



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

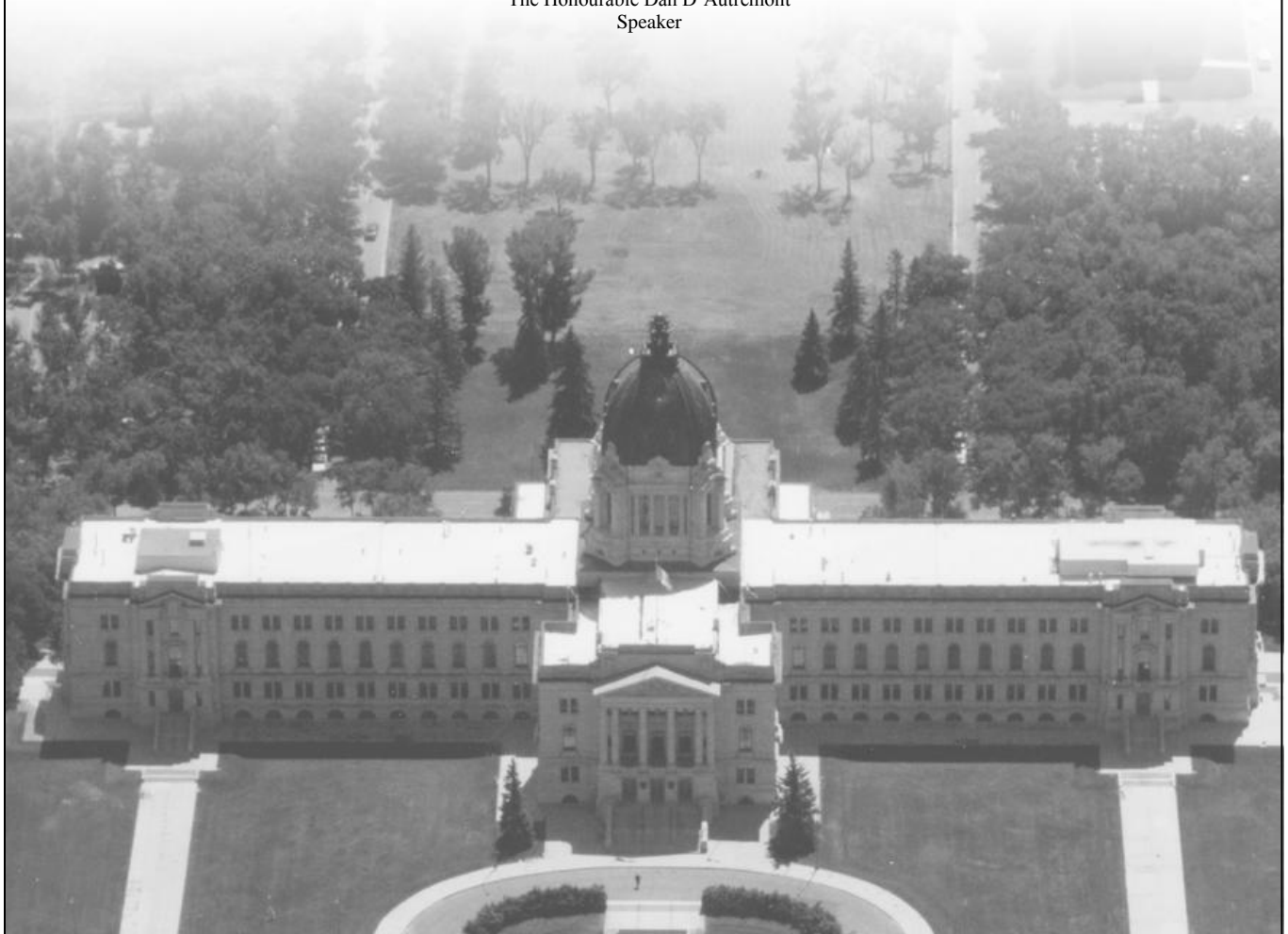
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I'm pleased to introduce 13 Grade 10 and 11 students from Miller Collegiate here in Regina in the Regina Douglas Park constituency, along with their teacher, Mandy Pitzel-Markewich, and assistants, Bonnie Bobryck and Diane Schlosser.

I've had the opportunity to say hello to the students just before we came into the Chamber, and I look forward to meeting with them afterwards and spending some time with them. And I'd like all members to help me in welcoming these fine students to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the legislature, I'm very pleased to introduce 51 Grade 5 and 6 students from L'École Française de Saskatoon. L'École Française de Saskatoon is in Saskatoon Riversdale. It's also the school where my oldest daughter has attended since kindergarten. So I'd like to welcome the teachers, Denis Sanche and Janelle Yasinski. Although I don't know Madame Yasinski, I know Monsieur Sanche is my daughter's morale teacher, and Hennessey says you always have great discussions about world issues in the class.

So I will also want to make a mention to the chaperones who make these field trips possible: Spencer Richards, Kathy Richards, Deb Walker, Lisa Tremblay, and Selina Beaudin. Just a special hello to Spencer who's the dad of one of my daughter's classmates, Mackenzie, and to Deb Walker, a woman with whom I share a passion: the importance of electing more women to all levels of government.

So most importantly though I want to welcome the students. It's so very good to have kids from Saskatoon Riversdale here. I've only had two school groups in the time I've been an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], so it's great to see you here. Je vous souhaite bienvenue à votre législature.

[Translation: I would like to welcome you to your legislature.]

And I ask all members to join me in welcoming these special guests to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to

you and all members of the legislature, it's my pleasure to introduce some guests in your gallery representing Cameco. Cameco of course is a company that is the world leader in uranium development, headquartered here in Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. They do tremendous work in the northern part of our province, a very admirable record of employing First Nations and Métis people here in our province.

So it's my pleasure to introduce Grant Isaac, the chief financial officer and senior vice-president from Cameco; and Jeff Hryhoriw, the manager of government relations, seated in your gallery along with my chief of staff, Cam Baker. So all members of the legislature, would you please welcome them to their Legislative Building. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to rise and welcome the officials from Cameco here to their Legislative Assembly. Certainly on behalf of the official opposition, we welcome them here, and we commend them for the good work they do and look forward to working with them in the future.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in on the welcome with the member from Saskatoon Riversdale to the school group that is in the east gallery.

I'd like to say a special hello to Rev. Deb Walker, one of the chaperones along for the day. Deb along with her partner, Dave Moors, are the two ministers at Mayfair United right in the heart of Saskatoon Massey Place. And I just want to thank her and thank them for the tremendous work they do with many constituents, many who attend Mayfair United. So on behalf of the official opposition and all members, I'd like to thank Deb Walker for her great work. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for greater protection for late-night retail workers by passing Jimmy's law. And we know that in the early morning hours of June 20th, 2011, Jimmy Ray Wiebe was shot two times and died from his injuries. He was working at a gas station in Yorkton, alone and unprotected from intruders. But we know that positive statistics show that convenience store and gas station robberies are down by one-third since 1999 largely due to increased safety practices, including two people working together on late-night shifts. We know other provinces have done much the same, including making sure there's protective barriers such as locked doors and protective glass.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully

request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately enact Bill 601, Jimmy's law, to ensure greater safety for retail workers who work late-night hours.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the city of Saskatoon and Yorkton. I do so present. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today to present a petition in support of improving Highway 165 near Beauval, Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows, that:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan undertake to upgrade the section of Highway 165 between Beauval and the English River First Nation by adding proper lighting for pedestrian traffic, by adding space for pedestrians on the highway and its bridges, and by properly servicing the road with the material needed for the busy heavy-haul road.

Mr. Speaker, the people that signed this petition are primarily from Beauval. And I so present.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a whole number of petitions that are presented from people right across the whole province who are asking the Premier to withdraw Bill 36 about increasing the number of politicians in Saskatchewan. And I'll read the prayer.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to not increase the number of politicians in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and to continue including those individuals under the age of 18 in the determination of constituency boundaries.

And, Mr. Speaker, there are people from many, many communities across the province who are opposed to this legislation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the management and accounting of our provincial finances.

And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the Sask Party government to provide Saskatchewan people with the fair, true state of our finances by providing appropriate summary financial accounting and reporting that is in line

with the rest of Canada, in compliance with public sector accounting standards and following the independent Provincial Auditor's recommendations; and also to begin to provide responsible, sustainable, and trustworthy financial management as deserved by Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Cabri and Swift Current. I so submit.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition signed by Saskatchewan people who want the Sask Party government to support the Saskatchewan seniors' bill of rights:

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that many Saskatchewan seniors live on fixed incomes and are victims of physical, emotional, and financial abuse; that Saskatchewan seniors have a right to social and economic security and a right to live free from poverty; that Saskatchewan seniors have a right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to enact a Saskatchewan seniors' bill of rights, which would provide Saskatchewan seniors with social and economic security and protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of trappers of Saskatchewan. The current regulations being enforced are creating challenges that are a concern for our traditional trappers. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that the experience gained through practical experience be valued, and in so doing, cause the government to review the current legislation and regulations with respect to trapping regulations and firearm use in consultation with traditional resource users.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Happy Mother's Day

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Sunday is Mother's Day, a special day set aside to honour our mothers, who loved us no matter how many times we messed up, fought with our siblings during long car rides, broke curfews in high school, or played our music far too loud. Despite all of that, our mothers loved us anyway.

One day is hardly enough to reflect upon how our moms contribute to our lives and society. They nurture, guide, love, and support us through thick and thin. They let us have that last piece of Saskatoon pie. They make us chicken soup when we're sick. And for those of us in political life, they are our greatest fans and sometimes our greatest critics. They are indeed shining examples of selflessness.

It's a wonder that our moms have time to do all the things they do when society demands more and more of mothers. But this is a testament of how strong our mothers are. They're skilled at being in 100 places at once wearing several different hats. They're simply amazing women. I think the following Moroccan proverb captures the essence of mothers perfectly, as the saying goes, and I quote, "In the eyes of its mother, every beetle is a gazelle."

And so, Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to salute all mothers and grandmothers who deserve this very special day. Thank you very much.

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

World Lupus Day

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to speak today about World Lupus Day. On this day we honour those affected by the serious, life-altering disease by raising awareness and providing education about this affliction. Five million people worldwide and 1 out of every 1,000 Canadians suffer from lupus.

Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body, including skin, joints, and organs. The chronic symptoms of lupus cause problems with the immune system, inhibiting your body's ability to fight off viruses, bacteria, germs because the body mistakenly attacks healthy tissue. Lupus is much more common in women than in men and there is no cure for the disease. The goal of the treatment is to control symptoms ranging from mild inflammation and rashes to severe anemia, kidney, and central nervous system problems.

World Lupus Day was first proclaimed in 2005 as a call to action for governments around the world to increase financial support for research, awareness, and patient services. This year, global lupus ambassador Julian Lennon will lead the May 10 observance where he will encourage the signing of a petition in support of lupus research.

I would like this Assembly to recognize the tremendous efforts of the lupus volunteers and organizations worldwide and remind all Saskatchewan residents that they can make a difference by donating or volunteering at their local Lupus

Saskatchewan office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Celebrating Enterprising Women

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week is Women Entrepreneurs Week across Saskatchewan. On this occasion, I'm very pleased to rise to celebrate enterprising women across this province for their tremendous contributions to business, our economy, and our communities. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two very savvy, fun, and entrepreneurial women, Paula Woodhouse from Saskatoon Riversdale and Tammie McCumber, who own and operate a very successful business in Saskatoon.

Tammie and Paula were both mothers of two young children when they decided to open a store called The Giggle Factory in 2003. The two women envisioned a fun toy store for children where kids were encouraged to test toys placed throughout the store. With the help of a business loan in 2005, Tammie and Paula's dream became a reality. Over the last seven years, The Giggle Factory has become a very popular business in Saskatoon with an ever-growing fan club of children and adults, myself included.

Tammy and Paula's business has done so well that they've been nominated in the entrepreneurship category for the upcoming YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Women of Distinction Awards in Saskatoon next month. They are in great company with a very strong group of Saskatoon women entrepreneurs.

As a mother, I can relate to the challenges women face in balancing parenthood with a demanding career. It's wonderful to see so many women starting and growing businesses and contributing to the economy like Tammie and Paula. As over half the population of Saskatchewan is made up of women, it is absolutely necessary that women continue to move into leadership roles in business as well as in public policy and government.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the amazing women entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan. You are fabulous role models. Thank you.

[10:15]

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

National Nursing Week

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every day Saskatchewan nurses work tirelessly to provide their patients with high-quality care. They are highly skilled health professionals who are dedicated and devoted to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize National Nursing Week May 6th to 12th to honour the vital role that nurses play in our health system and in our communities. This includes registered

nurses, psychiatric nurses, licensed practical nurses. At the same time, I'd like to recognize continuing care aides for their important contributions to the nursing team.

Mr. Speaker, keeping and attracting nurses is a high priority for this government. In fact, four years ago we signed a partnership agreement with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, looking for more ways to recruit and retain registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses. As a result, there are 900 more nurses working in the province than there were in 2007-08.

Mr. Speaker, I extend a heartfelt welcome to nurses coming to Saskatchewan as well as to new Saskatchewan nursing graduates. At the same time, I offer my appreciation to all nurses currently working in Saskatchewan's health system for their hard work, commitment, and dedication. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking our nurses for their ongoing contributions to the health care system and in wishing them the best this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Southeast Regional College Plays Important Role

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the work of Southeast Regional College in the constituency of Moosomin. Through the years, Southeast Regional College has played an important role in preparing our Saskatchewan young people to enter the workforce and help build our province. This has been a very successful partnership of community, government, and an educational institution. Through co-operation with the Cowessess First Nation, a number of excellent programs preparing young men and women to enter the workforce came to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, the Southeast Regional College partnered with Cowessess First Nation to deliver training to 20 participants under the workplace essential skills Saskatchewan program. Each of these graduating students has received a job placement where they will be mentored over the next six months. Recently six young men and women graduated from the licensed practical nurses program, and there are currently 75 applicants for next year's 14 positions in the program. I also want to acknowledge the college for their support of the continuing care aide program.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to post-secondary education. Over \$5 million has been allocated to the Southeast Regional College in the 2012-13 provincial budget. Tomorrow evening I look forward to attending the ABE [adult basic education] grad in Moosomin where more young men and women will be preparing to enter the workforce as future leaders of our province. I would like to thank all the members . . . I would like to ask the members of this Assembly to join me in recognizing the fantastic work done by those at the Southeast Regional College and thank the college and their staff for the work they do in the Moosomin constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Teenage Mothers

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday I had the pleasure of participating in the anniversaries of two very important support service programs for teen moms, two programs that provide a positive learning environment along with academic and social support to ensure and enhance success.

The Shirley Schneider Support Centre has itself admitted in excess of 130 teen moms this year. Thirty-eight are set to graduate this year, a marvellous example of an innovative services approach to meet the needs of students in a regular class setting. In fact, Mr. Speaker, a former student of mine who I visited with, pregnant in grade 10, dropped out of school, re-enrolled two years later in the Balfour program, graduated, and is now a graduate RN [registered nurse] practising at the Regina General Hospital.

These programs housed at Balfour Collegiate, the Mackenzie Infant Care Centre celebrating 15 years of service; and the Shirley Schneider Support Centre, formerly Balfour Tutorial, which has been providing support services to Regina moms for over 40 years, realized that being a young mother and pursuing an education is a very onerous task.

Being a mom is an onerous task. Being a student mom is an even greater challenge. Looking after a newborn, finding a sitter, staying on top of studies, and getting to school on time proved to be almost impossible for most young moms.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating both the Mackenzie Infant Care Centre and the Shirley Schneider Support Centre for reaching such impressive milestones, and thank them for their continued efforts in supporting the youth of Regina. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Happy Mother's Day

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to have the honour to rise today and speak about a very special group of people in Saskatchewan — all our mothers. This weekend across Canada and the world, people will take a moment to give thanks to those special ladies who have been there for us right from the start.

Anna Jarvis got it right in 1912 when she trademarked the phrase Mother's Day and created the Mother's Day International Association. Ever since, we have celebrated our mothers on the second Sunday in May, not that we need to wait for a special day to say thanks to mom. Any day would constitute an appropriate time to thank the ladies who taught us all the good things we know, who fed us, clothed us, got us off to school, who worried about us when we were out late at night, and were there to help us raise our families when that time came.

These occasions of thanks to our mothers have been going on for a very long time. The Greeks and the Romans all had their days of recognition because the importance of our mothers goes back to the beginning of time.

I would like to ask all the members of this Assembly to please join me in recognizing and thanking those wonderful role models, providers, and supporters who help us navigate the road of life — our mothers. And on a personal note, Mr. Speaker, to my mother who lives in Estevan and is watching, I would just like to say, thanks, Mom. I love you. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Electoral Representation

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, thousands of people have written letters, made phone calls, and signed petitions against Bill 36. These people come from North Battleford, Moose Jaw, Martensville, Swift Current, Maple Creek, Fort Qu'Appelle, all over the province. None of these people want millions of dollars spent on three more politicians and none of them want young people excluded from the electoral process. To the Premier: will he listen to the thousands of people who are against Bill 36 and drop this Bill?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we've raised and dealt with this issue in the Assembly a number of times before. We have had discussions about the size of some of the constituencies, that some of the constituencies, at the present time people are travelling several hours to get across. The people from the northern constituencies should probably take the time to inform their counterparts about the difficulties and the distances that they have to travel. We've certainly protected a legislative exemption for those constituencies. We do not want to have to deal with that type of situation . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — In the southern part of the province, Mr. Speaker. We think that this is . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Will the member for Athabasca come to order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We think this is a fair and appropriate way of handling electoral redistribution. We look at the work that the MLAs do; we look at the distances that the constituents have to travel to see their MLAs. And I would like to encourage the two northern MLAs to deal with their counterparts and explain to them the distances and the travel that they go through, so that the people on that side of the House understand what people in Wood River, Arm River, and Cypress Hills are going through. And if we exacerbate the distances there, they should do some listening to the members across. And I can well understand why the member from Athabasca was initially in favour of the three additional MLAs because, Mr. Speaker, underneath he well understands where we're at with this thing.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, thousands of people are asking the Premier to stop spending millions of dollars on three more politicians and to stop excluding young people from the equation used to draw up the new electoral boundaries. To the Premier: how many people have called him, asking him to spend millions of dollars on three more politicians and asking him to exclude young people from the electoral process?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the citizens of this province are concerned with how much money is being spent. They are happy and they are pleased that we are the only province that has a balanced budget. They're also pleased that we've spent \$5 million a year less on communication, three and a half million dollars a year less on executive travel. Mr. Speaker, that's a sign that a government is doing what it's supposed to do and what the citizens elected it to do.

We are the only province in Canada that has a balanced budget. We are pleased to have that. We are proud to do that. We know that we will spend money carefully and wisely, and the three extra seats that we are proposing are exactly the right thing to do to ensure that people have got a fair and easy way to get to their members. Mr. Speaker, we have a history of that in the province. We know that we have more miles of roadway per capita than any other province in the country. It's because our province is diverse and spread out and we want to look after the people in this province.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, Bill 36 has been debated for weeks. Mr. Speaker, the Children's Advocate has weighed in, saying Bill 36 could be a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Constitution. To the Premier: will he admit he has made a mistake and listen to the people of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there are a variety of ways of choosing who can and who cannot be counted in the electoral process. Mr. Speaker, we treat the children in our country, in our province very well by ensuring that they've got services that are necessary for them by way of health and education. Mr. Speaker, in Canada, in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Yukon, they use voting population. In Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Nunavut they use voters lists. In all of those six jurisdictions it is all done on the basis of people that are of voting age. Mr. Speaker, that is a fair and equitable way to do it.

We apportion resources during elections on the same basis. We give money on a per vote basis when they do an enumeration. Mr. Speaker, that is the methodology that is used. It's right and it's a fair thing to do. Mr. Speaker, the things that we will do for children . . . We'll take no lessons from the members opposite. We will ensure that the people stay in this province, that

they've got jobs, futures, and careers in this province.

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

Support for the Film Industry

Ms. Chartier: — Futures and careers in this province as long as they don't work in the film industry. Mr. Speaker, the film industry says that the minister's plan for a non-refundable tax credit will not work. Now we're hearing more from the public on the issue as well. They think the government is headed in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, in a poll released this morning, 60 per cent of people in Saskatchewan oppose this cut to the film and television industry. The minister's plan is not going to help save or create even one job. It's not going to bring any investment into our province. Why is this minister ignoring the public as well as the industry? Why does he consider himself the expert on this file?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP [New Democratic Party] continue to stand by an old program that rewards companies that don't even pay income tax in Saskatchewan. That's just a grant, Mr. Speaker, and we don't give grants to businesses. The old program just isn't fair either. It's not fair to companies in other industries that don't get these grants, and it's certainly not fair to Saskatchewan residents who are paying for them. The people responding to this survey may not be aware of these circumstances, Mr. Speaker.

We're moving away from the grant and we're moving away from the destructive bidding war with taxpayers' dollars that goes with it. We're introducing a real tax credit. Who's going to benefit, Mr. Speaker? Every film, video, and digital company in Saskatchewan that pays income tax in our province, that's who.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The poll found incredible public support for the film industry. It's obvious people in Saskatchewan know the sector adds so much to our province: 75 per cent of people support the film and television industry in Saskatchewan and feel government should too. They want a program that works to keep the industry here.

Surely the minister can see that people don't want the government to abandon this sector. Will the minister simply admit he's wrong and reverse course? Will he do what Saskatchewan people want and change his program to one that actually meets the needs of the industry?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, yesterday right here in question period, I began to

outline our three-point plan to move Saskatchewan's film industry forward. The moment I started, of course opposition members started to laugh. Now for a moment I was left wondering what's funny about having a plan. Well the answer, Mr. Speaker, is that the NDP can't figure out why you'd even need one. They certainly don't have a plan.

They have a grant. It's a grant that ties our province to a hugely expensive bidding war that one noted expert described as irrational, destructive, and highly ineffective. Mr. Speaker, the NDP may well be satisfied with this old grant, but we're not. We think the film industry deserves a proper plan, one that turns away from the bidding war, rewards Saskatchewan-based companies.

Again, who's going to benefit? Everybody that pays taxes in our province. That's who's going to benefit, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a growing consensus in this province that this minister and that government are doing too little, too late to ensure the film and television industry is able to grow and thrive. When the vast majority of people say the government got it wrong when it comes to the film industry, it speaks volumes. The minister has avoided calls from the industry to change course. Now he's hearing loud and clear from the public. How can the minister and his government fail to listen to and act on what both the industry and the public believe is the right thing to do?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you once again, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, the NDP don't have a plan for the film industry, or any other part of the economy for that matter. After all, this is the party whose national leader wants to shore up the manufacturing industry of Ontario and Quebec by destroying the energy economy of Alberta and Saskatchewan. So we shouldn't expect much, Mr. Speaker.

And it should come as no surprise that the NDP's solution for our film industry is simply to throw more and more money at the problems in hopes that they'll go away. What they haven't figured out is that as soon as we up the ante, somebody else will push it up even higher. Nobody wins a bidding war, Mr. Speaker. Everybody loses. It's about time we tried a different approach based on innovation and paying taxes in our province — two things that the NDP will never understand.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It looks like this minister and his government are the only ones who don't understand the value of the film and television industry to Saskatchewan. The industry obviously understands, business owners understand it, students understand it, parents who have dreams for their children understand it, community leaders

understand it, the cultural community understands it, those of us on this side of the House understand it, people who are proud of Saskatchewan understand it.

There seems to be one group missing from the list of those who get it. When will the Premier get on board and join the list of those who value and support our film and television industry?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Mr. Speaker, as we have said before in this Assembly, in all of our discussions with the film industry, we've been plain. We've been very clear that the old refundable tax credit was not viable or even effective. It obviously wasn't helping to grow the industry, Mr. Speaker, since two-thirds of the whole industry have left the province in the last five years alone, and it came at an extraordinary cost to taxpayers and it was patently unfair to other industries, none of whom get this kind of grant.

Mr. Speaker, as we've said before, every industry creates economic activity; every industry creates employment. But only the film industry benefits from provincial programs without paying income tax, and that has to change. Where will we get the money, Mr. Speaker? We're certainly not going to take it from farmers. We're certainly not going to take it from municipalities, which is what the Leader of the Opposition would do.

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

Surgical Wait Times

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's approach to surgery delivery in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region clearly isn't working. As the minister plowed ahead with his preferred approach for for-profit surgical clinics, the functioning of the existing operating rooms in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region has suffered.

I've been receiving calls from many patients, Mr. Speaker, who are concerned because their surgeries that were planned have been cancelled. My question to the minister: how many Saskatchewan patients have had their surgeries cancelled because of shortages of OR [operating room] time in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been playing in the papers over the last couple of days, and certainly even before that at the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] annual general assembly that I attended and answered questions at regarding the surgical wait times in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.

What I want to report is that, yes, there are some concerns in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. But if you look across the province — and I'll address more on Regina in a second — but if you look across the province, you'll see that eight health regions have met their target this year, Mr. Speaker. One is just

slightly off — that's Saskatoon — and Regina is off a little bit more, not significantly, Mr. Speaker.

In fact the wait times for people over 18 months has gone from 1 per cent waiting that length of time to 2 per cent. So it's not a big change, Mr. Speaker, but having said that, we feel that it's going in the wrong direction. That is why I've had the CEO and board Chair in my office last week to ensure that they've got a plan going forward. They're going to be reporting back to me on the steps that they're going to take to address this very issue.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard a lot of bluster in that answer, but I did not hear a specific answer to the specific question. My question to the minister . . . Nor did I hear any comment on the reduction and the closure of operating rooms within the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.

My question to the minister: how many patients have had their surgeries cancelled in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and how many operating rooms in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region have been closed over the past month?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I think I could be accused of blustering before, but I don't believe that last question would match that mark, Mr. Speaker. Because bluster would be: this year, for the surgical care initiative, \$60.5 million more into the initiative, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you want to talk about bluster, I could say that 99 per cent of all the surgeries done in Saskatchewan are done within 18 months; 96 per cent are done within 12 months. That is a far cry from the NDP that had the longest wait-list in Canada.

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

Mr. Broten: — Okay, Mr. Speaker, a bit more bluster in that answer admittedly, but there was still no answer in that response with respect to how many patients have had their surgeries cancelled and how many operating rooms have been closed.

We know the minister has redirected significant funds from the operating rooms, Mr. Speaker, in order to favour his preferred approach of the for-profit clinics. We know this is having an effect on the operating rooms within the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. Mr. Speaker, there are eight operating rooms that are functioning at full capacity only two days a week, and there are nine operating rooms operating at full capacity only three days a week. My question to the minister: have there been similar levels of cancellations in the for-profit clinics or are they operating at full capacity now?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we know that there are some issues with staffing levels right now at the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, and I will tell you that it is not a result of the private clinics working both in Saskatoon and

Regina because, if that was the case, Saskatoon would be facing the same problem. That isn't the problem, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatoon has gone on a different approach, trained more operating nurses to deal with issues of maternity leave and perhaps injury, Mr. Speaker, so they've been able to keep running almost at capacity. Regina Qu'Appelle has had issues around some human resources, especially around the OR nurses. They are taking steps to address that. They've got a number of people going through the OR course right now that will then be able to see the operating rooms running closer to capacity in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region by fall, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, but even having said that, last year — the year previous, Mr. Speaker — we were at 21,800 operations in Regina Qu'Appelle. This year 22,700. That's up 1,000 procedures in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Mr. Speaker. More work to do? Certainly. We want to see those numbers drop. But we know we've come a long ways from the NDP days.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting. We've seen the minister, he's been very keen to bolster the resources for the for-profit clinics, but when it comes to ensuring the necessary resources are there for the existing operating rooms within the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, the urgency is not there.

Patients are concerned, Mr. Speaker, because surgeries are being cancelled, though the minister won't say how many. And now physicians are adding their voice to the concerns that are being raised. My question to the minister: what does he have to say to the many physicians who want to provide much needed surgeries to their patients but they are unable to get the necessary operating room time in the existing operating rooms in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my previous answer, we know that there are some concerns around the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. That's why we've talked directly with the CEO [chief executive officer] and the board Chair who are in the process of consulting with the surgeons in the Regina Health Region to find a plan as we move forward. Some of it is human resources; some of it is surgical time allotment, that is for sure, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, if we ever were to go back to the NDP days and you know, if they ever get to be in government again, which I'm not sure but if they were, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make sure that every person that's accessed a private clinic, be it in Saskatoon and Regina, which is well over a couple of thousand procedures, Mr. Speaker, those procedures never would have been done. They would have languished on longest waiting lists, Mr. Speaker, because they are ideologically opposed to any third party delivery — no paying out of pocket, no queue jumping, Mr. Speaker. Those patients appreciated the services they got. They would never receive them under the

NDP.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the elimination or the postponing of surgeries for patients is the most concerning issue, what is also very concerning, Mr. Speaker, is the atmosphere of fear that has been created among the physicians in Regina based on the minister's approach. Doctors are worried. Doctors are worried that if they speak up and advocate for their patients, this could have an effect on the availability of operating room time.

The president of the Saskatchewan Medical Association, Dr. Vito Padayachee, said this in the *Leader-Post*: "People are afraid to voice their opinion because they may be the ones who are affected." My question to the minister: why has he created a situation where doctors are afraid to advocate for their patients here in Saskatchewan, and how is that acceptable in any way, shape, or form?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I can tell this House, and I would directly comment to the physicians within the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region the same comments that I made at the SMA general assembly last Friday, Mr. Speaker, when an orthopedic surgeon asked me a question regarding wait times.

Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. What we want those surgeons to do is have input. How we fixed problems within our health care system under the NDP were driven from top down, Mr. Speaker, from the bureaucracy down. How we solve problems in the health care system is from bottom up, Mr. Speaker, making sure that the physicians, the nurses have input to solve the problems that we're facing, Mr. Speaker.

I can tell you that many of the surgeons have already met with the CEO last Thursday. There will be more meetings going on this week to design a solution to the problem that Regina Qu'Appelle is experiencing, Mr. Speaker. But nothing could be further from the truth that physicians should be afraid to speak their minds.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister says it couldn't be further from the truth, but for some reason the president of the Saskatchewan Medical Association says that surgeons in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region are afraid to speak up, and the reason provided is because they believe it could affect their ability to access the operating room.

My question to the minister: if this is what the Saskatchewan Medical Association is saying, and saying so publicly, how do these physicians come to this position? How do they come to the understanding that that might be a reality? Could the minister please explain this to the doctors of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, you bet I can explain it to the doctors of Saskatchewan. The surgical care initiative, Mr. Speaker, is led by who? Dr. Peter Barrett, Mr. Speaker. The vast majority of input to the surgical care initiative is through physicians, through nurses, through health care providers, Mr. Speaker. It isn't driven through the ministry. It isn't driven through the minister. It is driven through the health care providers, Mr. Speaker. We're finding solutions to deal with the longest wait-lists in Canada across the province, in Regina Qu'Appelle. If we're going to find a solution, it's going to come from the grassroots, from the physicians, the OR nurses, and the people that are supplying the care.

Mr. Speaker, maybe the opposition doesn't understand that because what we are seeing here, Mr. Speaker, is a government that is not afraid of setting targets and then living up to those targets, Mr. Speaker, forcing health regions to meet those targets. That never happened under the NDP. They would rather have patients languish on the longest waiting lists in Canada, Mr. Speaker. I think the people of Saskatchewan have told the NDP what they thought of that, 49 to 9.

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

Review of Labour Legislation

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government's document on labour consultation is anything but direct. In fact it's extremely vague. Mr. Speaker, despite the potential impact on workers in every corner of this province, the government is limiting the consultation period to 90 days. No public hearings will be held. It seems they don't want to face workers directly and hear how disastrous these proposals would be to safe and fair working places in our province.

To the minister: if he won't pull the sham of this consultation, will he at least hold public meetings?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd encourage the members opposite to participate in the process. I'd urge them to write letters. I would be pleased, Mr. Speaker, to meet with the member opposite and hear his own concerns and whatever else he wants to bring forward, Mr. Speaker. I am always available. I have every day this week met with union leaders regarding this very issue, and intend to meet with them later today.

Mr. Speaker, we will have an open and frank discussion. We will try and have meaningful input from as many sources as we possibly can. And, Mr. Speaker, in the fall, we will introduce a piece of legislation that we expect will deal with the issues of essential services and the other things that come about as a result of the consultative process, Mr. Speaker. We will take care and we will listen carefully to what we are told by people. Mr. Speaker, I would urge the members to get on board and welcome whatever input from them they choose to make.

[10:45]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's clear what the trademark of this government is — no public consultations, no meeting with ordinary people, families throughout this province so they know what's going to go on with one of the strongest pieces of legislation in our province that we have a right to be proud of. But, Mr. Speaker, this week the minister's been all over the map in terms of what things are in and out of this. And people expect more.

When they voted at the polls, this was not the thing that these people were talking about. And this week we've said this has been a sham exercise. Some things are in, some things are out, and some things are so out of line that the government themselves are ruling them out of order. Will he do the right thing, Mr. Speaker? To the minister: will he do the right thing and withdraw this so-called consultation document?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, for the last five years we've heard the members over there say, you didn't consult; you didn't consult. Mr. Speaker, that's what we're doing, is consulting. Now he's saying, I don't like how you consult.

Mr. Speaker, I'd urge that member, and I'd urge the nine of them over there, to get on board and have some meaningful input into this process because, Mr. Speaker, we sent out 657 letters to stakeholders. They say they want input from the public? We want input from the public as well. We put it on a website. Mr. Speaker, that's what we're going to do and we will have a careful, considered, measured process. And I urge the members on there not to politicize the process, but to get on board and tell us what they hear from their stakeholders because that's what we're hearing directly, Mr. Speaker, is what people want in the legislation. And as we go forward, we'll do that and I ask them to do the same thing. That's what they're paid to do.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the chairman of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to have been instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Will the member for Athabasca finally come to order? The chairman for Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 16, *The Correctional Services Act*,

2011 with amendment.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety.

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be requesting leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and the Bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Corrections and Public Safety has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 16, *The Correctional Services Act, 2011* and that the Bill and its amendments now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read the first time?

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 16 — *The Correctional Services Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, I move the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing that the amendments be now read the first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 16 — *The Correctional Services Act, 2011*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety that Bill No. 16, *The Correctional Services Act, 2011* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the chairman of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am further instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 15, *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Amendment Act, 2011* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Corrections and Public Safety has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 15, *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Amendment Act, 2011* and that the Bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 15 — *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Amendment Act, 2011*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety that Bill No. 15, *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Amendment Act, 2011* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 394 through 397.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled answers to questions 394 to 397.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Natural Resource Sector in Western Canada

Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll be moving a motion at the end of my remarks here today. But it's with somewhat mixed feelings, Mr. Speaker, I stand here today and engage in this debate. It is troubling to have to rise in this Chamber for the second time in two months, Mr. Speaker, to debate an issue that really should have unanimous support in this province, unanimous support in this Assembly by the people who are elected, the members of this Assembly who are elected by the people of Saskatchewan.

It is troubling, Mr. Speaker, because we're seeing a disturbing and alarming trend is developing where political leaders, primarily from the East, from Eastern Canada, Mr. Speaker, feel it's okay and in some cases necessary to attack the natural resource sector in Western Canada and particularly here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

You might recall, Mr. Speaker, that a couple of months ago there were some unfortunate comments from the Premier of Ontario who made reference to the natural resource sector in Western Canada and its detrimental effect on the Canadian dollar — I believe he called it a petrodollar at the time — and the impact this petrodollar, the deleterious effect it was having on the Ontario manufacturing sector.

And we know, Mr. Speaker, when that happened — when the Premier of Ontario come out and made those unfortunate remarks — that after our Premier responded to him and responded to the country, as did the Premier of Alberta, in calling those remarks divisive and not warranted, we know that the Premier of Ontario did try to backtrack somewhat. We know the Premier of Ontario did try to clarify and I think ended up basically fuzzifying the issue. But make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker; it was a direct attack on the oil and gas sector in Western Canada.

Now premiers make these kinds of comments from time to time, Mr. Speaker, to protect their political interests. It's disturbing, Mr. Speaker, but it is a political reality in Canada. But what about national political leaders, Mr. Speaker, not the regional parties like the Bloc Québécois that purports to speak as a national party — and we know what happened to them in the last federal election, Mr. Speaker — but a truly national party whose leader aspires to be the Prime Minister of Canada? What happens when a political leader who aspires to be the

Prime Minister of all of Canada makes remarks about a particular sector, an economic sector in Canada, Mr. Speaker, and disparages that sector at the expense of another sector in Canada?

Now we were all shocked, Mr. Speaker, last May I think, including the members on the other side, that the federal NDP party actually became Her Majesty's Official Opposition in Ottawa after the May election last year. Of course there was no help from the federal wing of the NDP here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, as they failed to elect a member again I think for the last three or four elections. But again I give credit to Mr. Layton, the late Jack Layton who led his party to official opposition status, riding a wave of momentum primarily in Quebec, Mr. Speaker.

Now when you're the official opposition and you are the de facto government-in-waiting, you should try and represent people from all across Canada. When was the last time, Mr. Speaker, you heard a national leader disparage a particular sector of our economy, particularly here in Western Canada?

Now I want to be very, very clear on what the leader of the NDP said, and it's been quoted widely across Canada since this interview came out from last Saturday, Mr. Speaker. Let me quote. The federal NDP leader said Saturday that, because of the way it raises the value of the Canadian dollar, other parts of the country are paying a price for the prosperity enjoyed by natural resource sectors. It's by definition the Dutch disease, the federal NDP leader said Saturday on the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] radio show *The House*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's somewhat troubling. And as I get to the end of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to ask this Assembly condemn the federal NDP leader and the statements made by that particular Member of Parliament from Quebec, calling our natural resource sector a disease.

But the more alarming trend, Mr. Speaker, is not so much that we've had eastern political leaders attacking the natural resource sector in Western Canada. The truly alarming trend here is where the Saskatchewan NDP stand and where they have consistently sided with political leaders from Eastern Canada who continue to attack the resource sector here in Western Canada. Let me just quote you, Mr. Speaker, what the Energy and Resource critic, the member from Nutana, said in response to the federal NDP leader's comments. And I'm quoting from the newspaper, Mr. Speaker.

Provincial NDP Energy and Resources critic, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, told reporters on Monday that her party and its federal counterpart have been very consistent in their positions about resource development, noting their view is to consider environmental, economic, and social effects. As for Mulcair's comments, the member from Nutana said, I don't agree that it isn't in the interests of Saskatchewan; it very much is in the interest of Saskatchewan as long as development is focused on that triple bottom line.

We've been very clear, the member from Nutana said, that we support resource development. Strange. What we see this as is a discussion about a very complex economic argument and that that is the impact of an artificially high dollar on the

manufacturing sector.

The real issue is how the resource sector development affects the province of Saskatchewan. What we're looking for is value-added in the resource sector and that's clearly the focus of the NDP view, and if there are issues around economics, that's something the federal government has to deal with. Mr. Speaker, that was the response from the official opposition here in Saskatchewan, from the Energy and Resources critic.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it was interesting in the same interview that the federal NDP leader was involved in because he went on to say . . . And I'm not an economist, Mr. Speaker. I'm not a trained economist. I have had some experience in the financial sector and I did write all the exams for the certified financial planner designation, and passed them, Mr. Speaker. But the federal NDP leader went on to say, also discuss the need for "internalization of the environmental costs of oil sands and other natural resources development." Now, Mr. Speaker, I've heard a lot of financial terms at the executive table and at the board table of the various organizations I've been involved with. I've never heard the term internalization of the environmental costs as it applies to a particular sector of the economy. Well you know what that is, Mr. Speaker. You know what that's code for. It's a tax. It's a tax, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP leader further went on to say he wrote a policy options paper. In it he proposed a comprehensive cap-and-trade plan that would be based on the principle that polluters pay, Mr. Speaker. Now it's interesting because if we go back to the comments, Mr. Speaker, when the Premier of Ontario spoke out against the natural resource sector in Western Canada, in particular the oil and gas sector, our Premier was the first to stand up and defend the people of Saskatchewan and the industries of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the thousands and thousands of unionized employees that work in the natural resource sector — potash, oil, gas, coal, forestry, Mr. Speaker, uranium. I think we had some guests here earlier today representing the uranium sector, thousands of unionized employees, primarily from northern Saskatchewan who work in that sector.

And Mr. Mulcair, the federal NDP leader, Mr. Speaker, wants to impose a tax on the oil and gas sector. And as my colleague from Dewdney, Regina Dewdney said to me today, if the NDP ever became the federal government in Canada, the NDP would become the new NEP [National Energy Program], Mr. Speaker. We would see the largest transfer of wealth from Western Canada to Eastern Canada in the history of our country, Mr. Speaker. And they support it. They support it. When the Premier of Ontario made those comments about our natural gas, our oil and gas sector, here's what the Energy and Resource critic said, Mr. Speaker. And I quote from *Hansard*:

I think we heard from our Premier recently about the Premier of Ontario being concerned about the Canadian dollar. To me that's a valid concern. [This is what she said.] And to be calling it divisive is actually, our own Premier is actually driving a wedge into the discussion, because the concern, the concern of the people, the concern of the people of Canada is that it be fairly priced.

Not the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the people of

Canada. And then, Mr. Speaker, the federal NDP leader referenced a cap-and-trade program, the internalization of the environmental costs on the oil and gas sector.

[11:00]

The member for Saskatoon Nutana, who's their Energy and Resources critic, in that same debate, Mr. Speaker, that same debate we had before the Assembly a couple of months ago, went on to say there's different ways to properly tax oil and gas, and one of the conventional methods that's being suggested is the cap-and-trade system, the cap-and-trade system.

So, Mr. Speaker, here we have, here we have three separate examples in the last two months of eastern political leaders on two separate occasions attacking the natural resource sector of Western Canada, in particular here in Saskatchewan. As well we had a vote on the floor of this Assembly to support the Keystone XL pipeline. And in all three instances, Mr. Speaker, the members of the official opposition of Saskatchewan sided with Eastern Canada and not the people of Saskatchewan. Shame on you.

Now, Mr. Speaker — and I hear the member from Regina Rosemont chirping from his seat, and I'll get to him in a minute so he should just keep his powder dry — Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — I would like to warn the member to make his address through the Chair.

Mr. Doherty: — I apologize, Mr. Speaker. You know, as we campaigned in the election last fall, Mr. Speaker, one of the major planks of the NDP platform was resource revenue sharing for First Nations in this province. And the members opposite went around this province and in their individual constituencies, Mr. Speaker, and while we fundamentally disagreed with that position, I give them credit for standing up and saying, here is what we would do if we were government. They told the people of Saskatchewan what they would do with resource revenue sharing in the province. Matter of fact, the member from Regina Rosemont, Mr. Speaker, who was the architect of that platform, of that platform in the last election and did the financial calculations for it, of which many of the different planks weren't even costed out, and he aspires to be leader of that party some day, Mr. Speaker . . . God forbid that ever happens in this province.

But they went around the province telling the First Nations of this province that they would share resource revenues with them. Then their federal leader comes out and says, we think we should slow down the natural resource sector in Western Canada because it's having a detrimental effect on the manufacturing sector in Quebec. And they stood side by side with them again, Mr. Speaker.

I can't imagine how many First Nations are calling into their offices these days saying, well how are you going to share revenues with us, resource revenues with us, if you're siding with the MP [Member of Parliament] from Quebec who's your federal leader and saying we should shut down the natural resource sector in Western Canada to benefit, to benefit Eastern Canada, the manufacturing sector?

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I really am concerned about is, where is the courage on that side, Mr. Speaker? Where's the future of that party, particularly the member from Regina Rosemont and Saskatoon Massey Place? Where is the courage to stand up and say, this is wrong? We got it wrong last fall. The people of Saskatchewan told us we got it wrong, and we continue doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Where's the courage, Mr. Speaker?

You know, Mr. Speaker, there was a leader of their party at one time named Tommy Douglas who had a famous quote, and he said, "Courage, my friends; 'tis not too late to build a better world." Courage, my friends. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, if Tommy Douglas was sitting in that chair today and an MP from Quebec stood up and attacked Saskatchewan that he would sit on his hands and say, well we kind of disagree or we agree with it. We're going to equivocate on this. We're not exactly clear what our position is. We're going to look at the internalization of the environment cost of this sector. No, Mr. Speaker.

Tommy Douglas also had another great quote, and I think it applies to this particular debate as well:

Canada is like an old cow. The West feeds it. Ontario and Quebec milk it. And you can well imagine what it's doing in the Maritimes.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the members opposite, you have an opportunity now to differentiate yourselves from what happened last fall. You have an opportunity, particular the member who aspires to be the leader, Mr. Speaker. He sits there . . . And I won't get into it.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think when I was walking around in my constituency last fall, Mr. Speaker, in the election, I heard it over and over again. Why is the NDP so down on Saskatchewan? Why are they so negative about what's happening in this great province of ours? A year before the election, Mr. Speaker, they put out a pamphlet that said boom to bust. Do you recall that? A grey, dark pamphlet that said boom to bust. The province was in a bust situation. Well that didn't fly. The people of Saskatchewan went, huh?

So they changed it a year later and they went around saying, well we're all prospering in this but not everybody, Mr. Speaker. And I knocked on doors and they kept saying to me — particularly unionized workers who by the way voted mostly for us than you guys in the last election — kept saying, why can't they just say something nice about our province once in a while, Mr. Speaker? Why can't they just stand up for the people of Saskatchewan?

I talked to an individual who was in a room with 10 unionized workers, 10 unionized workers, Mr. Speaker, and they told me not one of them was voting for the NDP. And do you know why? Because they say one thing on the floor of the Assembly about unions and unionized workers, then they go out and say another thing to the media, to Eastern Canada, about supporting them against the unionized workers in the natural resource sector in this province, Mr. Speaker. And they didn't vote for you because of it.

Mr. Speaker, it's akin to farmers in this province, it's akin to

farmers — and I'm from Rose Valley, Saskatchewan — going down the road and saying to him, you know, Joe, I know you've got new farming practices and new techniques and new technologies, but you've got to stop growing so much wheat. You might flood the market with it some day, Mr. Speaker, and that's going to drive the price down. Please just dampen it down a little bit so the rest of us don't suffer at the hands of your innovative practices on your farm.

That's exactly what the Leader of the NDP from Quebec is saying about the resource sector here in Western Canada, Mr. Speaker. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask that this . . . I move the following motion:

That this Assembly recognizes the importance of the resource sector as a vital component of Saskatchewan and Canada's economy, and condemns statements made by federal NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair that our resource sector is a "disease."

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Northeast:

That this Assembly recognizes . . .

Will the minister come to order?

That this Assembly recognizes the importance of the resource sector as a vital component of Saskatchewan and Canada's economy, and condemns statements made by federal NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair that our resource sector is a "disease."

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the federal Leader of the NDP, Mr. Mulcair, told CBC's *The House* on May 5th, 2012: "The point that I'm making is not that we should be against the development of the oil sands, but it has to be sustainable." The root of this comment is sustainable development. That's the principle our NDP holds across the country and especially here in Saskatchewan.

The provincial NDP's record on this issue is consistent. We support smart growth and economic development of our natural resources. We follow the triple bottom line principle — economic, social, environmental factors need to be considered in any project. We will be in close touch with our . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — If the members want to participate in the debate, they will have that opportunity, including members from both sides of the House. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Nilson: — We'll be in close touch with our federal counterparts to ensure that Saskatchewan's best interests are well considered. It's too bad that the Sask Party can't do the same and stand up for Saskatchewan to their federal

counterparts when there are massive cuts to agriculture or other areas that hurt our province.

Clear throughout our province's history and our party's history, we stand for developing our resources responsibly. It was the NDP who reformed our royalty structure to encourage new development. We think the industry has benefited from this. And it is the NDP who see the whole picture. We have a common sense position on our resources, just like the economy. There can be no social development without economic development. There can be no economic development without social development. The same principle, which is common sense, applies to our resources. We can't choose between economic development and environmental protection. It isn't one or the other. It's both. That's why we believe in smart growth.

We believe in developing our natural resources to get maximum benefit for the people of this province who own them. We will see economic development and jobs. We will use those revenues to have social development, better health care, better education, more services for everyday families, and enough money in the pockets of the middle class to live, work, and raise a family. We want to protect the environment through rigorous environmental protections. It's the triple bottom line approach. It's common sense. It's what the people of Saskatchewan expect and deserve.

The other principle we believe in is value-added. You can see the NDP lives that principle through our support for the upgrader in Lloydminster and here in Regina. Non-renewable resources can only come out of the Earth one time. We need to use them to their peak benefit. We need to make sure those non-renewable resources are working for their owners, the people of Saskatchewan. That's why we want to see jobs here in Saskatchewan to process our natural resources. Extraction doesn't have to lead directly or only to exporting. That's old thinking. That's thinking that comes from the old cliché of hewers of wood and drawers of water. We think, in the 21st century, is smart, sustainable growth.

Let's talk about who supports that position. Peter Lougheed in Alberta, he supports the oil sands development as he led the charge in the 1970s, but he also supports jobs in his province. Premier Lougheed believes responsible development of his province's natural resources make sense. He said in September: "We should be refining the bitumen in Alberta, and we should make it public policy in the province." He went on to say, "I would prefer we process the bitumen from the oilsands in Alberta and that would create a lot of jobs and job activity."

Mr. Lougheed has spoken on this matter before. He spoke to the Canadian Bar Association at one of their conventions and said that environmental concern is no passing fad. Mr. Lougheed stated that on a point that we all should agree on. This province is guaranteed the exclusive right to develop how, or to decide how to develop, conserve, and manage natural resources. Too bad our Premier can't learn from that well-respected former premier. And we on this side of the House and in our party believe we can do that responsibly with concern to grow the economy, protect the environment, and use those resources to invest in social programs that benefit us all.

It's been the cornerstone of the NDP policy on our natural resources for generations. You can look to Mr. Blakeney, one of the best premiers in Canadian history, for leadership on this file. You can look to Mr. Romanow and Mr. Calvert who fought hard to develop our resources responsibly. You want evidence of that, Mr. Speaker? Look at the headlines, from the *Calgary Herald*, no less, January 31st, 2007: "Albertans moved east to cash in on Saskatchewan's boom." That's before the Sask Party took over our resources. The NDP were the stewards of that resource boom.

Here's another headline from the *Calgary Herald*, February 1st, 2007: "Saskatchewan Premier desperately seeks workers: province enjoying resource boom of its own." The NDP, we rolled up our sleeves and developed our resource industry in a responsible way, a Saskatchewan way, a sustainable way. Another headline, this time from the *Leader-Post*, May 26, 2007: "Saskatchewan's mineral exploration boom increases in intensity." The NDP has always believed in this balance, what we call smart growth.

The NDP's position on this is clear now and always has been. We support economic development. We support resource development. We think the best way to do it is through sustainable growth with a triple bottom line evaluation process — it has to be good for the economy, good for the environment, and good for social progress.

We will continue to work in Saskatchewan to make sure that our resources are being used for the people of Saskatchewan. And that's a fundamental tenet of the New Democratic Party, and it's a fundamental tenet for all New Democrats in this country, is that the resources of Canada must be used for the people of the province.

It was very clear when the Premier of Saskatchewan took over the government in December of 2007 that he took over the government at a time of boom. But a very clear message was sent to the Premier, don't touch the NDP resource policies because those are the policies that have made the boom happen in the province of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, guess what? The Minister of Energy and Resources has gone to Calgary, Edmonton, places around the world to assure people that he will not change those NDP policies because they have provided a benefit for the people of Saskatchewan.

[11:15]

Now what's disheartening and what's difficult is that this same government who took over monies and funds allocated to deal with environmental protection to try to have the balance has effectively downplayed and eliminated a number of the initiatives which were to provide the triple bottom line perspective that the NDP have. And, Mr. Speaker, I think people in many parts of Saskatchewan but also many parts of Canada are worried that this government seems to want to spend all the money, do it in lots of different ways, without keeping track of the environmental issues and the social issues. And so, Mr. Speaker, when things get a little difficult in this province, we often know that they end up trying to distract from what's happening here by looking at some other issues.

But the key point as we go into this debate today, Mr. Speaker,

is that the NDP have a strong common sense, smart growth position. It's a position that's been built over many decades of very careful work within the resource extraction industry. We know that we have to have a 21st perspective, 21st century perspective that is common sense, that makes these resources be used for the best use of all the people of the province.

So, Mr. Speaker, we support economic development. We support smart growth, and we will continue to do that in the decades that come. And we know that Saskatchewan people will be with us.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Martensville.

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have comments on our particular motion, but I think there's some things that the Leader of the Opposition just said that require some rebuttal. And I first want to quote our current Agriculture minister who has infamously said, you apparently can say anything you want to in opposition. Because the Leader of the Opposition is . . . Well I'll leave it to the people here to decide what exactly his comments were.

But I do want to say one thing, that he just said that in 2007 the people of this province made it very clear to our new government that we were not to mess around with any of the NDP's resource policies. Well, Mr. Speaker, apparently the NDP didn't get their own memo. Because the 2011 election is not that long past us, and to my recollection, I'm pretty sure that the NDP's proposal to pay for their \$5.5 billion platform commitments, which would have spent us into deficit, called for hiking of potash royalties, Mr. Speaker.

So when he stands here and says with a straight face that the people of this province don't want us messing up with the NDP's resource policies, it's the NDP who are messing with their own resource policies, or at least that's what their proposal was, Mr. Speaker. It's a bit baffling. So back to our current Agriculture minister. Apparently the NDP have taken that to heart — you can say whatever you want to in opposition. And I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that we'll be using that quote again in the future because it's pretty good.

I do want to go to what the federal NDP leader has said about our province, Mr. Speaker, and I do also want to note our provincial NDP leader actually in his comments didn't really stand up for Saskatchewan at all. He tried to brag about his own government's record. They did do some good things, and I believe when we were in opposition we gave them credit for some of the good things that they did when it came to business. But I didn't hear anything in his comments about standing up for Saskatchewan and/or condemning what their federal leader has said about Western resources, Mr. Speaker, which I think is shameful.

The federal leader, Thomas Mulcair, wants to be prime minister of this country. He is actively pitting one section of our country against another, and our provincial NDP have done absolutely nothing to stand up for our province and to make sure that our interests are respected, if nothing else, Mr. Speaker, by their federal leader, which I think is pretty shocking.

The NDP leader has called what is currently going on in

Ontario the Dutch disease, saying that it is the fault of Western Canada and our resource base that manufacturing in Ontario is hitting the skids. And, Mr. Speaker, we have seen commentary after commentary after commentary from economists and people in the industry saying that that is absolutely not what's happening. If you look into the United States and their manufacturing belt, they are seeing the same decline. It has nothing to do with the resource sector from our province. And to say otherwise I think is a bit . . . It's not a true reflection of what is actually going on. And again, Mr. Speaker, I'm quite disheartened that the Leader of the Opposition refused to stand up for Saskatchewan in his comments.

We had a motion before this House in March. It was referenced earlier in a speech that Ontario's premier has taken the same position, blaming Western provinces for the malaise in manufacturing in Ontario. And on March 8th, a motion was introduced that this, and I quote, "That this Assembly calls upon all partners in Confederation to join Alberta and Saskatchewan in sharing a positive message regarding Canada's oil sands." And, Mr. Speaker, as soon as that, within seconds, as soon as that motion was introduced, the Energy critic for the NDP, the member for Nutana stood up and said that she supported that.

Well I find it interesting, Mr. Speaker, that when it's the Ontario premier who comes out and attacks our natural resource sector in the West, that the NDP are okay with that. But it's when it's their own federal leader does exactly the same thing, where are they, Mr. Speaker? Absolutely silent. And when asked for their response to this, she was, oh well, you know, that's an economic policy. That isn't our responsibility, that's federal responsibility, which I think is a complete abdication. They want to be government again one day, Mr. Speaker. Stand up for our province. Stand up for the economics of our province. Stand up for the resource base in our province, Mr. Speaker. But she's apparently incapable of doing that, and just having heard her leader's comments in this House, I see where she's getting her instruction from.

There's one other, one other thing I would like to reference the member for Nutana, and my colleague had used a quote, I don't have the actual quote in front of me, but to paraphrase, she had referenced the fact that the NDP have been absolutely consistent on their position on resource development. Well, Mr. Speaker, as we all know I love searching for quotes and things and so I have a couple in front of me. For those who have been around for a while, it's not on yellow sheets but in my mind it is.

So, Mr. Speaker, for their absolute consistency on resource development policy from the NDP in this province, there's a few positions. I don't have them quite chronologically, but in their glossy brochure that they love to talk about, at least last session when they had a different Environment critic, on page 16 of their energy and climate change plan — because I haven't referenced this in a couple of years, so this brings back some good memories — but anyway they said, and I quote, "identified economic opportunities for the development of new energy resources such as oil sands." So they're in support of it there. That's interesting. Then Dwain Lingenfelter comes along and . . .

An Hon. Member: — Where is he now?

Ms. Heppner: — Well we don't know where he is.

An Hon. Member: — Oh, we know where he is.

Ms. Heppner: — Well I'm getting to that.

So Dwain Lingenfelter comes along in 2009 and says, and I quote — the brochure was called *Making Saskatchewan a Green Policy Leader* — and I quote, "Saskatchewan should prohibit the mining of its oil sands." Not scale it back, not make sure it's environmentally friendly. Don't do it at all.

So there's their consistency on the resource development in our province, Mr. Speaker, is on one hand they're saying that there is great opportunities for our province. And then Mr. Lingenfelter comes along and says, no we should prohibit it, which is an interesting position, Mr. Speaker, considering he comes from big oil in Alberta. He vacated our province and he went to go work for an oil company, and then he came back. But while he was an executive with the oil companies, he went down to the United States and he promoted oil sands. And he said, if you don't like oil sands, what companies will do in Canada is build bigger pipelines to the West Coast and export it to China.

So he's working for oil. He's totally promoting it. He comes back to the province, says we should ban it altogether. And now that he's out of provincial politics, where is he, Mr. Speaker? He's working for oil companies again. It's exactly where he is. So there's the NDP's consistency on their resource policies in this province, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's a ridiculous thing for them to stand up and say that they're consistent. There's no consistency. They've had flip-flops on environmental policy. They've had flip-flops on our resource policy. And the biggest flip-flop, Mr. Speaker, is on one hand they say that they're going to stand up for our province, and when their own federal leader comes out and attacks us, they are absolutely silent on the issue, Mr. Speaker, which I think is really most unfortunate.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I said at the beginning of my comments, there are experts after experts who have come out and condemned the position of their own federal leader. And with a few minutes left on the clock, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to quote a few of them because I have to say I'm not going to speak on behalf of all of my caucus colleagues, but I'm sure a few of them will agree with me that when it comes to economic policies for our province and our country, we will take the positions of economists and experts before we're going to take the position of an NDP federal or provincial leader any time, Mr. Speaker.

So their federal leader has blamed us for the problems in manufacturing. I'd like to quote Jack Mintz, professor of public policy at the University of Calgary. He says and I quote, manufacturing in Ontario, Quebec, Michigan, and Ohio all have "been on a steady decline for 35 years." That suggests the exchange rate isn't the issue on either side of the border.

He goes on to say, "Instead of a Dutch disease, what we really

have is a manufacturing malaise." Rather than a cause, Canada's resource sector has been something of an economic salvation for its economy.

On Global TV there was a story on May 7th. And I quote:

Economist Jason Child says the main reason the dollar is rising is more people are investing in Canada and says the argument of a higher dollar killing the manufacturing sector is hard to make.

Child says, and I quote, "There are lots of countries that have made manufacturing work even with a high exchange rate. The German mark comes to the floor as an example."

And, Mr. Speaker, Roger Gibbins, Canada West Foundation, said just this week and I quote, "The economic prescription advanced by Mulcair is both simple and potentially disastrous."

And again, as I said, I will take the comments from these experts before I will take any kind of economic or resource advice from the NDP, either provincial or federal. And I would ask the provincial NDP to stand up for our province instead of sitting on their hands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it's my pleasure to rise in the debate today to the motion that's been proposed. The NDP's record is clear. We support resource development. We support resource development that is sustainable and that stands up to a triple bottom line evaluation. We want it to be good development — environmentally, socially, and economically.

The National Energy Board supports our position. When they're evaluating interprovincial pipelines, the triple bottom line that they look at is their policy as well. They look at the environment, the social, and the economic impacts of any interprovincial pipeline that is proposed. So the question to the members opposite is, what's wrong with the position of supporting resource development but saying that it should be responsible and sustainable? What's wrong with that? It doesn't seem that they are in support of that. I ask the members opposite, what's wrong with calling on Saskatchewan's smart, talented, and common sense people to look to a value-added economy?

Saskatchewan's greatest resource can't be found in the ground. It's found in our people — our creativity, our professionalism, the bright, common sense way that we have continually exceeded expectations. We have the capacity here to not only to extract our precious resources which are not renewable, but to turn that into value-added industries.

There's an old proverb: give a person a fish and they will eat for a day; teach a person to fish and they will eat for a lifetime.

Saskatchewan has been given the proverbial fish. Our beautiful province has given us an abundance of natural, non-renewable resources. But there's more that we could be. By taking it out of the ground, we became a have province. But by fostering and

encouraging value-added industries out of those natural resources, we could build financial security for generations to come — for future generations, for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

For our non-renewable natural resources, fostering value-added industries would help Saskatchewan take maximum benefit from our resources. So instead of embracing value-added opportunities, instead of insisting that our industries deliver environmental and social and economic — that's the triple bottom line — benefit to Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Party government instead is waging a petty political fight. They're fearmongering, and they're trying to score political points. They're trying to distract from the real issues that are of concern to Saskatchewan people today.

The Premier has gone on tirades to disagree with a complex economic theory. His divisive attacks don't build up our industries and they don't create jobs. They don't protect our environment or promise a better future for our children.

[11:30]

I would ask the members opposite to put aside the political games. We support resource development. We want development to be sustainable. And we want resource development to have environmental, social, and economic benefits. Don't the members opposite want those things? That's the National Energy Board's triple bottom line theory. Economic, social, and environmental factors need to be considered.

I'm on the record. My colleagues in the NDP are on the record. We support a strong resource economy. Clear through our province's history and our party's history, we have consistently stood for developing our resources responsibly. It was the New Democratic Party who reformed our current royalty structure to encourage new development. And as my colleague mentioned, that structure hasn't been changed since this government came into power. They obviously support the royalty structure that was established by the NDP. And if you look at the position of our former Premier Allan Blakeney in the constitutional discussions in 1982, he clearly, clearly supported the resource sector in Saskatchewan, and in fact fought really hard to make changes to our constitution to protect the resource sector in Saskatchewan.

Again, our party's position has been clear all the way through. We think the industry has benefited well from the royalty structure. Certainly resources in Saskatchewan have benefited very much from Allan Blakeney's strong support for provincial autonomy in that area. And that is certainly what we do support. Again, we have a common sense position on our resources just like we have a common sense position on the economy. And, Mr. Speaker, it is the New Democratic Party who sees the whole picture. There can be no social development without economic development. And there can be no economic development without social development . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And I'm glad the member opposite agrees with me.

The same principle, which is common sense, applies to our resources. We can't choose between economic development

and environmental protection. It isn't one or the other; it's both. And that's why we believe in smart growth. We believe in developing our natural resources to get maximum benefit for the people of this province who own them. We will seek economic development and jobs. We will use those revenues to have social development, better health care, better education, more services for everyday families, and enough money in the pockets of the middle class to live, work, and raise a family.

So we want to protect the environment through rigorous and safe environmental protections. It's the triple bottom line approach, and it's common sense. It's what the people of Saskatchewan expect and deserve.

And the other principle that we believe in is value-added. You can see that the New Democratic Party lives that principle through our support for the upgrader in Lloydminster and here in Regina. Non-renewable resources can only come out of the earth one time. We need to use them to their peak benefit. We need to make sure that those non-renewable resources are working for their owners, the people of Saskatchewan.

And that's why we want to see jobs here in Saskatchewan to process our natural resources. Extraction doesn't have to lead directly and only to exporting, and that's old thinking. That thinking comes from the old cliché of hewers of wood and drawers of water, and we think that it's better to think in the 21st century — smart and sustainable growth.

Thomas Mulcair told CBC's *The House* on May 5th, 2012, "The point that I'm making is not that we should be against the development of oil sands, but it has to be sustainable." That's a common sense approach to developing natural resources and certainly Saskatchewan's non-renewable natural resources. Make sure that it's smart and sustainable growth. If the members opposite don't believe in that, they should state it for the record. They certainly have done a number to environmental programs and environmental protection already.

The provincial NDP's record on this issue is consistent. We support economic development, including the oil sands and resultant pipelines, that follows a triple bottom line theory — economic, social, and environmental factors need to be considered. The NDP began our resource boom. We want to keep it going, not just by encouraging an active resource sector, but by encouraging a strong, sustainable sector that always fulfills the triple bottom line standard. And the NDP believes that a value-added economy is the common sense next step that will make sure that every bit of the one-time resources we take from the ground is delivering maximum value to Saskatchewan people now and in the future.

In addition to the comments about the non-renewable resources, it would make sense for this government to start talking more about renewable resources. And that is actually the future of this province and the future of our economy. They call it smart energy.

There's all sorts of things this government could be doing on the environmental record and certainly on the energy development side to support the development of renewable resources for our energy, Mr. Speaker. And it's sadly deficient in both their Throne Speech, in their platforms, and in the

budget this year. We see cuts to the go green program, and we see only focus on the carbon-source energies. There are all kinds of other types of energy that should be explored and is being explored in many other countries around the world, and instead we seem to have inherited the world's worst record for carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. It's not something that this government should be proud of, Mr. Speaker.

And of course, in the whole scheme of this, Mr. Speaker, this discussion is nothing but petty politics and our time would be better spent focusing on issues that are priorities instead of worrying about other provinces' resources.

This government should be focusing on affordable health care and stop raising the costs of prescriptions for seniors who are on fixed incomes, living with an ever-increasing rent and food costs. And this government chooses to focus on their health care and take more money out of their pockets there. This government should focus on timely surgeries and make sure that the good people of Saskatchewan and the surgery doctors have time to do the proper surgeries in Saskatchewan.

This province should focus, or this government should focus on the heritage of our province instead of forcing our museums to have lesser hours because they're not financially supported.

This government should support things like the film industry in Saskatchewan, making sure that it's viable and that it helps it through the tough times like this government has helped other industries, and certainly Saskatchewan has helped industries through tough times. It's not the first time that it's happened. They should tend to labour issues and deal with the outstanding issues in the labour area, Mr. Speaker, and they should focus on doing the job that we have here in front of us instead of having three more politicians at a cost of \$1 million to the people of Saskatchewan. So thank you very much.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very excited about joining this debate. Like the member from Martensville, I want to clarify a couple of things that the Leader of the Opposition said.

The Leader of the Opposition said . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, no, not the Leader of the Opposition. No, I'll get to that one in a second. The Leader of the Opposition said that we don't oppose our federal counterpart. He said that we, as the Saskatchewan Party, listen to our federal counterpart. Last time I was in the federal election and I voted, I really didn't see the Saskatchewan Party on the ballot and I'm just wondering if the Leader of the Opposition did, because I certainly missed it.

So back to the debate, Mr. Speaker. Sask is now on the international map for the first time in a long time, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to say publicly to the world, we have arrived. Built on agriculture of this province, it was diversified into natural resources — oil, forestry, natural gas, mining, amongst others. Our most important resource, Mr. Speaker, is not in the ground that we walk on, Mr. Speaker, but it's the people who call this great province home. These people now understand what it's like to see Saskatchewan moving forward, and they're very

excited about this. They work hard. They have integrity. And they're excited that the Saskatchewan Party government is exploring all options within our province, not just one single sector.

The Premier said in 2007 that we were at a tipping point in Saskatchewan. Now we are seeing the benefits of all of the resources and we're exploring all of our options above and below the soil of this great province. The natural resource expansion has allowed record investment for the people of this great province, record investment in social services, highways, schools, and something that we hold very dear in our hearts here in Saskatchewan — record investments in our health care system.

I want to get into some of the facts about our natural resource sector, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — Don't confuse them with the facts.

Mr. Merriman: — No, I'll try not to confuse the opposition with the facts. In 2009, Canada's natural resources accounted for 11.1 per cent of the total GDP [gross domestic product], 11.1 per cent. And somehow down in the East, they don't think that that's significant. The jobs the Canada resource sector employed — 759,000 people, and that was in 2009. Now we're exploring Saskatchewan. This is growing every year, Mr. Speaker. This accounts for 5.2 per cent of the total direct employment in Canada for 2009. The resource sector announced . . . Sorry. The resource accounted for 23.8 per cent of total capital investment in Canada in 2009, a dollar value of \$73.6 billion. This energy accounted for 20.1 per cent or \$62.2 billion. More than 3,200 companies across Canada from coast to coast to coast provide jobs in the mining industry with service ranging from engineer consulting to drilling equipment.

Here's what we're going to look at in the next 25 years if we keep growing, Mr. Speaker. An assessment of the economic impact of the West's oil sands over the period from 2010 to 2035 found that the largest beneficiary in terms of GDP and employment would obviously be in Alberta where the richest oil sands are.

The second largest is Ontario, Mr. Speaker. Ontario's benefiting from what's happening out west. It was projected that 882,000 jobs would be created in Ontario over this next 25-year period. I'm wondering if the people in Ontario would like those jobs to continue or if they would like to see those jobs evaporate over the next 25 years. Nationally, 65 per cent of respondents agreed that it was possible to increase oil and gas production while respecting the environment. And I'd like to say, Mr. Speaker, that our Environment minister has taken some great strides to make sure that this is happening within Saskatchewan.

I have a couple of quotes here, Mr. Speaker, that I'd like to read. Jack Mintz, the professor of public policy of the University of Calgary:

Manufacturing in Ontario, and Quebec, Michigan and Ohio all have "been on a steady decline for 35 years." That suggests the exchange rate isn't the issue on either side of the border.

“Instead of a Dutch disease, what we really have is a manufacturing . . . [problem]. Rather than a cause . . .

Some other quotes that I have is, economist John Childs said that the main reason the dollar is rising and more people are investing in Canada and says the argument of a high dollar killing the manufacturing sector is hard to make, Childs says. There are lots of countries that have great manufacturing and even work with high exchange rate. The German mark comes to the floor as an example.

Mr. Speaker, the natural resource sector accounted for 46.7 per cent of Canada’s total exports in 2009. This is a huge dollar value and I think it needs to be emphasized, Mr. Speaker, total dollar value of \$168 billion for our country.

The Saskatchewan picture — forestry, potash, oil, natural gas, uranium, amongst other minerals — Saskatchewan’s per capita energy production is the highest in our country. Saskatchewan accounts for roughly one-quarter of Canadian primary energy production, no small achievement for a province with only 3 per cent of Canada’s population.

Saskatchewan’s primary energy production come from coal, oil, natural gas, hydro, uranium, wind, and biofuels. Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada and one of the few jurisdictions in the world with commercial production from all of these sources.

[11:45]

Now we get into what has happened down east — Mr. Mulcair, the NDP federal leader. It is very disturbing as a taxpayer within Saskatchewan, as a father, that we have somebody from the East, the federal NDP, telling us what is best for Saskatchewan. I think that the people of Saskatchewan know what is best for Saskatchewan. And I think they knew that in 2007 and again in 2011 when they put a Saskatchewan Party government in charge of this great province. They knew we had the potential for years and years in this province, and we couldn’t quite meet it under the NDP. The reason we couldn’t meet it is because the NDP would not allow growth. They were very scared of this growth word, this growth that they had coming from, that we have now coming from our population, we have coming from our energy sector. We have growth in all areas. This growth allows us to be able to invest in some of our most important things that we hold dear in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Party is making sure that everybody in this province is moving forward and enjoying this prosperity.

A couple of things that I just heard the member from Nutana say was that the Premier was pulling political games and having divisive attacks. What about the NDP? The NDP federal government, or federal opposition, is saying that the East — this is an east-west issue — the East is suffering so we have to hurt the West to make sure everybody stays the same. God forbid, Mr. Speaker, that the West start to survive and strive on their own.

How did the NDP start the resource boom, I’d like to ask them. I’d really like to ask them how they started the resource boom. When they were starting the resource boom, what did they do? The best thing that they can say is, well you know what? Let’s

spend more money and tax them to make sure that they are going to leave, that all of the businesses that are coming in the last little while are going to leave the province.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP are scared of growth but I can see in their interest here today that only half of their caucus is here today to listen to this very, very important debate. The province’s eyes are wide open, Mr. Speaker. All the potential. I may start to sound like an old man to my kids, Mr. Speaker, but I say to them, I remember when the days were the dark days of the NDP, when we were taking money from the East and it was going out the other direction. Now we are a have province, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I’m very pleased to join in the debate today to talk about this particular motion that was brought forward by the Saskatchewan Party MLAs. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out, I want to pick up on an opening line that the member from . . . I’m not sure where he’s from, one of the backbenchers over there, when he mentioned a new and disturbing trend is what he phrased it when he started speaking of his motion, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell the people back home, the people that are listening, the new and disturbing trend that has the Saskatchewan Party so worked up, Mr. Speaker, is a national poll shown in the article here, *The Globe and Mail*. And the national poll, the headline reads: “NDP broadens support into Tory turf, poll shows.”

So, Mr. Speaker, I think what’s important, that’s what they’re getting all worked up about, Mr. Speaker. And that’s why the motion came forward. And that’s really important that the people of Saskatchewan know the purpose of that motion, and the reason they’re getting so worked up is a national poll shows that the NDP are moving forward. They’re moving up in the polls, and they’re even moving up in the polls in traditional Tory ridings, Mr. Speaker.

Now what really amazes me, Mr. Speaker, is the Saskatchewan party caucus over there has the audacity to talk about defending Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And let’s do a little history lesson here, Mr. Speaker. The \$800 million equalization fight that we started as a government against the federal government, Harper, their leader Harper, Mr. Speaker, what’s the first thing the Sask Party done is they stopped the court case on the \$800 million equalization fight that we started with Ottawa, Mr. Speaker. That government stopped the court case and they sat on their hands. They never defended Saskatchewan one bit, Mr. Speaker.

Let’s look at Bill C-10, Mr. Speaker, the federal crime Bill. Let’s look at the federal crime Bill, Mr. Speaker. How much cost is this going to cost all of Saskatchewan to house the prisoners that the federal government are wanting to house over Bill C-10, Mr. Speaker? It’s going to make that so-called sliver of a surplus erased overnight, Mr. Speaker.

Let’s look at the federal cuts, Mr. Speaker, that affected many, many parts of our province. Where was the Sask Party standing up for the people of Saskatchewan? They were nowhere to be seen, Mr. Speaker. They were very quiet.

Let's talk about the huge environmental cuts, Mr. Speaker, the plan that the federal government has to do away with environmental regulation and oversight, Mr. Speaker. Not a peep from the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker.

And we continue moving forward. Even with the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Speaker, the elimination of the Canadian Wheat Board, not a peep from the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. To address the challenges facing our producers, Mr. Speaker, not a peep from the Sask Party when it comes to taking on the federal government, Mr. Speaker.

When it talks about trying to address the growing challenge of water problems in our province, whether it's illegal drainage or flooding, nothing from the federal government, not a peep from the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker.

So don't tell us who is fighting for the interests of the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We've always maintained when it comes to the federal Conservatives, the Sask Party will simply sit on their hands and they will not bite the hand that pats them on the forehead, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly what is happening there, Mr. Speaker. So I want to point out to the people in Saskatchewan that we will continue, we will continue to fight for Saskatchewan's interests because it's the right thing to do.

And if you're looking at the messages from the members opposite, clearly they have shown no fight to protect the people of Saskatchewan's interests when it comes to the federal Conservatives because, Mr. Speaker, time after time they've sat on their hands and they have simply given up, Mr. Speaker. And that's a shame to see that happening from our current provincial government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out as well this . . . when you talk about the provincial NDP, the common sense approach that we have, I want to take this opportunity to explain to the people that are listening, to clarify our position as a provincial NDP. And, Mr. Speaker, the important point that I would raise, and I want to impress upon the people that are listening . . . our leader spoke about it very briefly when he mentioned the concept of smart growth. So to the people out there that are listening, the words and the terminology that we would use as New Democrats is the phrase smart growth.

And what does smart growth, Mr. Speaker, actually mean? Well let us explain . . . I will explain that to a number of members opposite because they have a hard time understanding. Mr. Speaker, smart growth is very simple. That we have three pillars or three concepts that we think is really important for smart growth. One of them is protect our workers to make sure that people, that the working men and women in Saskatchewan have an opportunity to participate in the economy, Mr. Speaker. So we want to maximize benefits to the working families. The common sense concept is that working people in this province should have the opportunity. We should maximize their benefits, Mr. Speaker.

The other point that's really important is that we can't compromise our workers in any way, shape, or form. We can't treat them like dirt. We can't simply disregard some of their health or their environmental concerns. We have to make sure there's room for the opportunity for them to grow, and we've

got to maximize their earnings, Mr. Speaker. We know that is a common sense position that it makes sense to make sure that we protect the workers, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the pillars I think is really important is to work with organized labour, to work to make sure workers are protected, and that they have the opportunity to make a really good living. And that's something that I think is primary and foremost in many of our members' minds.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we also want to point out is we believe in the whole notion of environmental protection. That is very key, Mr. Speaker. One of our planks in the smart growth strategy is to make sure that we incorporate in our minds the two words of sustainable development. It goes back to a comment that we had from one of the producers in the province when they came to visit the NDP opposition when a couple of the farmers said to us, we make a living off that land. We have to make sure that we protect that land as best we can, Mr. Speaker. That was the message we were given by the farm community. We make a living from that land; we have to protect that land. So many producers out there know the value, Mr. Speaker, of environmental protection.

And I think people out there worry. They worry a lot when they start hearing news that the environmental regulation oversight is diminishing on the federal basis; the province is not picking up the extra duties. And I think what's . . . overall, people are getting a sense that both their Sask Party and their federal Conservative cousins are now doing away with the oversight needed to protect the environment.

Elders in northern Saskatchewan tell us it's very simple. You have to make sure you have clean air, clean water, clean land. It's very, very simple. Without those three principles, you cannot sustain life. And what is an economy without the people working that economy if they're healthy and they're highly productive, Mr. Speaker. It is all common sense.

So from our perspective, Mr. Speaker, the third important component of our smart growth concept is quite literally to make sure that we invite the private sector in, that we develop the resources on a continual basis, and we create opportunity for as many people of Saskatchewan, and to try and derive as many of those benefits associated with that industry to make sure we have a long-term, healthy outlook for the province of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, we look at some of these points that are being raised. And I would ask the people of Saskatchewan one simple thing, is that the poll show nationally the federal NDP are moving ahead and all of sudden the Sask Party is getting all worked up, Mr. Speaker. They talk about protecting Saskatchewan's interest when we've seen they have not done so, Mr. Speaker, on many fronts. And then the people out there, they get discouraged because they hear there's opportunity on the economic front. But they ask the question, we need to balance the environmental agenda as well, which is a key point in our planning strategy, Mr. Speaker.

So I tell the people of Saskatchewan one simple message. The provincial NDP worked very hard to build this economy. It took us many years to rebuild the credibility of the province. We had some great fights going with the federal government

which the Sask Party gave up on. And, Mr. Speaker, we're seeing the benefits of that work today. So I tell the people of Saskatchewan one simple thing. It's all about smart growth. It's all about having a sustainable development strategy in your mind. And the three pillars are worker protection, environmental protection, and making sure we have good, profitable companies that can sustain themselves over years. And that is all based on common sense . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — The time for the debate has expired. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I have a question for the member from Saskatoon Sutherland and the question is: does the member opposite believe that we should do more to bring value-added opportunities to our province?

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am very in support of growing this province. Everybody on this side of the House is very excited about what's happening in Saskatchewan, and you know what? There's a sense of optimism going on throughout our province, optimistic that we are ready for growth, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we are ready for the future. For the first time in a long time, Saskatchewan is on the map, Mr. Speaker. As far as saying we are ready to go forward, we are ready to take that province forward with the goodwill of the people of Saskatchewan; they have entrusted this to the Saskatchewan Party. I'm very proud of this. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the NDP talks about the need to, and I quote, "internalize the costs of tar sands development." In fact, the federal NDP's House leader wants to, and I quote again, "ban raw bitumen exports and declare 25 per cent tax for non-renewable resource extraction." And as recently as Monday, the member from Nutana said these issues are, and I quote again, "something the federal government would have to deal with."

To the member from Athabasca: given the NDP's abdication to the federal government, does that member also support the NDP's position of relinquishing economic responsibility of natural resources to the federal government?

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

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, what's really important? This is a very important debate that we're having right across the country, Mr. Speaker, and today we're supposed to be . . . And my point is, when I spoke earlier, that the federal or the national headlines show that the NDP are surging ahead of the Tories and that's why they're getting all worked up.

But on something as important as this matter, Mr. Speaker —

where we're debating this in the Assembly, and that's what I'm talking about it, of how they politicize this issue — why isn't their Premier here today to help defend Saskatchewan's interest instead of opening up a sporting goods store . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I'd like to caution the member. Members are not to reflect on the presence of other members in the Chamber.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, and they made reference to some of our caucus members earlier. I'm wanting to ask the question, is why aren't some of their key players in the Assembly today debating this thing which is so important to them? And, Mr. Speaker, all this is a political agenda on their part.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the member from Saskatoon Sutherland. This member is a new member here in the province and he's quite enthusiastic about many things that happen. But can this member tell us why the government that he has joined has been so careful to make sure that all of the NDP policies as it relates to resource extraction are kept in place? And can he understand, does he understand why the Minister of Energy goes around and says, well don't worry, we'll stick with the NDP policies because they are ones that work for Saskatchewan? So my question is for the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

[12:00]

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

Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. I am having lots of difficulties of keeping track what the position of the opposition is. One day it's supporting this, next day condemning it. The next day we're going to change this. We're going to go from a nickel to a dime. Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to keep track of what's going on. Maybe if the opposition could clear up a few things for us and stand up and tell us exactly what their positions are on this, then maybe, maybe I could answer the question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NDP's belief that Canada's natural resource sector is a disease is based on junk economics. In fact Stephen Gordon, who contributes to *The Globe and Mail*, noted that, "The loss of 500,000 manufacturing jobs since 2002 has been more than offset by the creation of 2.5 million jobs in other sectors." To the member from Saskatoon Nutana: does the NDP truly believe that our thriving natural resource sector has caused the decline in manufacturing jobs in Eastern Canada?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

As we said earlier, it's clear that our record on this issue is consistent. We support economic development, including the oil sands and resulting pipelines, that follow the triple bottom line theory that economic, social, and environmental factors need to be considered.

The motion in front of us today is really not a useful motion at all. It's just a distraction, as my colleague said, because this party is . . . the government is trying to change the channel here on what are the real issues that affect people in Saskatchewan. Three more MLAs, cutting museums, cutting tourism, films, failing to tend with issues related to labour — that's what should be on the motion today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, not a distraction like this that has no merit in this legislature.

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to ask the member from Sutherland again the question. He spoke about the optimism. We spoke a lot about the optimism over time, Mr. Speaker. And the headlines, as my colleague indicated, show that Saskatchewan was just doing great. The vast majority of the people of Saskatchewan, I would venture to say 99.99 per cent, knew the boom was coming. It was well on its way. They know the boom will continue, Mr. Speaker, no matter who's in charge. There's a big difference between the values of each party but they know things are going to be going great.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to ask the question. If you didn't believe in the NDP prior to the last election, why did you believe in the NDP strategy when it comes to developing all the resources in the province of Saskatchewan? Why did you continue to adopt our practice?

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

Mr. Merriman: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite sure what their practice is. I believe my history recalls that to lower the potash royalties, this was a joint decision supported by all parties within this House to be able to move this province forward. I don't think that this was strictly the NDP, and I take offence at the NDP always saying, this was us. We did everything. You're benefitting from everything. We hear the member opposite always say, 60,000 people lined up at the borders waiting for you to come back. You're absolutely right they were waiting. They were waiting until they had a responsible government that was going to be open for business, that was going to help out the people of Saskatchewan in all aspects, not just in the aspects that best suited the NDP. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. Parent: — Mr. Speaker, the past few years have presented significant challenges to all industries because of the recession. However, the decline in manufacturing in Ontario, as unfortunate as it is, follows the same trend in Michigan and Ohio. Yet with no facts to support the NDP's case, they continue to insist our natural resource sector is "a disease." To

the member from Saskatoon Nutana: is the NDP cure for this so-called disease a carbon tax? And if not, what does the member propose as a cure?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I said earlier, this is a completely sort of silly conversation today because this has nothing to do with the issues that are facing the people of Saskatchewan. What we should be, what this government should be talking about and worried about . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. All members would like to enter into the debate. At the moment the member from Saskatoon Nutana has the floor. The member may continue.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The issues that are important to Saskatchewan people at this point in time are those relating to affordable health care, about timely surgeries. We're looking for affordable housing. These are issues that matter to the people of Saskatchewan. This useless debate is not one that focuses what should be happening. It should be . . . these guys should be worried about what's going on in Saskatchewan right now and looking after the issues that are important to Saskatchewan people — protecting labour, industry, film industry, and tourism. That's what they should be looking after.

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

Mr. Nilson: — My question is for the member from Regina. He operated in the Devine government that put our province into bankruptcy. Did he learn some of the same lessons that our Premier did, and can he tell us what he's learned from that?

The Deputy Speaker: — The time for the 75-minute debate has expired.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 601

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Forbes that **Bill No. 601** — *The Jimmy's Law Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I had some chair issues there. I'm pleased to enter the debate here today on Bill 601, *An Act to amend The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 to ensure greater safety for retail workers who work late night hours*.

This is in fact . . . Actually, this is also referred to as Jimmy's law because it's dedicated to Jimmy Ray Wiebe. Last year, last June actually — we're coming up on the first anniversary, and not a very pleasant anniversary — Jimmy Ray Wiebe was shot and killed while working the late-night shift alone at a Yorkton gas station. So one of Jimmy's close friends didn't think that was acceptable and Aaron Nagy has become, has started a campaign to create more safe and secure working conditions for those who work late at night. And the NDP is very proud to give Aaron this support, or our support.

My colleague from Saskatoon Centre has done much work with Aaron on this Bill. He's done his research, which has also involved late-night tours of gas stations and convenience stores to discuss with workers their concerns and thoughts on this Bill. He's visited many communities throughout Saskatchewan and has had much support from those working in those stores who think he's on the right track.

So again, it's one thing to do a literature search, which he's done, and review best practices of what other jurisdictions are doing, but I think it's most important to hear how those who are working these front-line jobs and these late-night shifts feel about their safety and their security. It's not an easy thing, actually. Shift work at the best of times is hard and demanding. It's hard on your family life, it's hard on your body clock. Working late nights is tough, but it becomes even more difficult in a situation where your safety actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is on the line.

So the member from Saskatoon Centre has said again that he's had much response from those with whom he's spoken, that those who are working in this industry think this is a good idea.

So in his research the member from Saskatoon Centre has discovered there are already many 24-hour establishments safer than he anticipated, which is a good thing, and about 80 per cent of the businesses are already practising the principles behind Jimmy's law right now. So that really is a positive thing. And as he's put it, "It's not going to take a revolution to move it to the next level. It's just getting the few that are not and make this a consistent law across the province."

So we have very good, by and large, we have very good employers here in Saskatchewan doing really good things. And I know that people's safety is top of mind for most employers. But it's about that incentive to move all employers to ensuring that their staff on late-night shifts feel safe and secure, not just feel safe and secure, but are safe and secure. So if this Bill becomes law, it will amend *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* to require employers to schedule at least two workers for shifts between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. or provide a secure barrier or locked door between a worker and the public.

So just a little bit about what Jimmy's law is based on. It's based on a law that was proposed or some ideas in BC [British Columbia] on Grant's law. So in 2005, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Grant De Patie was killed trying to stop someone from stealing \$12.30 worth of gas from an Esso station in Maple Ridge, British Columbia — \$12.30 and Mr. Grant De Patie was killed for this. He was working alone at night, so that is where Jimmy's law is based on. It is based on Grant's law in BC.

So what happens late at night for people who are working shift work in those jobs? Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I've had the opportunity, it's been quite a long time, but when I was in university . . . I've never worked in late-night retail, but I've worked as a server in bars as a waitress, getting off work at 3 in the morning when the pubs and the bars close. And even walking out to one's car there's a feeling of insecurity. The night provides opportunity for all kinds of things to happen that normally don't happen during the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Late-night crime is a reality, and it's a reality here in Saskatchewan. The reality is Jimmy's tragedy was not an isolated incident. Just in Saskatoon actually, not in my constituency, just adjacent to my constituency, there's a Fas Gas on 20th Street and Avenue H. And on March 14th there was, just a few months ago, there was a . . . someone came in with a sword, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Shortly before that, actually not long before that, just a few weeks previous, there was another attempted robbery with a shotgun, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So this is a reality. In Regina I believe there were several robberies in the last few months as well, late-night robberies.

So Jimmy Ray Wiebe's experience of being held up is not an isolated experience. Fortunately his death, there's fewer people . . . The reality is there are many attempts at robberies and many opportunities for violence to happen on the late-night shift.

So I want to talk a little bit about some of the cross-Canada experiences. And the thing that jumps out for me, particularly as a woman, that it's often women who have been the victims of these crimes and young women who have been the victims of these crimes. So I'd just like to highlight for you some of these crimes that have occurred.

So in January 2006 in Montreal, a young woman, 17-year-old Brigitte Serre was stabbed to death during her first time on the overnight shift. She was working alone. You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think one of the most tragic things, this was her first shift, and she had never worked the night shift before. She had traded shifts actually. So this was someone who, wrong place, wrong time — an incredibly sad story.

In June 2007, a Langley, BC woman in her late 40s was working alone when she was sexually assaulted and locked in the storeroom for an hour.

We have in September 2005, Jennifer Teague, who was 18 years old, vanished as she walked to her nearby home after finishing a late night shift at Wendy's in Ottawa. Her body was found two weeks later in the bushes.

In May 2001 a store clerk, Yancy Meyer — he was 19; he was a first-year student at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia — he was stabbed to death by a man wearing a Halloween mask as he staffed an all-night needs store in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The robber got nothing. He escaped with nothing, Mr. Speaker. So Yancy Meyer lost his life not even for \$12.30 of gas, as we'd heard previously.

In February 2000, Tara Ann McDonald was 25 and was working as the lone clerk during the night shift at the Subway store in Calgary when she was bludgeoned to death. The cash

register that had less than \$50 in it was stolen.

May 1997, a Calgary Mac's store clerk, Shamsudden Taj, who was 23 years old at the time, was found unconscious in the store. He was the night shift worker and the victim of a brutal beating. And he died a few hours later in the hospital, and cigarettes were stolen.

[12:15]

In March 1997, Kelly Kaler, 19, was strangled and stabbed to death with scissors while working alone at night at a Money Mart cheque-cashing outlet in downtown Vancouver. November 1994, Eileen McCoy, 46 years old was sexually assaulted and murdered after vanishing from her night shift at a Mac's store in Taber, Alberta. May 1993, a night shift clerk, Lailanie Silva, 22, was abducted from a Calgary 7-Eleven store and murdered. In September 1983, 18-year-old Barbara Turnbull was left paralyzed after being shot by robbers while working as a night clerk in a Mississauga convenience store. The robbers escaped with \$200.

January 1982, Laurie Lee Boyd, 16, who was a part-time clerk working the 6 to 11 p.m. shift at the Red Rooster store in Okotoks, Alberta was abducted, sexually assaulted, and stabbed to death. A more recent case here just in September 2007, 44-year-old Delores Reynolds had her throat slashed from ear to ear and was raped during a robbery while working the graveyard shift at a Halifax gas station.

So those are some stories nationally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they're not nice stories at all. And the one thing in common here, these were all people who were working alone on the night shift.

The one thing, Mr. Speaker, my dad was a police officer for almost 30 years in Saskatoon, and the one thing that he has taught me, not just about personal safety but about crime in general, is that it's much better to prevent a crime than to deal with it while it's in progress or the ramifications of its aftermath. So that's the one thing my dad . . . I grew up in a house where actually we talked a lot about crime and crime prevention and all those kinds of things. And today we call it crime prevention by environmental design, but I think the basic principle and one lesson that my dad has imparted on me is that criminals don't want things to be easy for them. They are always looking for the easy mark. And I would argue there is no easier mark than a staff person alone on a graveyard shift. There is not an easier mark than that, Mr. Speaker.

When it comes to preventing crime, and I'll take it out of sort of the more violent crime, and something my dad would tell me is when it comes to property, you might trim the hedge in front of your basement window so you can see it from the street so you don't have, a criminal doesn't have the opportunity to hide behind the bush and break into your house. Or you might want to install motion lighting, those kinds of things. It's about those simple things that prevent crime that make it harder for the criminals to do their job . . . or not their job, to do the things that criminals tend to do.

And again, having two people on staff at night is a way to prevent crime, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm not saying it'll never

happen, and we have had tragedies, a tragedy here in Saskatchewan with two people working together, two women during a day shift. So there is never any guarantee in life.

But the goal of crime prevention is to do your very best to lessen the odds of a crime occurring. And again criminals are looking for the easy mark. Having two people work together on a late-night shift makes it harder for a criminal to do what he wants to do. If you were the thief, would you choose to enter a store that had one staff person in it, or would you choose to enter a store that had two staff people? I would argue that the store with only one employee or fewer security measures is going to be the easy mark, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I don't just feel that; I think I know that.

And there are always exceptions, and crime will still be perpetrated where there are two people present, but it is about lessening the risks, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And again as I said, no one is saying this is a foolproof system. But it's about improving your odds, so making things harder for criminals to do what they plan to do, which means they'll be less inclined.

Even as a business person, I think that my goal would be to make sure that my store is less likely to be a mark or a target for criminals as well. It's good business sense to prevent crime. It's also good business sense to ensure your employees are safe. But when it comes to making sure that your business is safe from crime, again this is something that would be I think a good business practice.

There is a well-worn saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there is safety in numbers. And I think that there is more than a grain of truth, I'd actually say that saying is very much rooted in truth. I think, again, common sense and good business practice.

I think as a woman too, I'm perhaps, I think women in general are perhaps more aware of our vulnerability at night. There's a reason on university campuses there are safe walk programs to get students from point A to point B with more than one person. There's a very good reason. Sexual assaults, personal attacks, all those kinds of things are in the realm of possibilities or go up when you're on your own, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There is safety in numbers.

And as I pointed out earlier, I've never worked late-night retail, but I've worked many, many jobs where I've been alone at night. I've worked into the wee hours of the morning. I've worked as a waitress leaving a bar at 3 in the morning. I've worked as a reporter at a newspaper wrapping up copy for a 6 a.m. deadline and being the only one still in the newsroom, maybe because I didn't have my work done but I've been the only one still in the newsroom late, late at night by myself.

Or actually even just being at the legislature, there's occasions here that I've been here, and the halls are quiet. I know you take comfort in knowing that there's security here, but I've been in this building where it doesn't feel like there's anybody else in this building, and there's very much a sense of vulnerability that comes with that.

I know when I get to my apartment and I get out of my car and walk from my car to my apartment door, there's a sense of vulnerability. So imagine being alone in a workplace at night.

And all kinds of things happen at night. People tend to do sillier things at night as well, and it's not to say people don't drink to excess during the day or engage in activity that most of us wouldn't engage in, but the reality is these behaviours increase at night, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So because of the night, the nature of what night is, that increased vulnerability, these behaviours increase in the dark. There's more places for people to hide, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So there is an increased vulnerability for, a sense of vulnerability for people at night. So again imagine being one of these store clerks at a Mac's store and someone comes in in the middle of the night. You're by yourself. Perhaps someone's had way too much to drink or perhaps is doing something else that they shouldn't be doing, and you are alone. And whether you're a man or a woman, it's problematic, but again I'm coming from the perspective of being a woman who's worked alone at night and has had some sense of vulnerability of that. There is safety in numbers, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I think it's interesting to note that even police officers work in pairs at night, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In Saskatoon it's common practice that officers pair up at the start of their night shift. I have members opposite saying, well not everywhere — well of course, not everywhere — but in Saskatoon they've recognized that their officers are safer when they work in pairs. They work in pairs at night because your crime load increases at night and it's easier to . . . There is safety in numbers, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In fact actually in speaking with a few police officers, I couldn't confirm it, but not only generally right now they pair up right when the shift starts, but the one police officer with whom I was speaking believes that actually is written into their collective agreement, that they work in pairs from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., Mr. Deputy Speaker. So police officers, police officers who are armed with side arms, they have side arms, they have pepper spray, they have batons, they have all the tools and the training, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So they have side arms. They have pepper spray. They have batons and all the training to keep themselves safe, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And they believe that it's best to have two people working together at night, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and feel quite strongly about that.

So I would argue that if it's good enough for our well-trained and -armed police officers to work in pairs on the overnight shift, why would we not want to do this for other employees, that is, pair them up, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Why would we not want to pair . . . Just to be clear here, I'm not advocating anything but pairing people up.

And too I think my perspective as a woman and as a mother and as a parent of a child who's not too far away from working, from being interested in employment . . . She's 14 years old, and I think she would like to earn a living other than babysitting her four-year-old sister. So she's starting to think about other ways to earn extra money. So honestly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would not want to even think about Hennessey working at a Mac store or a gas station or anywhere during a night shift, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I couldn't imagine her working a night shift by herself at any of these places, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I hear these folks on the other side going ooh, thinking that I've

said something nefarious or bad here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but my point is here that I would not want my daughter working alone on a night shift in some of the businesses that operate at night. Well I just wouldn't want her working alone on a night shift. Of the stories that I've recounted, most of the stories that I recounted that happened on a national level were young women, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I can't even go there in my mind to think that that is even a possibility.

So I think about all the Hennesseys of the world, and I want them to be safe in their workplaces, men, young men and young women. And again I would argue it's common sense and that there is in fact safety in numbers, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again as I said in the start of my remarks, nobody is thinking that this is the panacea that cures all crime, but again it's about making you less of a target, less of an easy mark for criminals.

So again I don't think any parent . . . I've talked a little bit about Hennessey but I don't think any parent wants to be up late at night, 3 in the morning, thinking about their son or daughter working at a facility that they're all by themselves. I can't even imagine what that would be like, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I would also like to point out that many of these folks who work in convenience stores, gas stations late at night, sometimes they're not . . . These folks are the front-line service providers. They are the face of their business. Actually it's interesting. You look at all kinds of research, and lower waged employees are the folks who are the face of the business. And sometimes we don't always, whether it's around work-family balance, whether safety, all kinds of things, we don't value these folks who are the face of their organization nearly enough. And I think we could value them by saying, we want to make sure you're safe; we will implement measures to ensure that you are safe on the night shift.

These are folks who are working, making sure that services are convenient for all of us, making sure that we can get gas at 3 in the morning. These are folks who are making sure if we need children's Tylenol at 2 in the morning that they're there, or if we need a litre of milk because we forgot to pick up milk for our kids' cereal in the morning. So those folks who are working the late-night shifts are the ones who are there for our convenience to make sure that we have what we need. And this is a modern economy, a 24-7 economy. And so again I just want to emphasize that these people are the front. They are the face of their company and deserve to have the safety measures in place that could keep them from being one of the statistics and one of the stories that I cited earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I think that we can find a solution for business where it makes sense and that involves two, perhaps adding two workers or creating other safety barriers. For some businesses it will be having two employees on shift, and for others it might involve safety barriers and locked doors. And again this is not a panacea, but this will go a long way to providing not only a sense of security, a sense of security, not just a sense of security but a very real security for people.

Again, criminals . . . Don't want things to be easy for them. They are looking for the easy mark and the easy target. So our goal should be to make sure that we lessen those numbers of

easy targets. And I just want to emphasize again that Saskatoon city police officers work in pairs at night, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I've spoken about that but I think that that's really important to remember that these are folks who have side arms, batons, and pepper spray and they still pair up at night, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So at the bare minimum, I think we should be able to do the same for our, make sure that we can pair up or create proper barriers and locked doors for these folks.

So I'd like to actually, before I finish here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, go over the Bill, which I have in my stack of papers here. Just one moment, please.

[12:30]

So Bill No. 601, I know I mentioned it earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I mentioned Bill 601, *An Act to amend The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993*.

The preamble goes:

WHEREAS Jimmy Ray Wiebe of Yorkton was working alone at a gas station on June 20, 2011 when he was murdered;

WHEREAS in memory of Jimmy Ray Wiebe, all gas station, convenience store and other retail . . . workers working overnight need some form of protection either via a fellow co-worker or protective barrier:

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows:

. . . *The Jimmy's Law Act*.

It would involve late-night hours, meaning any time between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., a late-night retail premises, meaning:

a gas station or other retail fueling outlet, convenience store or any other retail store where goods are sold directly to consumers that is open to the public during late night hours.

The new section 14.1 would be added following section 14:

Late night retail premises safety requirements

14.1(1) If a worker is assigned to work alone or in isolation in late night retail premises, then, in addition to any other obligations the employer has under this and other Acts, regulations or collective agreements the employer must also do either or both of the following when an individual worker is assigned to work late night hours:

- (a) assign one or more other workers to work with the individual worker during any late night hours;
- (b) ensure the individual worker is physically separated from the public by a locked door or barrier that prevents physical contact with or direct access to the individual worker;

(2) An employer operating a late night retail premises must develop and implement a written procedure to

ensure a worker's safety in handling money;

(3) A worker described in subsection (1) must be trained in the written procedure referred to in subsection (2);

(4) An employer of a gas station or retail fueling outlet must require that customers prepay for fuel sold at those facilities during late night hours."

So again just before I move to adjourn debate, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to say this is about making sure that our citizens of Saskatchewan are safe no matter where they work and that there is in fact safety in numbers. This is about working for both employees and businesses, making sure that businesses and individual employees are not the easy mark or the easy target. It's making it harder for criminals to do their work. And again it's about making sure that people are safe.

And as we approach the one-year mark, anniversary of Jimmy Ray Wiebe's death, this is I think — and Mother's Day — this would be a very fitting opportunity to pass this piece of legislation.

But with that, I know that there is other work to do following this. So I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. At this time I'd like to move to adjourn the House.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government Whip has moved to adjourn the House. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried. This House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:33.]

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