



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

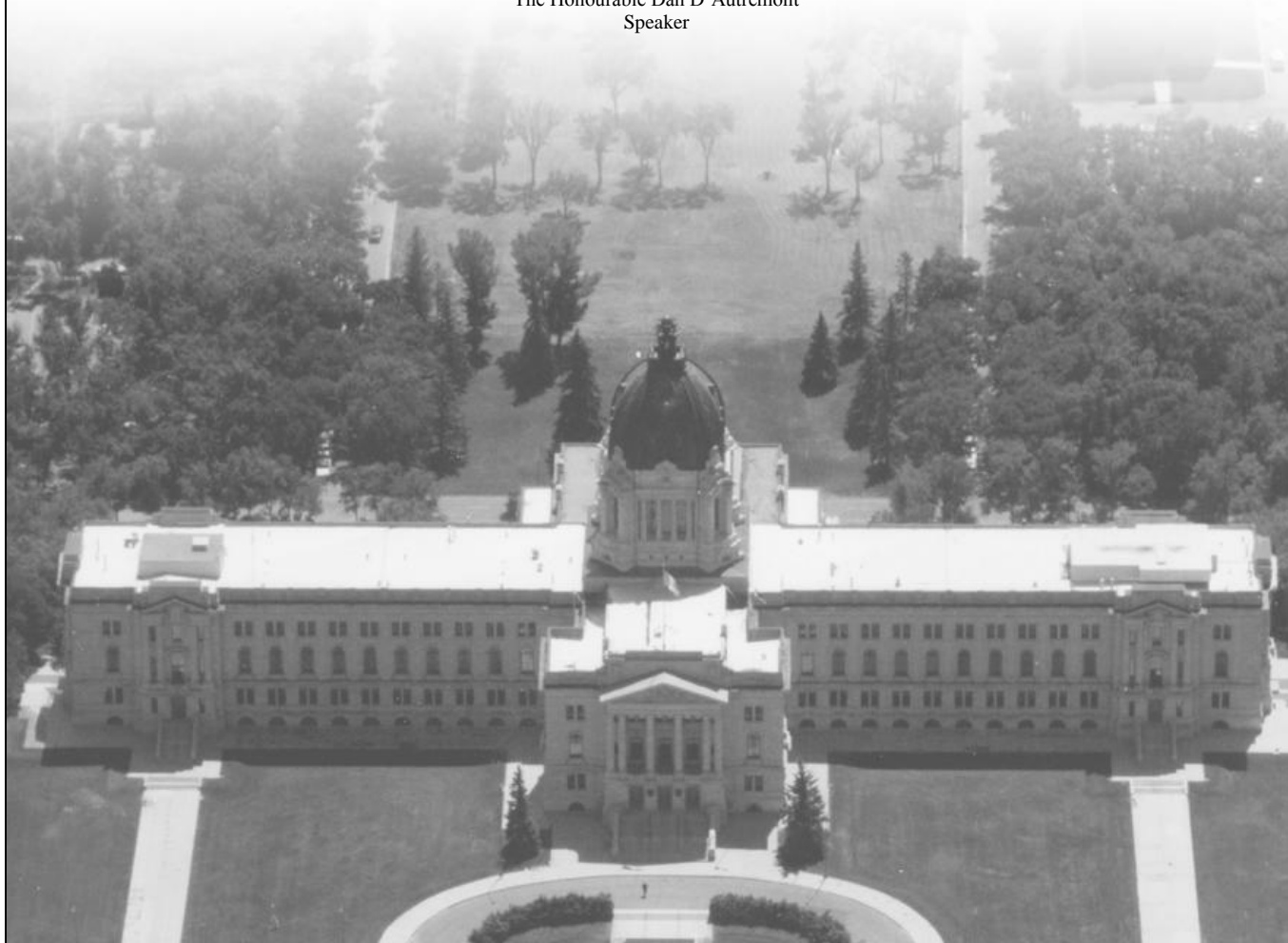
---

**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
Brotan, 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 met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to you, and through you to the rest of the Assembly, three individuals that are seated in your gallery. First of all, Cindy Seidl who is the manager of nursing for Saskatchewan air ambulance, as well as Chris Oleson who is the executive director of air services with Government Services, and Ron Dufresne who is medical service consultant with the Ministry of Health.

These three are in the gallery today, and I won't go into the details because they're going to hear for about 90 seconds the details of the air ambulance service in Saskatchewan and the great work that it has performed in the province for many, many years.

And we'll hear more about that in a little bit, but I'd like all members of the Assembly please to join me in welcoming these three guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Jurgens:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I would like to introduce a campaign team that is second to none, despite what my colleagues say. My mom, Marian Froess, whose life was forever changed when I, her first-born, arrived on the scene followed two hours later by my twin. She enjoyed children so much she went on to have eight more. My campaign manager, Allan Jurgens. Allan is my husband of 37 years, the father of our adult children, father-in-law to our daughter-in-law, and grandfather to a very special granddaughter who is two years old.

My e-day [election day] and e-week [election week] Chair, Troy Metz, the precision and organization that he brought to our strategic plan is second to none. My volunteer Chair, door knocking Chair, and president of Northcote constituency, Alana Ross, we met just under two years ago and yet it seems like we've known each other forever.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the core of my campaign team, a team that had so much fun together. It often felt like a party, not a battle. Please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Employment and Immigration.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce 58 grade 7 students from the Greystone Heights School right in the heart of the Saskatoon Greystone riding.

They're accompanied today by three teachers, Deanna Fast, Jason Kimberley, and Ian Barss, as well as a couple of chaperones, Rhea Moat and Barb Philips.

Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted that the students, their teachers, and chaperones are here to observe the proceedings today in their Assembly. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that they'll have plenty of questions afterwards because we know there are a number of young leaders representing countries from right around the world that are increasingly important to our population here in Saskatchewan. And so I ask all members to join me in welcoming these students from Saskatoon Greystone School to their Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, I ask permission for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Cypress Hills has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The member for Cypress Hills.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce a number of very special guests who are visiting us at their legislature. First I would like to introduce Mr. Paul Heppelle, the president of the Assemblée communautaire francosaskoïse, known as the ACF. Mr. Heppelle is a true leader within our province's francophone community and is an individual who has worked tirelessly to build and strengthen French language and French culture in Saskatchewan. And for that, I thank him.

Mr. Speaker, it's also my pleasure to introduce to all members of the Legislative Assembly Madame Sylvie Fletcher and Lynn Grégoire and their classes from Monseigneur de Laval, and Madame Heather Leask and her students from École Massey. Would you give us an indication of where you are? There we go.

These students are here today to help us make a very special announcement celebrating francophone culture and all that our Fransaskois contribute to the province of Saskatchewan.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Charles-Henri Warren. He is the executive director of the francophone affairs branch, has joined us in the gallery today. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all members of the Legislative Assembly to join with me in welcoming these fine people to their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Merci, monsieur le Président. [Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

I want to join with the member opposite in welcoming the representatives from the Assemblée communautaire

fransaskoise to their Legislative Assembly, in particular President Heppelle; Executive Director Denis Simard, et tous les fransaskois et fransaskoises à l'assemblée législative. [Translation: and all the Fransaskois and Fransaskoises to the Legislative Assembly.]

As well to join with welcoming the students from Monseigneur de Laval et École Massey aussi, monsieur le Président. [Translation: and Massey School too, Mr. Speaker.]

This is a very special year for the ACF and for the province of Saskatchewan. That 100 years of working for francophone community, for the Fransaskois, I think Florent Bilodeau put in possibly . . . I'm not sure if it was 100 years exactly of those years, but certainly there have been a lot of people that worked very hard over the years to not just reinforce the French fact in Saskatchewan but to expand and to build on the tremendous pride and strength that this community has and which it brings to this province, Mr. Speaker.

It's an exemplar of what is our provincial motto, "from many peoples, strength." And that strength and the pride we draw from the Fransaskois is certainly something that we in the official opposition congratulate you on, and we certainly join in the celebrations for the year to come. So bienvenue, félicitations, et bonne fête. [Translation: welcome, congratulations, and happy birthday.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for First Nations and Métis Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure to introduce to you and through to all members of the legislature a couple of individuals that participated in a very exciting announcement this morning, John Graham and Ken Wood. If you would give us a wave, gentlemen.

Now John comes to us from Toronto. He is the president of On Ice Management Group, but he's been in Saskatchewan so much that the Premier and I have talked about making him an honorary Saskatchewanian. I think that's something that he would enjoy. But John announced this morning that the Edmonton Oilers and the New York Islanders will be coming to play in Regina in September of 2012. John is someone who understands Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan story and has had the opportunity to tell that story to the NHL [National Hockey League] board of governors. So John, we'd like to thank you for all the work that you're doing.

Joining him here is no stranger to Saskatchewan residents, Ken Wood, who is the former general manager of Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon, and he is helping On Ice Management Group as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, if we could welcome Ken to his Legislative Assembly and John, a big thank you for all the work that he's doing bringing the NHL to Saskatchewan. And he is noticing first-hand what's happening in Saskatchewan. Population is increasing. Young people are prevalent. They're everywhere, and we welcome that. And I bet there's a few hockey fans, John, that are just passing across your path as we speak. Mr. Speaker. Gentlemen.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities

**Mr. Marchuk:** — Merci, monsieur le Président. [Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

On the 3rd of December, Saskatchewan joined with peoples and governments across Canada and the world to observe International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This important day helps raise the visibility of people with disabilities in our communities and promotes a better understanding of disability issues among all Saskatchewan people.

Our government looks forward to continuing to work with our partners in the disability community to ensure the rights of people with disabilities and help integrate people with disabilities into every aspect of the social, political, economic, and cultural life of our province.

The theme for this year's observance, chosen by the United Nations, was "Together for a better world for all." The 2011 theme resonates very well in Saskatchewan with the ongoing development of the Saskatchewan assured income for disability, or SAID program. Mr. Speaker, SAID has been a truly collaborative process between the disability community and government from day one. This new, dignified, and separate income support program will potentially benefit up to 10,000 people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like this Assembly to join me in recognizing the hard-working people in this province who do their part in aiding those in our communities who are not quite as fortunate. Merci.

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

### Awards for Teaching Excellence

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is blessed by exceptional teachers. Four of them were recent recipients of the 2011 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence. It is my honour to recognize them provincially.

Certificates of Achievement were received by Mr. Randy McLeod of Campbell Collegiate in Regina, Mr. Dean Vendramin of O'Neill High School in Regina, and Ms. Rhonda Exner of Canora's Junior Elementary School.

One Saskatchewan educator was awarded the prestigious Certificate of Excellence. The recipient was Madame Joanna Sanders Bobiash of Wilfred Walker School in Regina. Madame Sanders Bobiash utilizes technology to deliver innovative education in her classroom, and it is reported that students are not only engaged but that they're thriving. She finds resourceful ways to incorporate blogging, Skyping, webquesting, and Googling into her lessons. It is my understanding that students have become extremely resourceful, critical thinkers, confident presenters, and creative artists. And it is argued that they are not

only just ready for high school, but for the world itself.

These educators are but an example of the leadership and excellence provided by Saskatchewan's educators. I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in extending our thanks and recognition to these exceptional educators and deserving award recipients. And to all Saskatchewan's teachers I simply say, your province is proud and thankful.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

#### Community Initiative Reaches Semifinals

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take this opportunity to highlight to this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan a great Yorkton-based community initiative that is currently in the semifinal voting stage of the 2011 Aviva Community Fund competition sponsored by Aviva Insurance.

Yorkton's Aviva idea, a downtown skateboard plaza and walking park, is one of the few left in the competition of over 900 applicants Canada wide. This competition aims to help make a positive impact in Canadian communities by funding \$150,000 to local and national initiatives for change.

The rationale for the Brodie Avenue Redevelopment Project came about as the city of Yorkton attempted to rebuild its worst-impacted areas after the disastrous flooding that occurred last year. The proposal being put forth aims to redevelop some previously flooded land into a flood water catch basin that doubles as a multi-use recreational park, including green space, bike and walking trails, and a permanent concrete skate park.

The proposal has been spearheaded by Yorkton businessman Dave Nussbaumer and local youth, Tucker Chornomud and Nathan Grayston. It is graciously endorsed and supported by the mayor of Yorkton, James Wilson; the NHL's Jarret Stoll; Olympic gold medal curler Joan McCusker; Alberta MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and two-time Mount Everest summiteer Dave Rodney; as well as the Premier of this province and myself.

I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking these individuals for their dedication to this cause, and ask the people to cast their vote to this project at [avivacommunityfund.org](http://avivacommunityfund.org). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

#### New Women's Clothing Store Opens in Regina

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Nicolette Yeung, a Saskatchewan small-business owner. She's no stranger to this building's rotunda or the press gallery. Nicolette worked for us as a communications staff member and, luckily for me, she's also a constituent of Regina Lakeview.

A few months back, Nicolette informed us that she would be leaving to pursue her dream of opening her own business, a clothing store in Regina. A university of McGill political science graduate, Nicolette worked passionately here in the

legislature. However she has chosen a different course for her life, and we couldn't be happier for her. As Nicolette says, she always preferred stilettos to hiking boots.

After graduating from McGill University, Nicolette lived in New York City and worked for Marc Jacobs collection. It was during her time in New York that she observed and learned to appreciate many different interpretations of style. Her store, named Nico, opened on October 1st, 2011 in the heart of downtown Regina in the old city hall mall. Nico offers contemporary women's clothing, footwear, and accessories with a focus on Canadian, American, and French designers. The store offers seasonal must-have items and classic accessories pieces for women.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this Saskatchewan businesswoman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Air Ambulance Service Celebrates Anniversary

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. December 7th marks the anniversary of the world's oldest non-military air medical transport program, the Saskatchewan air ambulance. Saskatchewan's air ambulance service, or Lifeguard, as it is known, was established in 1946 and has provided exceptional service to the province for 65 years.

Lifeguard, which operates out of Saskatoon's John G. Diefenbaker International Airport, provides 24-hour service and can be dispatched to an emergency within 30 minutes. Lifeguard's dedicated staff provides emergency transport services to thousands of patients and saves many lives. The exceptional air ambulance medical crew that regularly staff Lifeguard are supported by a specialty team of physicians, respiratory therapists, neonatal and pediatric nurses which are available, if required, to the patient en route.

The Saskatchewan air ambulance program is a vital part of our province's health care system, helping to respond to the medical needs of the province's rural and northern communities. The air ambulance fleet conducts almost 2,000 flights per year, both within and outside of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the air ambulance staff members are able to join us in the gallery today. It takes special people, great dedication, and teamwork to provide this type of service, and we sincerely thank these representatives and all staff at Lifeguard and their partners for their contributions to the people of this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

#### 2012 Year of the Fransaskois

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I had the pleasure of officially proclaiming the year 2012 as the Year of the Fransaskois, and I must say it was enthusiastically welcomed, Mr. Speaker. This is an important opportunity to recognize the historic and social importance the francophone

community has played in shaping Saskatchewan's identity.

The history of the Fransaskois is rich with challenges and successes. It's a story of a proud and vibrant community that built itself a place in the history of our province and at the same time a place in the province's future.

The year 2012 also marks the centennial of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, Saskatchewan's principal francophone organization. Today more than 16,000 francophones still use French and more than 50,000 residents of Saskatchewan are able to communicate in French. Our government wants to highlight the ongoing efforts of the francophone community towards the preservation of its heritage, culture, and language, contributing to Saskatchewan's well-being and growth. We want to continue to strengthen and effectively participate in the relationship with the community that promotes the Fransaskois throughout Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud to have diversity in our province and want to continue to ensure it lives on through generations to come. I would ask that all members join me in the upcoming year to help celebrate this very important proclamation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Saskatchewan's Small Businesses Strong

**Mr. Moe:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the Assembly of the November CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] business barometer released today, indicating another strong economic forecast for the province.

Titled "Saskatchewan's small-business owners heading into holiday season in upbeat mood, most optimistic in Canada," the report reveals optimism for the year ahead among small-business owners in Saskatchewan, which has improved month to month and currently sits at an index of 74.2 — 10.5 points ahead of the national index. Sixty-two per cent of Saskatchewan's small-business owners also rated their overall state of business as good — again the highest in Canada, compared to 41 per cent nationally.

One of many provincial highlights of note is 18 per cent of Saskatchewan businesses plan to increase full-time employment in the next three to four months. The number is 14 per cent nationally. These stats indicate that Saskatchewan's small businesses are taking full advantage of our province's vibrant and growing economy.

I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in recognizing the hard work of Saskatchewan's small businesses and their overall importance to economic prosperity. Thank you.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Provision of Surgical Care

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here's what we know about the minister's chosen path of for-profit surgical clinics: the medical director for the Surgical Centres Inc., the new private surgery centre in Saskatchewan, has resigned. There's a lawsuit launched by Omni Surgery Centre over the RFP [request for proposal] and the awarding of the new contract to Surgical Centres Inc. This lawsuit could possibly cost the people of Saskatchewan over \$10 million, dollars that are vitally important to Saskatchewan's health care system. My question to the minister: how many surgeries could be performed in the public system with \$10 million?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, here's what we know about surgical wait times in Saskatchewan: four years ago — 2006, early 2007 — the longest wait-lists in Canada under the former NDP [New Democratic Party] government, Mr. Speaker. That's what we know about wait-lists in Saskatchewan.

What we have been working on over the last four years under the surgical care initiative is to reduce those longest waiters, Mr. Speaker. And I think we've done not a bad work, Mr. Speaker, but we've got more work to do. I will tell you that third party deliverers, Mr. Speaker, in this province, have performed over 1,600 surgeries, Mr. Speaker. That's a complement to the surgeries that are done in the public system. It's not an either-or, Mr. Speaker, it's a combination of all the capacities properly utilized in the province to see the surgical wait times come down. Certainly a far cry from what would have ever happened under the NDP where they let people languish on long waiting lists.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people want to know that their health care dollars are being spent wisely. They've seen, Mr. Speaker, how this minister has bungled his approach with the for-profit surgical clinics as evidenced, Mr. Speaker, by the lawsuit that is now under way. There's legitimate concern, Mr. Speaker, that the minister's approach is having an adverse effect on the public health care system in the province. My question to the minister: will he recognize that his approach for for-profit clinics is hurting the public health care system in the province?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, over the last four years of this Sask Party government under the leadership of the Premier, we have seen an increase in health care professionals right across the piece — 800 nurses promised; 900 nurses delivered, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen an increase in the number of physicians in this province by over 200. We've seen an increase in the medical seats by up to 100; increase in residency positions to 120, Mr. Speaker. And what that has done to the surgical wait times in Saskatchewan: 99 per cent of all surgeries

are done within 18 months here in the province; 96 per cent are done within 12 months; and 76 per cent are done within three months, Mr. Speaker. A far cry from what we ever saw under the NDP.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, we know that the minister's preference for for-profit surgical clinics is taking resources, draining resources from the public system. This makes life more difficult for the physicians practising in the public system. And it also, Mr. Speaker, hurts patient care in the public system.

Recently there was a, quote, extraordinary meeting of the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Medical Association. The topic of the meeting, Mr. Speaker, was to discuss problems in the operating rooms in Regina.

My question to the minister: will he admit that his preference for for-profit, private surgical centres is hurting the public health care system for surgery delivery here in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, we've looked at the whole surgical stream. We had an expert group from around the province, Mr. Speaker, made up of all the health care professionals, that looked at our surgical care initiative and put together a game plan for us to reach a very aggressive goal: no one should wait longer than three months by the year 2014. The most aggressive goal of any province in Canada, Mr. Speaker, from a government that isn't scared to set targets — what that opposition, when they were in government, never would do, Mr. Speaker. We're setting targets, and we're working hard to get to those targets.

Mr. Speaker, there is third party delivery within the health care system in a number of areas, Mr. Speaker. In fact I think it was the NDP that put in third party delivery for laboratory results and X-rays, Mr. Speaker. But for some reason, it's okay if the NDP introduce it, but if any other party does it, there's some sort of problem with that.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the information that we have been provided is that the extraordinary meeting of the regional medical association was to discuss physicians' concerns about the operating room here in Regina, concerns, Mr. Speaker, about limitations on O.R. [operating room] time because of budgetary clawbacks. These physicians, Mr. Speaker, are also concerned that procedures, surgeries normally done in the public system, Mr. Speaker, are being redirected, channelled to the private, for-profit surgical clinics.

My question to the minister: will he admit that his preference for for-profit surgical clinics is putting ideology first and patients last?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that patients across this province are certainly thankful that we have a third option. Another option, Mr. Speaker, not only the public system but a private system. No paying out of pocket, no queue-jumping, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask the member opposite to go visit 1,600 people that visited those private clinics in the last year or so and see whether they were too upset to have the surgery done within a third party. People want access to care. That was identified in the Patient First Review, Mr. Speaker, and our government is moving on it.

Mr. Speaker, he wants to talk ideology. Maybe he should go back to the 1970s under the NDP when they would never look at third party delivery within a public system.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

### Support for Northern Saskatchewan

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party's opinion on northern Saskatchewan is pretty clear from Monday's Throne Speech. The only mention of the North in the speech was about northern drug and gang unit, which was first announced in September of 2009.

To the minister: why does the Sask Party have nothing else to say about the North other than an announcement it made two years ago?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister for First Nations and Métis affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Indeed northern Saskatchewan continues to play an important part in this government's priorities as far as the economy goes, as far as job creation goes. Northern Saskatchewan provides us with many opportunities, and we continue to support them in each and every way. This past budget was an historic occasion, Mr. Speaker, when \$167 million was dedicated to First Nations and Métis individuals, many of whom live in northern Saskatchewan. This government is very proud of our record in northern Saskatchewan and with First Nations and Métis people across the province.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, poverty is a big problem in northern Saskatchewan. Northern Saskatchewan is one of five of the poorest regions in all of Canada.

To the minister: is the level of poverty acceptable to the Sask Party government, and if not, then what will their plan be?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister for First Nations and Métis affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, poverty is not acceptable to this government anywhere in our province. Certainly it's a priority for us to address poverty and to address issues and do it through ensuring that we have the fastest growing economy in the country, ensuring that royalty revenues are shared amongst all people in Saskatchewan so they can be used to increase their quality of life. Mr. Speaker, that's what

this government has done. This is what this government will do for the long-term. And what we say today in the House will be true in the future as well, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, the housing needs in northern Saskatchewan are especially great. Far too many families live in homes that are overcrowded and in such poor condition. Our young people are losing hope. The youth talk about the boom and they hear about it, but in northern Saskatchewan our leaders are trying to fight and come up with plans how to address some of the issues. But they need help of a government. The government has an opportunity to treat all Saskatchewan residents equal to make sure that we are a part of the boom.

To the minister: what will it take for the Sask Party to make the unique needs of northern Saskatchewan a priority?

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

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And to the members opposite, thank you for that question because northern residents are a very important part of our mandate when it comes to housing and going forward as a province.

We have invested, since November of 2007, over \$21 million for 205 new or rejuvenated homes in northern Saskatchewan. We know that that's very important and there's more work to be done. We've also spent \$3 million to help 226 low-income homeowners rejuvenate their homes as well.

Mr. Speaker, we own at Sask Housing over 1,400 social . . . affordable housing in the North. We know there's more work to be done, and I'll be the first one to admit, as my government does, there's more work to be done. But working with partners in the North, like the mayors and the people in the friendship centre, is an important part of our job.

[14:00]

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

### First Nations and Métis Issues

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We'll return to the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations for a question of the Throne Speech. In the Throne Speech, the First Nations and Métis people and First Nations and Métis issues rated three scant lines. Why is it that the First Nations and Métis issues received such scant mention in the Throne Speech?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister for First Nations and Métis affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it, First Nations and Métis individuals rate as a high priority with this government and continue to do so. They did so, as I mentioned earlier in an earlier question, with \$167 million, an 8.5 year over year per cent increase to ensure that their quality of life increases. Mr. Speaker, yes indeed, First Nations and Métis were mentioned in the Throne Speech. They

continue to be a priority.

Last May we had bilateral meetings with First Nations and Métis individuals. At that time, FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] Chief Guy Lonechild said that relationships have never been better between First Nations individuals and this Government of Saskatchewan. We're proud of that. That's the way it's going to continue, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Very interesting, Mr. Speaker, that when upwards of 1,000 First Nations people showed up at their legislature this fall, the minister sent his chief of staff out to greet the people who came to see him.

But I guess here's something of the reality in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. About 45 per cent of all First Nations and Métis children in our province live in poverty. About 44 per cent of First Nations and Métis young people aged 20 to 24 have not completed high school. The Métis unemployment rate is 200 per cent higher than the non-Aboriginal unemployment rate, and the First Nations unemployment rate is 527 per cent higher.

The challenges are huge, yet First Nations and Métis people warranted only a passing mention by this government in the Throne Speech. Is this status quo acceptable to this government or have they got a plan that they're simply not telling us about?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for First Nations and Métis affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, what Professor Eric Howe says in his paper and his review of child welfare in Saskatchewan about the economic opportunities, he says that we have a significant economic challenge in this province. Indeed we do. But he also says we have the greatest economic opportunity, and that's the way this government approaches it.

Yes we have, yes we have challenges ahead of us. Yes we have a gap that we have to decrease. That's why this government is focusing on education, on child welfare review, Mr. Speaker. And it is working, Mr. Speaker. Off-reserve Aboriginal employment year over year increased some 4,400 jobs, a 12.2 per cent increase.

Mr. Speaker, there's more work to do. This government is doing it, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When Eric Howe says, in his report last month, that "bridging the Aboriginal education gap is the most significant economic challenge confronting Saskatchewan. It is also our greatest economic opportunity," this opposition agrees with him.

But that government put forward a Throne Speech where First Nations and Métis issues rated three lines, Mr. Speaker. A task force and the work that this government is doing is fine and good, but we've seen not the results that are needed if we're



going to succeed as a province. This is our biggest challenge. Why was it so glaringly absent in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister for First Nations and Métis affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, First Nations and Métis individuals are a priority for this government. This government works for the betterment of all people in Saskatchewan.

When we shortened wait times, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Health has indicated, we do that for all people of Saskatchewan and First Nations and Métis benefit. When we fix our highways, when we build a children's hospital, Mr. Speaker, that's for the quality of life of all of those involved.

But, Mr. Speaker, today in Saskatchewan what are First Nation leaders asking? What question are they asking? Mr. Speaker, they know where the government stands, but they don't know who speaks for the NDP. Is it the Leader of the Opposition that speaks for the NDP? Is it the critic that speaks for the NDP on First Nations and Métis relations? Or is it the member for Regina Rosemont, Mr. Speaker? That's the questions that First Nations leaders are asking today. They deserve an answer. I hope members opposite are prepared to give them one today.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Well I'll tell you something that's clear, Mr. Speaker. When upwards of 1,000 First Nations people came to their legislature last fall, this past, you know, a few short months ago, where was the minister? He was missing in action. He sent his chief of staff out to speak for the government. That's where that government is on First Nations issues, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things that's very important in the study of Dr. Eric Howe, he says the following, "The total social benefit of closing the aboriginal education gap in Saskatchewan measured in 2011 dollars is \$90 billion."

There is a huge economic gain to this province if we get this problem solved and if we get this challenge taken on. This government hasn't done it. It had three lines in their Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. Two years ago at this time, we saw them tear up, or make the decision to tear up 111-plus Aboriginal employment development program agreements. They've got a task force ongoing right now where they're already behind the timelines they had set out in the spring. When is this government going to get serious about closing the gap for First Nations and Métis people in this province so all Saskatchewan people can succeed and live up to their potential?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for First Nations and Métis affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member opposite that this government takes this topic very, very serious. I have Mr. Howe's report in my hands. He's invited me to sit down to discuss that. I've

accepted that invitation, Mr. Speaker. And again, we'll be working towards the betterment for First Nations and Métis people across the province, Mr. Speaker.

You know, words are easy to say, Mr. Speaker, but I can tell you on June the 8th of this year, this cabinet and all members of this cabinet that were present had the opportunity to meet with each chief in the province. Every chief across Saskatchewan was invited. It was a historic meeting, and we had an opportunity to discuss things face to face. And we share many, many of the same goals — increasing education opportunities, increasing the quality of lives for First Nations individuals. When good work like Mr. Howe has done, Professor Howe has done, we will take that serious and we will use this as a guiding principle as we move Saskatchewan forward, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Again thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting listening to the words of the member opposite in terms of what they regard as historic. The MOU [memorandum of understanding] that they signed with the FSIN in May of this year, they also held it as historic and stated as such in their Throne Speech not a few short days ago, Mr. Speaker.

On page 12 of that memorandum of understanding, it states that the public appointment of the task force would be completed in summer of 2011. This is the only thing they've got in the Throne Speech that addresses First Nations issues, let alone Métis who want their own task force for this, Mr. Speaker. But we'll leave that aside for the moment. The public appointment of the task force was supposed to have taken place this summer. They haven't even gotten that right. When is this government going to get serious about First Nations and Métis issues?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for First Nations and Métis affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite wants to talk about historic things that are happening with First Nations and Métis individuals across the province, we can talk about the First Nations power agreement that this government signed, Mr. Speaker, one that we were getting requests for copies of from across the province because they . . . or across the country because they consider it as a best practice, something that Saskatchewan has led the way on and we continue to lead the way on.

When we talk about forest management agreements, FMAs, Mr. Speaker, it's this government who sat down and negotiated those through the minister and others, Mr. Speaker. We're very proud of that. Our record with First Nations and Métis individuals is something that we can be very proud of. We sit down. We talk. We consult. We get results done, Mr. Speaker, and that is indeed the way that we will continue to do it.

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

### Funding for Education

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, in 2009 this government

tore up the funding model for education of Saskatchewan students and promised one in the near future. That was three years ago. Commitments were made and promised. Timelines came and went. And to this day we still have no new funding model.

How does the minister expect our school boards to plan and deliver excellence in education without an adequate funding model?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the school boards do not want to go back to, and what they asked for to have the change, was to get rid of the fall grant which created huge inequities among the school divisions across the province. So they do want the new funding formula. The technical briefing that outlined the methodology to the school divisions took place before the election. And I met with the school boards last week and we're setting out a timeline that they're going to see, actually be able to put their numbers into the new funding formula for their school divisions before the provincial budget in March.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, a lot of uncertainty exists for school boards on this front, and having spoken with many of them . . . And the Saskatchewan classroom is undergoing many changes related to demographics and needs of students. As but one example, families from all over our globe have chosen to build their lives in Saskatchewan. Our classrooms have become more diverse with thousands of new Canadians. This is exciting and important, not only for those students and for their families, but also for our province, now and well into the future.

However students learning English as a second or an additional language require supports in the classroom to ensure we maximize the potential of these students and all students, Mr. Speaker. However our province fails to provide the resources needed to do that without having a funding model in place. To the minister: how is it fair or in our best interests not to do so?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I find it very interesting that the NDP in the past, when they were government and had the ability to make the changes, told the ratepayers within our province that the status quo was not on but didn't make any changes. And the Education minister said that amalgamation of school divisions would take away the inequities, and they still don't understand.

We're talking about a distribution model that will talk about dividing the pie, not the size of the pie, because what this government has done year over year is increased funding to the school divisions each and every year that we have been in power. With the new teachers' contracts, school divisions have received over 18 per cent increase over the last four years. That far exceeds inflation and it far exceeds the increases in enrolment. We recognize there's pressures. We recognize that the school divisions are extremely important. We need to work with them, but we have given them increased funding each and

every year.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Those increases do not cover inflation and certainly do not cover the increases to enrolment and the increasing demands, Mr. Speaker. But for over three years school boards have been without with a funding model, impeding boards from planning in the short-, medium-, and long-term. This has impacted staffing, programs, and students.

Currently schools are being reviewed for closure with the potential of impacting students and communities. These difficult decisions should be made based on facts. How does the minister believe it to be fair to cause school boards and communities to meaningfully review school closures in the absence of a funding model?

[14:15]

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I wonder if the member opposite thought that it was stable funding to underfund school divisions year over year so that they had to go back to the tax base each and every year with an average of a 5 per cent increase to the taxpayers to get funding in order to operate. Is that stable? Because that's what the NDP did to the school divisions in this province. And you know what happened, Mr. Speaker? Well there was tax revolts across our province. That was hardly stable funding across our province for school divisions.

And so then what did the NDP do? Did they fix the problem? Not at all. They just ignored it, even though they said the status quo was not on. And so they did ad hoc little rebates to the taxpayers in order to fund education. Was that stable, Mr. Speaker? None of that was stable funding, and yet somehow now the NDP think they have a solution. They didn't understand it then, and they don't understand it now.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on House Services

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to report that the committee has convened pursuant to rule 138 and is presenting its first report. I move:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on House Services now be concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — Moved by the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on House Services now be concurred in.

Is the motion agreed to?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave to make a resolution regarding lobbyists.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has asked leave to move a motion regarding lobbyists. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

## MOTIONS

### Lobbyist Registry

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of my comments, I will be moving a resolution to refer a matter to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice for an inquiry in accordance with rule 147(1) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*.

Mr. Speaker, members will be aware that with the large increase in economic activity in Saskatchewan over the past several years, there is an increase in the role that paid lobbyists may seek to play in our province. The Premier has noted that Saskatchewan is one of the few provinces in Canada without a lobbyist registry already in place. It is our view, and a view which we feel will be shared by all of the members of this Assembly, that new lobbyist rules should be introduced in Saskatchewan similar to those in other jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, free and open access to government decision makers is an important matter of public interest. Lobbying public office holders is a legitimate activity when it is conducted appropriately. It is desirable that public office holders and the public know who is attempting to influence government decision making. They should be able to determine this in a manner that would not necessarily impede access to government.

Mr. Speaker, under the rules of this Assembly, matters such as these may be referred to our existing standing committees to inquire into the matter. Mr. Speaker, in our view, an all-party process which will guarantee input from the political parties as well as members of the public is the preferred method to develop a solution. In this case, the committee will undoubtedly review how lobbying is addressed in other provinces and by the federal government, and how best to provide a Saskatchewan solution that will achieve the goals of openness and access in a cost-effective manner that does not deter legitimate lobbyist activities. A balance is required, and it will fall to the committee to inquire into and report to this Assembly on how best to strike this balance.

Accordingly, I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition:

That the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice, in accordance with rule 147(1) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, shall conduct an inquiry and make recommendations to the Assembly respecting a legislative model for new legislation regarding lobbying in Saskatchewan to ensure that the public is informed and aware of who is lobbying public office-holders in Saskatchewan, while ensuring that free and open access to government decision makers is not unduly impeded; and

That the said committee shall conduct public hearings to receive representations from interested individuals and groups.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved:

That the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice, in accordance with rule 147(1) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, shall conduct an inquiry and make recommendations to the Assembly respecting the legislative model for new legislation regarding lobbying in Saskatchewan to ensure that the public is informed and aware of who is lobbying public office-holders in Saskatchewan, while ensuring that free and open access to government decision makers is not unduly impeded; and

That the said committee shall conduct public hearings to receive representations from interested individuals and groups.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it absolutely clear that the Leader of the Opposition did not second that motion as stated by the hon. member. There wasn't a necessity for a seconder of the motion, but I want to make it absolutely clear that that did not happen.

**The Speaker:** — Are the members ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is the motion agreed to?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SPECIAL ORDER

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Marchuk, seconded by Ms.

Campeau, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Mr. Belanger.]

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

**Ms. Jurgens:** — Mr. Speaker and member of Cannington, congratulations on being elected as Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker and member of Last Mountain-Touchwood, congratulations on being elected as Deputy Speaker. Congratulations to all the MLAs in this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert Northcote is a vibrant gathering ground of people, voices, and ideas. We are a microcosm of Saskatchewan. Just as Saskatchewan was overlooked, ignored, and many times in the past dismissed, so too was Northcote. Well, Mr. Speaker, Northcote is now following the rest of Saskatchewan's lead into the future. On November 7th, Northcote said, we are ready to lead, ready to be part of our future, ready to be ignored no longer.

On that day, election day, when every person is exactly equal, where each one has one vote and one vote only, each person took that power of one and added it to their family's votes, their neighbours' votes, and their friends' votes until that power of one multiplied to create a new Northcote, a Saskatchewan Party Northcote. With our positive attitude, all of us have taken our power of one and are using it to create a better future.

Mr. Speaker, with this great privilege of speaking in the Chamber and before I tell you about what I think is the best constituency there is in all of Saskatchewan, my constituency of Prince Albert Northcote, I have a few thank yous I want to make.

Thank you to the people of Prince Albert Northcote. This position of MLA that the people of Northcote and indeed Saskatchewan have elected me to, this position is not taken lightly. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, some of the people in this Chamber witnessed the deep emotion that came with being sworn in and then given the symbol, the mace, of the great commitment I have made and the trust the people have given me. This trust and this commitment are not taken lightly. I will work hard every day with every bit of energy I have to continue to earn that trust so that the voices and the ideas of the people of Prince Albert Northcote are heard right here where real decisions are made.

First I thank each and every one of my constituents for taking the right to vote very seriously. People have fought and died for us to have this right — this right to live and vote in a democratic society.

I want to thank every single person that put herself or himself forward to run for public office. I admire people who do that.

Mr. Speaker, there is simply no way for me to name the 200-plus people — family, friends, volunteers, colleagues, and others — that brought me here, so I will name just two. The first one, Mr. Speaker, is my husband, Al. Mr. Speaker, I know that 38 years ago when we first met, Allan had no idea that connecting with me would land him in all kinds of trials and tribulations and then politics. Mr. Speaker, Al and I thought

long and hard about Allan being my campaign manager. Well, Mr. Speaker, that has proven to be one of the wisest decisions we have ever made. Now here in this Chamber, I want to publicly express my deep appreciation for Allan's unwavering commitment to me.

I want to thank our three adult children, one daughter-in-law, and granddaughter for their support. On Sunday, November 6th, our granddaughter phoned up . . . well with the help of her dad as she turned two on election day. She said, good luck, Grandma.

I want to thank my nine siblings and their families, my five siblings-in-law and their families for all the well wishes and cheering me on.

Mr. Speaker, as all of the MLAs and teams know, this position is accomplished through the work of many people. I will now share with you the one aspect that I asked of everyone when they joined or wanted to help our team. The one thing that I asked was that everyone believe as strongly as I did that Northcote would be and now is a Saskatchewan Party seat as of November 7th, 2011.

Everyone, absolutely everyone, Mr. Speaker, that spent five minutes or more with our team used and continues to use the power of a positive attitude. Mr. Speaker, so very many thanks go to the team members who had more time than money and then shared that time and their talents of strategizing, talking, scribing, phoning, writing, driving, scrutineering, organizing, accounting, preparing food, cleaning, entering data and entering data, picture taking to picture making, screening, and helping people to get to where they needed to go, and to the team members who had more money than time and donated generously.

Thank you to those that gave advice such as, you will lead as long as the people want you to lead and no longer. And, Mr. Speaker, to those that thought, well God love you, but only ever said, keep working, Victoria, I thank you. To those that said no and that articulated their fears and concerns, to those that said yes and then shared their hopes and dreams for a better community and a better future for their families and their children's families, I thank you.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, a very deep and heartfelt thanks goes to my team of door knockers who went out through sun and snow, ice, slush, mud, sand, asphalt, and gravel, through late summer, fall, winter, spring, summer, and fall again — my door knocking team who endured a clock upside the head and tumbles onto broken pavement, whose fingers nearly froze as they wrote the words, the voices, and the ideas that thousands and thousands of people shared with us. There are simply no words adequate enough to express my feelings, so I will say thank you.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the people of Northcote to continue with their generosity of time and ideas to help me be the best MLA there is for Northcote. These duties, Mr. Speaker, are an honour for me to accept, and I am humbled — humbled that our people, the people of Prince Albert Northcote, have elected me to be keeper of the voice of Northcote.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is one other person that I promised to name, and that is my mother. There is no one on earth that I know that works harder than she does. My mom, Marian Froess, came to help me during the writ. Nearly every day I would hear her say, I don't know why Victoria wants to be a politician. And yet every single day of the writ, Mr. Speaker, my mom helped me from 8 in the morning to 10 at night. Then when I said, thank you, mom, for all your help, she said, I didn't do anything; that little bit isn't much. Mr. Speaker, please tell my mom she did more than she will ever know.

Mr. Speaker, I promised to tell you about Prince Albert Northcote. We have a very large number of very wise people. Some call them seniors. We have an equally large number of exuberant people. Some call them youth. We have every level of education there is, from pre-K [pre-kindergarten] to high school, from technical institutes such as the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies to Gabriel Dumont Institute to SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] Woodland Campus, plus we have all three universities represented in some fashion. There are classes from the U of R [University of Regina], first and second years from the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], and there is the Northern Campus of the First Nations University.

Mr. Speaker, with all this knowledge infrastructure that Northcote has, we welcome the additional Saskatchewan advantage scholarships and Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings that this government is providing. The First Peoples here in Prince Albert Northcote welcomed the signing of an historic agreement establishing a joint task force on improving employment and education outcomes so that more First Nations and Métis young people become active participants in our workforce.

Mr. Speaker, Northcote is part of the largest small city in Saskatchewan. Northcote has the only one-way street in Prince Albert, which is part of Central Avenue, the oldest street in Prince Albert, and quite possibly one of the most historic in Saskatchewan. We have the downtown core where over 3,000 people come to work every day. And we have Sakaw Askiy Management. This first-of-its-kind company in Saskatchewan has eight shareholders, including two First Nations and six forest companies that took over the Prince Albert Forest Management Agreement.

When you look at Northcote you will see that we have the only hospital, the only airport, the only women's correction centre, the only river, and Prince Albert's only bridge. We have industry and innovation and culture. We have the only green industrial park. We have Prince Albert Pulp Inc., the exhibition grounds, the culture centre, E.A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts, Innovation Place Prince Albert, better known as the Forest Centre, and we have city hall.

The Hon. Walter Scott, first premier of the province of Saskatchewan, said, "Prince Albert is destined to be one of the greatest commercial centres on the American continent." A century ago, the city fathers of Prince Albert said, "You sacrifice nothing when you come here; there is the keenest joys of living." Some will say, yes, that is an idealistic notion of a different era and look what happened. Yes, look what happened. We will not downplay the hardships of a city having

to pay off a debt that threatened to bankrupt it, but did not. They paid it off in the '60s. Yes, we will acknowledge the hardships of a city that has had to struggle to find its way. Yes, we know there are challenges in the current era, but there is so much more.

We are a resilient, determined people, and we are a constituency ready to take the lead. The Saskatchewan Party Northcote is a vibrant gathering ground rich with people, voices, and ideas. This gathering ground, a microcosm of Saskatchewan, have shown ourselves, the city, this province, and the nation that the power of one is valuable, that the power of one with a positive attitude can, will, and does create a better future for each of us, for our children's children, and for generations to come.

Once our most precious resource, Mr. Speaker, our people and our positive attitude was set free, set free to move ahead, our community, our Prince Albert Northcote decided we are leaders and we will continue to be a leader, a leader ready to take our place in Saskatchewan, a leader ready to be part of the new Saskatchewan.

As an exciting, vibrant gathering ground of people, voices, and ideas, we are ready, willing, and able to take our attitude, our enthusiasm, and our richest resource, our people — people in innovation, people in sense of community, people in our voice, people in our ideas — to take all of this to make the tomorrow Northcote better than the today of Northcote.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you and the people of this province how our community has taken the lead. I will keep this short, Mr. Speaker, to just three examples that highlight how our richest resource, our people, have moved ahead and are continuing to move ahead.

Mr. Speaker, if I heard it once, I heard it a thousand times: the people of Northcote want a safer community. Well, Mr. Speaker, we have the community mobilization partnership, the first of its kind in all of Canada. This community mobilization partnership, a result of innovation and new ideas, is leveraging the strong sense of community our Northcote has. This partnership did not wait. Rather, this partnership took that sense of optimism, that sense that we are ready, willing, and able to make the tomorrow of Northcote better than the today of Northcote and created a new way of making our community safer. This community mobilization partnership is getting at the root causes of crime and helping to prevent so many young people from going down a dangerous path of crime. It is helping our youth to be part of a thriving, safe community we all so much want. This government, the Government of Saskatchewan, heard the voice of our community and are now supporting this highly successful Prince Albert community mobilization partnership with additional funding.

Mr. Speaker, if I heard it once, I heard it many times: we need jobs and a strong economy. Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of Northcote and indeed Saskatchewan thank this government for creating a business-friendly climate. Business creates jobs, jobs that help people enjoy life and to raise a family right here in the best place in all of Canada.

It is only since this government was mandated in 2007 to lead

this province into a better future that the largest forest business in Saskatchewan decided to create a dissolving pulp mill right in Prince Albert Northcote. This mill and Prince Albert Pulp Inc. is creating the core for an industry that utilizes one of our largest renewable resources — Saskatchewan's forest. There are hundreds of millions of dollars worth of assets being recommissioned by thousands of hours of work by hundreds of people so that wood fibre can be dissolved to create rayon, a fibre that is highly valued in Asian countries. Prince Albert Pulp Inc. will also use the waste wood to create clean biomass energy to operate their facility. Any excess energy will be purchased by SaskPower.

Mr. Speaker, the start-up of this facility will support the hub needed to kick-start our forest industry in the central and eastern parts of our province. This hub will create jobs and strengthen our economy.

Mr. Speaker, another thing I heard many times on the doorsteps is that people want something to do. Well, Mr. Speaker, this government, the Government of Saskatchewan, has recognized that culture and business go hand in hand. People want to live, work, and raise a family in a place that is vibrant, rich with culture, rich with things to do, rich with creativity and beauty. The artsVest program is an innovative program in which public, private, and culture organizations partner in ways that benefits cultural institutions and the community, that partners in ways to create beauty and an active community. After all when we think of places to visit we think of beautiful historical buildings and streetscapes, and we think of going somewhere that has something to do.

Mr. Speaker, when artsVest launched in Prince Albert Northcote in the E.A. Rawlinson Centre, which is one of our beautiful buildings — has a very relaxing and peaceful view of the riverbank — this launch was the first province-wide launch under this program. In this way, Mr. Speaker, we will grow our creative sector and make Saskatchewan even stronger.

And that is what, Mr. Speaker, makes me so proud of Prince Albert Northcote. And that is why I think that Prince Albert Northcote is the best constituency in all of Saskatchewan. And that is how I know we are going to make the tomorrow of Northcote better than the today of Northcote.

Mr. Speaker, I do not support the amendment to the Throne Speech. And, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion to move the Throne Speech. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

[14:45]

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

**Mr. Tochor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the people of Saskatoon Eastview for your trust in me. Mr. Speaker, I will work every day to be worthy of that trust. Thank you to our Premier for leading the new Saskatchewan in such an exciting and important time for our province. Mr. Speaker, there are dark clouds in many parts of the world, but we are so blessed to call Saskatchewan home.

I'd also like to congratulate all the new and returning members

to this Chamber. I would also like to, Mr. Speaker, congratulate yourself on winning the election to become Speaker. I'd also like to, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the Deputy Speaker from Last Mountain-Touchwood in being appointed to the Deputy Speaker position.

I too have visited this grand building as a schoolboy and marvelled at the sheer size and beauty and remember that feeling very, remember that feeling well, and humbled. I was also lucky enough to sit in this Chamber during the Saskatchewan Youth Parliament in high school, and even during those days I could not imagine or even dream of becoming an elected MLA.

For the longest time I believed that being a MLA, one needed to be special. Mr. Speaker, the work we do here is special. But my fellow MLAs are some of the most humble, down-to-earth people I've ever met. I'm so lucky to have colleagues and friends that have helped me along this path to this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, my first time in this building as an elected MLA was only a few weeks ago. As I walked up to this beautiful building, my palms were sweaty, and I was once again in awe of this amazing tall building. Then as I left this building only a few hours later that day, I turned back, and this building was still amazing. But the building did not seem as tall and was not as daunting . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Thank you.

So as I was leaving this building, it did not seem as tall and as daunting. And mostly the reason why it wasn't so daunting and as tall is because the people in this building, the staff and my colleagues, have welcomed me in such a warm and caring manner. And I'd like to thank you.

Like many in the Chamber, I started this journey years ago. And there has always been one person there for me, and that was my wife, Danielle. I need to thank Danielle, that without her, this would not be possible. We did 90 per cent of our door knocking with each other. Danielle has been very involved in the communities, so she shared many connections with the people of Saskatoon Eastview. It was also an extended honeymoon, Mr. Speaker, for us as we just got married in May. So it was a chance to spend . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. Mr. Speaker, it gave us a chance to spend more hours every day growing our relationship even stronger.

I had the best campaign team in Saskatchewan, from my campaign manager to our office manager to our door knockers and everyone that helped out. Thank you. It was very humbling to write over 140 thank you cards to all the people that have spent their precious time helping me get elected. As I sat there, Mr. Speaker, and reviewed the cards, I was taken aback by how many good friends I met on this journey. I was so blessed with the people that made this possible.

Mr. Speaker, there's no big secret on how to win campaigns. It's hard work. I can't say enough of how hard my volunteers worked. In this province, hard work is what gets rewarded. We worked every day talking about the record of this government and that let the voters decide if our plan for the new Saskatchewan warranted a second term.

Not only did we have a good campaign team, but we also had

the best food on our campaign. We're very lucky our office manager cooked home-cooked meals every night. I had a couple of university students that may have come out to help me or may have just come out for the food. Mr. Speaker, I'm so humbled to take my chair in your Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, son of a plumber. Mom was a teacher. And I need to thank my parents for all they have done for me. I believe the way I was raised had a direct impact on who I am today. One of the values I've learned from my parents was living within one's means. Mr. Speaker, I also share the importance of living within our means in government. The budget is balanced, and we have reduced the provincial debt by 44 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, I am so humbled to take on the great responsibility of representing the good people of Saskatoon Eastview. I am lucky to be elected at the age of 34. I believe I'm old enough to know that there is more to learn but also the energy to continue to move this province forward.

I got involved in politics because of a few events in the early 2000s. I lost a brother and sister to Alberta, along with 80 per cent of my university class. I didn't blame them. The old Saskatchewan just didn't have the opportunities that we have here today. In the old Saskatchewan, the population, along with its tax base, kept moving away. And during the early 2000s, we also had a health scare in the family. Everyone is healthy now, but it got me really concerned about the future of Saskatchewan.

And I was concerned for my parents. As they grew older, what if they needed to access our health care system? What we had in the old Saskatchewan was a deteriorating health system with the longest wait times in the country. As families moved away, we also lost our ability to provide high-quality health care. So with that realization, I got politically active because I did not like the direction of the old Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, today in Saskatchewan wait times are getting better. There is more work to do, and in our second term in government, we will bring our surgical wait times down to 90 days. Today in Saskatchewan, our economy is leading the nation and is predicted to lead the nation again next year. During the last four years, over 24,000 new jobs have been created. Mr. Speaker, the people of this province like the new Saskatchewan, and we're not going back.

Mr. Speaker, in many ways Saskatoon Eastview is spoken about in the Throne Speech. Seniors in Eastview will be receiving help with affordability, benefiting from the tripling of the seniors' income plan along with the introduction of the seniors' personal care home benefit. This benefit will make up the difference in one's monthly income and the cost of their personal care home space up to a threshold of \$1,800 in 2012 and then growing over to \$4,000 by 2015.

Mr. Speaker, new families in Eastview will also benefit with our new \$10,000 tax credit for new homeowners. This credit will help with the cost of home ownership and ensure Saskatchewan stays affordable. New families in Eastview will also receive the active families benefit, helping with the cost of children's activities.

Mr. Speaker, the students living in Eastview and across this province will also benefit with the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship. This program will help provide up to \$2,000 credit towards tuition over a four-year period.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of the government's record on helping the lives of people with disabilities. Danielle and I have met two people that live in special needs Elmwood Residence in Saskatoon. Every month we take Susan and Dolores out for a few hours. This Saturday we are taking them out to dinner and then to a Blades game. These outings ground Danielle and I and teach us the valuable lessons of what life is about.

Mr. Speaker, as you outline in your speech, we want to make Saskatchewan the best province in the country and strive for this. We give the people and businesses a chance to grow. Mr. Speaker, I support the motion to move this Speech of the Throne and reject the amendment from the opposition. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to make a short comment.

**The Speaker:** — I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition could elaborate a little more on what the short comment is about.

**Mr. Nilson:** — It relates to my previous statement about the motion that the member from Saskatoon made.

**The Speaker:** — The Leader of the Opposition has asked to make a small comment on the previous motion on lobbyists. Is the Assembly in agreement?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

## STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

### Lobbyist Registry Motion

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you. I just want to thank the member for apologizing for a small administrative error in how the speech was prepared, and I appreciate the fact that he's done that. And we actually were able to present that to the press together, so that worked out very well for us. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

## SPECIAL ORDER

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Marchuk, seconded by Ms. Campeau, and the proposed amendment to the main motion

moved by Mr. Belanger.]

**Ms. Sproule:** — Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise before you this afternoon to give my first address to this historical and venerable Assembly. And I too would like to share some of my stories of my first two times in the legislature. The first time I was here was as a Girl Guide, and I received my Canada cord right over there somewhere. It was many years ago.

The second time I was here was as an extra in the Tommy Douglas movie, and I got to play an MLA, a female MLA from the 1960s, in the scene where Tommy Douglas resigned as premier. And I was sitting right where Mr. . . . I forget people's places, but the House Leader was sitting, and I was all set to have my big moment. And then they looked at me, and they made me become a backbencher because my hair was wrong. So anyways, it was a good feeling at that time, and I thought maybe someday I might like to actually try and be here for real. So here I am.

To begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are in Treaty 4 territory. The banner on the Clerk's Table tells us the story of the relationship our European ancestors established with the First Nations people who have been here since time immemorial. The promise of the treaties is that as long as the rivers flow and the sun shines, which you can see on the banner, the treaty relationship will remain alive and strong. That hasn't always been the case in Saskatchewan. In my 17 years of practice as an Aboriginal law lawyer for the Government of Canada, I often encountered fundamental misunderstandings of this special constitutional relationship.

When Treaty 4 was signed in Fort Qu'Appelle in 1874, there were promises made in exchange for surrender of land. That promise did not mean that the First Nations surrendered their sovereignty or their nationhood. They are the First Nations, and that's exactly what that means. They were here first and they still have nationhood. What that means in the democratic society we've now established in this country is still unfolding, but it means that the treaty relationship is important both federally and provincially.

We inherited these promises from our dominion government when Saskatchewan became a province in 1905, and it is this government's duty to act honourably in all aspects of our relationship with the First Nations of this territory we now call Saskatchewan.

Because of the numbered treaties, my grandfather, Fenton Sproule, was able to come here in 1909 from Nova Scotia to take up farming near Lafleche, my hometown. The promise of farming his own farm was one that was alluring for a young man of his day. He came out here with his brother, and they built themselves a sod shack, lived in it while they broke the soil and got their homestead patent. Then he built a proper house, went back east, brought my grandmother back, and together they raised a family of 10 children.

My grandfather was a great believer in the power of people working together. He was outraged by the unfair trade practices of the grain monopolies who were buying grain from these new farmers. He worked tirelessly as one of the founding members

of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool to get the 50,000 signatures needed to get the right to trade their own wheat.

My dad, as a young boy, often travelled with him to the many Pool picnics where people would gather and Grandpa Sproule would speak to them about why they should support the Wheat Pool. There was no television or Internet in those days. There are some infamous tales of his ability to effectively deal with hecklers. I can only hope I inherited some of that. I think I'm going to need it.

He often spoke about the evils of capitalism and the importance of working co-operatively. I think he would be disappointed to know that people are still struggling to make ends meet while the corporations and banks are making record profits. Sadly the disparity between the rich and the poor continues to grow.

He believed strongly that to succeed we had to work together and to look out for each other. He, along with many other farmers and small-business men, worked to build the co-operative movement in this province, and today we are still known throughout the world for our credit unions, co-ops, and the many socialist programs introduced in this Assembly to profit the common good, like the Crowns, SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], Crop Insurance, the Arts Board, and of course medicare, our greatest achievement as a province.

[15:00]

I know that he would also be disappointed to see the federal government's current destruction of the single desk for wheat marketing, which was so aptly managed by the Canadian Wheat Board for so many decades and, to top it all off, to hear a Throne Speech in this Assembly which makes no provision for the transition our Saskatchewan farmers will be facing in the brave new world of no single desk. What a disappointment, Mr. Speaker.

The values of my grandparents and my parents, the values of social democrats in Saskatchewan, are deeply instilled in me and my siblings. They're pretty basic — have fun, work hard, care for others, respect diversity, and always, always shop at the co-op.

Ma mère est fransaskoise et je suis très fière de mon héritage français et Acadien. J'ai beaucoup d'histoires de mes ancêtres, et je vais vous raconter une des plus intéressantes.

[Translation: My mother is Fransaskois, and I am very proud of my French and Acadian heritage. I have many stories from my ancestors, and I am going to tell you one of the more interesting ones.]

My mother is fransaskoise, and I am very proud of my Canadian and French heritage. And I would like to share just one story from the French side of the family. In the 1840s — what's that? — 170 years ago, my great-great-uncle, Father Belcourt, in his role as parish priest, advised the Red River Métis people in their struggle to end the Hudson Bay Company's fur monopoly. His reward? Well after the company complained to the bishop about him, the bishop exiled him to a remote Acadian parish in Prince Edward Island. But ever the activist, he then founded the Farmers' Bank of Rustico,



Canada's first community bank. And that bank is still standing in Rustico, Prince Edward Island, and it was the precursor to the credit union movement in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the world that my grandfather lived in as he toiled to break the prairie sod was much different than today's world. Indeed the degradation of the environment that is continuing to accelerate throughout the developed world is something that he could have never foreseen. Nor could have the First Nations when they signed the treaties for that matter. It's unprecedented, amplifying daily, and it is of grave and serious concern throughout the entire planet.

We need strong leadership to change this path, a brave government and a bold one to initiate positive measures to stop the destruction particularly in the area of greenhouse gases. Our track record is shameful. Instead of meeting any targets established by the international community, we have gone in the opposite direction. It seems like a race to the bottom as we continue to boast of economic growth due to the production of the very resources that are the worst offenders of carbon dioxide.

There's no reason for this government to not take steps to ensure that development, innovation, progress, and consumption take into account environmental costs. We are taking non-renewable resources out of the earth at an unprecedented rate. It's the main source of much of the wealth and prosperity in Saskatchewan these days, as everyone knows. But any economic analysis that does not include the environmental impact as part of the cost is simply short-sighted. Maybe in some ways it will be seen as wilful blindness by future generations who will suffer the impacts far more greatly than we do now.

There are many things that could have been in the Throne Speech that would have shown vision and leadership in the environmental arena. The courage to introduce legislation to protect wetlands, whose destruction has led to serious flooding in this province. Legislations to encourage communities to recycle; we are so behind other provinces in this aspect. Legislation to prohibit the transportation of nuclear waste across our province, following the lead of our neighbouring province to the east.

Sadly this Throne Speech completely ignores the reality of today's environment. And it appears that this government is living in a surreal bubble of suspended belief that if we only accelerate production of non-renewable resources, that we will somehow be a winner. Of what, I don't know. Our children and grandchildren will be the ultimate losers, and only history will hold us to account. From the windswept prairies where I grew up on the freedom of our family farm, to our incredibly diverse and rich urban communities, to the awesome beauty of the boreal forest in the North, all the riches that we have at our disposal as a result of the treaty relationship, this government will be judged on what it leaves for future generations. And there's little in this Throne Speech to allay the concerns I heard from young people on the doorsteps and in the coffee house during the recent campaign. Where is the courage and vision needed to take us forward?

This government speaks of innovation as the vanguard of our

brave new world. True innovation, particularly in the energy sector, would focus on renewable sources of energy, of lessening human impact on the planet, particularly because of the growing global population. To believe that we can make the problem go away simply by launching a Global Institute for Food Security is just not enough, Mr. Speaker. Woefully inadequate — that's the best one can say about the shallow approach we find in the Speech from the Throne.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute recently released a study by economist Eric Howe. His report clearly indicates that we are sitting on a resource here in Saskatchewan that is woefully undeveloped. The economic potential of raising the level of education of our Aboriginal youth, according to Mr. Howe, is 20 times greater than that of potash. And it is a renewable resource. The potential is there, but we need a government with vision and courage to realize that potential.

Although I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your new role in this Assembly as the elected Speaker, I must say I am somewhat disappointed to be referring to the person occupying your chair as Mr. and not Ms. The same can be said for the position of Premier and Leader of the Opposition — sorry, John. I'm disappointed that after this last election there are even fewer women in this Assembly, representing half of our population. The voice of women is important. It brings a different perspective to any deliberations and determinations of public policy.

**An Hon. Member:** — Hear, hear!

**Ms. Sproule:** — That's our caucus.

As part of my work in the next few years, I will encourage as many women as I can to participate in this area, and engaging in public policy in this fashion to ensure that women have an equal voice in the decisions that affect them regardless of their political persuasion. And I encourage everyone in this Assembly to do the same. It's a bit of a mystery to me why women aren't more inclined to try this out. Maybe I will change my tune after a few years of this, but at this point I'm so anxious to roll up my sleeves and get at it. I can't imagine being anywhere better, except maybe playing a few fiddle tunes at a kitchen party with my friends and family. I am very proud to be here representing the people of Saskatoon Nutana as their newly elected representative.

At this moment I would like to pay tribute to the former MLA, Pat Atkinson, who is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement, although I'm pretty sure she is watching the proceedings here today and will be tweeting from home on a regular basis as we go about our business. Pat was an excellent representative of Saskatoon Nutana for as long as I have lived there and leaves big shoes to fill. I want to thank her for her leadership and her mentoring. I am very fortunate to have her available to consult with as I get my sea legs in this new job.

I'm always amazed and impressed at the skills and dedication and devotion the people that are my neighbours to the causes that they are passionate about. I often see that Saskatoon Nutana is a triple-A constituency — and by that I am referring to the many artists, academics, and activists that live in our constituency. There are people involved in all sorts of social

issues: defending the homeless; supporting projects like Station 20 West; supporting inner-city initiatives to help people that are struggling with mental illness, addictions, abuse, and poverty.

There are many leading academics and award-winning writers, many of whom teach in the schools and institutions of higher learning in our city. There are people who are incredibly gifted artists who continue to enrich my life and others with their creativity. They continue to inspire and ignite the imaginations of those who are exposed to their creative genius.

My riding is also home to the Broadway business district, one of the most vibrant commercial areas in the city of Saskatoon, perhaps in the entire province if not the whole country. You will find stores like Turning the Tide, the best alternative bookstore around; The Better Good, which sells sustainable products for the home; and Brainsport, a community and health minded footwear store. These owners live and raise their families in our community, not far away in some tower in New York. We also have the Broadway Theatre which is a non-profit, volunteer, community owned and run theatre that has become a class act performance space, as well as a venue for alternative cinema.

And right down the street from the Broadway Theatre we have the home of the Saskatchewan Craft Council, another non-governmental organization that works very hard and creatively to support and promote many talented artisans and craftspeople who use the raw mediums of wood, clay, metals, gems and fabric to create beautiful art.

Sadly many of the artists who show their work in the gallery of the Craft Council are not able to afford to live in Saskatoon Nutana since the incredible increases in property values and rents and shortage of housing when the boom economy hit. Many university students can also no longer afford to find suitable lodging in our riding, a sad but true result of the same housing shortage. This government needs to do much, much more to reverse this trend and the accompanying trend of homelessness. If this government would only use their serious case of Alberta envy to copy the Alberta government's Housing First plan to set a target to end homelessness, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we could stay ahead of the homelessness curve that accompanies all boom economies. But no, there's nothing in this Throne Speech which speaks to that.

There are a number of local establishments in Saskatoon Nutana which present great, live, homegrown Saskatchewan music as well some of the best up-and-coming musicians from across Canada almost any night of the week. These venues are an important part of the music scene in our country, and they are locally owned as well — venues like Amigos, Vangelis, The Roxy, and Lydia's.

There are also a number of fine musical organizations in our riding including the Ness Creek Cultural & Recreational Society which has its head office in Nutana. The Ness Creek Society presents the Ness Creek Music Festival which is held every year in the heart of the boreal forest near Big River, Saskatchewan. I'm proud to say that I've been involved as a volunteer with the festival since it began in 1991.

I've also been involved with another cultural non-profit

organization which is going into its seventh year of operations, the Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Society. We've started a successful music camp and festival held annually in August also at Ness Creek. I'm most involved in the school programming that we started a few years ago, which brings top-notch, incredibly talented Canadian musicians who play traditional dance music — the music that my grandparents played and danced to — to schools and small communities across this province.

This music not only builds communities but it connects us to our roots. It's the music that our ancestors brought with them to Saskatchewan, music that came from the old country, from Scotland and Ireland and other European countries, and from Métis communities. There is nothing more joyful than seeing a whole school of children dancing their hearts out to the Virginia reel or the schottische or even the good old butterfly. I'm sure many members present remember that dance. We are keeping this tradition alive and well, along with many other folks in the province who host similar camps and school programs.

It's that joy that is so important to the process of learning that I'm afraid is now being overlooked in some of the neo-liberalization methods that are being introduced into the academic world, particularly in the school system and in the universities where we see continuing corporatization of learning, both through corporate investment in the academic agenda and through imposing business models on the creative act of learning.

The rising cost of a university education is another area of concern. It has become so expensive now. To be able to study in university without worrying about whether a well-paying job is waiting at the other end is a luxury that only the very wealthy, the 1 per cent, can now afford to do. This is not higher learning, Mr. Speaker. This will have a chilling effect on new ideas and innovations for our young people, and there's little in this Throne Speech to reverse that trend.

Another boom by-product that I heard about on the doorstep during election campaign is the heavier loads many educators are facing because of increasing demands on programs like English as an Additional Language. The support systems for schools have not been able to keep up to the increasing demands on these sorts of programs. Is there any long-term plan in the Throne Speech to give those professionals and their students relief? None.

And what about the long waiting list the French community in our province has? They have demands for more spaces in schools and pre-kindergarten spaces in French. The government announced that the next year is the year of the Fransaskois, but I don't see anything in the Throne Speech to support those programs.

Words are important, Mr. Speaker. Words change people's lives, and it's our job here to make sure the right words are put out there in law to benefit the people of Saskatchewan in the most meaningful way — not the corporations or the multinationals or the 1 per cent, but the 99 per cent, the regular folks of this province. This loyal opposition will continue to speak for those people and will hold this government to account.

Before I conclude I would like to take a minute to say my thanks to my campaign team led by my campaign manager, the intrepid Trevor McKenzie-Smith, and the Saskatoon Nutana NDP constituency executive and the people of Saskatoon Nutana for expressing their confidence in me to represent them. Finally I say thank you to my friends who stood by me throughout this journey. They know who they are. And my family, especially my two sons for putting up with me, from the bottom of my heart, my thanks to them for being there for me. And now it's their job to keep me real.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be one of the nimble nine who make up this loyal opposition in the current legislature. We have a lot of support out there and we know that they're covering our backs. We are well positioned to take on this task.

I will not be supporting this empty Throne Speech. I look forward to the challenge of the next four years. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I get an opportunity to respond to the Throne Speech and before I do that I would like to congratulate you on your new position. Wish you well.

To the new members that were elected to this House, to the Legislative Assembly, what an honour. What a privilege you've been given. There's lots to learn. I wish you well. Fight for the people that have asked you to come here to represent them. I send you a message. They need your support in this province. You will be asked to do that and I wish you well in your endeavours on doing that. There's been a lot requested of you, but I think the people have spoken. And at this time, you're here. As the Premier said, the seat is on loan. Do your job. We all do that. The people can ask no more of us than that. So I wish you well and congratulations to all of you.

To the older members, men and women, congratulations and I wish you well. I hope at the end of the day we can work together for the betterment of Saskatchewan people — First Nations, Métis, northern people, all of our Saskatchewan residents.

[15:15]

I'd like to, Mr. Speaker, acknowledge my campaign team, and I don't want to forget about that. Of course my wife and my family, very supportive, and the team. I think we all know the hard work that goes in. Whether we win, whether we lose, we've done our best and the team has done their best. The people speak and the people ask which one and decide which one of us men and women will be here to fight the battles to deal with the issues that we have to deal. And sometimes it's very challenging.

But I just want to go into why, I guess, I will not be supporting the Throne Speech. I'm not going to take a lot of time but I want to be very clear. There's a lot missing from the Throne Speech. There's a lot of expectation. There's a lot of hope out there and, I've said this before, a booming economy. There's so much, Mr. Speaker, that's going on in this province. Many people see that. But truly, Mr. Speaker, I think there was a lot

of our population that are not seeing the benefits. You know, yes there's a boom. You can say what you want. Things are doing well. Some people are doing quite well. But I guess the gap between the rich and poor is looking at us in the eye and will continue to do that.

And I refer to some of the questions that were raised in this House today about the concerns of northern Saskatchewan and the people that I have been fortunate to represent. And I say this: it's an honour to represent them to bring the issues that northern people are facing, the issues that individuals in the Cumberland constituency are facing whether they're First Nations, Métis, non-Aboriginal. The issues that they are facing are real to them.

And as you talk to them on the doorstep, many of them, I had an opportunity to hear the concerns, the frustration. More action needs to be done. And we can have a Throne Speech and the vision and a plan. And the government presented that and they tried to make sure that, you know, we hear that. And you know, it's the nice brochures and, you know, you look at the different pieces of information they provide to us and it talks about vision, action, growth, affordability — they're all nice words — quality of life.

But there's a lot of people out there, Mr. Speaker, that are not experiencing the type of vision that's in the information that we've been provided from the Throne Speech. They're struggling to make ends meet. And, you know, Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of issues that were not raised in the Throne Speech, and I think that's unfortunate for a lot of Saskatchewan residents. The affordability is huge, issues that face communities and a leadership.

And I just want to kind of focus a little bit on the leadership. And I know that the mayors, the chief and councils, our Métis leaders in the Cumberland constituency in the North work hard and try to present the issues that they hear of their residents that they have been elected to represent. And they try to share that. And I believe over the last four years they have shared that with the government. The government can't say they're not aware of the issues. As the official opposition, we have raised those issues.

So we thought there would be a lot more in the Throne Speech to show a plan, the vision. And unfortunately we don't see that. Like I said earlier, there was little mentioned about northern Saskatchewan, little mentioned about First Nations and Métis, and a lot of other areas of concern that were not raised in the Throne Speech, and the plan and a vision, where this government's going.

And I say they have a large caucus. They have a lot of work to do and I hope at the end of the day, as official opposition, we will hold them to account. We've been given that honour. And I will always show respect. But sometimes, you know, the compassion that we feel for the people that we represent and the stories and the challenges, they are so many and great.

And sometimes you feel like the government, with its resource revenue that's unprecedented, you see the times and the booms and you hear about all the prosperity, and everything is going good. But there are so many challenges with our young people.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, it's challenges that you see people living with: poverty, the issues of suicide, addictions. There's so many challenges within the Cumberland constituency in northern Saskatchewan and within our province. And they ask their government to take care of those issues. And this government's been given a clear mandate. I understand that. We will hold you to account and the people will, Mr. Speaker, hold the members to account.

There are so many challenges facing northern Saskatchewan, but I have to be honest. There are individuals who are seeing an economic boom and some have shared with me that they're doing quite well and their business is doing well, that their family is doing well. And I'm glad for them. That's good.

But I've talked to a lot of people who are not doing so well. The living conditions, the quality of life, they do not see. When I see our young people lose hope for the future and maybe because of the social issues they're faced with, because of where they were placed or what conditions they were put into — not of their choice — but I see some of them break away. And I see some young people and I encourage them, stay in school; encourage them, you need to fight; there is hope. But sometimes, you know, that battle is lost.

This government has an opportunity to reach out, and I thought in the Throne Speech they might have a vision for the North, how they'll address some of the issues the young people are asking them. And whether it's suicide, whether it's the economics, the challenges that northern people face, housing, infrastructure, roads, the quality of life, a level playing field. A lot of people are just asking for a level playing field. Give us the opportunity to have a level playing field and you will see what they can do. But they have to be given that opportunity. And this Throne Speech did not give a lot of people the opportunity, a level playing field. And it's unfortunate.

We'll monitor everything. We will raise the questions in this House to the members, to the ministers, to the ministries, and those issues that are brought forward. There's many challenges.

But I also have to say it is an honour to be here and I will do all I can for the people I represent with the compassion to represent them. My grandfather, as a war veteran, was very proud and instilled in us, you have to fight for the individuals that give you that opportunity when they ask you to do that. And I say that with respect. The fight is there. And sometimes we use those words. And it sounds like, you know, why would you use words like that? But you know what? Sometimes it feels like that.

But at the end of the day, I hope that the individuals that are over there on the government side who hear some of the challenges that Saskatchewan are facing, and you would do your part as you've been asked to be here, Mr. Speaker. I leave that with them. They have many challenges as well because they too will be judged. And for now, they are the government, and I always tell people, work with the government, with the ministries. But at the end of the day, judgment day will come for all of us. And I know that elections will come. People will seek re-election.

I am very happy and honoured that the people in the

Cumberland constituency have chose to ask and to honour me with one more term representing them. And I will do all I can to raise the issues, whether it's the trappers, the fishermen, whether it's the leadership, whether it's our students, our young people with their challenges, whether it's housing, affordability, roads, health care, long-term care, I will do all I can to work with them.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this point I would just like to finish up with, I guess, a few more comments. There's a lot of work to be done and there's, I guess, a plan, and the government has its plan. We'll monitor that plan. And I'll see at the end of the day how much is truly in this plan and how it benefits the people we all represent. And at the end of the day, they'll determine how successful this government's plan was. It won't be the government deciding that; it will be the people, the quality of life they have. They want a good life, and people want us to do good. And I hope our province does good. We live in a beautiful province. Yes, things are going good. Let's hope they continue. Let's hope all people have a good quality of life, a fair quality of life. And I just ask all members to remember that we're here to serve the province and everyone in it.

And at this point, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased and honoured, but I will not be supporting the Speech ... [inaudible interjection] ... I will be supporting the amendment. I like that one. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

**Mr. Doke:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may I say how proud I am to join my colleagues in this Assembly. In my first address I want to acknowledge those who have supported and assisted me in my journey to be the MLA for Cut Knife-Turtleford constituency.

First and foremost, first and foremost, Mr. Speaker, I want to say a special thank you to my wife, Valerie. Over the past 18 months she has attended meetings and events and met many new people. Her encouragement and advice have been a major source of strength for me. I could not have done this job without her.

Mr. Speaker, my journey began 18 months ago. It began when some of the residents in my constituency approached me to seek the Sask Party nomination. I decided I would, Mr. Speaker, and the work began. I pledged that I would work hard and I would reach out to others.

Mr. Speaker, please let me acknowledge the work done by Michael Chisholm. I got to know Michael in my capacity of a councillor for my home community of the resort village of Metinota. I was asked to oversee a Canada infrastructure program to construct a new lagoon for Meota, the RM of Meota, and the resort village of Metinota. I approached both Michael and our federal Member of Parliament. They encouraged us to make an application for funding, and today we are proud to have the lagoon built and in operation. The people of Cut Knife-Turtleford constituency are grateful for the work done by Michael Chisholm, and on their behalf I would like to thank him.

In seeking nomination, Mr. Speaker, I was pleased when over 600 people attended the nomination meetings. It was at this nomination where I made a commitment that if elected, I will meet on a regular basis with each of the communities. I will take their issues to our government. And I was honoured and humbled to be selected as a Saskatchewan Party candidate for the Cut Knife-Turtleford constituency.

Mr. Speaker, as the candidate for the Saskatchewan Party, the work began the next day after my nomination. I approached all of the villages, towns, RM councils, and the seven First Nations chief and councils to ask if I could attend their meetings. We were successful in attending 60 per cent of the council meetings and will visit the remaining 40 per cent in the new year.

I have an understanding of local government, having served as a councillor for four years in the city of North Battleford and 12 years as a councillor in the resort village of Metinota. I truly appreciated, Mr. Speaker, the leadership of our Premier. Our Premier's record of a promise made is a promise kept was what I believe why I was welcomed in my meetings.

I listened to the people, Mr. Speaker, and I do have a better understanding of the issues that our local governments and chiefs and councils have. We will need to continue to address the issues of safe communities, infrastructure support, and First Nations people need to see improvement in education and living conditions. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the challenge.

[15:30]

With the writ coming down for the election, we were organized. And with our Premier making the election date announcement, we were ready to go.

In the first two days, over 200 signs were put in place. And this is a big achievement as it's such a vast area, and I thank the people for doing it. The constituency team made a pledge that they would contact the 9,259 eligible voters in our constituency, asking for their support. It was gratifying, Mr. Speaker, when on election day we could say that we had reached 90 per cent of our voting residents. Our team was made up of some 160 volunteers, many who worked tirelessly on the campaign.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I was hospitalized after the first week of the campaign. I was in ICU [intensive care unit] for one week and then ordered to bed rest for another week. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the doctors and nurses and hospital staff at the Battlefords Union Hospital for their caring, compassion, and professionalism that I received — a true testament to our health system. It's hard to believe that a finely tuned body like this could actually break down.

I would like to say thank you to my family for their support and a special thanks to my wife, Valerie, once again and the campaign team who never missed a beat to keep the campaign moving on as planned. It was gratifying, Mr. Speaker, that on election day I was elected as the MLA for Cut Knife-Turtleford, obtaining 64 per cent of the vote.

When I was declared elected, I felt overwhelmed and very humbled to be the MLA. The people had put their trust in the

Saskatchewan Party and for me to represent them in government. I look forward to representing them, Mr. Speaker.

I would now like to speak about the uniqueness of the Cut Knife-Turtleford constituency. The constituency was established in 2003. Located in northwest Saskatchewan, our constituency consists of seven First Nations, four towns, 10 villages, three resort villages, and 14 RMs that include three organized hamlets and 11 resort hamlets. We are fortunate to have one provincial park and many regional parks. We have a strong agricultural community with successful grain and cattle farmers. The area is renowned for its purebred cattle.

Mr. Speaker, while agriculture is number one, there is a strong oil and gas investment with over 14,000 oil and gas wells, with 5,000 wells producing in any given month with continued growth. These oil and gas investments have seen major changes in many of the communities with many of the communities having new businesses to support this sector.

The future looks bright, Mr. Speaker, with companies talking about continued growth. While this House will be celebrating 100 years of history in 2012, so will the communities of Cut Knife and Edam. They are planning celebrations on the July 1st weekend and everything is moving along fine.

Mr. Speaker, I said our constituency is unique. Uniqueness is our diversity. We have seven First Nation reserves: Mosquito reserve which includes Grizzly Bear's Head and Lean Man, Red Pheasant, Sweetgrass, Little Pine, Poundmaker, Moosomin, and Saulteaux reserves.

It was the leaders of these First Nations people, Mr. Speaker, who negotiated Treaty 6. One of these leaders was Chief Poundmaker, the great orator. The white people in the area were very much impressed with his wit and his passion. As a negotiator for his people, Poundmaker sought a good treaty and wanted food to be included in case of famine since the buffalo had been killed off.

Under the terms of the treaty the First Nations people were encouraged to be farmers. However things turned bad as dry land at that time did not lend itself to being successfully farmed. At this time the Métis under Louis Riel also felt their issues were not being recognized in Ottawa. The Riel uprising saw some of the First Nations people rebel against the Canadian government. Colonel Otter was ordered to put down the uprising and to punish those involved. It became apparent to Chief Poundmaker that the Otter force would suffer heavy casualties, and he persuaded the First Nations people to discontinue battle. Poundmaker was later arrested and was sentenced to three years in prison. Chief Poundmaker only served seven months in prison and died shortly after being released.

Mr. Speaker, today Chief Poundmaker's attempt to make a life better for his people is remembered. I congratulate the First Nations people who continue to want to make their life better for their people. I'm also pleased to know that our schools are now teaching students about treaties and the culture of First Nations people.

Mr. Speaker, another well-known person that I want to include

in my address is one of Chief Poundmaker's descendants, Allen Sapp. Allen Sapp was born on the Red Pheasant First Nation, January 2nd, 1928. His art and his story have become well-known throughout Canada and internationally. His paintings tell an important story of his people and their culture. Allen was raised by his grandparents, Albert and Maggie Soonias, after his mother died of tuberculosis. His grandmother nurtured him and encouraged his love of drawings and taught him the Cree ways.

In 1986 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada, and in 1985 he was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. In 1975 he was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts. In 2003 he received the Governor General's Award for English language children's illustration for the book, *The Song within my Heart*.

Today, Mr. Speaker, many pieces of the work of Allen Sapp can be seen at the Allen Sapp Gallery in North Battleford. First Nations people and the citizens in our constituency are proud of his work and are pleased that thousands of people visit the gallery. Many school children are brought to the gallery each year.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude by expressing my feelings of being a member of this Assembly. The swearing-in ceremony was an experience that'll affect my life forever. When the door to the Chamber opened, the overwhelming feeling of gratitude to my constituents overcame me. I felt very humbled with the job I have been asked to perform, and I will continually try to be a public servant that the constituents of Cut Knife-Turtleford can be proud of. When signing the record book, I recall the many very important and upstanding citizens of our great province who have signed this book before me. The experience was further honoured by being greeted by the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House and our Premier. Overwhelmed, honoured, and humbled are the words that express my feeling, Mr. Speaker.

The citizens of Cut Knife-Turtleford constituency have voiced their support of this government. This government's initiatives to build a strong, caring, fiscally responsible province is clearly what the people want in this new Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion to pass the Throne Speech, and I will not be supporting the amendment. Mr. Speaker, I have adopted the quote "listen to learn, not to respond" in my business career and everyday life. I will bring this quality to the House and to the constituency of Cut Knife-Turtleford. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege again now for my third time to wade into a debate on the Throne Speech. Today I'm going to briefly mention some gaps in the government's speech, which my colleagues . . .

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

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — To introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Yorkton has requested

leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly I'd like to introduce four very special people in your gallery. Firstly, Mr. Bruce MacDonald, president and CEO [chief executive officer] of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada. Just give us a wave there, Bruce. Secondly, Joelle Lewis, director of government relations of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada. Thirdly, Wayne Wiens, the executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saskatoon and area — Wayne. And last but certainly not least, someone I know very well, Ms. Irma Van De Bon, the executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yorkton and area, as well as the area rep for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Saskatchewan.

They're in the city today. They're hosting us, all of the members of the Assembly at a reception shortly after 5 o'clock, I believe, and informing us as to — those that don't know what Big Brothers and Big Sisters are about — what they do and their new initiative. So I would ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

## SPECIAL ORDER

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Marchuk, seconded by Ms. Campeau, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Mr. Belanger.]

**Ms. Chartier:** — One more time, Mr. Speaker. So today I'm going to cover or I'll briefly mention some gaps in the government's speech which my colleagues, I think, have spoken to very well. But my focus today is going to be on one key area, supporting families in their caregiving needs, one area in which this government, I think, is squandering a prime opportunity to put the infrastructure in place to ensure employees have access to the workforce they need . . . employers have access to the workforce they need to maintain and grow their operations. Our youngest citizens have the opportunity to be in the best possible loving, enriching, and supportive care when their parents cannot be there, and most importantly, enhance the lives of all our citizens.

But first, I have to dispense with some thank yous. And I also actually want to congratulate all the members on both sides of the House on their successful elections in their respective communities. And a big thank you to all the candidates who let their name stand. It isn't an easy feat, I think we all know, to put your name out there and put your name on a ballot. And I

think we all have different philosophies or our differences are philosophical in here, but ultimately those who put their names forward, we all want to see a better Saskatchewan. We don't always have the same means to get there, but I think we all have the best intentions. So I just say thank you to all the candidates who let their names stand.

I want to give the biggest congratulations to all the new members. I was only there myself two years ago and I know that you'll all be trying to figure out the lay of the land and how this all works. But trust me, you'll figure it out pretty fast and it gets easier.

I want to say thank you to the good folks of Saskatoon Riversdale for trusting me for yet another term to bring their concerns to this Legislative Assembly. I'll continue to work hard and do my very best to ensure your voices are heard in this legislature and your issues are addressed by this government.

I want to say thank you to my fabulous campaign team and all our wonderful volunteers who helped get me here. We chose, in Saskatoon Riversdale, to go with a less experienced and a greener team. Our goal was to bring some youthful voices to our campaign team and to build some capacity for the future. So everyone in our campaign was new to their respective roles and did such a fine job. So I want to say thank you to Tracey, Ferron, Mark, and Vanessa.

On the volunteer side of things, we had a nice blending of long-time Saskatoon Riversdale workers, some great folks who came aboard in the by-election in 2009, and some brand new volunteers who joined us for the first time. So again, I just want to say thank you to the staff and volunteers for their commitment to social democratic values and their desire to fight for social, economic, and environmental justice.

For many of us, I think for all of us, family plays a big role in helping us to be able to do this job. But as a mom of two children, one of them who happens to be a freshly minted four-year-old as of Saturday, having a strong support network isn't just nice, it's absolutely imperative.

So part of that support network is my husband Blair who two years ago stepped back from his own full-time employment when I was first elected and stepped into the role of parent at home. As many of us who have been that parent at home, it's not an easy job. It's pretty wonderful, but it's not easy. So I really appreciate that Blair has done that for our family.

I want to say thank you to my girls, Hennessey and Ophelia, who are both amazing troopers. And they do put up with the downside of this job, having a mom who is not always around when they need me. Whenever I talk about my kids, I get a little sensitive. This happens to be the first time my husband and my youngest haven't joined me here in Regina. So it's been a bit of a long week, and we'll see how next week goes. Ophelia has a life of her own now. She's in pre-K, a francophone pre-K, five afternoons a week and starting to have her own life. And I didn't think she was keen on hanging out in Regina waiting to see Mom whenever I might have a little bit of free time. So I will see how the rest of this week and next week go.

But I do have a wonderful support network, as I said, which

includes my husband, but it also includes my sister, Michelle, and my parents, who go above and beyond the call of duty to be helpful and to be able to put my mind at ease. So I want to say thank you to them for making it possible for me to be able to do this job.

So, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Throne Speech, where are some of the gaps I mentioned earlier? This one particular one doesn't go to the specific contents of the government agenda, but there was something in the conclusion that jumped out at me on Throne Speech day and speaks volumes about this government's approach to some of its citizens.

We were reminded, we were reminded that our seats in this legislature are on loan and purchased with the blood of our soldiers and the toil of our settlers. Indeed this is true. But I would like to add that our First Nations and Métis citizens are a big part of this picture too, Mr. Speaker, an important part of our shared history of our fine province and need to be acknowledged for this. They also need to be included in our shared future and as active and full partners. I don't believe this government or this Throne Speech fully recognizes this.

The word homelessness was also a word absent from the Throne Speech, but it is a real and pressing issue here in our province. Some of my colleagues and I had the opportunity last week to hear a presentation about Housing First, an approach to housing that ensures people have an adequate roof over their heads so they can begin to address some of the issues that led to their homelessness in the first place: addictions, abuse, mental health issues. In fact the presenter, Tim Richter, made very well the point that a boom town economy accelerates homelessness more than anything else, and Saskatchewan should be primed to tackle this growing problem that costs us all, both economically and socially.

[15:45]

Housing First has worked elsewhere. It's worked very well in fact in Calgary in decreasing homelessness, and everyone there has gotten on board — the business community, municipalities, the provincial government, community organizations. They all recognize it's cheaper to address homelessness than to ignore it. I would argue, Mr. Speaker, that we can't say we have a comprehensive housing plan unless we have a plan to address homelessness. Currently this government has no such plan.

There are indeed other gaps in this government's approach, Mr. Speaker, and in this Throne Speech. But I do want to take a few minutes to address the lack of support for families when it comes to their caregiving needs. I think I'm particularly well positioned to do this as a mom of that four-year-old, who happens to have many friends and acquaintances who are in the thick of raising children and trying to figure out how you combine parenting with school or parenting with education. As I said, I'm in the middle of it myself, but I have many friends who've got young children too. I've been an at-home parent, and I have a husband who's currently an at-home dad with our children. I'm a big believer in finding ways to help families have time at home for sure. So that's another perspective that I bring.

And I happen to have worked in the area of work/family

balance, had the privilege of working with employers like Tim Hortons and airline hotels and resorts. I've had the privilege of working with well-paid professional employees, and I've had the privilege of working with lower waged employees who are struggling to get by and trying to figure out their work/family balance picture. It is not pretty, Mr. Speaker.

Right now, I don't have the most recent stats, but just a few years ago, about 70 per cent of women with children under six were in the paid labour force here in Saskatchewan. So the reality is we have about 70 per cent. This is a huge number of people who need care for their children. This is a reality today, Mr. Speaker.

And again I just want to emphasize. As I said, I've been an at-home parent, and I am a big believer in trying to find ways to support parents to be at home, and that includes looking at leaves and different methods. But the reality is child care is a necessity here for our economy to succeed as well. We need people, women included, in paid employment to fill all the jobs that this government talks about.

So yesterday I had the opportunity to ask the Minister of Education some questions about child care. The first thing she said to me, Mr. Speaker, is I should talk to my past colleagues about why previous government hadn't done the work that she's suggesting should have been done. And you know what? I believe that my colleagues did at the time the best that they could with limited resources.

Governing, as I am sure this government is learning, is not easy, and we make choices with limited resources. But I have to remind the members opposite that there are only . . . There are more of us who are new to the Assembly than who served in that government. So it's time for this government to fly on their own. I've spent two years listening to 16 years. Well you know what? You have to start looking at your last four years and what you've had the opportunity to do or haven't done.

So with respect to that, I think the minister also yesterday said she mentioned Manitoba — our neighbour to the east — and she said how much better that neighbour had done than we have been doing under an NDP government. Well I want to remind the minister and ask her, well how the heck did Manitoba get to the place that they are with close to 30,000 child care spots? Well, Mr. Speaker, they have a plan. They've had a plan since 2002. In fact they're in the middle of their second five-year plan.

So how do you get someplace? How do you get 30,000 child care spots? You have a plan. And it doesn't just involve saying, I'm going to create spaces. So what they did in their first five-year plan, Mr. Speaker, they did in fact create over 5,000 more child care spaces. They enhanced . . . This is the Manitoba government. This is the Manitoba government, Mr. Speaker. So I'm glad he's applauding an NDP administration and the fine work that they're doing.

They enhanced nursery school initiatives supporting at-home parents who didn't tap into full-time child care but wanted the opportunity to provide their kids with some socialization and an opportunity to connect with other kids. They increased child care subsidy levels, making it more affordable for low- and

middle-income families. They added 450 new early childhood education . . . or they trained 450 new child care education graduates. They increased early childhood educator salaries by 15 per cent and the revenues to family child care providers increased by 12 per cent, Mr. Speaker. This was in the first of their five-year plan — 2002 to 2007.

So what are they currently doing, Mr. Speaker? So why do I say that this government, why do I say this government doesn't have a plan? Well because they don't have a plan, Mr. Speaker. This is a plan. And again I encourage the minister to keep looking east. Look east, Mr. Speaker, and Ms. Minister.

So what's missing in our plan? I just want to talk a little bit more about what's in this Manitoba plan. They're going to increase their child care spaces by 6,500 by 2013. They're going to increase their nursery school enrolment. They're going to support capital funding of child care. They're going to put in place a child care safety charter. They're going to develop age-appropriate curricula and enhance program quality, Mr. Speaker. They're going to create centralized online wait-lists for anybody who's tried to find child care.

What you end up doing now here in Saskatchewan, you might apply to one child care, two child cares, three child cares. You're just waiting to get a call back. There are places, the Ottawa Capital Region, Manitoba, Quebec, and actually now Prince Edward Island of all places, has developed a centralized online wait-list to have one-stop shopping for child care. Manitoba has committed to having the lowest child care fees outside of Quebec.

What else is part of their plan? Greater inclusion, Mr. Speaker. Not every family has the same needs, child care needs, and not every child who comes into care needs the same supports. So they've tried very hard to ensure that children, perhaps with disabilities, are receiving a kind of appropriate child care.

They've developed more flexible hours, Mr. Speaker. The reality is we live in a world that is 24-7. There is the need, Mr. Speaker, to look at non-standard child care outside of the Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 day. The reality is there are many families who would be eligible for licensed child care but the reality is there are few spaces offered at this time. So you have a family, someone who is working at Tim Hortons, that starts at 6 in the morning, can't get licensed child care. They work on a Saturday morning or work at 9 o'clock on a Friday night; they can't get licensed child care, Mr. Speaker. This is a huge gap we need to address.

Instead you've got someone leaving their child, not because they want to, but they need to work. The rising cost of living has been a reality for many people and the option of staying home isn't the reality for many people. So there are people forced into lower waged employment who need to work, Mr. Speaker, and unfortunately the child care isn't there. So they're leaving their little Johnny or little Sue with Uncle Harry down the street who might have a little bit too much to drink sometimes but they don't have . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . This is a reality. The member opposite says, "Oh, please." This is a reality. People cannot find appropriate child care, Mr. Speaker, especially outside of the non-standard Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 hours.



You look around. What else is Manitoba doing? It's part of their plan, Mr. Speaker, a stronger workforce. They're creating incentives for Aboriginal students, efforts to recruit more new Manitobans to their child care workforce, upgrading assistance for existing early childhood educators who wish to enhance their credentials. Right now, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan there is very little incentive for child care workers to move from one year to a two-year training. So you might get your first year, but the wage difference is so marginal when you get your second year that there is very little incentive to put yourself through that second year of schooling.

They are offering scholarships to create a stronger workforce. They're looking to try to recruit more men to the field. They have a focus on more home-based providers because not all of us like centre-based care. I like the opportunity or the . . . I think some of us like the opportunity to be able to put our child in a smaller, more home-like setting.

What else are they doing to create a stronger workforce? They're working to recruit back those people who have left the child care profession because there is such a high burnout rate. So that might be something that we'd look at having in our plan . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, I will definitely make sure the minister has a copy of this.

Stronger parental stewardship — making sure parents are part of the process. Strategic expansion.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a child care plan. Adding 2,000 spaces, 500 a year for the next four years, is not a child care plan. And a child care plan involves talking with families, trying to connect and figure out all the various needs that families have. We don't all want a one-size-fits-all child care model, so let's talk to families about the kind of care that they want and need.

Saskatchewan values — what does that look like? We need to talk to educators. We should be leading in this area. If Prince Edward Island can go from the bottom of the class to the top of the class in the last three years, which they've been doing, we can do the same here, Mr. Speaker. We have the resources, the financial resources, a government that had a budget of \$10.7 billion last year, Mr. Speaker. There is money to invest in our children. The reality is this is about investing in employment as well, making sure we have the workforce to be able to fill the positions.

When I was working for the work and family unit about five years ago, still under an NDP government, it was amazing. It went in a short period of time, the demand . . . We were in the midst of a labour force shortage just starting five or six years ago, Mr. Speaker. So training and making sure we have the child care workers to fill the need, making sure that we're supporting those who want to provide at-home care — there's so many things we could be doing. But again I'm on a tangent here.

Mr. Speaker, we need to do proper consultation. There's been lots of very good work that's been done. We need to talk to families, educators, care providers, and figure out what kind of plan fits our needs here in Saskatchewan. Then we need to implement it. And the minister talked about action yesterday. I think we'd all like to see some action on this front.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage the minister: look east, Ms. Minister. You have some . . . [inaudible] . . . Manitoba, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island. There's some fine examples out there. Let's lead on this front and make sure families have what they need to be the best possible parents and the best possible employees or students.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, as I said, there's many gaps in this Throne Speech. I've mentioned a couple. Particularly I mentioned child care. But I will, on that note I will say that I will be supporting the amendment and I will not be supporting the Throne Speech. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may I add my congratulations to you for being elected as the Speaker of this House. I'd also like to extend congratulations to the member from Moosomin who had served as Speaker for the previous four years.

As many of you know, the mayor of our city of Moose Jaw is a former Speaker, and I am proud to have been the one to give him the opportunity to become the mayor of this city just a few years ago. And thank you to the constituents of Moose Jaw North who have shown their confidence in our government and also in me as their representative to serve as another term.

Mr. Speaker, Moose Jaw is a fascinating city with a lot of character and a lot of history. The history goes back to the early settling of this province and to the days of prohibition and the illegal sale of booze. Some sharp thinking minds, just a few years ago, took advantage of this rather embarrassing history and began to think of tourism as an economic engine.

It was led by the development of the Temple Gardens Mineral Spa and later the Tunnels of Moose Jaw that depicted the hardships of the Chinese immigrants and the bootlegging days that created an economy in the 1920s. Added to that, the murals, three museums: the art museum, the Western Development Museum for travel, and the pioneers museum at Sukanen. There are also specialty shops throughout Moose Jaw as well as the Mae Wilson Theatre performing arts theatre. So Moose Jaw has become a tourist centre of the province.

Moose Jaw has the potential to grow and be much more than that as well. It's a general location of strong agriculture in the province. It is also the hub for transportation. There's not only two highways that intersect — both the TransCanada and the No. 2 Highway — but it is the largest CP [Canadian Pacific] Rail centre between Calgary and Winnipeg. Now I suspect that that will change with the transportation hub just a few kilometres east of Moose Jaw. However, the link that will be played in that will be a great tribute to the growth of the region and to the prosperity of Saskatchewan.

Moose Jaw is also served by the CN [Canadian National] Rail, as well as the Soo rail line that goes right into the United States. With the development of the industrial corridor between Regina and Moose Jaw, there's significant potential for growth in the area and for our city.

[16:00]

Over the past four years, there has already been substantial development. Streets that were vacant lots before are now filled with houses and families. We were caught like a lot of centres that there weren't enough serviced lots, but that has since changed and there are now two new subdivisions that have been developed. And there are several new housing starts that will add to the construction phase over the winter months and will lead to help the housing shortage that we have all experienced.

In the past four years, Moose Jaw has constructed the field house, the indoor track, and the soccer facility. And to the amazement of many of the citizens, especially the city management, the facility is being utilized more than double of what was expected when it was first constructed. It's a beautiful facility and it's a great asset to the city of Moose Jaw.

This fall we've also officially opened Mosaic Place, our new downtown recreation complex and the new home of the Moose Jaw Warriors who currently are leading the eastern division conference. And we're so proud of them, and they're having an exceptionally good season. Moose Jaw Place also has a new curling surface that is attracting some major world-class bonspiels, as well as a convention room and banquet facilities right in the heart of downtown Moose Jaw.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, the new hospital that was announced earlier this year — a new state-of-the-art facility that will be first-class, and the first of its kind in Canada encompassing the LEED [leadership in energy and environmental design] principles and providing quality health care to Moose Jaw and the Five Hills Health Region. Now the former opposition member from Moose Jaw and the candidate for the NDP in my riding tried their best to undermine the concept, saying it would be smaller and less efficient. Well that just isn't so, Mr. Speaker, and the citizens of Moose Jaw didn't buy into that, and I give them a lot of credit for it.

The hospital is one of the promises that we made and we will be keeping. In fact, it will surpass the original suggestion of a new wing that was presented to the former government. And in early 2007, that government actually turned down any renovations to the Moose Jaw Hospital. So I'm pretty proud of what this government has done for Moose Jaw when it comes to health care.

The hospital is going ahead in spite of the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre's remarks on the radio on Tuesday, saying that the Moose Jaw Hospital wasn't even mentioned in the Throne Speech. Well that member should know better. It wasn't mentioned but it is going ahead. It wasn't mentioned simply because it has been announced. He might know that the children's hospital in Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan hospital in North Battleford were not mentioned either because they have already been announced. This is an aggressive government. It's moving forward. The misleading tactics of the opposition that they've tried to use haven't worked, but they just won't stop. And they won't fool the people of this province.

The people of Saskatchewan spoke loud and clear on November the 7th, yet the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre just doesn't seem to understand. They're not willing to accept the decision of the people of Saskatchewan who want

Saskatchewan to keep moving forward. Saskatchewan is moving forward, and I appreciate the efforts of all the people in my campaign that helped so diligently.

I've heard a lot of comments and recognition that my first reaction is, I didn't do it alone. It was good organization and good campaign strategy and 4,565 other people who assisted in the victory. I have a lot of people to thank but mostly is my family and especially my wife, who worked diligently throughout the campaign. She door knocked on a lot of doors.

And in fact as the campaign was winding down on that Saturday before the election — we didn't work Sundays; that's a day of worship and a day for family — but on that Saturday night it was going on to 8 o'clock. And I'm thinking, everything we've done we've possibly could do; it's getting late. And her retort was, well I've only got seven more houses to do. But we did our best, and we were victorious and appreciate the efforts of all the people who helped. Even my grandsons were getting into it. And to this day, they want to play door knocking, and I don't understand that.

I want to recognize a couple of other people, Jeff McElroy, who is a young contractor. He came to Moose Jaw a few years ago, specifically to take the carpentry course at SIAST Palliser. He had no intentions of staying in Moose Jaw and probably not in Saskatchewan. But when he got there, he liked what he saw. He understood the province was moving forward, and he stayed. He started a company, and he's working. On one particular day, I had somebody that cancelled out from door knocking, and I phoned Jeff and he came over. And I said, you know this is great that you would do such a thing for me, is to come over at this time. And he said, Warren, a few hours now, especially in a fall like we had that we could do construction well on into the fall. And he said, if I take an hour or two now it means we will keep Saskatchewan moving forward; I'm willing to invest that time just for this province.

Mr. Speaker, Shane MacDonald is a retired military person who also gave me a hand and walked a lot of blocks with me and helped an awful lot. And his retort when I thanked him was that we have to keep this province moving forward. We cannot have it move backwards. So he was willing to spend as much time as it took to keep knocking on doors.

Wayne and Brenda Zimmerman were another couple. They're business people from Moose Jaw that had been out of the province, out of the country, for an extended period of time. They weren't able to come to the advance polls or take advantage of the absentee ballot. And to their expense, they changed their departure time and made sure they were back in the province two days early so that they could vote and make sure that they did their part to keep Saskatchewan moving forward. And I thank them for that.

I want to also thank a number of the organized labour members who also supported me and the new Saskatchewan. They came out because they realize that Saskatchewan is moving forward and as the future gets brighter for Saskatchewan, it's brighter for them. And I thank them.

Why did these people do so much? Because they could see the progress that Saskatchewan has made and wanted to continue

moving forward. They like what is happening, the growth, the entrepreneurial attitude that now exists in this province. They like the lower taxes — personal income tax, property tax and small business tax. They like the opportunity that is now open for our young people. There's more jobs being created, the student retention program of up to \$20,000 for those who choose to stay in the province.

And we continue to invest in our youth and the future with the new Saskatchewan advantage scholarship for high school students going on to post-secondary education with up to \$500 per year for four years. The Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings makes it much easier for parents to save for their children's education. People said they want their children to be near them when they graduate rather than move to other jurisdictions as had been the case for decades prior.

They like the fact that we support families with help for families like extending the active family benefits for children up to the age of 18, the provincial sales tax exemption for children's clothing being extended for children up to the age of 18. And they like what we've done to child care. And the member from Saskatoon Riversdale talked about child care and the five-year plan. Well, as you know, the five-year plan may be working in other places, but the NDP in their 16 years of reign never had a plan like that themselves.

The people like what we do with child care — 35 per cent more child spaces than when we took over in 2007, and the promise of an additional 2,000 child care spaces over the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is moving forward. The people appreciated the opportunity for the kids to live and to work and to stay in Saskatchewan. And people like the idea of the first-time homeowners tax credit, and the Saskatchewan advantage home plan to create 4,600 entry-level housing units over the next five years.

They like the improvements of the health care facilities like the new hospital announcement for Moose Jaw. They appreciated the surgical wait times that have been lowered. In fact, two of my constituents, when we were door knocking, one had heart surgery. When the doctor asked him, can you be available on the 15th? And he's thinking a month later, and the doctor said no, this is next Tuesday. Just appreciated that, that they could get in that fast. When another constituent was just so excited about the hip-replacement surgery that he received, everything was explained to him. It was all in a timely matter, and he really appreciated what this government has done as far as health care.

People said they appreciated the open and trustworthy government that we have been. The government that has kept its word and has done what it says it would do. They wanted a government that would invest in their future, not like the NDP who lost money on bad management, government ventures, losing millions of tax dollars like \$43 million in Navigata and \$35 million for SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], just to name two. But there are over a dozen of bad deals that citizens had to pay for because of the mismanaging of the former NDP. People like our plan to continue the debt reduction, to balance the budget, to have competitive taxes, and to move Saskatchewan forward.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is moving forward. This was even very evident at the Enterprise regional luncheon last week when the announcement that K+S is going forward in the development of a new solution potash mine just north of Buffalo Pound. This will be a huge economic impact for Moose Jaw, and for the entire province. It's the . . .

[Applause]

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you. This K+S mine will be the first greenfield potash mine to open its doors for four decades with an investment of \$3.25 billion. There will be 1,100 jobs at the peak of construction, with 300 full-time jobs during the mine's operation which is scheduled to start production in 2015. And you know what we say, Mr. Speaker? We say welcome back. Welcome back to Saskatchewan, K+S.

K+S were in the province 40 years ago but were forced out when the NDP government at that time forced them out. Over 40 years of investment, over 40 years of revenue, of jobs to this province gone because of the short-sightedness of the NDP government that didn't have a growth agenda and didn't believe in growth. That's changing now. And it's good to see that K+S has returned to our province and will contribute to the positive future of the growth of Saskatchewan. They and we appreciate the most recent Conference Board of Canada's report as was read in the Throne Speech:

Saskatchewan's economy is being fuelled by the continued development of the potash industry, and steady expansion of oil and gas extraction. Real gross domestic product is expected to rise by a brisk 5.1 per cent in 2011, and Saskatchewan will have the fastest growing provincial economy.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne confirms our government is moving forward with lower taxes, better health care, improved education facilities, investment in infrastructure, \$2.2 billion in highway improvement, and an additional \$100 million investment in SaskTel's 4K network. To grow the province, we need to communicate better and have a good transportation system. And that's exactly what we will continue to do.

We're looking after people, our seniors, the people who worked to make Saskatchewan this great place, like my grandparents who came from different parts of Europe and my parents that farmed and served during the Second World War. These people deserve the dignity and comfort of living in Canada's best province. During the past four years, we doubled the seniors' income plan. The seniors' income plan will increase again, as we stated in the Throne Speech. Our government will also introduce a new seniors' personal care home benefit that will subsidize the difference between the senior's monthly income and the cost of their personal care home space up to a threshold of \$1,800.

Mr. Speaker, seniors, students, first-time homebuyers, families, communities, commitments to leading more First Nations and Métis people to active participation in the workforce, and a place where people with disabilities get the best care and support available — that is the new Saskatchewan and that's what is presented in this Throne Speech.

The Throne Speech is a plan to continue to grow Saskatchewan and keep the province moving forward. It was summed up the best in the quote that was in the Throne Speech, and it said:

Simply put, our vision is that Saskatchewan will be the best place in Canada to work, to live, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting the amendment, but I will support the Speech from the Throne. Thank you.

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

[16:15]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to be able to stand up in this Chamber and speak. And I guess the first thing I want to do is, I want to congratulate all of the members on the recent election but especially, especially the 16 new members — the 15 from the government side and the one from the opposition side. This is a great privilege to come into this Chamber and speak for the people of your area as I speak for the people of Carrot River Valley.

It's a wonderful building, Mr. Speaker. And I can still remember I was listening to the member from Saskatoon Nutana talking about the first time she was in here. And she was in here with the Girl Guides. First time I was in here was in 1968 and I received my Queen's Scout badge in here, and that was the last year they had the Queen's Scout badge in 1968. And then she said that she was in here again and was sitting, sitting there but they had to move her to the back. It was some movie thing because of her hair. I didn't have that problem, Mr. Speaker.

But it is, it is a wonderful building, and when you look at the history of it, you know, it is absolutely fantastic, the foresight that the Premier Scott had to have a building such as this within this province of Saskatchewan. And you know, it's its 100 years next year. And I know that the member from Moosomin can just barely remember when it was built. He's been around that long.

But anyway, continuing on, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate not just the members of this Assembly, but I want to congratulate you on your election as Speaker. And I want to thank the member from Moosomin for the four years of diligent work he did. And I realize being a Speaker is a terribly tough job, and you know, to sit there and listen to some of the rhetoric that goes on and to keep decorum in the Chamber is a tough job. And I know I certainly wouldn't want to do it myself.

Mr. Speaker, I have some thank yous to make. And I want to thank, I want to thank the people of Carrot River Valley. It is a humbling experience to come in here and I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart for re-electing me to speak on their behalf, to bring their concerns forward to the government. Carrot River Valley is well-known as . . . I know that the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote said that she felt that she was in the best constituency. I beg to differ because I believe that Carrot River Valley is the most beautiful and most productive place that there is. We have forestry. We have great

farmland. It's just a great place to be.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I will mention, you know, I had brought it up and I was doing some introductions yesterday about the Carrot River Wildcat football team. Carrot River Valley is well-known for its football team. Now it wasn't just Carrot River that has done well in football. This year the Hudson Bay Riders won the 2A six-man football championship, provincial championship.

So things are moving in Carrot River. We've got a great spirit there in sports and in various different things. We have, like I said, probably the most progressive farmers in all of Saskatchewan and probably all of Canada . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now, somebody mentioned that Raymore . . . Carrot River played Raymore and the score was 50 to 54. Raymore barely beat Carrot River. Had it not been for that, Carrot River probably would've won the 1A six-man football championship, provincial football. Not that I can remember things like that.

But Carrot River Valley is a great place to be. It's, like I said before, probably one of the most beautiful places in the province and it's humbling to be representing them. We have to remember, for all of the people that are sitting here, that we have to represent our constituents. That's number one. And we have to look after the province of Saskatchewan and that's what this Throne Speech has done, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to thank my CAs [constituency assistant], Shelley Meyer, Cindy Warner, and Charlene Enns, because when I'm not around there, they do the heavy work. And actually they probably do most of the heavy work around there. At least that's what they'll tell the people.

And I also want to thank my wife, Terry, for allowing me to do this. I know when we first talked about it and she said, well how long would you be gone, you know, if you were elected, and how long would you be gone away from home? And I said, well probably quite a while because, you know, we have session; we have all these meetings and whatnot. And she says, right on. Go for it. But, Mr. Speaker, you do need the help of your family and the support of your family in this occupation. And I know that everybody knows that that is here, and the new members will soon find out.

Mr. Speaker, when I talk about Carrot River Valley and the things that have gone on around Carrot River Valley, the people actually are very happy with what this government did in the previous four years. And that's why they want to see this government continue.

I was fortunate enough to be elected in 2007 with 61 per cent of the vote and moved up this time to just about 76 per cent. They obviously don't know me that well.

But the people, the people of Carrot River Valley have seen their roads being fixed. They've seen the education portion on their property taxes reduced. They've seen their income taxes reduced.

They've seen their mills reopening without any taxpayer dollars being put in there. This is great. We have Hudson Bay, actually

the Weyerhaeuser mill in Hudson Bay is going to be coming on with the third shift in January. And Edgewood is actually, they are harvesting wood right now and we are hoping for cold weather so they can continue harvesting wood. They wanted to have boards coming out of there before Christmas but unfortunately the wood's not going to be in there quick enough. And so they're planning for January; the boards will be coming out of there. This is great news, great news for northeastern Saskatchewan and great news for all of Saskatchewan having employment up there in those . . . in that respect.

They also like to see the government debt going down — \$3 billion in the last four years where the government debt has come down. The people of Carrot River Valley realize that this is very important to the well-being of Saskatchewan, to the well-being of Carrot River Valley. They like to see the fact that this province, this province moved into a AAA rating last spring by Standard & Poors. Now we were probably the only jurisdiction in North America that actually moved forward. First time Saskatchewan has ever got a AAA rating was under our Premier, the Saskatchewan Party government.

Mr. Speaker, we're looking at education. Cumberland College just put a brand new building into Nipawin — \$7.2 billion I believe it was, Mr. Speaker. This is great for educating the people who are away from the cities, who can go there, take their education. It's great for the First Nations. We have two First Nations up there, Red Earth and Shoal Lake. Their people can go there and take training in Cumberland Community College. I'm a great believer in these community colleges. It helps our rural areas out.

Mr. Speaker, there's so many things that we can talk about. But one of the things I found out when we were on the doorstep was people mainly talked about . . . They're happy about pretty well everything except, you know, everybody is concerned about health care. Now, Mr. Speaker, this government has moved forward on health care. When you take what this government has done, they have moved forward, moved forward with a plan on health care, Mr. Speaker. We've increased the physician spaces in Saskatoon from 60 to 100, the residency seats from 60 to 120. We went from 400 nurse training spots to 700. Mr. Speaker, these are initiatives that our government has taken. We have 200 more doctors working in this province right now than what we did in 2007. We also were told that we couldn't hire 800 nurses. Well, we hired 900, over 900, Mr. Speaker.

Now I realize that these 200 new doctors, most of them, most of them are going to the cities, and what we really need is we need those in the rural areas. However our government, under the leadership of our Premier, has come up with a good way. First off, increasing the seats from 60 to 100 means that a lot of our people, a lot of our students will be coming out of our high schools from the rural areas, going into the medical college. And when they come back out, they will want to go back to their roots. They will want to go back to the rural areas and go into practice. Now to help that out this government has come up with \$120,000 forgiveness in student loans. They come back out, these new physicians . . . when they go back out to our rural areas, they have those advantages to set out there, do the work, put the roots back in, in rural Saskatchewan. And it is a hope of this government that those new physicians will stay in our rural areas.

Also we need more nurse practitioners. And we are increasing . . . A total of 20 new nurse practitioner training seats will be added over the next four years. This is this government's commitment. That's a 67 per cent increase from the training seats that are there already. This is also good news for the people of rural Saskatchewan, the people of Carrot River Valley.

The new 20 doctor rural locum pool will be set up for those doctors who, when they want to leave or take a holiday for a while, now we can have a pool of doctors who will come in there and fill in for when those doctors are gone. Great news for rural Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, when you continue on and look at the things within the Throne Speech . . . And I'm just going to bring up the odd one here and there.

Last night we attended the Canadian Diabetes Association reception here. They're ecstatic that they have moved the children's insulin pump program from the age of 17 years up to the age of 25. This is a great move. And I know that I have had some constituents who were worried about their children coming off of this program, you know, before they actually went out and got a job. By the time they're 25 years old, the hope is that they will have a job and continue on with that. Also putting the two longer-acting insulins on the . . . or changing them from the exceptional drug status to going on to the full formulary is another great thing.

Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of things moving forward in Saskatchewan, and I have to say . . . And I want to quote *Hansard* from yesterday. The member from Athabasca said, "Now I will point out, Mr. Speaker, that as I listened to the Throne Speech, it was pretty bland. It was [pretty] visionless, and there was huge gaps." That was the member from Athabasca that said that yesterday. This, this, this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, has great vision. It has great vision to move Saskatchewan forward.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, another thing for rural Saskatchewan is the new community rink affordability grant. The rinks in a lot of our smaller communities are our centre of attraction. We have obviously lots of hockey teams, lots of our kids playing hockey, and providing up to \$2,500 a year to help with the cost of operating our rinks is a real boon for rural Saskatchewan and Carrot River Valley. Rural Saskatchewan was forgotten for far too long under that previous administration. They had 16 years and they basically forgot about rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to say that this Throne Speech has a great vision. Now you remember, Mr. Speaker, back in 2007 during the campaign, during the campaign, Mr. Speaker, they were called . . . the NDP ad said we were a wolf in sheep's clothing. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that that has certainly changed because Saskatchewan is not like that any more. They can't use that saying any more because Saskatchewan, under this Premier and under the Saskatchewan Party government, has turned into a tiger. Basically the best place in all of Canada, in all of the world, is moving forward. Lowest unemployment, we have the lowest unemployment and

every economic indicator is putting Saskatchewan as number one in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I am going to be supporting the Throne Speech and I will not be supporting the amendment.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a few comments I'd like to make in reply to the Throne Speech, and I would like to start by saying I certainly look forward to working with you in your role as Speaker and my role as Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as other members have taken this opportunity to thank a number of people, I'd like to do the same. First of all I would like to thank the voters of Last Mountain-Touchwood who have placed their trust in me one more time to represent them in the chambers. Mr. Speaker, I certainly realize the privilege that I have been given and certainly I once again commit that I will certainly do my best to represent them in the fashion that they would like me to do.

Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Last Mountain-Touchwood used to be, prior to '99, it was one of those bellwether ridings where for many, many years as the government changed, so did the representative. In fact for many years Last Mountain-Touchwood was represented by a member of the government. It is again but it didn't start out that way in '99, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, I believe the people of Last Mountain-Touchwood have some faith in my ability and I certainly respect that and thank them for that.

There are a number of people who were actively involved in my campaign as every other member had people involved, and I'd like to thank those. I'd like to start by thanking my wife, Marlene. She's certainly engaged in the political process and an avid student of political process in our province and in many ways is probably more political than I am at times. And she's certainly been a great help to me over the last number of years that I've been serving in this House and certainly once again was a great help in the upcoming campaign — or in the last campaign, I should say.

In Last Mountain-Touchwood in our campaign team, we actually had quite a small team but we were quite effective and that was due to the hard work of a number of key people. Carol, my campaign manager, just did a great job in managing things and making sure that I was on track and so on and looked after all the things that needed to be looked after in the campaign. Marilyn, who has been my business manager for the four campaigns that I ran in, once again did a great job. And I thank both of those two ladies for all the great help that they provided and the guidance and all the hard work and long days that they put in.

We have Bob who did yeoman service in getting the signs out and getting them up, and then of course taking them down. He also doubled as a fundraiser. Larry was our techie. And a number of other people who played a role, whether that being scrutineers or helping put up signs and so on: Bob and Sheila, Violet and Fred, Randy and Lawrence and many other people

who, if I started on the list of people, particularly with scrutineers . . . I know I've missed many of them.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to take a moment to congratulate and thank my opponent. I was in a bit of unique situation this time in that the opponent, the candidate representing the NDP, was a member from my home community. In fact he was the mayor of my hometown. And we were in the unique situation where our campaign offices were located on opposite sides of Main Street. And I should mention for those members who were in this House in '99 that my campaign office was located in the Cupar co-op food store which had closed in May. And there is a bit of a story behind that, and you can ask some of the people who have been around in '99 and they can perhaps fill you in for those members who haven't been here or weren't here at that time.

But Don and his team, they worked hard — in fact he was the hardest working candidate in the last three elections that I ran in — and took the high road. And that's what I would like to congratulate him for. We both ran, I believe, very clean campaigns. Personalities didn't enter into it. As I said, Don and his team worked hard and, however, as I had hoped and predicted when he was introduced in the last sitting, that he would be able to continue full-time in his role as mayor of Cupar. And I certainly congratulate him on maintaining that role.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all members who have been elected, whether they're returning members but, in particular, the newly elected members. I believe all of them now have delivered their maiden speech, and I must say that they did just an excellent job. In fact they really raised the bar for those of us that have been around here for a while and I congratulate them for that. I can say to their voters that they can be very proud of the people that they have sent to this place to represent them.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are in a new place in the political scene of this province. We all know of the results of the last election and the dynamics of it. But it does . . . We have a returning government who increased our share of the popular vote. We increased our seats. This is something, at least since the time that I've been following politics here in Saskatchewan, that that has happened. And it does present some opportunities for both sides of the House, Mr. Speaker.

I believe that we have, as we all know who have been here for a while and of course the people who follow the democratic process and governance in this province, that they know that these chambers are a place where politics is practised. And sometimes, at least in my view, sometimes the political aspects of issues take precedence over what I would call the aspect of providing good government to the people of this province. And in this place we all need to find that balance.

And I believe at this time, Mr. Speaker, that it does provide all of us with an opportunity where we can view the issues that we need to deal with, firstly through the lens of good government — in other words, what is best for the people of the province. But we'll never . . . Because of the nature of our government, our democratic system, politics will always be part of it, but sometimes it can be a separate part of it, Mr. Speaker.

And in that regard, Mr. Speaker, I would say that we could make some starts that way. We already have a system that was

put in place with some of the good work that you and the former member of Regina South did when we changed the way we operate in this Assembly, where a lot of work is done in committees made up of members from both sides of the House. But in practice, the working committees have been largely done by opposition members, you know, and they were designed for opposition members to hold government to account and so on.

But I believe there was a greater purpose to the committee system, where all members of the committee could participate and ask questions on behalf of their constituents and get information because it's been my experience that ministers, when they appear before committees, bring their most senior officials who quite often have the information very readily available. And I think that's something we maybe we need to explore. And not to say that government members should be taking up opposition members' time to hold government to account because that is the role of opposition members, but I believe that the time could be used to benefit all members of committee and if all members and particularly government members participated more actively.

I know when we were in opposition, the government members quite often had very limited participation in committee and now and when as us being in government, our members will have very limited participation in committee. And I know, I'll always remember the words of our retiring Clerk, Gwenn Ronyk, when she spoke to us on her retirement. She urged us to use all the tools available to us, and this is something that I would urge that we perhaps look at, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as I said when I started, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank a few people, perhaps put a few comments on the record. And I'm looking at the Throne Speech and it's something that there's a portion in the conclusion that perhaps I would just like again to read into the record and it's something that I feel that we should all keep in the back of our minds when we are speaking, whether it be in the House or in committee, and in the way we conduct ourselves. And the portion that I would like to read again to the record is this, Mr. Speaker, and I quote:

I ask that you remember every day that your seat in this place — hard-fought and well-earned as it might be — is on loan.

It was purchased with the blood of our soldiers and the toil of our settlers.

It is sustained with the efforts of women and men all over our great province.

It is willed to you, in trust, by future generations.

If you keep this in mind during all your deliberations, I know you will be worthy of the great responsibility you have been given.

I think, Mr. Speaker, if we remember that, we will be much better members of this Assembly and we will serve the people of this province much better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to join in the debate on this 2011, this twenty-seventh legislature of the first Throne Speech of our new government. And I would be remiss if I didn't continue on with the tradition of my new colleagues and my veteran colleagues in thanking the many people and those that brought us here.

Firstly I thank the good Lord for allowing me the honour and the privilege to serve my constituency in this province, in this blessed province, in this iconic institution that we know is coming to be 100 years old in 2012.

Next would be my wife and kids. Again, as many members have spoken about their spouses, my wife, Leone, is probably my hardest . . . Not probably — was definitely my hardest working campaign worker and door knocker and support no doubt throughout the whole campaign experience and day to day the past essentially six years or so, being nominated over two years ahead of the last election and serving as the member for Yorkton for four and now into my second term. Without her, I truly could not, could not do the things I am able to do.

And my children, they're truly special kids. My one daughter, my older daughter has chosen to take up nursing. Many of us have spoken in this Assembly about the ability for our children to now stay here. And having a daughter that has worked as a care aid, a care assistant in this province, realizing she wanted to continue on with that health care profession to do more for those in the province . . . And I have often teased her that I looked after her as a child, and as I get older she's going to look after me. And now truly she might be looking after me in whatever institution I might end up in.

She is a very, very nice young lady, a very hard worker, going to her schooling here at the U of R and SIAST, the nursing program here, and has that ability to do that, Mr. Speaker, because of the expansion of the nursing seats, the expansion of the nursing college here in the province, where admittedly we shored up the shortage off the beginning. A lot of hard work done by now the member for Regina Qu'Appelle, the Minister for Government Services, in her work as the Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health in the nursing initiative, bringing those immigrant nurses to our province, helping us till we were able to build up that nursing program, and now starting to graduate our own children in the nursing program and to serve the people of the province. I'm very proud of her.

And my other daughter that has gotten her post-secondary education in this province is now a journeyman or journeyperson hairdresser in Yorkton and is starting her new life. Just recently engaged, Mr. Speaker, 21 years old, she's bought her own house and . . .

[Applause]

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Yes, thank you. Engaged to a fine young man from Melville. You know, when it comes to hockey there's a bit of a rivalry there. Not a bit; there's a lot of a rivalry there. But all of the things, Mr. Speaker, we're willing to share, including some of the recent news — BHP Billiton in the news with the expansions, the new mine they're developing, Jansen

Lake, and the possibility of that new mine that may be going somewhere in the vicinity of Yorkton-Melville.

And myself and the member from Melville-Saltcoats, the Minister of Agriculture, are more than willing to share that good news and how it will influence not only our area, create all those thousands if not tens of thousands of jobs and spur the economy of our province and our area, the eastern part of the province but through to the whole province. Already seeing the spinoffs of that type of investment, just with the initial work that's being done for that proposed mine, and the huge impact it's had on our area.

And admittedly, you talk to anybody from the potash sector, that if we didn't have the stable resource royalty rates we do have . . . again the highest resource royalty rates for potash likely in the world, second only to the Kingdom of Jordan. Our next competitor in Canada is actually New Brunswick, at 6 per cent. So even with our reduced rate, helping them with the expansion and helping them with the ability to write off some of their resource royalty income when they're doing those billions of dollars of expansion, creating those thousands and tens of thousands of jobs that aren't here, Mr. Speaker, for the short term, but for decades and decades, possibly the next century. Spurring on that investment and funding all the initiatives that the people of the province are coming to expect from a province and from the government that they have come to elect again for the second term.

Going on with my thank yous, there are constituents for their confidence in me. Plurality — again as the member from Carrot River touched on — increasing. We were very lucky to get in with a 59-point-some-odd per cent in '07, increasing to almost 73 per cent this time, Mr. Speaker. So that was quite an honour and very humbling. The vast campaign volunteers that came out to support were truly, truly amazing — people that just took on any job that was needed, filling positions where needed, working until the late hours.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, there's one I have to mention in particular. So many that were very helpful. One young girl — we'll just call her Grasshopper; that was her nickname — 13 years old, grade 8 student, worked day upon day upon day. She door knocked with me. She ran computers. She input data. Whatever she needed to do, she did, Mr. Speaker. And I was very truly honoured to have Brooke Webster come and help me, along with her parents. But truly an amazing young woman, who has told me she really wants to be the premier of this province at some point, and I think she's down the right road. You know, give her about 10, 15, 20 years, she just might be able to do that. So a very nice young lady and I was honoured to have her help me out.

Congratulations and thank you to again our veterans, all of our returning veterans. Every incumbent that we had on this side of the House returned, Mr. Speaker. And those that didn't run again, the people filling those seats obviously have returned, plus 11 other ones, so we are very thankful to the people of the province for that. And again a huge congratulations to all my new colleagues on this side of the House, and another mention of all the great speeches. The depth of the people who have been re-elected and elected here, Mr. Speaker, is truly amazing. And we are honoured to have them here, and they will truly

make our caucus even more diverse, more input from around the province from different areas of perspective and professional backgrounds.

I'd like to thank the staff, the caucus staff that serves us so very well in this building. We don't have any in the galleries here to introduce, but just second to none. And again the legislative staff, the Clerk's offices, everybody else in this building that does make our job so much easier. Those resources to go to when we need are truly invaluable, and we're very thankful for them.

My staff back in Yorkton: Laretta Ritchie-McInnes has been a constituency assistant now for 16 years; Ingrid Stumph who has been with us just over a year doing a very fine job; and her daughter-in-law who is now off on maternity leave, serves part-time. It's 1,060,000 . . . I told her, that's 1,060,001 residents in the province now, Sarah gave birth to. And again looking forward to her coming back to work and helping us as well.

And congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be remiss as well if I didn't congratulate you on your recent victory and are looking forward to working with you. And your dedication to this institution, this Assembly, is truly thanked. And congratulations to you.

And again to the past Speaker, the member from Moosomin, just an amazing man who has come to be a very good friend of mine and a mentor, and I've learned a lot from him. And it's just an honour to continue working with him now from the benches where maybe he can be a little bit more vocal as well.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech, obviously it's reflective of our election platform. That goes without saying. The media did pick up on the fact — they were quite surprised in fact, I believe — that a lot of the campaign promises have actually been rolled out in this Throne Speech. Again I think the Premier was very proactive last election in that same respect. We don't want to save a whole bunch of powder, keep the powder dry for the next election and politicize all these announcements that are going to benefit, for sure benefit the people of the province. We want to make sure they benefit as quickly as possible so there's no sense keeping that in the can, so to speak, and rolling it out later. We want to do the best we can for the people of the province even if that means carrying through with a lot of promises earlier and having those people benefit from them.

And again with the theme that I think we're well known for, the reputation that we've developed over the last four years and the relationship we've developed with the people of the province, I think the voters spoke in that regard. When you look at the layout of this Assembly and the vast amount of chairs on this side and the number fewer on the other side, Mr. Speaker, that they like to hear what you're going to do, and they like it when you carry through with your promises. And again well over 140 promises from our last platform carried through with. And knowing full well that we will be able to carry through with the promises of this election and continue to earn that trust and serve the people of this province.

A lot of the theme of this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, was



about vision, forward-looking vision. That forward-looking vision that again we earned our second mandate on the vision, and the reputation that we have in carrying through with the things we said we would do, moving our province, our economy forward.

And again, as the Premier will speak so often is that, you know, what is the reason for that strong economy? What do we want a strong economy for? As, you know, what will be seen as a right wing party, strong economy is a strong part of what we stand for. But what purpose does that serve? Well, Mr. Speaker, as the Premier, the member from Swift Current will quite often say, that there's not much sense in having a strong economy if we can't serve those and help those that need help. And again, I don't think you can ever do enough for all people. And the opposition, obviously you can't do anything at times. It's kind of the message we get from over there.

But when we look at the records, I will point to the social, our social record, Mr. Speaker. We are predominantly, again, a right wing party, but I would argue a very strong social conscience. And when we look at the record of our parties, again the New Democrats are very good at talking about the things that are very important. A lot of their platform was things that made sense. But when you promise all things to all things, Mr. Speaker, really you lose credibility when you know that, you know, likely some things you might be able to deliver on. But to promise well over \$5 billion in promises on a balanced budget mandate was quite surprising. So they lost credibility and lost believability, and I think the people of the province did speak.

And when you look at our record, Mr. Speaker, with our social conscience, our social policies, that again you probably can't do enough for everybody. But when you look at the balance of initiatives that have happened, I'll point to community-based organizations for example, Mr. Speaker, where we saw over 16 years of NDP government, one and a half, 2 per cent lifts. And strategically around election times these bumps would come in, and it served them quite well. But you know, I think the people, after a while, they didn't get fooled again, as the popular song says. When they looked at over four years of our government, 16 per cent lift averaging 4 per cent a year for community-based organizations, I think that record stands for itself.

When you look at our background and our plans for those with disabilities, again we talked about the SAID program. I won't go in too much detail about the specifics of the Throne Speech. But breaking that plan out, we heard that four years ago it took a bit of time to get the nuts and bolts figured out. But now that separate disability income plan for those that truly will not return to work, that need those supports, that need a living wage, breaking that apart so we don't have to lift social assistance the same as the disability income plan, truly giving those members of our society dignity and their own income source for that.

One thing I know we've talked quite a bit about, Mr. Speaker, is that the province is growing. And I have talked to those from maybe more the social side of the spectrum and they are worrying about our growth and how quickly things are growing. And you know, gosh darn, it used to take me five

minutes to get across town, and I'm in rush hour. Now it takes me seven. And that really seems to upset some of them, you know. There used to be more here for the rest of us and now there's more people coming and contributing, and we're growing.

And I've argued with them, Mr. Speaker. You know, ideal situation — wouldn't it be nice if we could keep our children here? And they, yes, darn it, be nice to keep our children here. Well I point out to them, Mr. Speaker, if we just grew by our birth rate, that's 15, 16,000 people a year — without immigration, without any other factors that would come into play — we would be growing as quick or possibly quicker than we are now if we only kept our children here.

Ideal situation likely won't happen but I think the growth rate that we are enjoying is something that's very manageable. We're looking at the potash, the resource sector that is growing and providing those jobs for our children. We're looking at post-secondary education opportunities that are growing, helping our children get education here. We're hearing about the different programs, graduate retention, the new scholarship program that's going to help retain our children here as well, Mr. Speaker.

So you know, there's so much information here. I've got notes upon notes and I just, I'm not going to have time for all this. We have come very close to the appointed hour of the end of the day here.

So you know, let me just say this: that again, the best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour. I'm very proud of the record we have on this side of the House. I'm very proud of our veteran members.

Again would be remiss if I didn't mention some more key people in our caucus and that would be the Premier, the Deputy Premier, our cabinet, our ministers, and all our supportive MLAs, backbenchers alike. Everybody's got a say in this government caucus, always have and I believe always will when you look at the direction and the leadership of our Premier. Best Premier in the province — well obviously in the province — best Premier we've ever had in this province. Best leader in Canada and possibly one of the best and getting to be one of the most renowned leaders, I would argue, in the world.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, you know, we . . . Yes, I better . . . If I start on another train of thought here, we're going to be going for quite a while. So with that, Mr. Speaker, again thank you. To the support of all my colleagues, thank you. Thank you to the Premier. Thank you to all the people in this province for honouring us and trusting us with our second mandate. And with that, I would like to make a motion to adjourn debate.

And I will be supporting the motion and not the amendment.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Yorkton has moved adjournment of debate. Is the motion agreed to?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — It now being near or at the hour of 5 o'clock, this House does now stand adjourned till 10 a.m. Thursday

morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

McMorris .....	65
Jurgens .....	65
Norris .....	65
Elhard .....	65
McCall .....	65
Cheveldayoff .....	66
Ottenbreit .....	84

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Marchuk .....	66
---------------	----

##### Awards for Teaching Excellence

Wotherspoon .....	66
-------------------	----

##### Community Initiative Reaches Semifinals

Ottenbreit .....	67
------------------	----

##### New Women's Clothing Store Opens in Regina

Nilson .....	67
--------------	----

##### Air Ambulance Service Celebrates Anniversary

Steinley .....	67
----------------	----

##### 2012 Year of the Fransaskois

Elhard .....	67
--------------	----

##### Saskatchewan's Small Businesses Strong

Moe .....	68
-----------	----

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Provision of Surgical Care

Brotten .....	68
---------------	----

McMorris .....	68
----------------	----

##### Support for Northern Saskatchewan

Vermette .....	69
----------------	----

Cheveldayoff .....	69
--------------------	----

Draude .....	70
--------------	----

##### First Nations and Métis Issues

McCall .....	70
--------------	----

Cheveldayoff .....	70
--------------------	----

##### Funding for Education

Wotherspoon .....	71
-------------------	----

Harpauer .....	72
----------------	----

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

##### Standing Committee on House Services

McCall .....	72
--------------	----

#### MOTIONS

##### Lobbyist Registry

Morgan .....	73
--------------	----

Nilson .....	73
--------------	----

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### SPECIAL ORDER

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Jurgens .....	74
---------------	----

Tochor .....	76
--------------	----

Sproule .....	78
---------------	----

Vermette .....	81
----------------	----

Doke .....	82
------------	----

Chartier .....	84
----------------	----

Michelson .....	87
-----------------	----

Bradshaw .....	90
----------------	----

Hart .....	92
------------	----

Ottenbreit .....	93
------------------	----

#### STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

##### Lobbyist Registry Motion

Nilson .....	77
--------------	----

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

---

**Hon. Brad Wall**  
**Premier of Saskatchewan**  
**President of the Executive Council**  
**Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs**

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

**Hon. Bill Boyd**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for SaskTel  
Minister Responsible for The Global  
Transportation Hub Authority

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

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

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

**Hon. Donna Harpauer**  
Minister of Education

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
Minister of Enterprise  
Minister Responsible for Trade

**Hon. Darryl Hickie**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

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

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

**Hon. Ken Krawetz**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Finance

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

**Hon. Don McMorris**  
Minister of Health

**Hon. Don Morgan**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan  
Workers' Compensation Board

**Hon. Rob Norris**  
Minister of Advanced Education,  
Employment and Immigration  
Minister Responsible for Innovation  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Power Corporation  
Minister Responsible for Uranium  
Development Partnership

**Hon. Jim Reiter**  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Transportation Company

**Hon. Laura Ross**  
Minister of Government Services