

Now I'd like, before moving into some of the discussion of the Throne Speech specifically, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to touch on just a few of the local issues that need, certainly need some action and improvement on, Mr. Speaker, and that are important to my constituents, one of them being the traffic and

the heavy haul and freight that's new to, relatively new over the past year, to Dewdney Avenue, Mr. Speaker. And certainly many contend that it certainly does impede both peace of mind but also, but also safety and allegations and concerns about the degradation of that infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.

And we have an exciting project just outside our perimeter in the Global Transportation Hub. But we need to make sure that we're planning this in a fashion that better the lives of all people, Mr. Speaker, and doesn't, doesn't cause concerns of peace of mind, of damage, in fact, which has been alleged by many, Mr. Speaker, by way of foundational problems, many allegations of new cracks that have appeared in foundations and in drywall, Mr. Speaker. And certainly I can attest to standing in many of those homes and certainly in the yards and driveways of so many of those places, and it certainly is significant by way of the noise and the traffic and the pounding and the vibrations. And we need to make sure that we bring around a plan to mitigate that in the near term, to reduce that impact. And we need to make sure that we plan to eliminate that as we move forward.

And I know significantly the bypass is important but also the twinning of 9th Avenue North. And these need to be done in an expeditious fashion that provide peace of mind and security to individuals who deserve it, Mr. Speaker. And I hear a commitment from across the floor, Mr. Speaker, that they will be, and that's important. And in fact it needs to be done in a very timely fashion, and I think that's what we maybe need to establish because there's a real lack of understanding on this front in the meantime, a real hardship that's being incurred.

As well we need to look specifically at concerns that are being raised by many constituents as it relates to the potential closure of Dieppe School, Mr. Speaker, a school that in fact the roof was replaced last summer, Mr. Speaker, just last summer repaired and the infrastructure in very good repair — in fact the facility itself planned in a fashion that's consistent with some of the new models of facilities to keep pace with some of the innovations in education.

What's challenging many constituents on this and a pause for concern is that both Dieppe is a very remote part of the constituency — separated by creek and road, Mr. Speaker — but also there's a lot of activity going on and the changing demographic that should be reflected and understood. And we have the Global Transportation Hub that is on the immediate west of this part of the constituency, and what we see is a real transfer and change of demographic. And I think we really do need to make sure we understand how that's going to change the numbers of school-aged children in that part of the constituency. And how do we then retain potentially that asset that's so important to the community, Mr. Speaker?

So I know there's many constituents who ask. They ask about the schools of opportunity, schools of opportunity and understanding what's fair is fair, Mr. Speaker. This is applied certainly to rural boards, Mr. Speaker. We need to look here and now with a school that's in good repair. How do we work to keep those doors open, or at least understand what it means to close something that's of significant value? Of course to rebuild that school as a new facility would be close to \$20 million. I think of the Arcola project that's right around that

\$20 million piece. We need to understand what's going on by way of demographics and what possibilities there are to keep that important piece of infrastructure open for my constituents, Mr. Speaker.

And one last piece of infrastructure that's very important but something that touches the lives of many in this Assembly and certainly the lives of all of our constituents is the Pioneer Village care home, Mr. Speaker, care facility, and this is a building that has served this province in a fine way, but it's seen a better day. And it needs significant rebuild and significant renovation or complete rebuild, Mr. Speaker. Certainly it's something that I know that the Ministry of Health has a responsibility to, and I hope that it's there as an important priority, Mr. Speaker.

So these are some of the pieces that are important from a local perspective.

But what I need to highlight as well, Mr. Speaker, is that just quite simply we hear a lot about the booming Saskatchewan. We need to do a better job, Mr. Speaker, in making sure that's equated into better lives for Saskatchewan people. We need to make sure that that's reflected in the well-being of Saskatchewan people and the quality of life of Saskatchewan people. And all too often, Mr. Speaker, and far too common, that's not the case. So that's where our focus needs to go by way of developing policy, by putting forward a vision and a plan.

And you know, this Throne Speech that was put forward certainly is rich on words but certainly a tad weak as it relates to the meaningful actions required for Saskatchewan people. And if we are looking at the important challenges facing . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And the member shouts, from Moose Jaw North says, what are we talking about? And I know what we're talking about is the challenges facing Saskatchewan people, specifically by way of affordability, Mr. Speaker, and the security and protection that's needed but not had by so many in this province right now, Mr. Speaker. We need a government to be responding on those fronts, whether it's rent, whether it's housing, whether it's post-secondary, whether it's child care that's both not affordable but also not accessible, Mr. Speaker. And we need to do a better job on these fronts.

We need to make sure that, as we're apparently booming as a province and at our height of prosperity, that in fact we're improving ourselves from a fiscal perspective, Mr. Speaker, and not as we're seen skating through with imbalance, Mr. Speaker, at a period of time right now where we're adding \$500 million to our provincial debt this year alone, Mr. Speaker.

And these are the questions that people are asking, Mr. Speaker. So when they see a government not even address fiscal balance or fiscal plan in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, is one of concern. When we have what's purported as a booming economy but yet a government that skates through with imbalance, we should be doing better on this front. We need to be addressing so many of these pieces.

We see the challenges in health care in this province, Mr. Speaker, in every region in this province, and we see narrowly a mention in this Throne Speech that will bring important

changes that are required. And Saskatchewan people are wanting of more. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they're deserving of more. Whether we are talking about the important services that must be provided in all regions of this province, we need to first of all acknowledge the challenges that exist and then put forward plans to address it. Neither of that is happening, Mr. Speaker. And in a rich and prosperous province, Mr. Speaker, it's entirely unacceptable when we look at certain circumstances in this province. Specifically if we are looking at HIV and AIDS, a circumstance that is afflicting far too many in this province, Mr. Speaker, and a government again that sits rather idle on this front instead of putting forward an aggressive plan as a prosperous province to ensure we are in a better circumstance, Mr. Speaker.

I think of some of the other challenges we have and I think Eric Howe has described this one, Eric Howe being the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] economist, Mr. Speaker, and writer. And he highlights the educational gap for our First Nations and Métis people, and he highlights this as both the biggest challenge and opportunity before our province, Mr. Speaker. And I would certainly agree with Eric Howe on this front.

Now he quantifies this as a \$90 billion challenge facing Saskatchewan, or opportunity facing Saskatchewan. It's important to us, Mr. Speaker, to improve those outcomes for all of us. A child doesn't choose the circumstances for which they are born into, Mr. Speaker, and we need to do a better job of making sure there is equity and equality and reducing the disparities that exist, Mr. Speaker, and making sure the economic opportunities exist to all Saskatchewan people. And of course this is in all of our best interests, both from an economic perspective but also from a social perspective.

I noticed in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker — in fact, I guess I didn't notice it — that there was no mention of an education funding formula to provide adequate funding to the school divisions of this province, and the schools and communities and parents and students of this province, Mr. Speaker. And that's disappointing, Mr. Speaker. This is a promise that has gone unfulfilled for some period of time when, three years ago, a funding formula was ripped up, Mr. Speaker, and replaced with no new model. And it's caused constraint for school divisions and certainly challenges, and cuts across Saskatchewan in different areas and in different aspects that certainly have had an impact on the lives of students and on the lives of families across Saskatchewan. So these are fronts where we need to do a better job, Mr. Speaker, and an area that we can work co-operatively to strive to do a better job.

But certainly as it relates to the Throne Speech itself, whether the inaction on many of these fronts or the environment, and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker. And I'm cognizant of the fact that I am not able to take more time in this Assembly here today, and I'm being asked by members to conclude my statements. But there are many, many aspects that weren't addressed in this Throne Speech that should be, Mr. Speaker.

So quite frankly, Saskatchewan people deserve a vision and a plan to address the needs of today, but also to fulfill on that promise of a better tomorrow, to make those improvements to our fine province. And we don't see that within this Throne

Speech, Mr. Speaker. We see areas that certainly require improvements and that certainly require actions, and we're here to make that call, to put forward those proposals. And that's the work that we'll be doing in the days, weeks, months, years ahead of us here, Mr. Speaker.

At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my statements and certainly make it known that I won't be supporting the Throne Speech. I'll be supporting the amendment. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Makowsky: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly an honour to represent the good people of Regina Dewdney in this beautiful building. I can't believe I get to come to work here. What a testament to the people that built this 100 years ago. We practise the tradition of the first parliamentary system that's been around for hundreds of years, so it's certainly an honour.

You know, the first time I was in the Legislative Assembly . . . I didn't get to come on a school trip like a lot of these folks that have spoke previously. I moved to Regina in '97. I've always been interested in architecture and the political process, but I didn't come down to the Legislative Assembly, the reason being is I saw a picture of the 1989 Grey Cup team and they had their picture taken out front of this beautiful building. And I said to myself, I'm not coming back; I'm not entering those doors until I win one myself. And so I was thankfully able to do that in 2007. The government of the time, the Premier of the province allowed us to come down to the building. It was a great day. I'm not sure, it must have been an extremely warm November because that '89 picture, they had short sleeves on. I'll always wonder how they do that. In '07, that certainly would have been impossible.

But there's quite a few thank yous I'd like to do. I know this is a response to the Throne Speech, but I would like to veer off course a little bit and do some thank yous if that's all right. I certainly want to thank the people of Regina Dewdney for allowing me to represent them. You know, we were able to win with 60 per cent of the popular vote. And, you know, I certainly like that number 60, so I thought it was pretty appropriate. You know, I like to think I work hard and I'm certainly not flashy or, you know, a great speaker or anything like that. But I think I do work hard, like I said, and I listen. I think those are important things that I will bring to the people of Regina Dewdney. And I'm honoured that they chose me, and I vow to serve them.

[21:15]

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank members of my campaign team. It's certainly a humbling experience to have — at the time about a year ago — strangers willing to take time out of their private lives and just help you out. Boy, you can't thank them enough. They devote hours and hours. And I don't want to specifically single anybody out except for my campaign manager, Kelly Gallagher. Again, strangers a year ago and from my perspective anyway, now a lifelong friend. So it was just a great experience, and you can never thank those people enough.

I'm here for a lot of reasons, but most importantly my family. And I'd like to share a little bit about them. One of my favourite stories or one of the things I think about when I'm going through tough times or things aren't going like I plan, I think of my grandfather — my dido, actually. In the Ukrainian language, it's dido. And he was orphaned at 12 years old and, you know, he found a way to start a successful farm during the depths of the Depression. And he started a family and he worked the land for 60-some years and he lived in Saskatchewan to 90. And, you know, my baba and dido were just great people. And I think the reason I bring them up is, well, I'm certainly very proud of them. And I wanted to, if I could, put their names on the record: Steven and Katherine Makowsky. But I think they're a great motif of what Saskatchewan is all about. They're hard-working people. You know, tough times don't last but tough people do, and that's what they were all about.

I think that's the great part of the great promise of Saskatchewan. If you get a little bit of luck, despite long odds, despite tough times, if you work hard and give yourself a chance, you're going to be able to create a life for yourself. And that's what I think I really think about Saskatchewan when I think of baba and dido. I'm not bringing that up because it's certainly not a unique story, that happens hundreds of times day after day, but it's just something I think about.

I'd like to acknowledge my parents as well. I had a stay-at-home mom. My Dad was an electrician. And just like everybody else, he worked hard. He went through strikes, starting his own business. And, you know, the thing I'll say about my parents is my brother and I, we always came first. Like I said, every family goes through tough times but there was never a question of whether we could play hockey, whether we could play ball, play football. And you know, that's something very special that I always thanked them for. I kind of wished that Mom would have cut the line at piano lessons once in a while. And again, I'm not saying we were deprived. We were well-looked-after but certainly sacrifices were made, just like so many families here in Saskatchewan.

And of course my in-laws. They're great people. My father-in-law worked in the construction industry for 50-plus years. And they've always treated me like their own. And they're great, great Saskatchewan people.

And my immediate family. I'm not sure who the number one fan of the Riders is. It might very well be the Premier. But I know who my number one fan is, and that's my wife, Tami. And actually she likes to be referred to now as the first lady of Regina Dewdney. So she's been with me through the ups and downs of football and in this new life.

And boy, my three sons Nick, Ryan, and Blake, it's so nice to come home to when you say something silly that you worry about in this arena or you give up a sack, fumble a touchdown. When you come home they don't care. They just love their dad. And I suppose that's a lot of reason why we do what we do here in this Chamber is we do it for our kids. We do it for future generations. We want to leave this place better than what we found it. And of course I've benefited from many great teachers and coaches and teammates throughout the years. I won't get into that. I'll save it for a book maybe one day.

Again, congratulations to my new colleagues, my new teammates for being elected. I think it's really a great thing, a brave thing really, to put your name up to be publicly judged by your peers and stand up for what you believe in. I think that's really great. It's the foundation of our democracy. So congratulations for that. We'll all be painted with the same brush in a lot of cases and so, you know, let's continue the great work that this government's done.

Thanks to all the veteran MLAs. Boy, you guys have been really helpful. You have busy parts in your lives and the support, I'm sure my first-year colleagues will attest, you've been really great. And of course the great job you did in government the last four years, let's face it, that made it certainly a lot easier for us to be elected, us new guys. So great, great work and look forward to enjoying, continuing that on.

So I thought I would just — my colleagues have gone over the Throne Speech in great deal — I thought I'd just touch on a few of the things that I heard on the doors in Regina Dewdney and that the Throne Speech addresses. In Dewdney, the east part of Regina, there has been incredible growth. You'd hardly recognize it from '07. There's just been new housing, new businesses, infill lots in the older areas, and all the walks of life — recent immigrants, all people up and down the economic continuum, I guess you would say.

And, boy, some of the things I heard on the doorstep is, number one, most of all, is just keep doing what you're doing. Continue to lower taxes, continue to lower debt, and certainly we saw on November 7th that there was certainly agreement with that.

A lot of the things I heard about were there are challenges with growth, certainly, and housing affordability is certainly an issue. I think the Minister of Social Services has done a lot of great work in this area. The five point plan, the Sask managed housing plan to add 4,600 new units over the next five years is certainly seeing some benefits, and certainly more as the years go on. Increasing the supply, we believe, is the solution to the rental housing problem.

Moving notice periods, the Minister of Justice has brought up for those landlords that don't participate in the rental housing industry association. I think that will bring some stability to the market as well. With the idea of affordability, we've taken 114,000 low-income people off the tax rolls altogether. The first-time homebuyer tax credit certainly moves people from rental accommodations, gives them that little extra push to help them get into their own place that they can be proud to call their own.

The graduate retention program has been a great success over the last four years. It's certainly helped more of our young people stay here, including more doctors to stay here, more nurses to stay here. And on the doorsteps, boy, is it so good to see so many young families not only staying here but coming back from places like Alberta and Ontario. You see that all the time. It's just really great to see.

Certainly this has been said many times before, but people of my vintage, when I was graduating from university, the question really wasn't if you were going to stay in Saskatchewan but where in Alberta you were going to move.

And you know, my brother, he moved to Calgary. All my cousins live in Edmonton. And whenever I went to play in McMahon Stadium or Commonwealth Stadium, people thought it was great that we had so many fans supporting us. But I didn't really see it that way. I thought those people should be right here at Mosaic Stadium cheering on the Roughriders. And certainly a growing economy and lots of jobs here certainly does help stem that flow, not to mention the graduate retention program.

Lots of seniors in my constituency, and I spent some time at Queen Victoria Estates. The first appearance I guess I did as an MLA was at their November . . . excuse me, the Remembrance Day ceremony, I'm sorry, and certainly honoured to go there. But lots of seniors, as I mentioned, and we're looking after our seniors. By the time 2015 rolls around, from 2007 levels, what we inherited, we'll have tripled the seniors' income plan.

One of the biggest things I heard on the doorsteps was health care, and the surgical initiative is something I'm certainly very proud of. You know, I had a story where I was at the doors, and when I said that our goal by 2014 is to have nobody wait longer than three months to have surgery, there was a couple I was talking to, they actually burst out laughing at that. They thought there's no way that can happen. Well those folks, they're used to the old Saskatchewan. The new Saskatchewan, we set targets; we meet targets. People used to laugh that we . . . There's no way we'll get 800 nurses to work; we'll never hire 800. Well we didn't hire 800. We hired 900 new nurses. It can be done. The Health minister is not afraid to set targets, so the public can judge on how we're doing. And that's certainly one of the things that attracted me to run for this party, absolutely.

It's great to see in the Throne Speech the idea of fiscal responsibility and that's . . . When you see what's happening in the rest of the world, that's very, very important and something I certainly heard on the doors.

S & P [Standard & Poor's Corporation] recently gave us the highest bond credit rating, AAA. And that's really something you can't dispute or judge. It's an independent body that says that. It's not somebody else that's saying that. And they're certainly well respected.

We have a growing economy in this province, as I mentioned. We have the Global Transportation Hub in Regina. Those are certainly exciting projects for this area and, you know, those . . . The new mine near Moose Jaw, those are permanent jobs that will be here long before we're gone and that's how you build an economy — strong jobs and economic growth.

Well we certainly saw a few weeks ago that the people of Saskatchewan want to keep the province moving forward. I'll proudly be supporting the Throne Speech on behalf of the people of Regina Dewdney.

The former member of Dewdney said in his response to this government's first Throne Speech in 2007, he said:

But you have raised expectations of the . . . [people] beyond belief . . . over the next few years people will have the opportunity to see if you live up to those expectations.

Well I think without a doubt this government has shown it's kept its promises. It's lived up to those lofty expectations. And they certainly got the job done.

And it's been my experience that attitude goes a long way. Attitude goes a long way. Life's 10 per cent what happens to you, 90 per cent how you react to it. And I think the Premier, this cabinet, and this government has changed the attitude of this province. We can be a have province. We can be a leader in the economy of Canada. We can be a leader in Confederation. And that's a standard. When you do that, you start to raise standards, you raise expectations. When you reach those expectations, people respond and they start to believe in it and momentum builds.

And so I think again it's exciting time to be in Saskatchewan, in this province, in this government. And I'm so proud to be standing on this side of the aisle, and I'm going to work hard to represent the people of Regina Dewdney. And thank you to my colleagues and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I will not support the amendment. I will be supporting the Throne Speech for the Government of Saskatchewan. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 21:29.]

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