



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

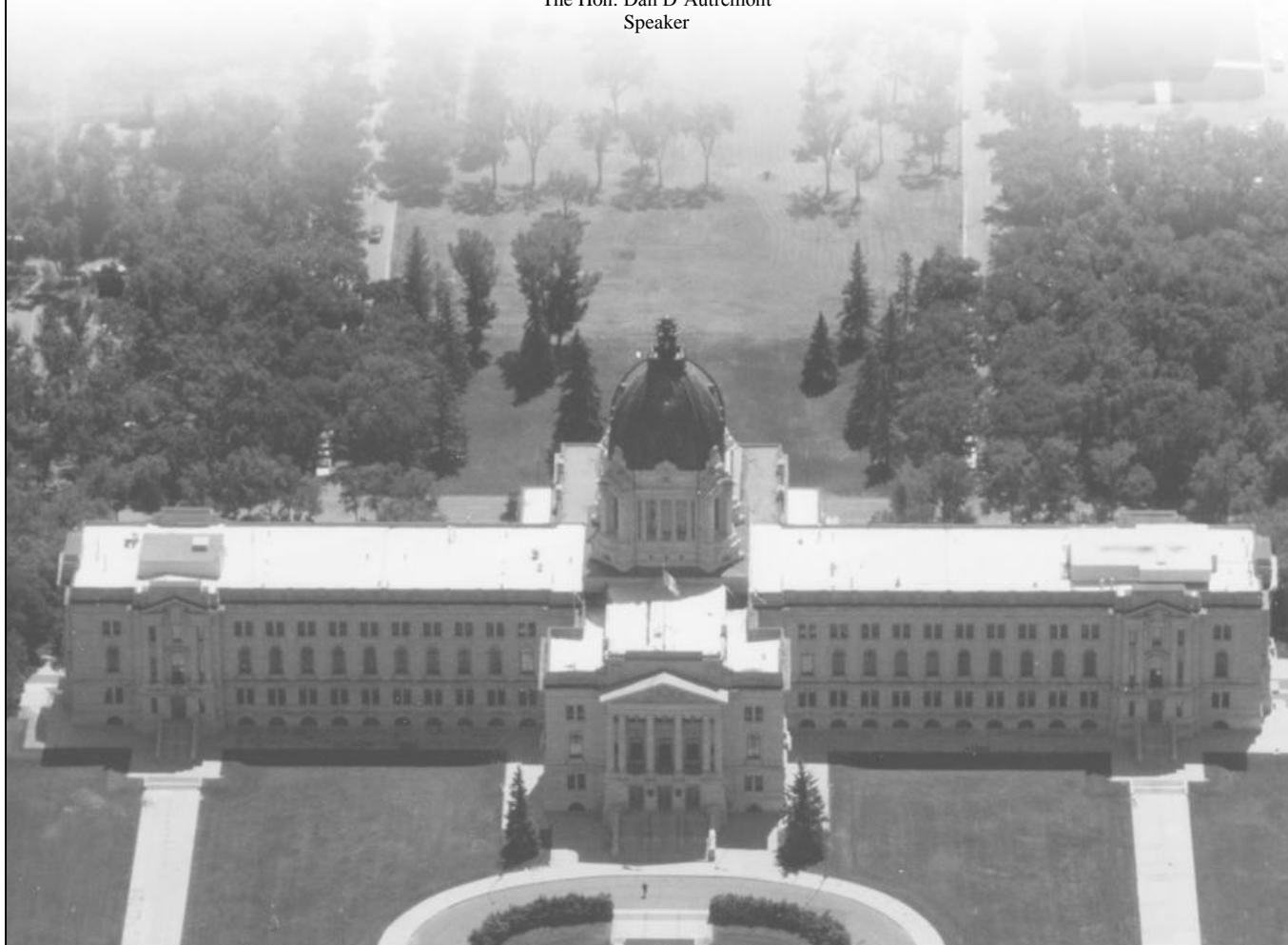
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. 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, 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
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Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. 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, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
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Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, 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, Hon. 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, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. 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, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege on behalf of members on this side of the House, and perhaps all members, although I'm sure someone on the other side will want to stand and introduce a very special guest that's seated in your gallery, someone who's a guest, but no stranger to this Legislative Assembly Building.

Mr. Speaker, Ray Carr has joined us. We had a chance to have a formal farewell on the occasion of his retirement today, earlier today, when all members were able to attend. We want to welcome him here to his Assembly to watch the proceedings, as well as Anne and members of the family that have joined us.

Mr. Speaker, it's a great privilege to be able to work in this building, and for me one of the best experiences is walking through that front door. That entryway should be enough but, Mr. Speaker, it was even better when Ray was at that desk with his always-friendly greeting and his knowledge of everybody that's worked in the building for the last 16 years — I think, for as long as he's been here — and his willingness to engage in a discussion to start the day.

Mr. Speaker, I will always appreciate the fact that not only were those greetings afforded all of us and that friendship accorded all of us, but it's also true that on occasion in my office there would appear some magazine, some periodicals featuring the sale of classic cars. You get to do a lot of reading on the job, and that's some of my favourite reading to do. And so I want to thank the supplier for some of those periodicals, as well as to acknowledge his service and thank him very much for his service to this Legislative Building and to the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Premier on behalf of the official opposition, and I would say on behalf of all people who are somewhat intimidated coming into this building, to say thank you to Ray for the personality that you've been able to provide to this building.

A couple of weeks ago when we were celebrating the 100th anniversary of the building of this building, one of the things that I referenced in my speech was the fact that we have a building with new rug, new lots of things, but it's the people that make the difference here. And Ray, you and many others were ones that I was thinking about when I said that because it is the people that are part of that. So thank you very much, Ray, for everything that you've done. And Ray and Anne, have a great trip. And we look forward to seeing you coming to visit us regularly because we'll want to get caught up on all the things

that you've kept us informed about over 16 years. So thank you.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I also want to introduce my parents who are sitting here on the floor. And I specifically invited them to come today because over the years they visited regularly with Ray, and they wanted to be part of the celebration as well. But my parents, Tom and Randi Nilson, who now have moved from my riding into the member from Regina Douglas Park, and so I'm sure that he will take care of them. They have spent many hours in this building, my father especially over the years in the library because he did lots of research about Saskatchewan here in the library. So, welcome. I ask all the members to welcome my parents here today.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in the west gallery, it gives me great pleasure to introduce two visiting scholars from Malawi. They are Mrs. Ella Cindy Ulaya. She is director of Management Development Centre at the University of Malawi Polytechnic. And Mr. Victor Lordwin Chikoti, he's a lecturer in the department of language and communication studies at that same institution.

They have been in Regina since October 22nd and will be returning home on November 11th. They've indicated that when they return home, they are going to take back the weather that we're having here and leave some nice Malawi weather behind. They are here as a result of an agreement signed when Dr. Vianne Timmons, president and vice-chancellor of the University of Regina visited Malawi in May of 2011. Mr. Chikoti and Mrs. Ulaya have been learning about the marketing of higher education institutions, their courses and programs. Also they are learning strategies for the design, development, and implementation of a marketing plan for the Polytechnic.

Mr. Speaker, I wish these two visiting scholars from Malawi the very best in their future endeavours, and I hope their time in Saskatchewan is rewarding and enjoyable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask that all members join me in welcoming them to the Legislature today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to introduce to you and through you to all members of this honourable Assembly, Mr. Roger Pederson, seated in the west gallery. Give us a little wave there, Roger. Thank you. Roger is president of the Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association, or SIPA for short. Irrigation has been a priority for our government and will continue to be so in the future, as outlined in our growth plan and the Speech from the Throne.

I met with Roger earlier this morning, and we had a good discussion as always. And we appreciate all the work that Roger and his association do and the good working relationship that we have with them. I ask all members of this honourable Assembly to welcome Roger.

The Speaker: — I would like to take this opportunity to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in

welcoming Ray and Anne Carr into the legislature. This is the first time that Ray has actually sat in the Chamber to watch events happening in place here. So after 16 years, it's about time.

I really enjoyed visiting with Ray when I would come into the Assembly at the front door. He would talk to me all about Africa and even taught me a little saying. So, Ray, buy a donkey. 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 other provinces such as British Columbia and others have brought several safety precautions through law, including a requirement that workers cannot be alone during late-night, early morning hours. And if they are required to work, there must be 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 Jimmy's law, to ensure greater safety for retail workers who work late-night hours.

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 also want to present a petition today in reference to the cell coverage in northwestern Saskatchewan. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Undertake as soon as possible to ensure that SaskTel delivers cell service to the Canoe Lake First Nations along with the adjoining communities of Cole Bay and Jans Bay; Buffalo River First Nations, also known as Dillon; and the neighbouring communities of Michel village and St. George's Hill; English River First Nations, also known as Patuanak and the hamlet of Patuanak; and Birch Narrows First Nations along with the community of Turnor Lake including all the neighbouring communities in each of those areas.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed the petition, this petition today, are primarily from Canoe Lake, and I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates the finances of our province. And the prayers reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the Sask Party

government to provide Saskatchewan people with a 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 Pennant, Success, and Swift Current. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of the leadership and community of Wollaston Lake that the Government of Saskatchewan stop turning their backs on the people from northern Saskatchewan and start investing in public highways in the North. And the prayer reads as:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that the construction on the road to Wollaston Lake, which was started under the previous NDP government, has shown little to no progress and must be completed quickly.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Congratulations to Saskatchewan Performer

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate the most recent success for Saskatchewan singer, songwriter, and pianist Jeffery Straker. Born and raised in Punnichy, Saskatchewan, he now divides his time between Toronto and Regina. Jeffery's talents recently earned him two music award nominations recently for best pop song and video of the year. He will be going to Las Vegas in December to take part in the awards ceremony, and we wish him great success.

Jeffery is an eclectic musician, having been compared to musicians such as Ben Folds, Harry Chapin, Sarah Slean, and early Elton John. He has produced a variety of albums beginning in 2003 and is constantly touring on the national and international stage, performing up to 100 shows a year. One of his music videos made it to no. 6 position on Canada's MuchMoreMusic network's *Countdown*.

At the beginning of this month, Mr. Speaker, he released his new album *Vagabond*. Critics are raving about the album with the *Toronto Star* critic writing:

Let's cut to the chase, *Vagabond* is one of the most faultlessly conceived and meticulously executed albums in any genre to come out of Canada in a long time, shifting moods and lyrics framed by thrilling chord changes. There's rarely a note, chord, or word too many or too few.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire Legislative Assembly to please join me in extending hardy congratulations to Jeffery for his recent album release and two most recent award nominations. We wish him the best of luck.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Remembering Randell Morris

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month a great Saskatchewan educator, a leader in the First Nations community and a good friend of mine, and frankly, a friend of the province, passed away. Randell Morris was 47 and in the prime of his career as president and CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. Upon his passing, a journalist noted, "I can scour the community and I couldn't think of anybody who didn't like Randell Morris. He got along with everyone smashingly."

Mr. Speaker, I can attest to the fact that this is true. He was just simply a wonderful guy, a man of equanimity. He was good-hearted and he was funny. You didn't want to be on the business side of his wit, and he was unfailingly positive, Mr. Speaker. What's also true about Randell is that he was driven. He was driven by his passion for First Nations education and then, after the education was complete, for those First Nations and all of us to be fully engaged in the economy to our potential.

Mr. Speaker, it's no surprise that while he was CEO of SIIT [Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies], enrolment was up 33 per cent. It's no surprise that completion rates were up significantly. We ought not to be surprised by the number of innovative partnerships that he struck and carried through as the president of SIIT.

We want to honour his contributions, and later the government will, with a scholarship named after Randell. Today though we want to offer our love and our prayers to his family: to Gail, his wife; and Alex, his daughter; to his mom, Louise; and his sister and his other family members in Swift Current and friends across this province.

Saskatchewan is better today because Randell did what he did. We're better for his passion and his energy, and the best way to honour it in his memory is to continue that passion. I close with the words of the Irish poet William Butler Yeats who said, "Think where man's glory most begins and ends and say, my glory was that I had such friends."

[13:45]

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

Ghosts of the Arts Walk

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night people across our country joined in solidarity and participated in Ghosts of the Arts walks. Artists and arts supporters from Regina and Saskatoon walked in white ghost sheets throughout their city streets. They walked in silence to protest the continuous decline of federal and provincial support for arts and culture across our country. They dressed in white as ghosts to show people what our communities would look like without the vibrancy of the arts — dull, plain, and lifeless.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that this Ghosts of the Arts Walk is very well-timed. In this current 2012 budget, Arts Board funding has dropped to the lowest percentage of overall budget expenditures in over 25 years. And the release of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's report on the economic impact of film here in our province, it seems that this government's math just doesn't add up. It decimated a profitable and thriving industry, and the facts confirm their decision defied common sense. This is not support for arts and culture.

One of the participants of the event summed up their experience of working as an artist here in Saskatchewan:

If you're working to build a truly vibrant scene, that's exhilarating. But when you're constantly working to defend what you've previously built up against politically motivated attacks as seems to be the case these days, it's exhausting and demoralizing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the organizers of the Ghosts of the Arts walk. We want respect and immediate action for the hard-working artists in this province. We want a government that will work with artists, not against them.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saltcoats.

Agriculture Month

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, October has once again been proclaimed Agriculture Month in Saskatchewan. Agriculture is a vital contributor to Saskatchewan's economy. One third of the province's exports come from agriculture. Mr. Speaker, in 2011 for the first time Saskatchewan was the top producer in agri-food products with \$10.2 billion worth of exports. Ontario had previously held that record. Agriculture is important to the province's future growth, and we have what the world needs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to Agriculture More Than Ever. Agriculture More Than Ever is an initiative focused on promoting the industry and improving the perceptions of agriculture in Canada. Saskatchewan is the first province to become an official partner. Agriculture More Than Ever was started by Farm Credit Canada. We will work together with other Agriculture More Than Ever partners to promote the contributions made by farmers, ranchers, and the industry to the economy and health of the people around the world.

We hope to provide the public with information about agriculture, dispel myths, and tell the success stories. Agriculture has a great story to tell and we can't be shy about

telling it.

I would like the Assembly to join with me in recognizing our Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers for the work that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Opening of New Daycare

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday, October 27th, I had the pleasure of joining Rocanville and area residents at the official opening of their Dream Big Child Care centre. After months of planning, thousands of dollars in donations, and hours of volunteer labour, Rocanville's Dream Big Child Care centre opened its doors in August and already this new daycare is making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, Dream Big Child Care started as nothing more than a dream in March 2010 when a group of parents decided to apply to the provincial government for child care spots in Rocanville. At that time, Mr. Speaker, child care was becoming increasingly hard to find due to the growth in the community and the lack of a daycare in the town. Once the approval was given for the 36 child care spaces, it was full steam ahead for this community. They began to contact builders and make necessary preparations.

While the government grant and the parental fees are sufficient enough to cover the daycare's operating budget, projects like this cannot really get off the ground without the time and money donated from businesses and individuals within the community. Mr. Speaker, amazing things can happen when a community comes together for a common cause. I would like all members in this Assembly to join me in recognizing the hard work of Rocanville for turning Dream Big Child Care into a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Opening of New Group Home

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer I had the opportunity to attend and bring greetings to a grand opening of the Prairie Community Endeavours group home in Spiritwood. This new three-space group home for people with intellectual disabilities was made possible through a partnership between the Ministry of Social Services and the Prairie Community Endeavours.

The Ministry of Social Services provided \$150,000 to the capital costs of the group home and will provide an additional \$210,000 in annual funding for the operation of the Prairie Community Endeavours group home. The capital funding allocated to this project is part of our government's four-year commitment to adjust the wait-list of 440 Saskatchewan people with intellectual disabilities who require programs and services. Our government is 95 per cent of the way towards our target of eliminating the 440-person wait-list, and projects like the new group home in Spiritwood are helping to ensure that we reach our goal. Community-based organizations such as Prairie Community Endeavours are playing an important role in

supporting people with intellectual disabilities in their communities, and we would not be able to reach our goal if it was not for the partnerships we've formed with community-based organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating everyone associated with the Prairie Community Endeavours, and join me in thanking them for all the work they have done and continue to do in support of people with intellectual disabilities in all of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Qu'Appelle.

2013 Juno Awards

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise in the House today to highlight an event that will be coming to our province next spring. Yesterday the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport helped kick off the 2013 Juno Awards. The event held at The Artful Dodger also provided the host committee with the opportunity to unveil the event slogan, It's Going to Get Loud.

Hosting events such as the Juno Awards is an opportunity to show Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world the incredible talent our province has to offer. Supporting the Juno fits with the province's event-hosting policy and within the cultural policy, Pride of Saskatchewan, by promoting artistic excellence, providing access to culture, and facilitating commercial opportunities for artists.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to bringing high-impact events to the province. That is why our government committed 1.5 million to help secure the Junos. Hosting the Juno Awards will have a positive impact on Saskatchewan's performing artists who will also receive unprecedented exposure and publicity from the national media focus on the awards.

The event also calls for volunteers, and I am confident that Saskatchewan's strong spirit of volunteerism will once again shine. Extraordinary talent runs deep in this province and our government looks forward to showcasing Saskatchewan artists. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Potential Changes to Labour Legislation

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is Halloween. And on the minds of Saskatchewan working people is whether or not they'll be receiving a trick or a treat from the Labour minister in his looming massive overhaul of 15 different pieces of the labour law. It's happened before, Mr. Speaker, where working people hold out for the Sask Party to deliver a fair and balanced approach to labour laws, only to be tricked into the most extreme, unfair, and unconstitutional legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the last time the Sask Party promised fairness and

balance, they ended up with your essential services law tossed out of court. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party Throne Speech claims the minister's legislation will be the most fair and balanced in Canada. How does the public know this isn't another Sask Party trick?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I appreciate his sense of humour, being Halloween. It is not our goal or intention to trick anyone. Our goal is to modernize labour legislation.

We want to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that our workplaces are safe and responsive to the needs of employees and employers. Some of the Acts and the pieces of legislation under review have not been substantively reviewed in almost 20 years. Others have not been reviewed in more than two generations. Some of the pieces of legislation have got fines that range from \$10 to \$25 as a maximum. We think we want to go forward and look at consolidating the pieces of legislation and take steps to move things forward. I can advise, Mr. Speaker, that we went through extensive consultation over the summer months. We received over 3,800 responses during that period of time and, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that it is our intention to use and develop as much as we can out of those responses. So, Mr. Speaker, we thank everybody that participated.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, sadly Saskatchewan people know this modernizing story way too well. The Sask Party imposes ideology over common sense and drafts labour legislation that's both unconstitutional and unbalanced. And they don't seem to get that working people, businesses, and unions want fairness in the workplaces for all sides.

Mr. Speaker, in other jurisdictions where right wing governments say they're going to modernize labour law, it usually throws the baby out with the bathwater. We saw it here in Saskatchewan where the Saskatchewan Party last term brought in the unconstitutional essential services legislation which still needs addressing. Did the minister forget the court has ordered him to solve this essential services snafu that his government created?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we've made it clear throughout this process that one of the primary needs of the consultation and review process is to address the concerns that the court had with the essential services legislation. As a province we are committed to having essential services legislation. We feel that the needs of our citizens for their health care, for ensuring that snow removal takes place, those are things that absolutely must happen in this province, and we feel that we need a legislative framework to ensure that those things do happen.

We've heard from the members opposite that we should rely on the goodwill of the workers that are there. We are not prepared

to put those workers in a position of being pitted against their union. We feel the right thing to do is to have a legislative framework for that to take place in.

Mr. Speaker, we heard responses during the process as to how that should take place. And, Mr. Speaker, that is one of the things that we intend to address as we go forward in this. I would like to take this opportunity to try and thank everybody that made a submission to the process. And we appreciate the input and it will be taken into account.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know our history, our Saskatchewan history, is full of people fighting very hard for their rights when it comes to our labour law. And workers died to win the basic protections some on those benches over there seem to take for granted. It's taken 100 years to build a balance for working people and employers alike. And an overwhelming majority of common sense people in our province believe that labour laws should be improved upon and not watered down.

And one of the key things people in this province are telling me and telling that minister is, don't water down safety regulations. We already have far too many serious injuries in our workplaces. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech alluded to safety regulations as if they somehow impose some sort of unspoken burden on business growth. Why does the Sask Party put such a low priority on making workplaces safer here in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I can advise the member opposite that we value the safety and security of the women and men that work in our province the same way we value their rights. Mr. Speaker, we have a good track record of trying to deal with that. We passed earlier this year Bill 23 which addresses those things. That bill will be proclaimed and brought into force in the near future. We are taking steps to deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, we have a good, strong situation in our province where we deal with . . . [inaudible] . . . and I have a quote I'd like to read: "Our economy has been moving along quite well with relative labour peace for many, many years." Mr. Speaker, that quote is from none other than the Opposition Leader during an October 23rd scum on the upcoming session.

And I want to further advise the members, Mr. Speaker, that over 97 per cent of the members that work in our public sector are working under contracts that were negotiated with no job action. When we brought in essential services legislation, Mr. Speaker, they said it would end collective bargaining as we know it. It didn't happen. We've done it and we've continued to do those and we will continue to do those things, Mr. Speaker.

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

[14:00]

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, without . . . And I want to talk about public consultation. Without proper public consultation, the Sask Party's massive overhaul of labour legislation both lacks legitimacy and threatens to substantially change 100 years worth of progressive labour legislation. People asked the Sask Party to approach any change to labour legislation with caution and care. They asked to be heard and they asked for public meetings, but the Sask Party has refused to listen. They ignored those recommendations to consult with the public and are lining up what could be the most extreme labour legislation in the country.

Well we released a consultation document for the minister to consider the real recommendations of the public. And the minister said at the time that he thought the document had merit, but he still wouldn't commit to meet with the public prior to drafting his new labour legislation.

To the minister: why has his government made such a concerted effort to avoid public consultation? And why is he introducing Canada's most extreme labour legislation without a single public meeting?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we received 3,800 responses to our paper that was put out. We've held six or seven minister's advisory committee meetings which have ran all day. These are done with both labour and with business leaders. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank everyone that made a submission.

One of the submissions that was received in the dying hours was the one from the NDP [New Democratic Party] party. You would think that they, above all else, those people above all else, would have got theirs in early, but the unions got theirs in ahead of them. Everybody else got theirs. One of the last ones to be received was from the NDP party. And what does it do? Nothing more than complain about the process and complain they want more time. If they would spend more time doing their work and less time throwing the rhetoric, they would be better.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite talks about no consultation. Mr. Speaker, in 1999 the NDP passed *The Special Payment (Dependent Spouses) Act*, *ex gratia* payment Act, with no consultation whatever; 2001, amended *The Labour Standards Act* extempore, no consultation; 2004, *The Trade Union Act*, no consultation; 2006, *The Labour Standards Act* . . . [inaudible] . . . no consultation.

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

Debt Reduction

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It seemed that the government had finally come around to the idea of saving some of our resource revenues for the next generation. It's a good idea, Mr. Speaker, something that we were pleased to see recognized. But, Mr. Speaker, it's concerning to see the inconsistency and the glaring omission in the Premier's Throne Speech last week.

At his recent private event, and he wrote in his booklet that he'll

explore “. . . how best to utilize Saskatchewan's non-renewable natural resource revenue after the province's debt has been fully retired . . .” Only a few minutes later, Mr. Speaker, the Premier told reporters that that plan may change. And last Thursday, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech didn't even mention the heritage fund.

Mr. Speaker, why is the heritage fund nothing more than a glaring omission from the Throne Speech?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, this government is moving ahead with the Saskatchewan heritage initiative that was outlined in the growth plan. The Throne Speech indicates that we're going to carry through with those elements of the growth plan.

Mr. Speaker, what the government has said is that when the debt is paid off, we do need to be ready prior to that date with some ideas, the best ideas that we can glean as we canvass them around the world, led by former University of Saskatchewan president, Peter MacKinnon, in this regard so that we're prepared for the day when Saskatchewan is debt free.

And, Mr. Speaker, if we keep making progress like we have, this province most assuredly will be debt free. Today we already have 44 per cent less General Revenue Fund debt than just four years ago. We're going to pay off some more this term. We're going to complete that job, and then we'll continue to put money away for future generations, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It's interesting, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and the billboards say one thing; the balance sheet says something entirely different, Mr. Speaker. Even if we buy the Premier's debt repayment schedule that may start next year, it would take us until 2060 to pay off the province's debt. I think the Leader of the Opposition pointed out that he'd be 110 years old at that point. I'd be a little bit younger. But without a doubt, 2060 is far too late to start saving for the next generation.

Paying down debt is a good idea, Mr. Speaker; in fact, we should soon start. But it was a glaring omission from the Throne Speech — no plan of debt repayment and no talk of the heritage fund from his booklet. Folks are starting to wonder if he's just making it up as he goes along, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: when will saving for our province's future become a real priority from that government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if people in the province would have been asked in 2007 if they thought in just four short years 44 per cent of the General Revenue Fund debt of Saskatchewan would be paid off by a brand new Sask Party government, they probably wouldn't have believed it then, but that is exactly what happened, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, and the best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour. We will reduce the debt. And, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, with all due respect, we hope that the hon. member

who is running for the NDP leadership now won't be offended . . . Well he's got a bit of support over there . . . won't be offended if we don't take his fiscal advice since he's — what? — a month into his leadership campaign and his leadership campaign is already showing a deficit, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Yes, yes, yes, Mr. Speaker. This from the Premier who pretended that the film tax credit cost \$8 million. Real facts, real math, and in fact the chamber of commerce disagreed with that point, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the idea of a heritage fund under that Premier and that government seems to be nothing more than a fairy tale; the principle of saving for the next generation a foreign concept. It's hard for Saskatchewan people to trust that government's inconsistent words on this, particularly when you look at their record.

Mr. Speaker, this year's budget and the past three before it contained not one cent of debt reduction, and the budget documents show there won't be one cent of debt reduced over the next three years. Simply that government can't be taken seriously when it speaks about debt reduction needed for the Premier's supposed heritage fund plan. Really, Mr. Speaker, how can the public trust that government on the important goal of saving for our future?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, that member has a lot of support over on these benches for his leadership campaign as well, and that's why those who are supporting him would probably advise him not to let his seatmate write his questions, who's competing against him for the leadership. Because he's asking people to reflect on the record of this government, Mr. Speaker: \$3.8 billion of debt paid off in four years. That's the record, Mr. Speaker. Record personal income tax relief: 114,000 low-income people don't pay taxes any more at all in this province. That's part of the record. The small-business tax rate cut in half: that's the record. Property tax relief, Mr. Speaker, for all people in the province, rural and urban: that's part of the record. And the only balanced budget in the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

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

Community Pastures

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government has walked away from Crown-owned community pastures. The province is now planning to sell the pastures of land with them, a vital part of Saskatchewan's agricultural history. Generations of ranchers and beef producers have used these community pastures to grow Saskatchewan's herd, and the managers of the pastures have provided professional herd management for decades.

Mr. Speaker, the minister says he's consulted with patrons on the sale but his so-called consultation was one conference call where he dictated the terms of the sell-off rather than hearing

feedback from the very patrons who steward these pastures.

To the minister: why did he roll out such a hasty plan for sale of the community pastures when the patrons themselves felt the sale, sale, sale attitude was demeaning?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the hon. member for her question. The divestiture of the PFRA [Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration] pastures by the federal government is clearly a federal decision, and it's just a matter that we have to deal with, Mr. Speaker. And I think we've been doing that in full consultation with the pasture patrons groups through the Chairs of those groups, Mr. Speaker.

We've had a parade of other entities through my office who have offers that they're willing to put on the table to purchase these pastures, and those have all been rejected, Mr. Speaker. We've consulted with those people. We've consulted with First Nations, Mr. Speaker. The consultations go on. And we've certainly consulted with the patrons of the pastures and announced 10 that we're willing to proceed with first, largely on the basis of their willingness to enter into that.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has already lost more than 80 per cent of native prairie to development. The community pastures represent some of the last remaining native prairie that we have. The federal government managed these community pastures with skilled and dedicated staff. They managed them from the day the patron dropped off their cattle in the spring until they picked them up in the fall. Patrons are worried about these managers, many with young families, who stand to lose their jobs and the many decades of expertise that they represent.

Mr. Speaker, the patrons stand to lose these services. The Saskatchewan Party government has not said whether they plan on backfilling when the feds walk away from the pastures. To the minister: will this Sask Party government ensure that these services will be maintained for the patrons? Yes or no.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question as well. The patrons are the best suited to manage these lands and there's a pretty solid consensus among the patrons groups that they're ready, willing, and able to do just that, Mr. Speaker.

And as I said in answer to the previous question, the first 10 pastures that will be turned over to patron operation for the 2014 grazing season were chosen largely on the basis of the willingness and ableness of those patrons groups to get into this sort of arrangement early.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and the

minister have received over 5,000 emails in the last three days alone from Canadians who want to see these lands protected. They are a vital part of our biodiversity.

Mr. Speaker, we can be positive about this. This is a wonderful opportunity for this government to maintain these lands for future generations. There's even been a suggestion for a First Nations joint venture to manage all 62 community pastures, creating much needed jobs for First Nations people. I understand that the minister met with members of the First Nations community and didn't even bother to inform them at the time that he had already made up his mind to sell.

Mr. Speaker, given that the patrons want to continue these services and various proposals are now coming forward, why is the minister so intent on barging ahead with his hasty and narrow sale-or-lease-only plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers are the best environmental stewards of our agricultural lands. That assertion made by the member opposite is condescending beyond belief and offensive to farmers and ranchers across this province.

Any land that is sold under this program, Mr. Speaker, and there will be an option to either purchase or lease, will be sold with no break, no drain conservation easements that will follow the land in perpetuity. Pastures will be kept and maintained as blocks, Mr. Speaker. Species at risk legislation, federal legislation will continue to be enforced by Saskatchewan and, regardless of the ownership of the land, in perpetuity, Mr. Speaker.

We've consulted with environmental groups. We have their endorsement. And I challenge that member to go to rural Saskatchewan and make that condescending statement to our ranchers.

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

Support for the Film Industry

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO said it clearly yesterday:

We need to have people that are artists and musicians here. We need to have actors here. We need to have a vibrancy in our community. Otherwise, you know what? The accountants and the lawyers and the engineers, they don't want to move here. They don't want to stay here.

Mr. Speaker, we have a Sask Party government that likes to use every spin and PR [public relations] trick in their book even when the facts are obvious. When the evidence is piling up and the list of those who think you got it wrong continues to grow, you have to sit up and listen, Mr. Speaker. When will the Sask Party government finally admit they made a mistake and take urgent action to fix the mess they've made in the film industry?

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

Sport.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member makes mention of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and the report they released yesterday just outside these doors. Mr. McLellan, and I'm assuming endorsed by the board of directors of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, released a report that indicated that there was an economic benefit to the province with the film industry. We don't dispute that. They also said the numbers — which we take exception to, Mr. Speaker — were verified by KPMG.

We now know that's not true. We now know KPMG, the managing partner of KPMG, Mr. Tom Robinson, has written a letter to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Speaker, and I quote:

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce stated that KPMG verified results included in a report on the impact of the film employment tax credit on the film and video industry in Saskatchewan. This was stated on the chamber's website resulting in media coverage with the same information. This statement is incorrect. KPMG had no involvement with this report nor did KPMG verify the results in the report. KPMG has requested that the chamber issue a retraction of this statement immediately and remove all references to KPMG on their website in future communications related to this report.

Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, we take exception to the numbers in the report. We're moving forward with a new consultation process with our creative industries in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Sask Party government are the only people in this province who believe Saskatchewan is somehow better off without the film industry. Even the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has come out against the government on this one. Yesterday the Chamber's CEO, Steve McLellan, had this to say: "The numbers they used to make the determination were incomplete and probably inaccurate."

Yet this know-it-all minister is challenging the chamber's numbers, but couldn't disprove them even though he claimed the ministry had done its own internal analysis, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister immediately table the numbers and the internal analysis this Sask Party government used to justify decimating the film industry?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend across the aisle just again referenced the chamber report and indicating numbers in the chamber report to buttress her argument. Mr. Speaker, the chamber also said in their news release that that report was verified by KPMG. We

now know that KPMG has never even seen the report, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, our government is moving forward to work with all of the creative industries in this province. We're working with the film industry, the musical industry, theatrical artists, visual artists. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the film industry themselves has said, and I quote, "It needs to meet sector requirements while not participating in what is seen as a bidding war. It cannot be a tax-related initiative."

Mr. Speaker, we are trying to find a support mechanism that supports all of our creative industries in this province. I wish the hon. member would show as much passion for the music industry, the theatrical artists, the visual artists, the craftspeople, the publishing industry as she does for the film industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This minister seems to think he knows best. I'm asking him once again, please table the analysis he's used in cutting, decimating the film industry here in Saskatchewan. I'm asking him to table that today.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, this last budget, this government made some difficult decisions. This government made some difficult decisions to invest in people with disabilities, Mr. Speaker. This government made difficult decisions to invest in low-income seniors in this province, Mr. Speaker, low-income seniors that you folks couldn't find a dime's worth of increase over 16 years.

Mr. Speaker, this government has taken 114,000 low-income people off the tax rolls completely. We think that's better public policy than a refundable employment tax credit, Mr. Speaker. What we're doing is moving forward with all of our creative industries in this province to help all of them with respect to a support mechanism that they can benefit from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 50 — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2012*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 50, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2012* now be introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 50, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2012* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. Why is the Government Whip on his feet, please?

Mr. Ottenbreit: — To ask leave for a motion of absence for members, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has asked for leave to move a motion of absence from the legislature. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government Whip.

MOTIONS

Leave of Absence

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I move:

That a leave of absence be granted to the members for Meadow Lake and Regina Elphinstone-Centre for Monday, November 5th through to Thursday, November 8th, 2012, inclusive, to attend the international federation of electoral systems election program in Washington, D.C. with the Chief Electoral Officer.

I so move.

The Speaker: — Order. It has been moved by the Government Whip:

That a leave of absence be granted to the members for Meadow Lake and Regina Elphinstone-Centre on Monday, November the 5th to Thursday, November the 8th, 2012, inclusive, to attend the international federation of electoral systems election program in Washington, D.C. with the Chief Electoral Officer.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

moved by Mr. Nilson.]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be able to enter into the debate today in the response to the Throne Speech, as this will be the final day that we debate the Throne Speech here in the Assembly and we'll be voting on it later on today.

Before I get into my remarks on the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a word of thanks to the people of Saskatoon Massey Place. It's been a little while since the last election and I've thoroughly enjoyed continuing to work with the people in the constituency and look forward to the years ahead working in Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the staff, as members do when we have the chance to make a few remarks about the Throne Speech. We do our jobs, but it's only because we have so many people that are able to help us do our jobs. And too often, Mr. Speaker, we don't recognize the important work that staff members do in allowing us to complete our days. I think of staff in the constituency office, Mr. Speaker, as well as the hard-working caucus office staff and all the people that allow the Legislative Assembly to function well throughout the year. And we had the pleasure of honouring a long-serving individual today.

I also want to thank friends, Mr. Speaker. This can be a job with ups and downs, and having strong relationships with friends who are there to support and encourage along the way are always appreciated.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say a special word of thanks to my grandma, Ferne Vincent, who lives at Outlook. She watches the legislative channel faithfully every day. I know it's on loop when we're sitting in the Assembly. I know she prays for me every single day and so I thank my grandma, Ferne, for her love.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say thank you to my wife, Ruth, for her support. Politics has always been busy. As members can appreciate, the last few months and then the following few months will be especially busy, Mr. Speaker. And I thank Ruth for her understanding and all of her support, and of course our two girls, Ingrid and Clara — Ingrid who is a bit over two, and our daughter Clara who's a bit over six months, Mr. Speaker.

Times can be busy with family and work, Mr. Speaker, but sometimes the best lessons that we learn are when we have a chance to have a bit of interaction with our children. And our daughter Ingrid right now is at the stage where whatever statement we give, whatever the topic, there's always one predictable response. And I think parents and grandparents in the room will know what I'm talking about when it comes to toddlers. That response is always, why? It doesn't matter what the statement is. If it's finish your milk, the answer is, why? If it's time to go home, the question, pardon me, is, why? And, Mr. Speaker, it never fails also when I leave the house when I'm off to a meeting or coming to Regina, I get asked that same question. Why? And it actually . . . it's a routine part of the day,

but it allows for a moment of reflection as to why we actually do what we do. And I assume all of us in this in this Assembly, whether we're on the government or the opposition side, we have those moments when we're able to pause for a second and ask ourselves why we are doing this, why we've chosen to run, and why we're trying to improve the province as we see it.

And, Mr. Speaker, in many ways when we look at the Throne Speech, we're also presented with a question. And the question is, why is it that we should or shouldn't provide our support for the document, for the information that is in the Throne Speech? I think, Mr. Speaker, when asking ourselves that question, why, we have to ask ourselves what kind of future we want for our province, what kind of future we want for our children — the ones that ask us that "why" question so often.

I think in Saskatchewan the type of future we want, Mr. Speaker, is one that recognizes and realizes that our destinies are interconnected here in the province. Too often when we have political discussions, Mr. Speaker, it's an us-versus-them approach. And it's a discussion that divides us between north and south; rural, urban; between businesses and working people. Sometimes it's a discussion, Mr. Speaker, that can divide us between immigrants and non-immigrants, whether we've been a fourth generation Saskatchewan person or whether we've just recently arrived. And sometimes, Mr. Speaker, the discussions also have a tendency to be us versus them when it comes to our relationship with the environment and the planet.

I think, Mr. Speaker, the test that we face as legislators when confronting the Throne Speech is to ask ourselves that question of why. Why should we support this? How does this Throne Speech facilitate and deliver on that better future that we want for our children?

In looking at the content of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, there are many components that speak to me and many components that I agree with. And I think people in the province when looking at this speech would see aspects, would see some language in the Throne Speech that does speak to them.

I think, Mr. Speaker, about early on in the Throne Speech the comment about more people. We live in Saskatchewan because we know it's a great place. We've chosen to live here. We've chosen to raise our families here, and it's understandable, Mr. Speaker, why more people would want to come here and also build their lives. So I support the notion, Mr. Speaker, that we want more people in the province.

The Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, also talks about the relationship that we as a province, as all people, have with people who are First Nations or Métis . . . And, Mr. Speaker, I think everyone in the province recognizes the need, the challenge before us in truly determining our success as a province over the long run in how well we as a province fully partner, fully work with First Nations and Métis people in achieving educational outcomes, and having them full partners in everything that occurs in the province.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech also talks about a strong economy. And most certainly I and my colleagues, we support

the notion of a strong economy where businesses can flourish, where businesses can do well, where businesses can make money. And, Mr. Speaker, we also support an economy where workers are treated well, are treated fairly, are able to have a good life, and are able to do their jobs with the highest levels of safety.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech talks about a strong agricultural sector. That's a desire that members on both sides of the House have, that the agricultural sector in Saskatchewan can be strong. It's where our roots are as a province, and will continue to be central to what happens in Saskatchewan.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, every family in the province wants better health for our loved ones, whether it's for our babies, our children, our moms and dads or whether it's for our seniors. We want everyone to have better health outcomes. So on that level, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech addresses issues of health.

And culture, Mr. Speaker. The member from Riversdale made some good comments today about how culture makes our lives richer, how culture allows us to have the quality of life that we want in the province beyond always just punching the time clock. It allows us to have rich relationships with one another and it allows us to appreciate the many aspects of life and the aspects of living here on the prairies.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, everyone in the province wants a stronger . . . or wants a healthier and a cleaner environment.

So in broad strokes, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech touches on these matters in broad terms talking about the items generally. But this is the catch, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the specifics of what's put down in the Throne Speech, what's actually in there, what is being mentioned and what's being left out. And when we look at the actions, Mr. Speaker, when we layer the actions of the Sask Party over top of what they have written in the Throne Speech, I think then we see that the Throne Speech is seriously lacking in terms of providing that vision that we want for all of Saskatchewan people, that vision that we want for a better future for our children.

In looking at many of the sections, Mr. Speaker, sections where I just mentioned that, in broad terms, it may sound as though things are on the right track in the Throne Speech. It may appear that way. But looking at, as I said, the actions and the detail or the lack of detail, I think there are some concerns. And I think we can see that the road map provided in this Throne Speech is not the one that will deliver us the future that we want here in Saskatchewan.

[14:30]

On the topic of more people, Mr. Speaker, as I said, Saskatchewan is a great place. We understand why people want to move here. But as recently as yesterday, when we discussed the change that the Sask Party has made to the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program, there was no mention within the Throne Speech of how the Sask Party government plans to repair the damage that they have done through the gutting of the family class of the SINP [Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program]. Saskatchewan needs to be known as a place of economic opportunity and where good things are occurring, Mr.

Speaker. But Saskatchewan also needs to be known as a place that fulfills its commitments, that is true to its word when a commitment is made. I think of the thousands of families, Mr. Speaker, that came to Saskatchewan, held up their end of their arrangement and expected the government to fulfill its commitment to have the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program available to them.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about having more people coming to the province. Yes, it has to be about economic activity. But our view on immigration and our view on welcoming to the province also has to be about building strong social networks within our province so that there is actually a positive influence over the long run. And that's how our families and my family immigrated to the country generations ago, in a group with family members, Mr. Speaker, and had the ability to be there for one another and to do well.

Mr. Speaker, another item that was addressed in the Throne Speech that I said at face value appears to be going in the right direction — at face value — was the reference to First Nations and Métis education and employment. We all recognize, we've covered in question periods fairly regularly, Mr. Speaker, the need to do better in this area. And we recognize good things that are occurring throughout the province, the progress and the optimism that is there, but also the huge challenge that is ahead of us.

And if we look at the recent employment numbers, Mr. Speaker, we see in the last three months that the year-over-year numbers, the employment figures for First Nations and Métis people are going in the wrong direction, Mr. Speaker. We're losing ground.

Now admittedly there are a number of factors that play here. But when we look at the Throne Speech, we also have to look at the track record. Actually the Premier mentioned that in one of his responses in question period, that the best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour. And we saw a Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, when given the opportunity to provide a program that had been doing well, had been bringing benefits, that people support in the community — I'm talking about the Aboriginal employment development program — we saw them cut that program, Mr. Speaker. A cut that didn't make sense to people in the business sector and certainly didn't make sense to people who are First Nations or Métis and those of us that care about the issue and want to see improvement.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, we see with the task force . . . Well as I've said in media scrums, there's merit to the task force, and the people working on it are of a high calibre and good individuals. We do see a report, Mr. Speaker, that is late. So what I see from the government is a lack of urgency on this issue, and I see a past pattern of behaviour that talks about cuts and eliminations of programs that played a constructive role in helping to close the gap.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech also talks about a strong economy, and on this we agree with the government that we need to have a strong economy. We want businesses to flourish and do well. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, it's very important that all families have the opportunity to do well and to do their jobs in safety and in an environment that allows them to enjoy

their work. That's also very important.

Under the section of the economy in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, there was mention — and we talked about this today in question period — that the government would be bringing forward the Saskatchewan employment Act. The quote from the Throne Speech says, Mr. Speaker, “With this legislation, Saskatchewan will have the most modern, competitive, fair and balanced labour and employment environment in Canada.”

Face value, Mr. Speaker, some might say, well that sounds reasonable. The problem is, Mr. Speaker, the track record of members opposite tell a very different story. The track record, Mr. Speaker, speaks of a history of decisions that were not made in a fair and balanced manner, decisions around legislation that have had court challenges and have now placed the ball in the government's court to respond in a way that is constitutional. And as recently as this summer, Mr. Speaker, we saw the minister bragging up the so-called consultation process that occurred throughout a few months in the summer on the review of labour legislation. But as has been uncovered, there were no actual public consultations, Mr. Speaker, and there was a short window of time and, in my opinion, most certainly not a sincere effort to listen and engage with Saskatchewan people and hear what is needed with labour legislation.

So on this note, Mr. Speaker, while some of the broad ideas about a strong economy all people in Saskatchewan would support, when we look at the details and when we look at the track record of members opposite, a very different story is told.

A discussion also in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, about rural Saskatchewan with a focus, yes, certainly on agriculture and some of the initiatives around research, Mr. Speaker, as well as increasing our exports in the agricultural sector. That's very important, and I would support many of those initiatives. But, Mr. Speaker, there needs to be a broader discussion as well about how we support families and have strong rural communities, not focusing solely on agriculture but also seeing how family farms can indeed flourish and also how family farms can be successfully transitioned from one generation to the next.

On the topic of natural resources, and this is something we talk about very often in the Assembly and something that the Throne Speech did touch on, Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the important, central role that natural resources play in this province — from potash to uranium to all sorts of activity in the mining sector. We know this is key to our past success, and we know it is key, Mr. Speaker, to our future success as well.

There has been some talk, Mr. Speaker, in past months about, though, how do we think in terms of generations? How do we think in terms of the long game as opposed to short election cycles? The bright futures fund or the heritage fund are ideas that have been discussed, but when we look at the Throne Speech we see that the Throne Speech is silent on that matter.

Post-secondary institutions we also know play a very important role. It's where we as parents, we start putting away money in RESPs [registered education savings plan] and we start thinking about where our children might go to school. And we want to provide the best future for them, most people recognizing that

education is the best approach for individuals to have a good life and a good future. And so we see in the Throne Speech the government talking about certain initiatives that will assist students, certain bursaries or scholarships. And let me be clear, money and resources for students are a good thing. But silent in the Throne Speech, what's not mentioned in the Throne Speech, is the other side of the equation, the other information that is really needed in order to determine whether or not the plan provided in the Throne Speech is what we need for a strong post-secondary sector.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, of the situation in my home city of Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan, how we saw an election promise, a promise to fund the Health Sciences Building at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]. We saw that promise broken by members opposite. And instead what we saw was the forcing of almost \$100 million of debt onto the University of Saskatchewan, nearly maxing out their borrowing capacity. I think that kind of information matters and is relevant to the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, because that is the other side of the equation. As the financial picture becomes tighter on campus, there are realities that the administration will face, realities about a decrease in programs and services for students, and realities about increasing tuition for students in order to make up for the shortfall and the financial pressures that they face.

So while looking at the Throne Speech simply with the words that are provided, in the post-secondary sector, there is talk of programs for students. But it's important to have the whole picture and realize and understand that while resources and dollars might be being put into one pocket of students, more is being asked of them from the other.

Mr. Speaker, on the environment, certainly a discussion about water is important and is needed in this province. I am reminded of water as I have a sip from my glass, Mr. Speaker. But the totality and the comprehensive discussion of the environmental section within the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, to me does not see the clear leadership that we need in the province, the leadership that we need to exhibit as a province within the country and the type of leadership that we need to demonstrate to our children. Mr. Speaker, within the Throne Speech on the issue of the environment, there is no reference to climate change and our response to that. That should not be a surprise, Mr. Speaker, as I know there are a good number of climate change deniers within the Sask Party caucus.

On the issue of healthier people, Mr. Speaker, as I said, every person in Saskatchewan wants a healthier outcome, a healthier life for themselves as well as for our children. There are components and aspects, Mr. Speaker, within the Throne Speech that address health. I think of some of the immunization initiatives that are indicated within the Throne Speech. I think of a larger locum pool provided for rural communities. There are major questions about the implementation of that and how well-planned it is and exactly how that will look. But these initiatives are positive steps, Mr. Speaker, for health care. But what's missing in the Throne Speech, in my opinion when it comes to health care, is an examination and discussion about addressing the issues that make us sick — the social determinants of health, Mr. Speaker, the root causes of why we become ill, the root causes of how we have healthy families.

I think of my own constituency and really my own neighbourhood and the streets that I drive going to and from my house, Mr. Speaker. It's a wonderful neighbourhood with great optimism and a wonderful diversity of people, wonderful diversity of backgrounds. But it's also a neighbourhood, Mr. Speaker, where I'm continually confronted and reminded about the social determinants of health and how in fact we truly can't have a healthy society. And regularly seeing activity like the sex trade close to home, Mr. Speaker, on the streets near my house, regularly seeing and having to live with and listen to constituents and neighbours about some of the negative aspects of addictions, Mr. Speaker, and how that affects our communities, it's one of the best examples of how our futures and our lives in Saskatchewan truly are interconnected. What happens to the most vulnerable, Mr. Speaker, has a real influence and a real connection to the most privileged.

And I don't see, Mr. Speaker, within the Throne Speech, enough language, enough of a clear plan to address those social determinants. I don't see enough being done in response to the HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] crisis that our province faces and any sort of indication that we would depart from what I have characterized before as a drop-in-the-bucket approach.

And, Mr. Speaker, when we think of the social determinants of health, we also think of housing. And my thoughts are taken back to a door knocking experience, as I'm sure many members, when we think of the things that motivate us and guide us as individuals and as legislators, we think of our families certainly, but we also think of the contact that we have with constituents and the people that we deal with.

And I may have shared this story before in the Assembly. I can't quite recall, Mr. Speaker. But I remember door knocking on a house not far from my ... just in an adjacent neighbourhood to where I live. And the gentleman welcomed me to the door, was happy to see me. And he invited me into his house which, as MLAs know, sometimes that happens when you're door knocking. And it's always an adventure because you don't know if it's a short visit or if you might be losing your canvassing partner for some period of time. This gentleman invited me into the house and I stepped in. And right away I was hit by a smell of must and perhaps a smell of mould. And we stepped into his living room, and in his living room there was only one place to sit because every other couch, every other chair and table had buckets under it. And some were almost full and some were about halfway full. And there were some papers that had gotten wet and were wet. And he wanted to know how I could help and what I could do. But most of all he just wanted me to see the condition that he's living in and the challenges that he faces. And I remember he took me over to the corner and pulled back a ceiling tile and we could actually see daylight coming through the roof.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know the situation of that house and that individual is complicated. And I know that there are many factors that contribute to why that house is that way and why that individual finds himself in that situation. But it all comes back to what are those social determinants? What steps are we taking early on in the stage so that man doesn't face the health consequences that come because of living in that sort of environment?

And I think, Mr. Speaker, also on the health front, some of the conversations that I've had with individuals who have called the office who are asking for some common sense supports and assistance in order to improve the long-term health outcomes of their loved ones, in order to bring a higher quality and standard of life for their loved ones, and to give the kind of respect that, in this situation, the seniors of our province deserve.

I'm thinking of a conversation I had with a woman who is caring for her partner who has Alzheimer's and dementia and the challenges that she was facing. Still at a stage where they could stay in their home, but was needing some more assistance for respite and perhaps some other changes to the house in order to allow for that to occur. And it's those kinds of steps, Mr. Speaker, that can save health dollars in the long run, but more importantly it's those kinds of steps that can bring the quality of life and the type of respect that the people in our province — the patients, the residents, the seniors of our province — most certainly deserve.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, on the topic of culture, which we just concluded question period on, as the member from Riversdale mentioned, culture is what makes our lives richer. And you know, some of us who have family members directly engaged in the cultural community and active in making art, whatever form, as the minister was promoting in his response to the questions from the member from Riversdale, we know that culture matters. So the broad comments that the government has made on the topic of culture within the Throne Speech, good comments, Mr. Speaker. But again this is one of the instances where we need to fact check. We need to examine the words on the page with the reality that has occurred just recently, as well as ongoing in the immediate and in the future.

And on this one, Mr. Speaker, the glaring example is the film employment tax credit and the steps that the members opposite have made. Mr. Speaker, members opposite, they have no allies left on this issue, in my opinion. There are the seats on the opposite side that are filled and yes, if forced and whipped to a vote, most members would have and did support killing the tax. I think in a private conversation, it would actually be a different breakdown. But, Mr. Speaker, with the chamber coming out opposed to this cut, with the arts community most certainly, connected to the chamber but the small businesses that benefited and did well because of a good film industry here in the province, it's hard to take members opposite seriously on any sort of topic related to culture when their recent track record is so horrible on this issue, Mr. Speaker.

So I have a serious problem with anything that's written on culture in this Throne Speech. While some of the broad messages sound fine and are good, if we look at the actual actions, if we look at the recent track record and what they're doing right now, Mr. Speaker, it simply doesn't make sense.

Mr. Speaker, as I've gone through the speech, I've highlighted that this speech does hit and touch on many of the right things in broad terms. It says some of the right words. But when you take a closer look, when you look at the detail, and in some cases the lack of detail, when you look at the recent actions that members opposite have performed and done, I think, Mr.

Speaker, we see that this Throne Speech falls short.

So I'm confronted again, Mr. Speaker, with that why question, that question that our children present to us on a regular basis or our grandchildren present to us on a regular basis. And I'm asked why should I support this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. Well after reviewing the evidence, after reviewing the actions of members opposite, for me there is simply not enough evidence for me to provide my endorsement and my support.

Mr. Speaker, the type of future that we need in Saskatchewan is one that extends opportunity to all, whether we're born to the poorest of families or the richest. The type of vision that we need in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is one that does not pit working people against businesses but truly understands the interconnectedness of the two and has a plan and has the determination to make that a reality.

Mr. Speaker, the type of vision that we need in our province is one that truly addresses the root causes of our illness, addresses the social determinates of our health, allowing our families to be healthier. And the type of vision, Mr. Speaker, that we need in this province is one that places us as environmental leaders.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, this Throne Speech does not match that future vision that we need for the province. And for that reason, I'll be supporting the amendment and not the original motion from the government. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thanks, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to my colleagues for that. I just want to begin with a thank you again to the constituents in Swift Current. I've had the chance to do that already since the election, but I think it's always important that we recognize why we're here and how we got here. So I'm grateful to them for their ongoing confidence and support in working to serve their needs first and foremost as their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. I also want to acknowledge the support of my family again, Mr. Speaker, of Tami and Megan, who's now been in Saskatoon for a bit but never that far away, and as well as Colter and Faith.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the chance to enter this debate on the Speech from the Throne immediately after the member that's just spoken, the member from Massey Place who is not only a senior critic, I would say, in the opposition, but also now a leadership candidate for his party. Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that he would get this nod from the leader to be able to deliver what is a fairly important place in the Throne Speech debate, for him to be able to basically close the deal for the amendment that they put forward.

I'm not sure if the member for Regina Rosemont, the other leadership candidate that's currently in the caucus, should be worried about what we've seen in the first few days. Because, Mr. Speaker, we've seen a decided balance of questions in favour of the member for Massey Place. And the questions they have given to the member for Rosemont have maybe not been the best questions for him.

And so, Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's the old NDP way. Because

the NDP believe in that notion of equalizing from the centre. And maybe they note, Mr. Speaker, that on the websites, and the buzz around the New Democratic Party, that it's the member for Regina Rosemont that appears to be in the lead, although it might be the economist, Mr. Weir, who's certainly garnering a lot of attention. But it might be the member for Rosemont based on endorsements.

Certainly if you check the websites, and I know the member for Kindersley has, and you take a look at those who've endorsed the member for Rosemont, there's many, many more of those than those who have endorsed the member for Massey Place, which is interesting because I think going into the contest many observers of politics thought, well you know, maybe the favoured son, the next leader is the member for Massey Place. And yet it seems that in terms of immediate past colleagues in this legislature, candidates and organizers of the NDP, there is a huge balance in favour of the member for Rosemont than in favour of the member for Massey Place. So maybe that's why he got to speak now as a bit of a way to equalize things out a little bit.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that he did canvass some of the issues in the Throne Speech, and he made some observations that I think bear some clarification, Mr. Speaker. For example, he talked a little bit about the issue of First Nations engagement in the economy. It's very true that this is central to the growth plan the province has released, that we've released as a government, central to the Speech from the Throne then by definition, Mr. Speaker. And we've seen some progress, some very exciting best practices that are being deployed at the school board level, being deployed by institutions like SIIT that are bearing results for First Nations and Métis as we seek to see them more engaged in the economy.

This must be our first priority in dealing with what is the second component of our growth plan and that's the plan around the labour shortage. Yes, we need more immigrants. Yes, we need more expatriates to come home; we need more other Canadians to come back. But first and foremost we must deal with the fact that Aboriginal unemployment is much higher than non-Aboriginal unemployment and here is a great opportunity for us to deal with the labour shortage and fully engage fellow citizens in this province to a greater extent.

We've heard from the NDP, if not from the member that just spoke though, Mr. Speaker. I think the NDP said in a press release that First Nations unemployment — this was just the other day — that First Nations unemployment is at an all time-high, the highest it's ever been. Mr. Speaker, that's not true. The highest that the First Nations unemployment has ever been was March 2006 — 29 per cent — and those members were in office. Mr. Speaker, those members were in office and they presided over an economy that to say the least underperformed. The surest way, the surest way to see First Nations not fully engaged in this economy is to not have an economy that's creating jobs in the first place, and this is the record of that government. When they were in government, this is the record of that party.

The member who just spoke also talked a little bit about immigration. We've also seen him ask some questions of the minister here. Well immigration also features prominently in

the growth plan. Mr. Speaker, we've identified the need for the cap on immigrant nominees to improve from 4,000 to 6,000. We need the federal government to help in this regard. We've identified the need for us to continue on the job fairs, Mr. Speaker, to keep going into markets where there are skilled labourers who can build their future here in the province, who can help deal with the labour shortage.

But it's interesting, you see, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP have this new-found interest in immigration. It's new-found because the record would say something completely different. When that member stands up and that member from Massey Place wants to talk about immigration numbers in this province and changes the federal government has made and what we are doing to react to them, he ought to remember that between 2001 and 2006 they were in office. His party was in office. There was a total of 8,000 newcomers to the province under immigration initiatives. Since 2007 under this government, with focused and decidedly more ambitious goals, with a better relationship with the federal government, the number has increased from 8,000 under his party to 39,000 under the Saskatchewan Party.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to hear the member from Massey Place now espouse on behalf of his party this great interest in seeing Saskatchewan welcome more immigrants and improve settlement services. Never in the history of this province — well save perhaps for our first 10 or 15 years — have there been greater numbers of new citizens to this country choosing Saskatchewan. And never in the history of the province has there been the record investment in settlement services to welcome these new Canadians to our province and to, Mr. Speaker, ensure that they are fully benefiting from life here in the province of Saskatchewan. These are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the member that just spoke, his fellow candidates, including Mr. Weir who's an economist says, and perhaps a front-runner, has looked at the member's just proposed . . . some of his proposals in his leadership campaign. The member for Massey Place has made a number of proposals, policy proposals. For example, he has called for the modernization of *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker, and more camera angles in the legislature, I understand. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that he's on to something, because if there's one thing that I hear in the coffee shops in Swift Current and around this province is people saying, if there was only a modernized *Hansard* in this province. If only there were more camera angles, so we could look at the MLAs while they speak to us like we're doing right now today.

But, Mr. Speaker, to be fair to the member from Massey Place, there's been broader policy proposals on other issues. Mr. Weir, his counterpart, the front-runner, says that his proposals are fine but added, "The fundamental problem is not the party's policy-making process." Because that's what he's focused on, process. He says, Mr. Weir says, "The problem is that our elected leadership has not paid attention to party policy." Mr. Speaker, I don't know if that's true or not true. That's for New Democrats to decide. But it's interesting that these are some of the comments we see with respect to the member who just spoke and engaged, as he should, in the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, as the member engaged in his Throne Speech and

others have in this Assembly, some have talked in different shades of enthusiasm about growth in the province. I think you would note, Mr. Speaker, to be fair, and I've tried to follow as many as I could, I think you would note that when members on this side of the House talk about growth — not taking credit for the growth; the government didn't cause those things to happen — hopefully we're getting out of the way of that growth. Hopefully we're dealing with its challenges. That's what the Speech from the Throne's all about.

But when members on this side of the House talk about growth, there is a marked, there is a greater degree of enthusiasm about it, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not sure why that is except to conclude that the New Democratic Party have really never been comfortable, never really been comfortable with a growing Saskatchewan. In fact I remember a day not long ago when pundits and others would posit for political discourse in this province the theory, the notion that those members opposite were actually more comfortable when people left this province, when our population was either shrinking or stagnating, because they thought their political interests would be served by the status quo. They had been in office for so long, they had an economic development minister who, when confronted with — Mr. Lautermilch — when confronted with out-migration said, don't worry, when people leave there's more left for the rest of us.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is what underlies, I think, some of the discomfort that we see from members opposite about growth. They're sort of paying this notional homage to growth now and the member that just spoke and others across the way that had just spoke on the Speech from the Throne, including the member from Athabasca, if he's spoken in the debate — he has — when they have dealt with the Speech from the Throne and the plan for growth, Mr. Speaker, they seem to be uncomfortable just stating that growth is a good thing upfront, that this is what we ought to be doing in this legislature, facilitating that growth, meeting its challenges so that it can continue.

And if we needed more proof of that particular view, and that is my view, we only need to look to the words of the Leader of the Opposition. When the growth plan was announced in Saskatoon, a number of media went to the Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the New Democratic Party, to ask him what he thought about the plan for growth. And in the provincial media what I'm about to read, I don't think I saw it covered, but it was covered in *The Globe and Mail*, so he must have also done an interview with *The Globe and Mail*, Canada's national newspaper. Here's what he said. Here's what he said about the plan for growth. This is the leader of the NDP. He said, "A document like this distracts everybody, (and) I think his (Wall's) popularity will stay up there as long as there's sort of a myth of a booming economy."

The leader of the New Democratic Party characterized what's going in this province, in terms of the growth that we see, as a myth.

[15:00]

Eighty thousand new people coming to this province in five years is a myth, Mr. Speaker, according to the NDP. This

province leading the country in economic statistic after statistic, retail sales, Mr. Speaker, building permits, new housing starts — we lead in all those — but for the NDP, this has just been a myth. For those in this province in small business and those who are now working in better paying jobs, all of this that we've seen in Saskatchewan over the last five or six years is just a myth.

Mr. Speaker, we see average weekly earnings moving up in this province. They have consistently moved up in the last four or five years, Mr. Speaker, at a percentage that we haven't seen in Saskatchewan, especially — not just including, but especially — under members opposite when they were in government. They know that because we just heard them at least pay sort of notional or . . . [inaudible] . . . homage to this growth that's going on in the province. That's what they're saying in the speeches because I think they believe, well we kind of have to say that now because people in Saskatchewan kind of think that things are pretty good. So I guess we're going to have to sort of go along with that. But we'll switch quickly to redistribution. We'll switch quickly to our old ways, Mr. Speaker, which weren't about growth but about, Mr. Speaker, the status quo and a stagnant economy. And the proof is in the fact that the leader of their party calls what's going on in Saskatchewan today a myth.

So we have a choice, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to New Democrat politicians and New Democrat parties at various levels. You can choose the federal NDP leader. He doesn't describe our economy as a myth. He describes it as a disease, Mr. Speaker. You can have him, or you can have the current NDP that sit in this legislature in the midst of the growth that we've seen in this province. They call it a myth.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to them that notwithstanding what they were trying to admit, I think, in some of their speeches in the Throne Speech debate, until they understand the fact that this place has changed for the better not because of this particular government but because of growth that's happening — that we're more diverse because 39,000 newcomers have come to this province in four years; that more people are working in Saskatchewan than ever before — until they realize that this is a different place, rural and urban, north and south, they're going to be a small group sitting to your left hand, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting the debate has been about the economy, and it should because the Speech from the Throne is about that as well. And you know, lately there's been some discourse even amongst those NDP leadership candidates about economic policies here and what they may be doing to the national currency, Mr. Speaker. We have had the federal leader of the New Democratic Party. He has depicted our economy, our resource-based economy as a disease.

And so we have wondered quite rightly, we have wondered as a party and as a government and as colleagues in the legislature when one of them, when one of them sitting over there — certainly the two that are running to be the leader and maybe one day premier — when one of them would stand up for Saskatchewan and say, you know what? Our federal leader has it wrong. We sort of think Mark Carney might have it right. We sort of might think the facts might have it right even as we've

seen manufacturing numbers move up in this province and across the country with resource development.

Because remember what Dutch disease says. Dutch disease is the economic principle founded in the experience of Holland, where resource development spiked the currency and currency hurt exports and that hurt manufacturing. Well, Mr. Speaker, we've certainly seen resource development in this province. We've seen it in potash, in uranium, and in oil. We've seen it in any number of other minerals. Frankly, more interest in all of that, we've seen it in the rest of Western Canada.

But this has been good for Canada. This has not just helped the West. This has actually fuelled manufacturing jobs to replace the ones that were lost in the recession, Mr. Speaker, not just a few years ago in that province. That's what this province is doing for the rest of Canada. And so you would think that one of them that's running for the leadership of their party, that aspires to be the Premier of this province, would stand up and say, our leader is wrong on this. Not one of them has.

In fact, in fact one of the leadership candidates has gone on to say, no, no, the federal NDP are right. There is Dutch disease here and what we need to do is increase the taxes on the resource sector. Close loopholes, he said. Close loopholes, he says. Increase the taxes on the resource sector and that will dry up the overheated investment, I think is his notion, his theory. And that happening in Saskatchewan will change the Canadian dollar, Mr. Speaker.

So not only have we had neither of these two leadership candidates, who sit in this Assembly on a regular basis, say that Mr. Mulcair is wrong and stand up for the province, we have actually their NDP leadership candidate saying that they agree with him. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important point. They might not think it is. But people in this province, regardless of party stripe, especially when it comes to natural resources — we saw it with potash not too long ago — they want their elected representatives, their government, anybody in this Assembly who is elected, they want them to stand up for Saskatchewan's interests. And these leadership candidates have failed the very first and important test in this regard.

We take a different view on the government side. We take a different view, and it's represented in the plan for growth that underpins the Speech from the Throne. We take a view that growth is good, that the resource sector is good, that exports increasing by triple in the last 10 years is good. We set a goal that now that they would double. We see agriculture as the strength that it is, Mr. Speaker, in this growth plan.

I've been very interested to see some of the commentary from those who observe politics in our economy about the amount of time this growth plan, which underpins the Speech from the Throne, dedicates to agriculture. For a long, long season in this province, governments, New Democratic governments, didn't want to talk about agriculture. More than that, there seemed to be a willingness to sort of let that rural component of this province, the crucially important rural component, sort of just survive on its own. We'll close 50 hospitals. We'll rip up farm support programs. We'll get by because there's more seats in the city than there is in the country.

And it wasn't just a political calculation that was unfortunate and tragic for this province, Mr. Speaker, it was an economic miscalculation. Because anyone could have seen then, although agriculture wasn't as strong as it is now, anyone could see then that the world's population was growing. The UN's [United Nations] been reporting for some time about what's going to happen in terms of worldwide hunger. Economists around the world have been reporting, Mr. Speaker, that as there's greater and greater members of the middle class in India and in China and in places like Indonesia — 240 million people growing at 7 per cent — the middle class wants greater and greater amounts of protein in their diet.

Guess what? That's good news for this province. It's good news for a province that has 44 per cent of all arable acres in the country. It's good news for a province that's responsible for 58 per cent of the world's exports of lentils and 55 per cent of the world's exports of peas. It's good news for a province that now is 47 per cent of China's canola seed imports and 37 per cent of China's canola oil imports. It's good news for a province that now constitutes 50 per cent of the imports from Indonesia. So this plan for growth recognizes that growth is good, that we need to sustain it, that export development is good and yes, that we have to deal with the challenges that come with growth.

By the way, let me state for the record again, we believe on this side that the challenges of growth are much preferred — much, much, much preferred — by people in this province than the challenges of decline that we saw. Mr. Speaker, as more and more people leave this province, as more investment flees this province in the years previous, our economy, our economic base, our tax base just atrophied and got smaller and smaller. And so the governments of the day had less money. Less money to invest in arts and culture. Less money to invest in health care. Less money to invest in education. Why? Because, Mr. Speaker, theirs was not a growth imperative. We've already ran over their history.

We had a minister of Finance, I think Mr. Melenchuk, and maybe it was when he was Minister of Education, who quite proudly tabled in this legislature a plan for decline in the enrolment system. Just going to happen in Saskatoon, never mind in the rural areas. Mr. Speaker, this is the mindset that informed the members opposite then and I dare say now, based on what we've heard in their speeches.

Mr. Speaker, this plan for growth recognizes that there are challenges that we will meet, and we will meet them together. It recognizes that in the last four years there's been a 63 per cent increase in investment in public infrastructure when you consider federal, municipal, and provincial infrastructure investments. But that's not enough. So we have to do more. And it highlights \$2.5 billion worth of infrastructure we have to do. It highlights 30 million to partner with Cameco's 30 million to rebuild Highway 914 in the North. It recognizes the need for a municipal infrastructure program for a new vehicle to deliver infrastructure called SaskBuilds. It recognizes the need to pursue P3s [public-private partnership].

It recognizes the need to provide capital to SaskBuilds, so we've taken \$150 million from the growth and security fund to do that, leaving a half billion dollars in the fund, Mr. Speaker, in the rainy day fund. It recognizes that we have to deal with the

labour shortage. It lays out ways and plans to do that because we've been listening to stakeholders and people in the province.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake: we understand on this side of the House that there's a lot of work to be done, that while the government ought not to take credit for any growth, and doesn't, but the government needs to be prepared and proactive in facilitating that growth and providing the right business climate, a competitive climate with competitive corporate business tax rates, but that we also need to facilitate that growth by being prepared for the infrastructure challenge that lies ahead. That's what's at the heart of this document. That's what's at the heart of the plan.

What this plan also recognized, Mr. Speaker, is that the point of all of this, the point of a plan to continue the growth, at least for government to facilitate that kind of growth and then to deal with the infrastructure challenges, the point of all of that isn't growth in and of itself. It's the dividends that we find from growth. It's the investments we can make to reduce surgical wait times. It's investments we can make in our classrooms. Fifty per cent of the schools in this province have been renovated since this party took office, and there is more work to be done. There is new schools being built.

We understand that the dividends of growth allow us to eliminate that wait-list of those who have disabilities, who are waiting for the dignity of a home, of a group home space. That was spoken to earlier in members' statements. Mr. Speaker, we were surprised to hear ministers report to cabinet just a few years ago that under this government, the social democratic government who do a lot of talking about those who are most vulnerable, that under their government, the wait-list for people who had disabilities for a place to live and for respite programming was over 450 people. And so because the economy was growing, we had about \$40 million that we could take as a government and say here's a four-year plan to eliminate that particular wait-list.

Mr. Speaker, when I got elected to this side of the House in '07, the wait list in the Swift Current area through Southwest Homes for these, our most vulnerable, was 25. Mr. Speaker, not very long ago that wait list was zero. We've had a lot of families move to Swift Current, which is great, so I think we might have one or two on the wait-list. And we'll deal with those, Mr. Speaker.

But we won't be able to eliminate that wait-list across the province if we follow the dogma and the ideology of that party, which is to pay lip service to growth but to pursue policies like a \$200 million tax hike on small business, the engine of the economy. We will not be able to achieve those goals if we follow their plan. We have seen it in this province. We've been through it in this province.

Now we understand what growth can provide. It can provide for a better quality of life in this province. It will perpetuate what we're calling the Saskatchewan advantage. There'll be cycles that we'll have to deal with. That's why we're going to have an ongoing rainy day fund. But, Mr. Speaker, we know that in a world that wants energy security and food security, our chances are great so long as we pursue these policies represented in the Speech from the Throne, and so long as we remember why we

want growth in the first place, Mr. Speaker. And for these reasons, I will be opposing the amendment and I'll support the main motion, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question on the amendment? It has been moved an amendment to the main motion by the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Athabasca that the motion be amended by adding the following:

And, That this government no longer enjoys the confidence of the Assembly because it has allowed its ideology to trump common sense when governing, has introduced an agenda of privatization which puts politicians ahead of people, and ignores the middle class and small businesses of Saskatchewan.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — All those in favour please say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed please say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — The nos have it. I declare the amendment lost.

An Hon. Member: — Standing vote, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — You need another member. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:15 until 15:45.]

The Speaker: — Will those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 9]

Nilson	Forbes	Belanger
Wotherspoon	Brotten	Chartier
Sproule	McCall	Vermette

The Speaker: — Will those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 43]

Wall	Morgan	Stewart
Duncan	Draude	Krawetz
Boyd	Eagles	McMorris
Cheveldayoff	Harpauer	Toth
Huyghebaert	Doherty	Marchuk
Reiter	McMillan	Heppner
Harrison	Elhard	Hart
Bradshaw	Bjornerud	Brkich
Makowsky	Ottenbreit	Campeau
Wilson	Ross	Kirsch
Michelson	Doke	Cox
Merriman	Jurgens	Steinley

Hickie	Lawrence	Tochor
Moe	Parent	Phillips
Docherty		

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 9; those opposed, 43.

The Speaker: — I declare the amendment lost. Debate will continue on the main motion. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for The Battlefords, seconded by the member for Regina Coronation Park:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Carried. All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:48 until 15:49.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 43]

Wall	Morgan	Stewart
Duncan	Draude	Krawetz
Boyd	Eagles	McMorris
Cheveldayoff	Harpauer	Toth
Huyghebaert	Doherty	Marchuk
Reiter	McMillan	Heppner
Harrison	Elhard	Hart
Bradshaw	Bjornerud	Brkich
Makowsky	Ottenbreit	Campeau

Wilson	Ross	Kirsch
Michelson	Doke	Cox
Merriman	Jurgens	Steinley
Hickie	Lawrence	Tochor
Moe	Parent	Phillips
Docherty		

The Speaker: — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 9]

Nilson	Forbes	Belanger
Wotherspoon	Brotten	Chartier
Sproule	McCall	Vermette

Clerk: — The numbers are, Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 43; those opposed, 9.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:52.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

Minister of the Economy
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Kevin Doherty

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority

Hon. Nancy Heppner

Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Russ Marchuk

Minister of Education

Hon. Tim McMillan

Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Trade
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Don McMorris

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Advanced Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General