



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

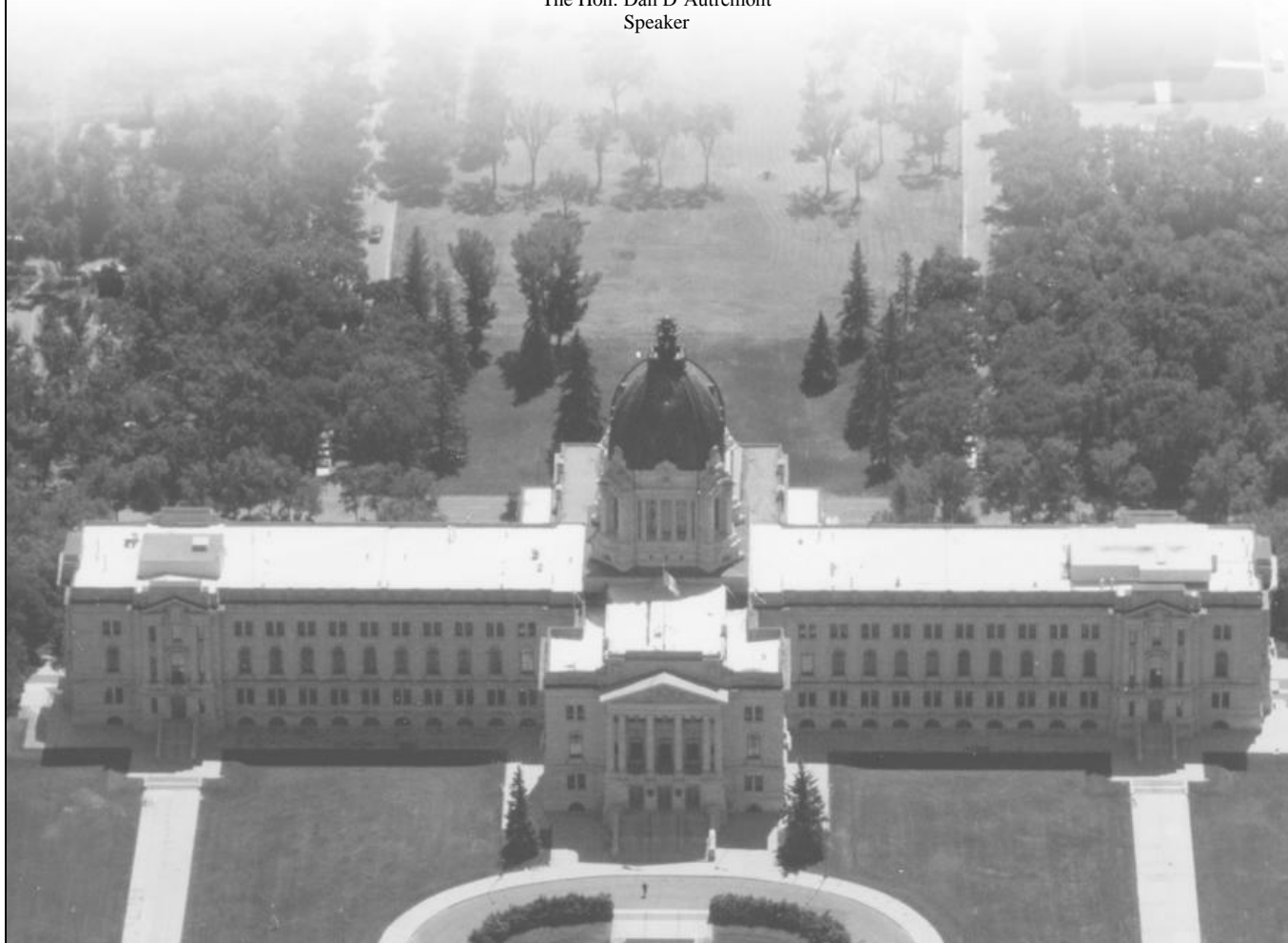
of the

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
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
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, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
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: — Mr. Speaker, through you I request leave from my colleagues for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Members of the House will know that for some time our government's made a priority of working with our federal government to try to secure a nuclear co-operation agreement with China that our uranium might be sold into that very, very robust nuclear program, the most robust program in the world for civilian use.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to our provincial economy to have this done. It represents maybe \$3 billion worth of uranium sales. And we know that particular industry employs, in terms of the front-line mining staff, about 44 per cent Aboriginal, First Nations, and Métis employed in this important industry.

Well, Mr. Speaker, today in the legislature we have a delegation from the China National Nuclear Company, CNNC. The delegation is led by Vice-President Qiu. And joining Vice-President Qiu are Mr. Lin Sen, director general of the company's department of international business; Mr. Chen Yuehui, deputy director for the department of mining and geology; Mr. Liu Yaoquan, vice general manager for the China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation; as well as Mr. Wang Bo, secretary with CNNC; and Mr. Zhang Zhangbo, project manager with the company's department of international business.

Mr. Speaker, CNNC is responsible for all aspects of the nuclear cycle in China and is one of China's largest companies, employing more than 100,000 people in that country. It operates nine reactors with a generating capacity of 6000 megawatts. It has nine reactors under construction, Mr. Speaker, which will add another 10 000 megawatts of capacity. By 2020 CNNC expects to be one of the world's leading nuclear power companies. I would submit they are that already. To make this happen, the company is going to need uranium. And that's why we're very pleased that we can welcome these guests here to the Legislative Assembly today.

The Assembly should be aware that in 2010 CNNC signed an agreement with Cameco to buy 23 million pounds of uranium by 2020. Cameco, Saskatoon headquartered, of course has uranium operations around the world and, as a result, that

uranium deal can be made. But now, Mr. Speaker, because of an agreement the federal government has forged — one that we asked for, one that we have requested for a number of years, and one for which we are thankful to the federal government — we now will see Saskatchewan uranium moving into that very, very robust market.

Mr. Speaker, to our knowledge, it is the first time a prime minister has made a priority of Saskatchewan uranium. Uranium is a very important Canadian resource, but heretofore — maybe because it's only in Saskatchewan principally and we only have the 14 seats — it's not been on the radar of federal governments. This federal government, this Prime Minister has made it a priority, as have we, and we're very, very grateful for the nuclear co-operation agreement and what that means for northern development, for new mine expansion, Mr. Speaker, and what it means for the partnership that we seek with organizations like CNNC.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I want to welcome our guests here to the Assembly. We look forward to building on this relationship. And I invite all members to join me in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Premier this afternoon in welcoming the delegation from CNNC. We know the development of our resources here in Saskatchewan is hugely important. It's hugely important to our citizens here in the province for our long-term well-being and it's important to our trading partners as well, Mr. Speaker. And whenever those discussions occur, we must have those discussions in the context of how we can develop our resources in a sustainable and safe manner.

So I welcome the delegation here today. I hope they have fruitful discussions. I hope they have a good stay here in Saskatchewan, and I hope they enjoy the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly this afternoon. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them. Thank you.

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

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'm pleased to welcome members of the Women in the Legislature program. Monday morning we met with them, several of the colleagues on both sides, and we had a great panel discussion, lots of good questions, and I know we're in very good hands. This group is based out of the University of Saskatchewan and aims to increase awareness about the under-representation of women in politics. And they are seated in the Speaker's gallery. I hope they enjoy their time, and I ask all members to give them a warm welcome to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join with the member in welcoming the participants in the Women

in the Legislature group to their legislature here. I know they've had two really great days of not just meeting with politicians or MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] but also with political staff and with civil servants to learn a little bit more about how government and how politics works here in Saskatchewan.

And this is a bit of a passion of mine. I'm so thrilled to always see women who are interested in learning more about our political process. So it's great to have you here today.

And I'd actually like to give an especially big shout out to the executive of WiL [Women in the Legislature]: Danielle Clark, Samantha Gauvin, Erica Lee, Rebecca Margaret, Bryn Rees, Natasha Steinback, Sara Waldbillig, and Emma York. Your leadership in ensuring other women have an opportunity to learn about our political system is greatly appreciated, and I know that you'll keep your work up going forward. And we look forward to seeing you next year too. So thank you for all that you do. I'd ask all my colleagues to welcome them to their legislature as well.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition on cellphone coverage for northern Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

To undertake, as soon as possible, to ensure that SaskTel delivers cell service in 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 this region.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed the petition today are primarily from Canoe Lake. And also I notice on the petition, Mr. Speaker, is my good friend, Colin Yew. And this petition is being signed all throughout the province, and I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce a petition calling for the reconsideration of passing Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. And we know since the employment Act was introduced in December, literally hundreds of hours of study and comparison have been carried out in the interests of due diligence. But we know, Mr. Speaker, there is no labour relations crisis to fix and no necessity to rush this omnibus bill through that will likely govern workplace relations for decades to come. And this bill threatens stable relations, and all sectors have been thrown into turmoil as a result of its sweeping changes. Thousands of represented workers stand to lose their rights to bargain collectively and be represented by the union of their choice.

Mr. Speaker, I would 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 not pass Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, in this current session before the end of May and to place it on a much longer legislative track to ensure greater understanding and support for the new labour law.

I do so present. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Rent Increases Rescinded

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to invite my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the residents of the Robinson Street building in Regina that had recently received rent hikes. Yesterday on Monday, residents were informed that their rent hikes had been rescinded.

The tenants of this building on Robinson Street had received notice of rent hikes that would have seen one resident's rent increase by \$520. Many residents, especially seniors on a fixed income, saw this as an eviction notice and contacted the media for help in raising awareness on this issue. The residents worked together with the official opposition to address these unfair and unreasonable hikes. And, Mr. Speaker, some of my fellow members may remember last Wednesday when we raised this issue in question period. Tenants shouldn't have to come to the legislature to find affordable housing in Saskatchewan, and this problem cannot continue.

The residents of this building are excited and proud of their advocacy on this issue, but are worried about what will happen to other tenants who are being gouged. They wonder how they can share their success throughout the province.

Mr. Speaker, the residents want to know if this government will do anything on a permanent basis to address rent gouging in this province, or will the Sask Party continue to deal with this issue on a case-by-case issue and worrying about bad PR [public relations]?

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members of the legislature to join with me in congratulating the residents of the Robinson Street building on their successful advocacy. We are proud to have stood with them on this issue, and we'll continue to listen and act on the concerns of the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

2013 Farm Family of the Year

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to rise today to recognize constituents of mine, Stan and Paula Lainton, who received the 2013 Farm Family of the Year Award. Mr. Speaker, the Laintons received this award on February 28th at the 48th annual Estevan Chamber of

Commerce Farmers Appreciation Dinner, which I and the Minister of Government Relations were happy to attend.

The Laintons, who have three daughters and two sons, run a farming operation with just under 3,000 acres of land where they grow wheat, canola, oats, flax, peas, and barley and have 80 Simmental-cross cows.

Mr. Speaker, Stan and Paula Lainton are also very involved in their community. Stan has been involved with the RM [rural municipality] of Coalfields for 17 years, including 14 years as reeve, and is on numerous local boards and committees. Paula is a substitute teacher, treasurer for the Estevan Wildlife Federation, and acts with local community theatre groups.

Mr. Speaker, the Laintons are very well known and respected in their community for their extensive community involvement, all while running their farming operation. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the Lainton family on receiving the 2013 Farm Family of the Year Award. Thank you.

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

Premiere of Saskatoon-Made Film

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate the Saskatoon-born and -raised actors, Kim Coates and Michael Eklund, on the premiere of *Ferocious*, which opened this past weekend. *Ferocious* tells the story of Leigh Parrish — Amanda Crew — a celebrity who returns to her hometown and has to confront her past.

Kim Coates and Michael Eklund were in attendance at the theatre in Saskatoon at the premiere on Saturday night answering questions from the audience, while Eklund attended the Regina premiere of the film the night before. *Ferocious* will be showing at the Galaxy theatres in both cities all week. It's important to note this is a first for a Saskatoon-made movie to make it into a mainstream theatre.

Ferocious is an Alberta-Saskatchewan co-production by Alberta's Carolyn McMaster of Chaos, a film company, and award-winning Anand Ramayya of Saskatoon's Karma Film. *Ferocious* was filmed in Saskatoon in December of 2012. Alberta-born director Robert Cuffley was quoted in the *Calgary Sun* as saying, "I go where my producers can find funding and we were lucky to be the last film funded under the old Saskatchewan film incentive program."

Mr. Speaker, some of our members may remember Kim Coates's outspoken defence of the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit. He has described the film industry in Saskatchewan as creative, energetic, and successful.

I would ask all members to join with me in celebrating the creativity and work of the Saskatchewan film industry. I look forward to seeing my colleagues in the popcorn lineup this weekend as we all show our support for locally made films which are unfortunately now going to be much further and farther between.

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

Camping Reservation System Exceeds Expectations

Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we eagerly anticipate spring, a great many of us are already securing the perfect place to enjoy our summer vacation right here in our beautiful province.

As you may know, our government launched season 2 of the Saskatchewan provincial parks online camping reservation system through the Sask Parks website a week ago. I'm very pleased to announce today that in just this first week we have exceeded our expectations and in fact have surpassed the 2012 launch record. So far we've had 19,436 bookings, which is almost a 30 per cent increase over last year's result. The online reservation system continues to grow in popularity because campers are able to make campsite reservations from their desktop computers and also their laptops and smart phones as well.

Because the computerized system saves staff time, our very dedicated provincial parks personnel have been able to return more customer calls and reply to more emails, raising the bar on customer service to new levels and resulting in a lot of compliments from our campers.

Mr. Speaker, the reservation system will remain open until after the September long weekend, and I encourage all members to share the news about this great service with their constituents. Thank you very much.

[13:45]

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

Nutrition Month 2013

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this House today to recognize that March is national Nutrition Month. Mr. Speaker, Nutrition Month is promoted by Dietitians of Canada and thousands of dietitians across Canada, including dietitians in Saskatchewan.

During Nutrition Month, dietitians take an aspect of nutrition and advocate on behalf of it. Mr. Speaker, Dietitians of Canada recently conducted a survey and found that Canadians struggle with making healthier food choices in the grocery store. That is why the Dietitians of Canada have dedicated Nutrition Month 2013 to helping Canadians make healthy food choices when grocery shopping, and encouraging people to seek advice from dietitians, the food and nutrition experts. Research shows that a dietitian is the most trusted source of nutrition advice and medical nutrition therapy. Mr. Speaker, dietitians are highly specialized and regulated health professionals. Their work advocating national Nutrition Month is extremely important for promoting healthy living.

Mr. Speaker, this month is important for promoting wellness and preventative care through education, nutrition, and physical activity. Mr. Speaker, I would ask this Assembly to recognize the importance of Nutrition Month and the important work dietitians do in providing nutrition advice and helping us live healthy lives. Thank you.

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

Report Highlights Strong Economy

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House today to recognize a recent report by the Conference Board of Canada, which highlights Saskatchewan's strong economic future and prospects going forward. Mr. Speaker, the Conference Board's winter 2013 *Metropolitan Outlook* forecasts our gross domestic product to grow to 3.4 per cent in 2013 and 3.5 per cent in 2014, which is the fastest projected expansion within the Dominion of Canada. Mr. Speaker, this report also projects growth in many of our industries, including potash, uranium, construction, transportation, and manufacturing, which also leads to projected employment growth.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is now the place to be. An international migration to our great province is forecasted to grow, which would add to our current record-breaking population growth. Our province's two largest cities, Saskatoon and Regina, are projected to continue impressive GDP [gross domestic product] growth into the future which is on top of tremendous growth over the past few years. This Conference Board report shows that Saskatchewan is moving forward. It will continue to be a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members, including the negative nine, to join me in recognizing this report which highlights the economic strengths and future prospects of this great province. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Election Platform and Policy Review Documents

Mr. Hickie: — Well, well, well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday the NDP [New Democratic Party] was twisting themselves into knots trying to distance the NDP leader from Dwain Lingenfelter and his disastrous 2011 election platform. The problem is, Lingenfelter's platform was based on the policy review led by the now Leader of the NDP, the infamous tree book. So then the NDP staffers tried to tell the media he didn't actually write the tree book. Well, Mr. Speaker, he signed it. He signed his name on it on the right hand side of the bottom of page 3.

And he wrote, and I quote, "This report will assist the election planning committee and the New Democratic caucus in the lead-up to the 2011 election." But now they're saying, yes, but he didn't actually write it. It's like trying to convince a judge, I didn't actually write that contract; I just signed it. I don't think that's going to fly. And on top of that, as Erin Weir pointed out, the NDP leader took major portions of that document, cut and pasted them into his own leadership platform.

Mr. Speaker, not only is he trying to run away from Dwain Lingenfelter's policies, now he's trying to run away from his own policies. And it's worth noting that Mr. Lingenfelter was not the first to call for government to cut a special deal on First

Nations revenue sharing — oh no. The first person in the NDP to call for that was the current leader of the NDP on page 45 of his tree book. Mr. Speaker, he can run, but he can't hide. They may have a different leader, but it's the same old NDP.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Long-Term Care Facilities

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, people who need access to long-term care are very vulnerable. They must be treated with compassion, dignity, and respect. And it's horribly distressing, Mr. Speaker, when we hear of situations where this is not the case. We know the situation of the Saskatoon Health Region facing charges because of three individuals who passed away because of carbon monoxide exposure. That is completely unacceptable.

Last week we also learned of another situation, Mr. Speaker, at the Parkridge Centre in Saskatoon. After putting up for five years with a leaky roof and problems growing, Mr. Speaker, mould had taken hold in a number of rooms and concerns with the health of residents, Mr. Speaker, are very, very real.

My question to the Premier: why has his government allowed some of our most vulnerable citizens here in the province to be living in mouldy and unhealthy conditions?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In fact the issue that the member raises, this government is well under way in working with the Saskatoon Health Region to remedy this situation. In fact in 2010, \$10 million was provided to the Saskatoon Health Region to deal with this facility. Mr. Speaker, the bulk of the work, including the roof replacement, the tender is going out shortly. In fact it might have already gone out. And that work will be completed this summer, Mr. Speaker. This government is making a significant investment to improve the life of seniors that are living in long-term care and this is just one example, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the roof had been leaking for five years and it should not have come to this. Vulnerable people and those with complex needs, Mr. Speaker, should not be living with a leaky roof in care facilities, Mr. Speaker, without the proper level of care that is needed. And we don't know, Mr. Speaker, how many other facilities are facing problems like this. We can all think of loved ones in our own families, whether it's a mom or a dad a grandma or a grandpa who are in a vulnerable position and need to be living in a long-term care facility.

We also had a report, Mr. Speaker, from the Provincial Auditor saying that in many situations the correct and necessary processes were not in place in order to properly, properly regulate care homes. Mr. Speaker, this is a key responsibility of the Ministry of Health in order to ensure that the highest standards are followed and that those who are most vulnerable

are properly taken care of.

My question to the minister: why was the roof allowed to leak for five years? Why were individuals living under conditions that were not healthy?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition will know and if he doesn't, he should perhaps ask his Health critic. The fact of the matter is this, Mr. Speaker: the NDP government had the foresight to commission a study on all health care facilities in this province. They spent \$2 million to do that work, Mr. Speaker, and what that work told us was that we had a \$1.2 billion deficit on the day that this government took office in 2007, Mr. Speaker. It would have been more useful if those members would have put more money into health care facilities across this province, Mr. Speaker.

In fact in the last five years of that government, they spent just over \$300 million on capital, Mr. Speaker. On the first five years of this government, we've spent well over \$800 million, Mr. Speaker, including \$100 million in our first budget to deal with safety issues across our province in health care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, we know that this facility is one that needs some remediation work and that's why we've provided \$10 million in 2010 to begin that work.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, when it comes to improving, when it comes to expanding care facilities in the province, Mr. Speaker, we're seeing a very disturbing pattern from the Sask Party Government. We are seeing a pattern, Mr. Speaker, that is not based on common sense. We can think of the Amicus situation where it has been revealed that this cost taxpayers, the people of Saskatchewan, millions of extra dollars than it needed to, Mr. Speaker, because of the special arrangement that the Sask Party stubbornly pursued.

Mr. Speaker, in fact this approach, this lack of accountability, this lack of transparency increasingly is being consistent with the Sask Party brand of plowing ahead and not using a common sense approach. The auditor went on, Mr. Speaker, to say, on the topic of care homes, that there were many seniors who did not have many of the basic necessities — and we discussed this in last December — things such as soap.

My question to the minister: when will the Sask Party Government treat the most vulnerable, treat seniors, treat our grandma and grandpas with the highest level of respect? When will they take correct, common sense approach to expanding and improving care facilities here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Leader of the Opposition, I don't think that this government should take any lessons from the NDP when it comes to long-term care and the health of our seniors in this province, Mr. Speaker. They closed 1,200 beds over a period of 16 years across this province, Mr. Speaker, and they closed 16 health

care, long-term care facilities alone, Mr. Speaker, not even talking about the 52 hospitals across rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

We are in the process of renewing 13 long-term care facilities in Saskatchewan. The first one in Watrous opened last year, Mr. Speaker, and I think we're going to see more of those coming up this year, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, with the addition to Samaritan Place in Saskatoon, 100 long-term care facilities will be added to the system which has cut in half the number of seniors living in acute-care beds in Saskatoon hospitals. Do they think it's appropriate for seniors to be living in acute-care beds, Mr. Speaker? I certainly don't think it is.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the facts and the pattern of behaviour, the topics that we have covered in this legislature through question period, Mr. Speaker, show a very different story when it comes to how seniors in care facilities have been treated.

We can see the most recent example, Parkridge, Mr. Speaker — a leaky roof, mould being allowed to grow, and people living in unhealthy conditions. We see the Amicus approach, Mr. Speaker, that has cost us millions more than necessary. We see St. Mary's Villain Humboldt, Mr. Speaker, where seniors were not treated with dignity, were not treated with respect when repairs were needed to the building and when asbestos was found. We had the auditor, Mr. Speaker, saying proper standards are not being followed, things like soap in care homes. We also see the auditor saying that the ministry is not doing the proper follow-up in order to ensure that standards are being followed.

Mr. Speaker, we can think of our grandmas and grandpas, our moms and dads. These individuals deserve and need the best possible care. When will this minister, when will this Sask Party government take that seriously and come forward with a common sense approach that actually improves the situation for Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly our primary, paramount focus is on the safety and the well-being of the residents of our long-term care facilities and the staff that work in them, Mr. Speaker. That's why this government has, several years ago, forwarded \$10 million to the Saskatoon Health Region to deal with some of these issues that we knew were going to present themselves at, for instance, Parkridge in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the roof was going to be replaced. In fact they've taken additional steps, Mr. Speaker, even before that is going to take place.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would say this: that this government certainly has a very strong record when it comes to the renewal of long-term care facilities across this province, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we're seeing 13 new long-term care facilities, renewals in communities that either have already taken place, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to see more this year.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite know full well the legacy

that they left when it comes to long-term care of leaving people in hospital beds and inappropriate settings, Mr. Speaker. And we're certainly going to work hard to correct that issue.

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

Status of College of Medicine

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, in July of 2011 the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan was placed under a warning of probation. Today the survey team from the accreditation committee of Canadian medical schools begins work on evaluating the situation throughout the college. They will report on their findings in the summer at the earliest.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government promised to ensure that the College of Medicine at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] would never again be placed on probation. The former minister assured the people of Saskatchewan steps had been taken so that the probation, and I quote, "never happens again." Given that the U of S and the College of Medicine have been placed on warning of probation, what is the Sask Party government doing to keep their word and ensure that probation on the College of Medicine never happens again?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member opposite for the question and congratulate him on his new role as critic in this area. And I know that it's an area that he held as minister, so some of the issues and problems there go back a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I can say this. This is a situation that the government takes very seriously. We know that the Academic Health Sciences Building, we know that the issues with the College of Medicine are something that must be addressed. It is something that is absolutely imperative to the province of Saskatchewan.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I met with the university president about a week and a half ago. She assured me that this is not a matter of funding or a matter of resources. This is a matter of administration and governance. They are working with the College of Medicine to try and work their way through it and, Mr. Speaker, we'll stand behind them and work with them to ensure that this does fall in place.

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

Academic Health Sciences Building and University Funding

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, another problem at the University of Saskatchewan that is very much originating with this government. Before last year's provincial election, the Sask Party government assured the university that the health sciences complex would be fully funded. There was even a nice photo op with the Premier, Mr. Speaker.

After the election, that government broke its word and forced

the University of Saskatchewan to borrow an unplanned \$100 million, leaving the university with nearly \$200 million in capital debt that, to quote the university's 2011-12 annual report, ". . . will far exceed debt compared to peer universities."

Mr. Speaker, this is a problem that was created in last year's budget when that government broke its word. Will they finally live up to their word in this year's budget and help them to address the mess that that government created?

[14:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised that members opposite would actually raise that issue again. We made a platform commitment in 2007 to complete the University of Saskatchewan Health Sciences Building. We are committed to that project and will continue to work with the University of Saskatchewan to ensure completion.

Our government has provided \$213.2 million to date, Mr. Speaker. In addition to that, the university has borrowed slightly in excess of \$70 million. Mr. Speaker, that means there has been investment made in the Academic Health Sciences Building to date in excess of a quarter of a billion dollars. Had the members opposite chosen to complete that project while they were in government, it could have at that time been completed for \$120 million. The cost has, through their delays, more than doubled, Mr. Speaker. We are working with it and that is a project that is well under way. I toured the facility about a week ago and, Mr. Speaker, it is well on the way to completion and we take a great deal of pride in that.

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

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, the actions of that government have seen the capital debt load increase almost double, Mr. Speaker, to \$200 million, which again is a huge problem for the university. But it wasn't just on the capital side where this government broke its word to the University of Saskatchewan, or indeed to the other university in this province.

A recent story from *The Globe and Mail* states that the University of Saskatchewan was counting on a 5.8 per cent funding increase for last year's budget and that they had reason to be hopeful for receiving the amount. To quote from the article: "Then, mere weeks before last year's budget, the 'generous' provincial government abruptly changed course, offering a lesser, 2-per-cent funding boost that threw years of budget assumptions off kilter." Close the quote from the story, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, clearly one of the problems that the universities in our province face is that the Sask Party likes to say one thing before the election and then does something very different after. And it is simply not fair that students and educators and middle-class families will pay the price for this government's bad faith. Will this government be helping Saskatchewan students and universities in next week's budget, or will they be continuing to hurt them?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I continue to be surprised by the nature of the questions that are coming across. We are a government that has never decreased funding to universities. We have only increased it.

The same cannot be said for other provinces. British Columbia announced in their budget that they will cut funding to post-secondary institutions by \$46 million over the next three years. In Quebec, universities are being forced to cut \$124 million by April. In Alberta, they are cutting operating funding to post-secondary institutions by \$147 million, some 7 per cent. Mr. Speaker, in 1993-94 and '97-98, the NDP cut operating funding to the two universities by nearly \$10 million, a 5.5 per cent cut.

Mr. Speaker, we'll take no advice from them. We provide adequate funding for the universities. They are working well through their various processes to ensure that the monies are spent adequately and appropriately. We are standing behind our universities and our students, Mr. Speaker.

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

Provincial Disaster Assistance Program

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Water Security Agency said there's a huge potential for more disastrous flooding in the province. The report points out that the areas around Moose Jaw, Regina, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and along the rivers have a very high potential for flooding. Spring run off shouldn't be a shock anymore, Mr. Speaker, to anybody in the province, following disastrous flooding in the past few years.

The province's role should be helping people deal with the huge costs of the damage. As of April 2012, more than half of the claims through the province's 2011 disaster assistance program had yet to be settled. And we know, in the third quarter report just tabled a month ago, the province is still paying out those claims and the projections were off by \$110 million from budget. To the minister: how many claims remain outstanding from 2011's flooding, and what's the timeline to pay out those outstanding claims?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes indeed, the Water Security Agency had a chance to articulate the spring run off forecast for the month of March in the province. We are concerned. We want to be there for the Saskatchewan people as we were in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, over the last two years, this government has undertaken some 580 permanent projects, spent some 25 to \$30 million to ensure that Saskatchewan is better prepared for any emergencies that might present themselves.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are concerned. We are working with previous claims. We are looking towards the future, and we are communicating with Saskatchewan people. That's what they

want; that's what they're getting from this government, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, year after year the flooding seems to surprise the province, and the ministers all scramble to explain how unpredictable the payments are, and how they poke holes in the province's books. What is needed is a solid plan for water security for our province, something the Sask Party needs to take seriously.

Flood claims that take years to settle leave families with uncertainty. The PDAP [provincial disaster assistance program] program needs to be responsive and respectful so that when people are pumping the water out of their basements, they're not worried about how they can afford the clean up. One has to wonder how this government was \$110 million off in their estimates in the third quarter of this fiscal year for flooding from 2011. It hardly inspires confidence in their ability to plan and budget.

To the minister: what is the government's projections for PDAP assistance in the upcoming budget, knowing there are predictions for heavy flooding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, once again the member opposite has her facts wrong. Ninety-six per cent of the 2010 claims have been closed through PDAP. Eighty-two per cent of the 2011 claims have been closed by PDAP, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this government understands the anguish and frustration that comes with losing your homes or losing your possessions, and that's why we are taking a proactive approach. Mr. Speaker, we increased the advance payments from 40 to 60 per cent under PDAP. We reduced the deductible from 20 to 5 per cent. The maximum amount of assistance increased from 160 to \$240,000 for residence, businesses 160 to \$500,000. And, Mr. Speaker, we instituted the emergency flood damage reduction program, the first of its kind in the country, the best in the country. Other provinces are following. We're leading the way once again, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately the minister didn't explain why they're \$110 million off in their estimates. That's the question.

The 25-year plan for the Water Security Agency seems to be a good start, but much of the action to deal with flooding is taking place in the future. Back to today, the reality is the claims have been slow to process and people need to know the government has their back when disaster strikes. No one wants to see flooding happen in a single community in our province, but it's becoming a frequent reality in Saskatchewan.

We need to know that the plan for financial assistance matches

up with the plan for community preparations, that while we have to wait until next year for the provincial emergency flood response plan 2014 and the provincial strategy for community awareness coming in 2014, we want to know that people will be looked after this year. What is the minister's assurance to the people of Saskatchewan that PDAP will flow on time this year if flooding hits our communities?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In 2011 this government came to the aid of the people of Saskatchewan, especially in rural areas. Ministers on this of the House toured. They looked, they saw, and they enacted plans that we are benefiting from today.

Mr. Speaker, that is sadly a different story than we would've seen from members opposite. Based on members opposite record in rural Saskatchewan, rural Saskatchewan people would've been ignored. In fact the former interim leader of the opposition said that he would take money from programs like this to fund, to fund ideas such as First Nations revenue sharing.

Mr. Speaker, the emergency flood damage reduction program was the first of its kind in the country. Over 25 to \$30 million was spent on flood mitigation. Mr. Speaker, if there is a situation like that again this year, we will be there for them. You can't budget for emergencies, but you can rely on a government that listens to the people of Saskatchewan. And that's what the people of Saskatchewan have today.

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

Financial Management and Reporting

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance is making lots of noise from his seat, so I'll give him a chance to speak from his feet here in a moment.

Last week while the media was away in Saskatoon covering important stories and while government was travelling, the Sask Party decided to sneak out \$10 million in new fees late on a Friday afternoon. It's a clear case of trying to hide bad news. They did the same thing at the same time last year, Mr. Speaker. No wonder people in our province are questioning their commitment towards transparency.

Mr. Speaker, why did the minister choose a sneaky, surprise hit of \$10 million on our producers and entrepreneurs to scrape together his books?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, there's nothing secretive about releasing the fees and the fee schedule. We do that before the budget. We do that before the budget each and every year. The NDP did that when they were in government.

Mr. Speaker, we're trying to inform the people about what will take place in the next year, and there have been changes to various fees that have already circulated throughout. The media has distributed the information about those fees and, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing secretive about it.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Finance minister is scrambling. He's taking millions of dollars from producers and entrepreneurs to scrape together the books. The third-quarter report was released less than a month ago, Mr. Speaker, the perfect opportunity for the government to come clean on the numbers. But instead they're taking another \$120 million from our Crowns, raising debt by almost \$950 million this year alone and cutting services in education and health. And now they're up to another sneaky cash grab even though his budget's just a week away.

Mr. Speaker, why when the minister had a chance to be straight with Saskatchewan people in next week's budget would he try to sweep these recent hikes under the rug and out of the public's attention?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my first answer, there's nothing secretive about it. We have released the information before the budget, which is customary for the previous governments and of the NDP, and we do the same process.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting the member asked a question about Q3 [third quarter], by the way, Mr. Speaker, which is, you know, that ended on December 31st. We indicated to the people of the province of Saskatchewan that we're still the only province that has been very successful in paying down debt. We are the only province that has a balanced budget, both on the General Revenue Fund and the summary financial basis, Mr. Speaker — the only province.

Mr. Speaker, in fact in the last number of years we're a province that has been raised by the bond-rating agencies to have a AAA status, Mr. Speaker, the only time that the province of Saskatchewan has had a AAA rating.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's with those sort of answers that it's no wonder that that minister won the Pinocchio Award for how it manages our finances. The most transparent time to introduce spending and revenue changes is at budget, but the sneaky \$10 million cash grab also highlights some interesting priorities.

Let's take a look: hiking fees on local car dealerships by \$18,000, almost enough to pay for the Premier's hardwood floors; jacking up the costs to our producers to graze cattle by \$1.7 million, I suppose to pay for the unneeded three more MLAs, Mr. Speaker; increasing filing fees on entrepreneurs of \$70,000, almost enough for the expensive pre-budget ads being run right now to spin the public.

Mr. Speaker, why doesn't this Finance minister get that Saskatchewan people deserve better than a sneaky cash grab to pay for his mixed up priorities?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was wondering when the member opposite would get around to the C.D. Howe Institute's report, which I have in my hand, and I've had it in my hand since we began this session, hoping that he'd ask a question about the fact that this report comments on the last 10 years of fiscal reporting, five years by the NDP.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, it comments how poorly the statistics were developed by the first five years of this report by the province of Saskatchewan and then says that the province of Saskatchewan, in the last five years, is improving. And Mr. Speaker, I want to quote directly from the report on page 4, and it says this: "Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia also get an A for preparing their budgets and public accounts on a common accounting basis . . ."

Mr. Speaker, so the member opposite can scream all he wants about the reporting. We do it on a basis of transparency and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave at this point to move a motion, move several motions of condolence.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for leave to move motions of condolence. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

CONDOLENCES

Beverly Milton Dyck

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is an important day in the life of the Legislative Assembly, one that we experience together every spring where we are able to acknowledge those who have stepped forward in service to their province here in this Legislative Assembly as members of the Assembly, and those who have passed since we last got together to express condolences to previous members. And, Mr. Speaker, today is that day.

There are a number of former members of this House who have passed since that time, and we want to acknowledge them today. We want to acknowledge the commitment they've made to the Legislative Assembly, both during their careers here but also their contributions to their respective communities. Because, Mr. Speaker, it's very, very typical of this Assembly that it would include members, women and men who are contributing today perhaps or contributed as members of the Assembly, but prior to being elected they were involved in the life of their respective communities, and after they chose to step away from politics, or in some cases had the decision made for them, that they continued that involvement in local governments, in school boards, and in charities.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to begin today with the following motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Beverly Milton Dyck, who passed away on August 11, 2012 at the age of 76, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1971 until 1982, representing the constituencies of Saskatoon City Park and Saskatoon Mayfair for the New Democratic Party.

Prior to becoming a member, Bev Dyck received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Saskatchewan. He taught in the communities of Meadow Lake, Biggar, Battleford, and Saskatoon at Bedford Road Collegiate.

While a member, Bev Dyck served as Deputy Speaker from February 24, 1972 until November 12, 1975.

After his time in the legislature, Bev was elected to the Saskatoon City Council, first in 1985 and he served there until 1994.

Mr. Speaker, this is my recollection of Mr. Dyck. I was a university student during that time that he . . . well not for all of the years that he was a city councillor — was able to graduate before that — but during much of the time that he was a city councillor, Mr. Speaker. And then, as now, I followed politics. I followed local politics and provincial politics and federal politics and, as was the case for many of his colleagues on council at the time, and still today, here was someone who was very much dedicated to the city of Saskatoon, to the citizens of his ward, and prior to that obviously to constituents in two different ridings, in City Park and in Mayfair. And as I mentioned off the top, Mr. Speaker, here's an individual who wasn't just contributing during his time in the legislature, but did so prior to his time here and then after as a member of the city council.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I continue with the motion:

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Beverly Milton Dyck, who passed away on August 11, 2012 at the age of 76, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1971 until 1982, representing the constituencies of Saskatoon City Park and Saskatoon Mayfair for the New Democratic Party.

Prior to becoming a member, Bev Dyck received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of

Saskatchewan. He taught in the communities of Meadow Lake, Biggar, Battleford, and Saskatoon at Bedford Road Collegiate.

While a member, Bev Dyck served as Deputy Speaker from February 24, 1972 until November 12, 1975.

After his time in this legislature, Bev was elected to the Saskatoon City Council in 1985 and served until 1994.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to add my condolences to the Dyck family.

Mr. Dyck was a teacher. He had a commerce degree, but he was a teacher. And I think we all need to remember that in the late '60s the teachers were very concerned about what was happening within the education system of the province. And Mr. Dyck was one of those teachers who said, we have to do something about this by going and getting elected. And I think it's quite telling that in *The StarPhoenix* on the day or two after the election, Mr. Dyck was asked about his election victory in City Park, and he described it very briefly. He said, "We had the better organization." And what happened was that the fellow who ran against him, Mr. Lloyd Saunders, says, "How can we beat an organization like that?"

I think Mr. Dyck took on tasks and dealt with them in a very straightforward fashion. And from that initial political entry into provincial politics, he served well and long with the Allan Blakeney government. I know that Mr. Romanow worked closely with him. And Mr. Romanow is quoted in *The StarPhoenix* last summer as saying, "Bev was always a person with a great deal of enthusiasm and exuberance."

I think that what we need to recognize is that people like Mr. Dyck are extremely important for our legislature, and we need to thank his family for his contribution here. He also obviously went on to contribute in the city of Saskatoon.

We looked at some of the *Hansard* to see some of Mr. Dyck's quotations. And I think it's quite interesting to use this quotation that he made on March 31st, 1981, when we were dealing in this House here with a resolution about the Canadianization of the oil industry. And he says, and this is on page 1602 of *Hansard*:

Mr. Speaker, as you know, it is all very well to talk about how much we earn from our resources and how we allocate that money, but regarding our petroleum energy resources, we must be at least as concerned about their depletion, because they are running out very fast. As our conventional reserves of energy run out, the price per gallon at the pumps can only escalate. As the price to consumers goes up, it becomes more and more obvious that we must become more efficient in the use of energy that we have.

We have been far too unconcerned about conservation over the years . . .

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dyck was pointing out then a very similar discussion that we're having now. I want to say once again, thank you to the Dyck family, and offer our condolences to them and thank them for his service in this legislature. Thank you.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to enter into this condolence motion for Bev Dyck, the MLA for Mayfair and City Park. And I feel in many ways our careers — I've never met the gentleman — but in many ways we've had parallel experiences because his riding overlaid my riding, and I happened to show up maybe 30 years after he was elected. He was elected in '71; of course, I was in 2001.

And I just want to say that, you know, from what I know and what I hear on the doorstep when I'm knocking on doors, his memory was still there. He was active and committed to his constituents. In fact he served a term as Deputy Speaker, but then he chose to work more in his constituency because he believed that's where the action is. And I think that we all know that that's the truth and that sometimes we stray a bit from that. But we should focus on our constituency, and clearly Bev Dyck was a man who believed in that.

He was an idealist. He believed in social justice and many of the issues that New Democrats fight hard for. And I just wanted to say that particularly labour appreciated the work that he had done for them in raising their concerns.

And I also want to say that we see his family still actively involved in the world of politics. His nieces, Stacey and Melanie, are active, carrying on fighting for the causes of the New Democratic Party and the movement that we believe in.

So I would like to join in our motion here, expressing condolences to Bev Dyck's family. He certainly served his constituency in this province well. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — Will the Assembly take the motion as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Paul Mostoway

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and his province.

Paul Mostoway, who passed away on March 19, 2012 at the age of 83, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1971 until 1982 representing the constituencies of Hanley and Saskatoon Centre for the New Democratic Party. He served as the Legislative Whip and was the chairman of the Special Committee on Welfare.

Mr. Mostoway was born on 16 October 1929 in Mayfair, Saskatchewan. He grew up in Guernsey and Saskatoon. He attended St. Paul School and City Park Collegiate. He later attended the University of Saskatchewan and received a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education degree. He started work as a teacher in 1956, retiring in 1988.

He continued his public service as a Catholic school board trustee and a city councillor in Saskatoon. He served as a trustee from 1985 to 1994 and then a councillor from 1988 to 1994. Mr. Mostoway was involved in many organizations, including the senate of the University of Saskatchewan and on the board of the Mendel Art Gallery.

He is sadly missed by his wife of 57 years, Victoria, and their children and grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

[14:30]

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Paul Mostoway, who passed away on March 19, 2012 at the age of 83, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1971 until 1982 representing the constituencies of Hanley and Saskatoon Centre for the New Democratic Party. He served as the Legislative Whip and as the chairman of the Special Committee on Welfare.

Mr. Mostoway was born on October 16th, 1929 in Mayfair, Saskatchewan. He grew up in Guernsey and Saskatoon. He attended St. Paul School and City Park Collegiate. He later attended the University of Saskatchewan and received a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degree. He started work as a teacher in 1956 and retired in 1988.

Mr. Mostoway continued his public service as a Catholic school board trustee and city councillor in Saskatoon. He served as a trustee from 1985 to 1994 and councillor from 1988 to 1994. Mr. Mostoway was involved in many organizations including the senate of the University of Saskatchewan and on the board of the Mendel Art Gallery.

He is sadly missed by his wife of 57 years, Victoria, and their children and grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would also like to offer our condolences to the Mostoway family on the death of Paul Mostoway.

Mr. Mostoway was another teacher who was very concerned about the issues in education in the late '60s and got involved in politics. And he ended up doing many things and, as they've set out in his obituary, he attended many fall suppers as he sought the nomination.

But what's really interesting about Mr. Mostoway and his nomination is that he ran against Mr. Robert Walker. And Mr. Robert Walker was the attorney general under all of the years of the Tommy Douglas government and actually was continued as a member in opposition up until 1967. And he then sought the nomination again to run in 1971 and Mr. Paul Mostoway, as a younger, new generation politician, ended up defeating him. And he then went on to win that particular seat.

Now one of the things that's quite interesting about Paul Mostoway in the political situation is that even though he was a teacher and he was involved in the, I guess, politicization or the efforts by the teachers to get involved in politics, he brought his own personal experience in a number of other unionized jobs — especially with the Seafarers Union which was the union for the sailors on the Great Lakes. He'd also worked as a construction worker in BC [British Columbia] and he'd worked in a General Motors plant. And some of those skills that he learned when he was working those other jobs he then brought into his role as a teacher.

There are many activities that he was involved with and it was very clear he enjoyed many things. But one of the descriptions of him that his family put in the paper which I really liked was that he was a history buff. And what they said was when he was teaching, the students soon figured out if they could talk about history or politics, they could derail the lesson plans and have a good discussion in the classroom. And I think that that ability to be a teacher that allows for your students to understand how society works is another gift that Mr. Paul Mostoway brought to Saskatchewan. And I'm not sure if there are politicians that were his students that are in the legislature now but I know that that particular skill of his is something that many people cherished.

And I know that Mr. Mostoway also was somebody who was always reading and looking at issues and I think it's quite interesting, once again, looking at *Hansard*, that on April 29, 1974, Mr. Mostoway got up in this legislature and said, I'd like to, you know, give a few words on the cost of prescription drugs. And he goes on in his comments that are page 2756 of *Hansard*, April 29, 1974, to talk about generic drugs, and he says:

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some sort of unspoken hesitance on the part of people to use generic drugs. I suppose one could say this is sort of a filtering down to the public from manufacturers and processing companies who find that brand name drugs bring them more profits. Nine times out of ten brand name drugs and generic drugs come from exactly the same bulk stock. Nine times out of ten they are exactly the same except in name and price, with the brand name drug being much higher in price than the generic drug with the brand name drug being distributed by large corporations and in turn bringing excessive profits to these corporations.

This is almost 40 years ago that he talked about this. And part of the present discussion of the Premier and the Minister of Health is exactly on these kinds of issues about the purchasing of generic drugs across the West. So once again, the discussion in this legislature many years ago by people who were looking at a number of issues identifies issues that are important.

Mr. Mostoway was, as I say, a history buff, somebody who was interested in many, many things. And it's very clear that he influenced the lives of many people. And I'd like to conclude my remarks by thanking his family for sharing him with us in the legislature and in other aspects of public life in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to rise and also give my condolences. I never knew Mr. Mostoway, but he represented a part of my constituency, a very huge part of it, and I have the utmost respect for anybody that does what we do. And he'd have did it at a difficult more time when there was no emails, faxes. If he lived in the rural part of the Hanley constituency, he'd have been on a party line even. And I don't think there were CAs [constituency assistant] at that time to help the members as it is now.

So I noticed in some of the remarks from his family that he was an avid . . . went to a lot of fall suppers, and that's how you did politics back then was one-on-one, mainstreeting, fall suppers because your constituents . . . That's the only way you could reach them at that time. I think right now we probably have it a lot easier. There's a lot more avenues we have than for anybody that served at that time.

I'm looking at the obituary. You know, he was a volunteer in his community — also in Hanley, but more in Saskatoon — as we all are, that we've served in this role. You find that you're just automatically a part of the community and helping even in other ways other than an MLA. And with that, it's your family that has given up a big part of things that you share with your family because you're on the road lots. Whether you're actually as an MLA or if you're with the many organizations that you've volunteered, either before you were an MLA or even after, seems like you're always involved in the communities and so on.

I know that many of my constituents would still have remembered him. And now occasionally they always speak of the past and have mentioned, you know, of any of the MLAs

that have served throughout my constituency, and there's been many of them, over the many years, they've all — my constituents — talk highly of every MLA that served throughout my part of my constituency and I hope when I am gone that they speak highly of me. That we try to do the best that we can while we're here serving, and I think they realize that.

So on behalf of the members, of myself as MLA for Arm River-Watrous constituency, and my constituents that he served — and served very well, from what I understand — I would like to send my condolences to the family for myself and my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and enter into this debate in honour of Paul Mostoway for the work that he's done. I have a couple of things. Clearly again Mr. Mostoway represented the area, in his later terms, of Saskatoon Centre and of course I would hear an awful lot about the good work that he had done. And he was a strong, passionate man, believing in the ideals of people in our communities, and as our colleagues have talked earlier, his commitment to sport and recreation and education. And so those are things that were clear that drove him to his belief in public service and that that was how he felt, how he could express his belief in how we should all be in our communities.

I just want to relate two stories, one about the first time I actually met Paul Mostoway. And he didn't know I met him. But it was in the '70s, and I was, I guess I'd been . . . Well I would be a lot younger at that point. And I was riding the STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] bus from Saskatoon to Regina, and on walks Paul Mostoway. And as an MLA, he knew many people and he would walk up that aisle saying hello to everybody on that bus. So as my colleague talked about the fall suppers, the other way to get to know people is on the bus. And he would get on that bus and it was a way of connecting with the people of Saskatoon and people in our community. And I made a mental note. I didn't think I would be in politics later on, but I try to ride the bus every once in a while so I would get to know people, and it was because of Paul's example. And we should look to people like Paul about how did they get to know their constituents. And we should do that kind of thing, do what our constituents do. And that's very important.

The other thing I want to relate about Mr. Mostoway's career here at the legislature is this report. It's referenced in his obituary, the *Final Report of the Special Committee on Welfare*, November 13, 1973. Now a former minister of Social Services on our side had said, you really should read this report. And I actually have the original report back in Saskatoon; this one is in the library. But it was an exciting time in the early 1970s about what people were doing about social programming right across Canada. And he chaired this report and it is actually a very interesting report because so many of the issues that we're dealing with today seem to continue to rise to the front. And whether it's daycare or families in stress, the working poor — these are some of the things that he was dealing with. And I just want to . . . It was interesting.

So Mr. Mostoway chaired the committee but some of the other people that were on that committee were Jack Wiebe — and of course we know what lay ahead for Mr. Wiebe as lieutenant governor — as well we had Mr. Alex Taylor. Now Mr. Alex Taylor was at our supper last night at the Canadian Parliamentary Association dinner, and I had a chance to talk to him about this report, and he remembers that fondly. And of course on the staff side, Dr. Gordon Barnhart was the staff person on this report. So it was very interesting.

And one of the things that was very interesting was that this report was looking ahead in the early '70s about what we could do better in terms of serving people, vulnerable people, in our communities. And they were talking about the guaranteed annual income and a project they were going to do in Manitoba, except for they were talking about it looking ahead to what would happen with it, and we all know what happened. I think it was in Dauphin. I'm not sure what city in Manitoba that the experiment with guaranteed annual income actually happened, but it's still an issue, and it was really interesting that Mr. Mostoway was writing about it back in 1973.

So I think it's worthwhile that we look at these things, and we think about what people like Mr. Mostoway was writing about . . . Mr. Taylor, what they were thinking about. And it was a pleasure to read this. So his work will live on in some way, shape, or form. He definitely will not be forgotten in this legislature. I think that he was an honourable gentleman who did an awful lot to benefit the people of Saskatchewan. I look at this report. We could talk about many things, but I wanted to highlight this as one of his contributions to the province of Saskatchewan, and it hasn't been forgotten.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I join in the condolence motion and wish his family our heartfelt condolences. Thank you.

[14:45]

The Speaker: — Will the Assembly take the motion as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Roy Nelson

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and the province.

Roy Nelson, who passed away on 26 March, 2012 at the age of 86, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1978, representing the constituency of Assiniboia-Gravelbourg for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Nelson was born on December 3, 1925. He attended the Moose Jaw Normal School and the University of Saskatchewan. As a farmer and a rancher, he was committed to many organizations in his community. In 1997 Mr. Nelson received a Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal which formally recognized his dedication to local agriculture, to sports, veterans, and civic associations.

He is sadly missed by his wife of 62 years, Kay, and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Roy Nelson, who passed away on March 26, 2012, at the age of 86, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1978, representing the constituency of Assiniboia-Gravelbourg for the Liberal Party.

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He is sadly missed by his wife of 62 years, Kay, and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to get up today and share a few thoughts and memories about the former member, Roy Nelson.

And I have lots of fond memories of Mr. Nelson coming to my house when I was a young kid. Him and my dad were political opponents, and they loved nothing more than to get together and share a couple of glasses of refreshments and really just get into it. And I think this is certainly one of the things that many of us have as memories from our childhood, Mr. Speaker, are those political discussions that our parents were passionate about.

And certainly with my dad having run for the NDP in 1964, his political stripes were well-known in the community. And our farm was probably about 10 miles north of the town of Glentworth, and so we had lots of interactions with the people

from Glentworth, with Roy and Kay and their children. I remember Ricky quite well. And those kinds of discussions I think really sort of informed how us, the children in my family for sure, carried forward with our political beliefs. And many, I think, of Roy's political arguments were probably honed at our kitchen table because I certainly remember him and dad getting into it and having a lot of fun doing it.

For example, those were the years of the land bank. And there was a lot of passionate feelings about the land bank on both sides. And certainly I know my family was able to take advantage of that institution and my brother was able to secure some land through that, so it was something that was positive for our family. But Roy hated the land bank, Mr. Speaker, with every ounce of his soul. And you can see in some of his comments, I had a chance to look at his maiden speech in 1975 and he certainly had no shortage of thoughts about how that wasn't a good program.

And the other thing I guess that I noticed in his maiden speech is some of the language there sounds very familiar to some of the language I used in 2011 when I gave my maiden speech, so it makes me feel like politics is a sort of a timeless vocation. And I think, as advocates for political views and our partisan views and also for the views that we feel are most appropriate for the citizens of our riding, I feel somewhat comforted that those were the same words that Roy would have used back in 1975.

So I just wanted to have an opportunity to get up and talk about that a little bit. I remember Roy and his family being involved in all the local sports, and the notes that we have here indicate that he was a very active citizen of his community in Glentworth. And again, I think that's a sign that political activism was part of the water that we drank when we grew up. And sometimes I'm not sure if families do that anymore. There probably are a lot of families doing that, but it seems to be a lost art where people looked nothing more forward to than an evening of sitting down and talking politics.

We also have comments here from Ralph Goodale, who was an MLA in the area around the same time before he went into federal politics. And it was the same thing, Ralph used to come by the house. He knew darn well if he was politicking that he wasn't going to get my dad's vote, but he loved to come and talk politics. And that was really part of the culture of where I grew up.

So I have a lot of fond memories of Roy and of Kay and of their family and of those times when my dad was in a farming co-op for machinery. And he was, you know, one of the members was a strong member of the Waffle movement, and all those things were going on in the '70s. So it was an exciting time, and I think it certainly informs a lot of what we are doing today.

In fact David referred to a report that Mr. Mostoway was involved in. Yesterday I was looking at a report from the Farm Land Security Board in the 1970s. And I will not refer to the members by names anymore, Mr. Speaker, thank you. But the member from Saskatoon Riversdale was referring to that report. I was reading one on the Farm Land Security Board. And those thoughts really do have relevance for today. And it never hurts for us to sort of revisit the thinking that led to some of the

programs that came about and the political thinking of the time because it helps us make better decisions when we look at history rather than ignore it.

So I thank the folks from the . . . Or I certainly thank the Nelson family for allowing him to participate in politics. And I have many fond memories of Roy Nelson when he was an MLA for my area as I was growing up, and as such, I wish to offer my condolences to the family and am pleased to be able to be part of this condolence motion. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in and say a few words to the condolence motion for Mr. Roy Nelson.

Roy was a long-time friend of mine. I knew Roy I guess most of my life, back from the very early days when he was very much involved in sports. I remember he coached me in playing pony league. And I started curling at a very young age, and Roy was a very avid curler, a very good curler. And I remember even in my younger days having the opportunity to curl against Roy, and he was very good and quite feared within the local area as a curler because he had a very strong team and was very difficult to beat.

Roy was a very, very strong advocate of the community. He promoted the community of Glentworth as far back as I can remember, whether it was working hard to get the new school back in 1960-61 era, he fought for that because at that time there was amalgamation of schools, and Roy was really set on having a school built in Glentworth, which it eventually was.

I remember even discussions when the highway was going through, where he wanted the highway to go through the town of Glentworth because it would be good for businesses, rather than bypass the town, which happened in a lot of cases. And he was successful in doing that and to this day, the highway, Highway 18, goes through the town of Glentworth.

Roy was also a businessman. I know it's mentioned he was a rancher, farmer, but Roy also had a business in Glentworth. It was an implement and vehicle dealership that he ran extremely successfully, and because of his involvement in the community, his business did quite well. Roy was extremely, extremely well-liked.

What wasn't mentioned in his condolence motion was Roy served in the Navy during World War II as a very, very young individual. And as a result of his time served in the Navy, when he moved back to Glentworth, he was a very, very strong supporter of the Legion, and he promoted the Legion at every opportunity that he could.

And I do have a story about how Roy operated. When I moved back to Glentworth in 1994, the boxes had arrived, the furniture had arrived. The house was just packed up with all of the furniture. And I got a phone call from Roy, and he said, there's a Legion meeting tonight at 8 o'clock. And I said, Roy, I just haven't got time to go. I'm unpacking, and I don't have time. He said, you have to; you're the president. They had voted me in as president once they had found out that I was moving back

to Glentworth.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know my colleague on the other side talked about politics. Roy was a Liberal through and through. And he and I could sit and talk politics, and we could agree on a number of things but we couldn't agree on how we voted. And when there was items within the Liberal party platform that I would take a stand against, Roy's comeback was always, well I'll talk to Ralph, we'll get that changed. I'd say, well you change it first and then come back and talk to me about politics. And I may change my mind, but I doubt it. But Roy was extremely active in politics, and he was a very, very strong Liberal.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in and express my condolences to Kay, the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and also to the number of family members that still reside in the Glentworth area. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to add my condolences to the family of Roy Nelson. When I was in law practice, I met Roy a few times. But it wasn't until he received the Volunteer Medal in 1997 that I really had a chance to visit with him about his political career and about how he represented that area.

And I know on a number of the official events that come after you're a member of that group of people who have received medals, he would always seek me out either so we could sit together or we could talk. And I always remember and will remember his passion for that part of Saskatchewan. And I know that the member opposite shares that and continues that passion, and my seatmate has a passion. And I actually too also find that part of Saskatchewan to be one of the most beautiful areas and the most interesting.

And when you talked with Roy about that area, well the stories would come, the interest in the people. But more importantly, he would talk about how he was advocating around the national park that came into that area to make sure that people were properly dealt with and to make sure that the policies that were part of the federal government at that time . . . And Mr. Goodale's name often came up, there's no question about that, and also, I think, Mr. Harold MacKay who was my law partner because there were many, many issues that Liberals could solve that Conservatives or NDP couldn't solve. And so I agree with the member opposite that that was often the response.

Mr. Nelson was at a couple of the dinners over the last couple of years. And it was clear that he was getting older, but he so enjoyed being part of the community that he made sure that he got to visit with everybody.

Mr. Speaker, we have many people as passionate about politics as Roy. I don't think we have quite as many people as passionate about their community and all of their neighbours in making sure that they were included in the broader community of Saskatchewan. And so I want to offer my condolences to the Roy Nelson family.

The Speaker: — Will the Assembly take the question as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

[15:00]

John Skoberg

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to his province.

John Skoberg, who passed away on 12 August, 2012 at the age of 86, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1982, representing the constituency of Moose Jaw North for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Skoberg was born on 2 February, 1926 in Loughheed, Alberta. He joined the Canadian Pacific Railway at the age of 18 and was transferred to Moose Jaw in 1950 where he became a locomotive engineer. Prior to becoming an MLA, he served as a Moose Jaw city councillor from 1965 to 1968 and as a Member of Parliament from 1968 to 1972. He also returned to city council during his time as an MLA and he held both offices simultaneously.

He is sadly missed by his wife of 63 years, Margaret Ann, and their three children, Dana, Diane, and Vicki, as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

John Skoberg, who passed away on August 12th, 2012 at the age of 86, was a Member of this Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1982, representing the constituency of Moose Jaw North for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Skoberg was born on February 2nd, 1926 in Loughheed, Alberta. He joined the Canadian Pacific Railway at the age of 18 and was transferred to Moose Jaw in 1950 where he became a locomotive engineer. Prior to becoming an MLA, he served as a Moose Jaw city councillor from 1965 to 1968 and as a Member of Parliament from 1968 to 1972. He also returned to city

council during his time as an MLA and held both offices simultaneously.

He is sadly missed by his wife of 63 years, Margaret Ann, and their three children, Dana, Diane, and Vicki, as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to offer my condolences to the Skoberg family. My roots are in Moose Jaw as well, and I would always be hearing stories about Mr. Skoberg from my uncle, Arne Nilson. And when I reflect on the information that we have here about Mr. Skoberg, and the time that he got involved in politics was the time that my uncle got involved in politics around a number of issues in the city of Moose Jaw.

But the biggest one was the B/A [British American] Oil refinery strike, and Mr. Skoberg was on the labour council as an engineer, obviously coming from the railway union. My uncle was the head of the union at the refinery, and there was an extensive strike. They all worked hard to get Mr. Skoberg elected to the city council of Moose Jaw, and he then was a very able spokesperson for quite a number of people who were concerned from the labour movement. And then in turn he was elected to parliament in 1968 where he served one four-year term. He then returned to Moose Jaw and was involved in politics again and was elected as a member of the legislature and represented Moose Jaw very well.

I know that in Moose Jaw when you talk about Mr. Skoberg, there are many stories that arise, but there's always the clear message that he was a very strong, forceful representative of the working people of Saskatchewan built on this base of support that he had in Moose Jaw. And my Uncle Arne died last year, and so I don't hear the stories about their organizing and their work in the middle '60s in Moose Jaw. But I want to have a special message from the Nilson family to the Skoberg family that we thank them for their gift of Mr. Skoberg to politics in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to pay tribute to John Skoberg and express condolences to his family. As an employee of CP Rail [Canadian Pacific Railway], John became a locomotive engineer at the age of 18, which would attest for his enthusiasm and his determination. At that time he became active in politics at the civic level, as a Member of Parliament, and as a MLA for the province of Saskatchewan in the constituency of Moose Jaw North which I am now proud to represent. John retired in 1986 with over 35 years with the railroad and 23 years in politics. Indeed he had an active and rewarding career.

Mr. Speaker, those that serve in public life, they serve unselfishly with a sense of commitment and dedication, and

indeed John Skoberg was such an individual. I did not know John Skoberg personally. However the understanding of his service to the people of Moose Jaw as an MLA from Moose Jaw North, also serving as a Member of Parliament as well as serving on city council, indicates John's commitment to his constituents, to this city, and the province as he worked diligently for the constituency of Moose Jaw North and consequently for the people of Saskatchewan and of Canada.

John was known for his love of Moose Jaw. He had courage and persistence for addressing issues. At the same time, he was a dedicated family man enjoying his family and participating in the community, being active in curling and golf and playing ball.

On behalf of the constituents of Moose Jaw North, I extend our condolences to his wife, Margaret, and their children, Dana, Diane, Vicki, along with their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again I'd like to rise and say a few words about John Skoberg who served this legislature well. And on a personal note, I want to say how much we think about some of the things we do and the connection it has out in the communities. I first met John, he was an MP [Member of Parliament] at the time, and it must have been in the early '70s. I was a high school kid at the time.

And you know, we go out and we speak to classes, and we never know what kind of impact that will have. And so he came out to Mortlach, my hometown just west of Moose Jaw, and he was talking about how at that time they were doing an awful lot of interesting things for youth employment. And one of the things they were doing is Opportunities for Youth, and they were encouraging young people who were going to leave high school about the kind of projects they might do to benefit their communities and whether that be a recreation project or history, local history project or whatever. So John was talking about this in our class at Mortlach High School. So I took him up on it, and I sent him a note to Ottawa: please send that information. And he sent it back and lo and behold, I and two other classmates did a project, and it was called little town story, and you know, Mr. Speaker, it's actually in the Legislative Library here. And it was done in 1974 after he had left the federal thing.

But because of that, I became interested in politics. And it was my first campaign. I was trying to think whether it was '72 or '74 or '75. But my job, and a friend, was to travel down the No. 1 Highway putting up posters for John Skoberg, and of course that was a lot of fun. We thought we were brave young guys stapling up these signs on the telephone poles because that was the way you did it in the '70s. Now you can't do it so much, but that was where you put the signs. And so he was my inspiration to get involved in politics, and I was sure glad to follow in his footsteps, maybe from a distance.

You know, coming from that area of the province, Moose Jaw and Mortlach, but serving people from Saskatoon, and he was such a strong advocate for labour rights and making sure in his passion that he always spoke for the working men and women of this province. And he was a strong, strong man, you know,

with strong convictions in that area. And of course the railway workers in Moose Jaw have a strong tradition of that, whether it be Gordon Snyder as well.

So it was a real pleasure to say that there was that small connection way back there in that high school classroom where we're talking . . . And we all do this. We go to classes, and we talk, and we don't know who we're going to spark that bit of interest in. And when they ask us, we should follow up and send them the information we said we would. Because John did, and I thank him for that. So, Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to join in and wish the family our deepest condolences. Thank you.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a great sense of honour that I rise to participate in the motion of condolence for John L. Skoberg. I met Mr. Skoberg, it would be about 10 years ago, on the occasion of the then Premier Calvert's annual bus tour.

I can still see him in my mind's eye on the streets in Moose Jaw with Mrs. Skoberg and their little dog who's out for a walk along with the Skobergs. They were back home from BC where they had retired to, to visit, and certainly the family ties remain strong and the decedents of John and Margaret have done well for the province, made a lot of contributions.

The thing I want to remark on about John Skoberg is that within the trade union history of this province, and certainly within the history of the CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation — New Democratic Party] and progressive politics before that, the railroaders have always held a pretty special place and made a pretty interesting contribution to what we consider to be the history of progressive politics in the province. And I guess as my colleague from Saskatoon Centre has referenced, John Skoberg was part of that tradition of railroaders. He was a proud member of the United Transportation Union and made that contribution alongside people like Gordon Snyder and Bill Davies before Gord Snyder. And again, I guess, federally one of his colleagues was good old Boxcar Benjamin, Les Benjamin.

And I guess in terms of listing off those what were larger than life characters, Mr. Speaker, John Skoberg fit right in. As the former premier Lorne Calvert said on the occasion of Mr. Skoberg's passing:

You never had trouble wondering what John thought about an issue. He was a great defender of the rights of working people. He was a tenacious fighter — tenacious for the things in which he believed and tenacious in his love for Moose Jaw and the community.

[15:15]

And again, Mr. Speaker, John Skoberg was no shrinking violet, was a rough-hewn character, but a person of passionate belief in terms of the principles for which he fought, again, for working men and women. And again in his political career serving at the municipal, provincial, and federal level, didn't let a defeat in '72 slow him down too much, having been re-elected

provincially in '75 and again in '78. And, Mr. Speaker, you'll be interested to note he retired from provincial politics in '82, and the person who carried the standard for the NDP in the wake of John Skoberg was one Glenn Hagel.

So again all of these different, for me, which have been pretty influential strains in my life, there are lots of different roads that lead to John Skoberg. I knew who he was before I met him, and I was pretty pleased to meet him. And again it's with a real sense of honour that I'm able to participate in this debate today. Again I join with all members in extending our condolences to Margaret and to the kids and the grandkids and the great-grandkids for John Skoberg — again a passionate believer, proud railroader, civic servant, and no shrinking violet, Mr. Speaker. Anyway, it's good to be in this debate.

The Speaker: — Will the Assembly take the motion as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order for the Premier to participate in the tribute to the late Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Fedoruk, I move that the House do recess until 3:25.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for a recess until 3:25. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to grant the recess?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands recessed to 3:25, with a call of the bells five minutes prior to that time.

[The Assembly recessed from 15:18 until 15:26.]

The Speaker: — This House will now resume. I recognize the Premier.

TRIBUTES

Honourable Dr. Sylvia O. Fedoruk

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and through you I thank the hon. members for their patience. This is an important day in the life of our legislature, and I have a particular interest in doing my part with respect to the motions. And now we turn our attention to the passing of . . . well a Saskatchewan hero and a role model. And I very much wanted to put some comments on the record.

Mr. Speaker, I will first move the motion and then I have a few . . . I will not first move the motion. I'm going to go right to some remarks with respect to former lieutenant governor, Sylvia Fedoruk. Mr. Speaker, I apologize in advance for those who attended her state funeral. I prepared remarks for that

particular occasion that I'd like to actually have on the public record of the province in *Hansard*, and so these are very similar to the remarks I wrote for that day.

About 60 years ago, the Regina *Leader-Post* dispatched a reporter to write a profile of a young up-and-comer at the Saskatchewan Cancer Commission. Sylvia Fedoruk was the assistant physicist at the commission. She was working alongside the renowned Dr. Harold Johns. She was 24 years old. She had accomplished already more in her very short lifetime than most of us will accomplish in, well a lot longer time than that. Yet she asked this reporter from the *Leader-Post* 60 years ago not to write "anything flowery" about her. She said too many letters were pouring into the Cancer Commission, which at the time was doing leading-edge research, but not without controversy because of course it was research around nuclear medicine. It was research around adding value to the great resource of uranium that we have. She said one letter had been addressed to Dr. H. E. Johns at the atom bomb hospital in Saskatoon. She said, "We don't want any more of those," with a smile.

American scholar Roswell Hitchcock wrote about greatness. It was said then:

It is first of all a thing of the heart. It is alive with robust and generous sympathies. It cannot slumber, for activity is a necessity of its existence. It is no reservoir, but a fountain.

Her life, Mr. Speaker, lived so fully among us, was a veritable font. Today through the many remembrances that you will hear in this Assembly, we will take a eulogistic walk through that font, through that life.

And I asked on the occasion of her state funeral if it might be helpful if each of us could listen to these remembrances, each of us could listen to the eulogistic remarks of members in this House, through the ears of a stranger, if we could listen to the story of Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk as though we never knew her, as though we never knew the place that she loved so much.

[15:30]

If we were to do that, we would hear through strangers' ears of her vocational and academic excellence. That is well known to many. We'd hear of her brilliance and of the millions — literally, Mr. Speaker — now the millions of lives that have changed, millions of lives that were saved because of her research, because of the work she did as a 24-year-old member on the team of Dr. Harold Johns. We would hear of her legacy, of her pioneering work and then legacy that she left for the province in the area of nuclear medicine, a mantle that was laid down for various reasons and we ought to pick up again.

We would hear through the strangers' ears of a woman whose avocational excellence was on display in virtually everything she tried, from curling to hockey to landing a 22-pound trout. That would have been an interesting YouTube video, that battle, a 22-pound trout battling with Her Honour.

Despite all of this, we would also hear of her equanimity, of her good humour. We would hear of this person's modesty, of her

humble and deferential heart, of her love for the simple things, the best things about the province of Saskatchewan, like the wild blueberries that she requested even in her last days, Mr. Speaker.

I have heard, and heard stories just prior to that state funeral from my wife, Tami, who was in the College of Engineering studying civil engineering when she first met Dr. Fedoruk. It occurred when Tami was one of the very few women engineering students at the U of S, Mr. Speaker. If you were in Arts and Science and you were maybe looking to meet a girl at the University of Saskatchewan in the '80s, you know your chances weren't very good at the College of Engineering just because of the numbers. But thank goodness, Mr. Speaker, that I went there.

Tami would talk about how she, how Dr. Fedoruk came to speak to them and with them, how she encouraged them though there were just a few, how they gathered around her and, Tami said, they just didn't want her to leave. They didn't want her to go; they wanted her to stay. We will hear remembrance like that of her.

And I have my own remembrances of her that I try to think of from the perspective of someone who may not have known this woman but just knew of her great achievements. It was on the occasion of this government's announcement of the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, now justly and rightly named in her honour. When we were done the formalities of the announcement, we had made all of the announcements — there was ministers there; the minister, the member for Greystone was there and others, university officials — she took us over to look at a piece of 60-year-old technology that was on display that she knew very, very well. She explained it to us in terms that even we could understand, though I would have refused a pop quiz then and refuse it today because it was still obviously very complex.

And with a twinkle in her eye, Mr. Speaker, she took us through this virtual tour of those moments of nascent medical history made not at Johns Hopkins and not at the Mayo and not even in central Canada but made right here on the Prairies, right at the University of Saskatchewan. And you know, Mr. Speaker, she didn't take us there as though she were one of the star attractions of this tour. She basically took us there as a tour guide, one who may or may not have a lot to do with what happened there, when we actually know the truth, when we know she was essential to the amazing science, the medical science that took place there.

To listen to that story, the story of that life, Mr. Speaker, through the ears of a stranger, might lead us to conclude, and reasonably so, that it actually can't be true, that a person can't be that accomplished, that a person can't give that much to her fellow man in terms of her ability around science, that a person can't be that good at every sport she tried, that she can't be that . . . Anyone couldn't be that humble and that deferential and that unassuming and that unpretentious. We would think that this must be a character from a novel or maybe lore.

Well Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Truth is the property of no individual but is the treasure of all men." Dr. Fedoruk's life, though every bit as human as ours, stands today as an

inspirational and undeniable Saskatchewan truth. Thank goodness it's not the stuff of fiction. Thank goodness it's not the stuff of lore. This is an individual whose talent and body of work afforded her, by the way, the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to live anywhere in the world, quite literally to live anywhere she chose to live. She chose Saskatchewan. She chose to stay here. Her life and the truth of her life is indeed our treasure, as Ralph Waldo Emerson would say.

Because she and those who loved her and knew her best so generously shared that treasure, this province is quite literally the better for it. It is a different place. It is a different world for thousands of women who in those 60 intervening years have successfully battled cervical cancer because of cobalt-60, because of her pioneering work, and then those many other thousands of us here in the province and other Canadians who were just fortunate to know her, who were blessed by her service to the province as our lieutenant governor.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of what I've just said will be repeated in the official motion, but let me just say by way of conclusion that it is very important that we would take some time to honour those members of this Assembly who have passed and thank them for their service and acknowledge them and send our best wishes to their families who miss them deeply. But it is also very important that we acknowledge the contribution of Her Honour, of Dr. Fedoruk, and that we would also pass the following motion:

That this Assembly unite in paying tribute to the memory of the Hon. Sylvia O. Fedoruk, the 17th lieutenant governor of the province of Saskatchewan, who died on 26 September 2012.

Born in Canora in 1927, she was educated at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Windsor. Prior to becoming the lieutenant governor, she had many distinguished accomplishments in sport and academia.

Her Honour played many sports including basketball, softball, hockey, volleyball, track and field, and golf.

Missing from the list, Mr. Speaker, is fishing but we'll take that as read.

She won four Canadian track and field medals, the Western Canadian interuniversity basketball title, and five provincial softball championships. Her most notable accomplishments came in the sport of curling. Her team won three provincial curling championships and won the first ever Canadian Women's Curling Championship in 1961. For her sporting accomplishments, she was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and the Curling Hall of Fame in 1986.

In her career, she was a professor, a nuclear physicist, and researcher. For 35 years she was associated with the Saskatoon Cancer Clinic. Her Honour was involved in the development of the world's first cobalt 60 unit and one of the first nuclear medicine scanning machines. She was the director of physics for the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation, the first female member of the Atomic

Energy Control Board of Canada, the first woman chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan.

For her many outstanding accomplishments she received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 1986 and was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1987, the following year.

On September 7th, 1988 Her Honour was sworn in as the 17th and first female lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan. During her tenure, Her Honour took personal pleasure from her work with children and youth, particularly in the context of education. She served as lieutenant governor until May 1994.

Which is what brought us together for that state funeral, Mr. Speaker, and which is part of the reason why today, buried in the cornerstone of the building in the time capsule is a program signed by former premiers and former lieutenant governors of that particular funeral so that future generations may know not only by what we say here today, by the message we send them, that she was indeed a pioneer and a treasure of this province.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly unite in paying tribute to the memory of the Hon. Sylvia O. Fedoruk, 17th lieutenant governor of the province of Saskatchewan, who died on September 26, 2012.

Born in Canora in 1927, she was educated at the University of Saskatchewan and University of Windsor. Prior to becoming the lieutenant governor, she had many distinguished accomplishments in sport and academia.

Her Honour played many sports including basketball, softball, hockey, volleyball, track and field, and golf. She won four Canadian track and field medals, the western Canadian interuniversity basketball title, five provincial softball championships. Her most notable accomplishments came in the sport of curling. Her team won three provincial curling championships and won the first ever Canadian Women's Curling Championship in 1961. For her sporting accomplishments, she was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and the Curling Hall of Fame in 1986.

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In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Premier that this woman is a great asset of Saskatchewan and that she's contributed many, many things to our story as a province, but most importantly, she has done it in so many different fields of endeavour.

And it's very clear that sports and athletics and all of those activities were a big part of her life. But her academic contribution around the cobalt treatment in cancer will stand for the long term as, I think, her single biggest contribution.

It's about, I think, 31 years ago that I got to meet Sylvia Fedoruk because she was a colleague of my wife, working at the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation. And as a spouse of a doctor, I got to go along for the annual meeting where the Saskatoon and the Regina clinics got together to talk about policies and deal with particular issues. And I wasn't included in all the meetings, but I did get a chance to meet Sylvia Fedoruk and understand that this was an important woman.

And I can recall that we were meeting at, I think, at the Sheraton Cavalier hotel in Saskatoon, and that she came. And even though she lived in Saskatoon, she wanted to be at the hotel because that's where everybody was, and then she participated obviously in the meetings which I wasn't at, but also in the social events.

One of the other doctors, who has been deceased for many years now, always enjoyed getting into discussions with her. He was one of the oncologists, and she was the physicist. And in the cancer field where she worked, there was always this debate because the physicists were the ones that calculated how much radiation was needed in the treatment — and she clearly had been doing this her whole life — and there was always then this debate with the ones that were doing chemotherapy and how these things would fit together. And I know that she was lively in the conversations that I was part of in those meetings.

But then since, subsequently, when I would see her at different events and she then became very important in the political life of Saskatchewan, she remembered the connection that we had through my wife. My wife actually then didn't work any longer at the Cancer Agency until she returned in 1997, I guess, is the time.

[15:45]

But one of the things that Sylvia Fedoruk brought was what I would call a common sense, Saskatchewan perspective, and it's clear in the references that the Premier's made to the work that she did around developing the nuclear medicine facility, but also in so many other things that she did. I know that her role at the university, as a chancellor, was one to provide that common sense perspective, and so we know that she was always there with a perspective.

Now one of the things that she's also known for, and it's in the information that was provided to us, relates to the specific legislative issue around the use of special warrants. And in that particular situation, in the Progressive Conservative government, the expenditures of the province were being done by special warrant; in other words, they didn't have a budget put into place. And there was a lot of pressure on her to do something about it as the lieutenant governor, but her common sense perspective was, no, this is something for the people to decide. And she ended up saying, the electorate will deal with that particular issue.

When the government changed after the Grant Devine government and Premier Romanow came into place, they obviously knew each other from many different areas, but they put into place a process and procedure between the lieutenant governor and the Premier which I think in some form continues to this day, which was very regular meetings to keep the lieutenant governor informed about what is happening here in the legislature. It's that kind of a common sense perspective that she brought to many things in life, but it's something that I think we can thank her for in our life here in the legislature.

Now when a person like Sylvia Fedoruk contributes so much in so many different areas, it's sometimes hard to describe all of the contributions. But I think the contribution as a leading woman who took on jobs that can set an example for the young women of Saskatchewan will always be remembered, and we need to tell her story again and again.

So I express my condolences to the Fedoruk family and thank them for sharing her with Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a lot to add to the comments that my colleagues have made already, and they've certainly covered the careers of Dr. Fedoruk. I just wanted a couple of comments from my perspective.

I was able to be at the cobalt 60 exhibit that's been developed at the Western Development Museum, which is in my riding of Saskatoon Nutana. And one of the people that was there to pay tribute to this remarkable achievement in medical innovation in Saskatchewan was Dr. Stuart Houston, who has written a book about a lot of the medical innovations of that era. And certainly Dr. Fedoruk was prominently featured in the book, and the book's called *Tommy's Team*.

And I just wanted to point out that a lot of these innovations were made at a time when we had a government here who was very forthright in and active in pursuing some of these

extremely innovative ideas. So innovation is certainly not something of just this century, Mr. Speaker, but it certainly is something that was well-entrenched in the early decades of the last century and certainly has been a feature of Saskatchewan history in many, many ways. And Dr. Fedoruk really exemplified that type of innovation, and again we see this is from a woman in a field that was not occupied by women in any great sense.

And so for me, as a young woman growing up, we certainly knew about Dr. Fedoruk. And especially for me, it was when she was the lieutenant governor and was just seen as a figure that really represented what Saskatchewan women are all about — smart, innovative, creative, and pioneers in their own way.

So it's a great honour to be able to get up here in this Legislative Assembly and make some comments on her career and on her contributions, not only to medicine but to politics in Saskatchewan. She's certainly someone, I think, that we as women look to as our role model. And we certainly need those types of role models when we look at the under-representation of women in many professions including in this Legislative Assembly. So it's just a honour to be able to get up and say a few words about this amazing, amazing pioneer in her medical work and, also as was pointed out, in her athletics, and of course as lieutenant governor of this Assembly and of this province.

And I was pleased to see that this government chose to name the Centre for Nuclear Innovation after her. Certainly the medical improvements that have occurred as a result of that kind of research, as the Premier indicated, has saved many, many, many, many lives. And it's through innovators like this that we can be leaders in that type of research and in cancer research in general. And certainly a lot of the *Tommy's Team*, as Dr. Houston refers to in his book, were those medical innovators that brought us things like the Cobalt-60 bomb and also the whole implementation of medicare itself.

So I'm pleased and honoured to be able to be part of the procedures today where we're paying tribute to this amazing woman. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Will the Assembly take the motion as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, an audio-video record of the oral tributes, together with the *Hansard* transcript and the resolutions adopted, be communicated in memory of the deceased to the bereaved families on behalf of the Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, an audio-video record of the oral tributes, together with the *Hansard* transcript and the resolutions adopted, be communicated in memory of the deceased to the bereaved families on behalf of the Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 85

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 85 — *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and speak to Bill No. 85, *An Act respecting Employment Standards, Occupational Health and Safety, Labour Relations and Related Matters and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we don't often get bills like this one in the legislature because they're hard to put in place, and normally they require lots of consultation because they affect so many people. And, Mr. Speaker, part of our problem today with this bill is that that consultation did not take place in a sufficient way to allow for this matter, this bill to go forward.

The concepts or some of the ideas around this bill were released right at the end of the session last year, and the bill then was released at the end of the fall session in 2012. And we assumed that there would be some labour legislation to respond to the decision of Mr. Justice Ball in February 2012, where he effectively said that the government's essential services legislation as drafted was not constitutional. And the issue in that legislation, which was much simpler and much more straightforward, was that there had not been consultation. And you just take a couple of quotes from Mr. Justice Ball to make that point. First quote: "... consultation is useful because it will usually lead to an improved statutory product."

In that particular case the government contended that they had consulted, but Mr. Justice Ball, after listening to them and after reflecting on the positions put forward by the government's lawyers, said, "The Government's first contention [about engaging in an extensive consultation process] is not supported

by the evidence.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, on this particular bill, which takes 100 years of labour laws and lays them out and then mashes them all together, had no public consultation. It had some written consultation but it did not meet the standard that Mr. Justice Ball . . . I contend, you know, I contend it doesn't meet the standard Mr. Justice Ball set out for a much simpler piece of legislation just over a year ago.

Now in Mr. Justice Ball's decision . . . The government has responded to that decision of Mr. Justice Ball in February 2012 with an appeal, and that process is ongoing. But in that particular recommendation from him in the judgment was that the government should fix the essential services legislation within a year. Now rather than doing that, it appears that the government thought, oh well let's jumble everything up. Let's go and take everything that we've done in the whole labour law area and try to jam it together in one Act.

And so in fact rather than fix a piece of legislation which was relatively easy to fix, they have moved on with a surprise to all of us — I think a surprise to employers and to all of the corporations that rely on stable labour laws, and clearly a surprise to many of the unions who have worked quite well with the employers that they've been involved with over many years, but even more so a surprise to those people who are workers in Saskatchewan that aren't in unionized jobs because this legislation starts going through and taking apart many aspects of what we've all assumed in Saskatchewan are the standards of work that we have.

Now this legislation has caused a fair amount of upset within unionized labour, but it's also raised many questions for those who are working in jobs that are not unionized. And the questions sometimes don't come from the young workers who are just starting their first job or are trying to figure out how to get a career started, but it sure comes from the parents and grandparents who are concerned about the protections that we've had that are being eroded by this legislation.

[16:00]

Now the initial response, my initial response to this legislation when I looked at it was that they — and they, I guess the minister and the people that are working with him — have had a great deal of difficulty in actually putting all these various laws together. And you can tell that by the number of times that they have to redefine terms throughout the legislation. And so when you're just . . . The whole idea from what the minister said last May was that this was to simplify the world. Well I think it has gone in exactly the opposite direction because the same word in one spot will mean something else in another spot, all in the same bill. And normally that's a sign in legislation drafting, in the legislative drafting world, that not enough time has been taken to actually produce a good product.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that would be my first point about this bill is that not enough time has been taken to talk to the people who are affected, to actually work with the words and use them in a way that is consistent throughout the whole piece of legislation. And we're then stuck with something which will be very difficult to interpret.

Now one of the jobs we have in this legislature is to be as clear as possible so that the law can stand on its own — you don't have to go and look at the legislative debate or you don't have to go and consult 10 or 15 other sources to try to figure out what we as legislators have set out to do. And, Mr. Speaker, this bill fails on that as well in that there are places where we can't tell what the ultimate result is. And part of that is that we're dealing with 100 years of legislation, 100 years of accommodation, so in other words of attempts to work out fair compromises for the good of the employer and the good of the employee.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know that the minister knows that when you have a number of court decisions or Labour Relations Board decisions around the meanings of various words that are used in legislation, it assists everybody in being clear about what the intent is. And when we bring forward a bill like this which effectively shifts around and changes the wording, it's going to be many years of interpretation to sort out exactly what is in this legislation.

All of this points to the fact that not enough time was taken. Maybe not enough staff, or the right staff weren't involved in preparing this document. And it basically I think makes the point that the minister should pull this back and take more time, talk with the people who are affected by the various parts of the legislation, and see whether there is some way to have a much clearer bill.

Now when a government comes through with a surprise — and we've seen lots of surprises from this government that nobody wanted, whether it's three more MLAs or all of the other things that you hear us talk about — what you know is they're not totally in control of what their agenda is or what they are trying to do. And this legislation in its present form is a good example of not doing your homework, not doing all of the background preparation, not doing the consultation, as Mr. Justice Ball pointed out in the essential services legislation court case. And the end effect of that one was that the legislation was declared unconstitutional.

Now we know that that other legislation is under appeal, and we're obviously looking forward to hearing what a higher court may have to say about that. But I know from reading that judgment that Mr. Justice Ball was very careful to make sure that he was right within what he saw was the Constitution of Canada around providing a fair and just system of providing essential services. That piece is not included in this legislation because we're waiting for the court decisions on it. And it is curious because the decision from a year ago's goal was kind of to help out the government and see if they couldn't fix the problem they had with their essential services legislation. Now I don't know how many court decisions and how many judges it's going to take to fix this legislation. There are so many topics and so many parts of it that are going to be raising questions right throughout the whole system.

Now we have received quite a number of comments and suggestions from various unions and various other groups from employers, and we know that a lot of employers in the province are saying, our issue isn't the labour laws of Saskatchewan; our issue is that we need more employees. We need more workers to do the job of building a good economy. And so if you think

about bringing in legislation which upsets or disrupts that economy, it kind of makes you wonder whether the government is trying to put a wet blanket on the economy or do something that will disrupt it. And I'm surprised, I'm surprised that the government has done this in a way that's going to cause further conflict within the labour situation in Saskatchewan.

So now when this legislation was brought forward, it clearly intended to run right over a whole number of people within our community who have worked hard over many years to have good legislation in Saskatchewan. And as I said before, that legislation or the interpretations that come out of the Labour Relations Board hearings or out of the courts were most often fair compromises that would allow for continued discussion between the unions and the government or as it relates to the employment standards that would end up protecting those employees that were not organized.

But let's start off by looking at some of the concerns that are there as it relates to some of the unionized employees. And if you look at the legislation itself, there are new exceptions to the definition of employee that will push many people who are currently union members out of their right to collectively bargain. And if that's the intention of the government, it appears that they've tried to do some of that. But you know, if you're going to do that, then you should be forthright about it and doing it in a way that consults with the people.

And just even going into that first point reminds me that when I read through this legislation, the thing that was probably the most frustrating was that so many of the terms and definitions and actually important factors related to the bill had to be in regulation or they were in some way prescribed. And I know that the minister knows that that ends up being a very frustrating kind of law to advise a client about, whether it's an employer or an employee. And I know that this may be his legacy in the long term — to create legal work for lawyer colleagues — but it's not a very good way to help the economy. And as we know, you can end up spending many, many dollars in litigation just to try to figure out what the law actually says.

So one of the first things this law does is it actually moves or deprives thousands of people who are currently in unions from their ability to continue to be a member of the union. There's provisions in the legislation around this definition of supervisor that requires there to be basically an exclusion of people who supervise others in work units.

Now I don't think that the government really talked to employers about this or employees when they brought this in. We're not entirely sure where it came from, but this particular clause alone is going to have a substantial effect on many existing collective agreements that incorporate people from different levels of employment within a job situation. And so there's another example of something that, I think, was included in here but it hadn't really been discussed with people who were going to be directly affected by it.

A third area — and I'm just doing a bit of a summary here — relates to some of the terms that interfere with unions' democracy, unions' financial administration. And it relates to how the union dues are remitted to a union local, instead of letting the employees decide democratically whether they want

them to go locally or whether they want them to go to a national or international union.

There's also some requirements there around audited financial statements that are quite expensive and I guess maybe creating work for our accountant professionals in the province. And also there's a . . . Rather than let unions decide for themselves democratically, how their constitutions should be written, it's put a role for the Labour Relations Board in supervising union constitutions. Now there are many, many organizations within our society, whether they're corporations or non-profit corporations or churches which are part of the non-profit corporation or other places where we don't interfere with the democratic rights of people to decide how those constitutions are put together. And I mean obviously there are some, there are remedies if there is very dramatic change, but we don't have somebody going in and monitoring them.

It's not really clear why that type of power and that type of clause is in this legislation. It certainly wasn't one that was talked about with the people who are actually affected by it before it was put into the law. And so, I mean, it's things like that where we'll have some questions in committee to try to figure out where these things came from.

[16:15]

Now another area of concern relates to the fact that employers will be in a position to voluntarily recognize a so-called union, a union that acts on behalf of some or all of the employees, without requiring that union to demonstrate the support of the workers. And this whole area of what I think are colloquially called sweetheart unions, can be used by some employees who aren't really thinking about the long term to effectively limit the worker's rights to collective bargaining through a good-faith union that they have themselves. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think that this is another area where the minister has not spent enough time talking with the people who are affected and getting something, so he's put something in here that is going to cause disruptions in workplaces, rather than actually something that will benefit our economy.

Now there are some attempts at provisions of dealing with some other issues like last offer votes, setting up some new procedures that are once again done without consultation. It's possible that some of these kinds of things might have been discussed with people so that you could work out some ways of developing offers and acceptances that are palatable to working people in the province, or to companies for that matter. But once again this kind of a provision came in as a surprise.

Now there are . . . I'm kind of identifying some of the things that are most egregious about this legislation rather than going through and detailing all the different clauses. But one of the other areas that I would point out is that the present *Trade Union Act* has a provision that protects people's jobs when there's a change in contractors for work. And this affects us in this building, I would suspect, and it affects people in other government buildings or in hospitals or at the university. And that's where there are contracts for the provision of cafeteria or food services, where there's janitorial or cleaning services, or there's security services that are in publicly owned buildings, so hospitals, universities, legislatures, municipal buildings.

What this bill does is eliminate the successorship right of those workers to have protection of their job if there's a change. And this has an effect obviously on the workers, but it also has an effect on the continued quality of the services being provided. And, Mr. Speaker, this is once again something that the minister has brought forward without talking to people at all before this has been brought forward.

And so you have a number of, quite a large number of people across the province who may be caught in this type of a situation, who are worried about their job security. And that's not fair for the workers, but it also is creating problems for the employers.

Now if, in fact, this is intended to be used by the health regions of the province — and it appears that it may be aimed at that — what I know from long experience as a minister of Health, but also in consultations I've done around the world, that one of the number one concerns in our hospitals and health facilities is cleanliness. And we know, I think right now or in the last week in Saskatoon, there are issues around some of the viruses that are in the hospital, and much of that relates to how professional the cleaning work that is done there. What we know from other countries — and I think Scotland is one place — where they have recognized that cleaning and janitorial services in health facilities may be your number one protection against hospital-related infections and hospital-related injuries.

And, Mr. Speaker, it appears that this legislation may actually be behind the times in not having it had a chance to discuss that particular issue with the people involved in this type of work. But right now, the way it's set out in this legislation, that protection of workers will be lost in this particular legislation, and so that public services will be able to be contracted out. So, Mr. Speaker, we'll be continuing to ask questions about that area as well as all of the other areas.

Now the other big area that I'm going to talk about briefly before I sit down is how minimum employment standards, the things that we have developed over many years, are being eroded. They're being pulled back on different sides and different areas.

And I know my colleague asked some questions around days off in the week, for example. Most people in Saskatchewan anticipate that Sunday might be part of their two days off a week, and that's been in the legislation for a very long time. I'm not sure that the minister talked to the council of bishops or he talked to the various churches in Saskatchewan that he had brought something forward which will erode the traditional weekend that we have and give employers the power to change some of these things. I know that there are concerns already being raised about this particular issue because it gives less power to an employee to understand where the preference of the law is as far as protecting a weekend.

Now there are a whole number of other areas where the rules appear to be eroded or they've become more flexible as it relates once again to these minimum employment standards. And I don't think that the employees of Saskatchewan who are affected by this — and they're primarily young people and perhaps older people who are in non-unionized jobs — I don't think they understand how much damage is being done to some

of these particular provisions that we have.

Now one of the things we do know is that when there are union contracts, many of these minimum standards that we've had now will be protected because that's part of the contract that has been negotiated over time. But there's no question that when you start going after the most vulnerable workers, the way this legislation seems to do, then all workers are at risk.

Now, Mr. Speaker, legislation that's this big and this comprehensive that is brought on as a surprise without proper consultation is frankly not something we should be proud of in this legislature. And I encourage the minister and the Premier to maybe rethink this, like he has the motorcycle issue, and take more time. Talk to more people. Have more legislative draftspeople go through this to make sure that it's more cohesive because what we have now is going to create a disruption of our relatively peaceful working world here in Saskatchewan. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 49

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff that **Bill No. 49** — *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2012* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in the debate on Bill 49, the forestry professional amendment Act, 2012.

Looking at the bill itself, there are some provisions to I guess remove a number of areas where the ministry is asking to remove the teaching, research in this bill. And that's one area where they're going to move that, and we're not sure what the reason is for that. And I know over time we'll find out what the reason is, whether we go into a committee and we ask questions about that section of the bill where it repeals those areas . . . And we're talking about teaching, the research. And I don't know what the reason would be at this point. And I know in committee we'll get to ask those questions, and we can really define what the reason is. And maybe they've consulted with somebody for the first time ever, that they have actually consulted with somebody to have that removed. And that would be amazing.

But having said this, I want to give some comparisons. And we talk about forestry, and it's an industry that needs some attention by the government. It also needs respect, needs some respect. When it comes to our traditional trappers, when it comes to our First Nations and Métis, we want to make sure

that those communities are being consulted.

You know, clearly there are areas . . . And I'm going to show, you know, and hopefully bring the concerns of the constituents back home, make sure that the concerns of our traditional trappers, our commercial fishermen . . . And I'm going to use examples, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because that's sometimes the only way you get the government's attention is by showing them what's going on in the real world, what's going on in our communities, and how people are being affected by decisions of this government, clearly. So we'll go on to that, and we'll talk about that.

And you know, whether you're harvesting in northern Saskatchewan or you're harvesting wood in any part of our beautiful province, there is a resource. We know that. And you know, it's really concerning when you see some of the conditions that are going on, and they're harvesting without consulting some of the impact areas.

And you know, when you talk to some of the trappers, and I want to . . . the story I've heard about. They come into their trapline, and it might be their family's trapline, five generations, six generations that their family has been in that area harvesting wildlife, fur. And that's what they're doing. They're making sure they're utilizing the resources that are there for them. And that is a resource. Just like the forest is a resource, so is the wildlife, the fur to those communities and to those traditional trappers who live off the land. And there are different trappers.

And I know, I'm going to show some comparison of what the government's framework for the duty to consult and accommodate says about trappers, about traditional land users being consulted before industry goes into an area. And I mean it could be mining. It could be foresters. And these foresters are professionals. And I want to talk about that, clearly.

Clearly in this document they talk about a professional service that they do. And they work on behalf of the industry, and they'll go into an area. But I think I'm going to show the comparisons to what I want to talk about, the challenges that we face in northern Saskatchewan, that trappers are facing.

And then I'm going to bring it back and show how it's important that we make sure these professionals understand the duty that the Supreme Court of Canada outlined that they must follow, that this government has to follow. It isn't the option they may or may not do. The Supreme Court of Canada's ruling was very clear. First Nations, Métis people, traditional users of the land must be consulted. It's the Crown's obligation to do that, and I want to make that clear. And sometimes the government and the Sask Party government doesn't hear that. They don't want to hear that. They just want to make their own deals and go directly bulldoze wherever they want.

[16:30]

So I want to make it clear. You have traditional trappers who've been in an area and harvesting furs. And it helps with not only the harvesting for the culture, and they're very proud of the culture. You talk to a lot of northerners who are traditional individuals who live and have raised their family on the trapline, who truly have that connection to the land, who

understand. And they monitor, and they make sure they take good care of the area that they're given.

And our trappers have certain zones, and we watch how they work in those areas. They work very effective, and they don't just go in and take everything out of an area that are there. They do it in a very balanced way, a very balanced approach on how they harvest the animals and the furs that they take from an area because they know, they know clearly that if an area is harvested too much, then those animals are gone, and it could take a long time for them to come back.

But having said that, I just want to show how they want to be respected. And these foresters . . . And this bill will give some provisions, and maybe more work needs to be done in this bill to understand that. And we're going to have to ask questions in committee — How is that going to connect to harvesting? — of this bill with the professionals that will be going into there.

But I want to go back to just a story about how people live off the land and the forest that they live in. And northern people do. And it's not just trappers in northern Saskatchewan. We have trappers in southern Saskatchewan as well. And they want to make sure, those that have done that, whether they're Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, they want to make sure there is a forest. They want to make sure that there is wildlife to harvest, and they want to make sure that they have access to that. And we see the industry, the prices for furs going up. It's an interesting industry. It's exciting times for the trappers, and they want some help from government.

And you have a Northern Trappers Association, and you know, I want to give some credit where credit is due, that we're trying to work hard together, the Northern Trappers Association. They have an executive, a body that works, and they work with the PAGC [Prince Albert Grand Council]. They're also working with Meadow Lake Tribal Council. They're trying to do what they can to use the supports that they have for their industry because a lot of them are First Nations, Métis, and non-Aboriginal that are in northern Saskatchewan.

But the majority are Aboriginal that are on the traditional traplines and trap. They do. And they want to pass that knowledge — the culture and the wisdom that they have gained from their grandparents, their mushom, their kohkom — they want to pass that and hand that down to the next generation to their grandchildren. And when you see some of the trappers with their families, their kids and their grandkids, and they go back to the trapline every year, and they want to make sure, you know, clearly there is a process there.

And there's a lot of wooded area, forest, where their traplines are. It isn't like you come into southern Saskatchewan where you might have a small area of forest. But unfortunately in northern Saskatchewan and where these traplines are, traditionally they are just . . . There are so much forest that there isn't a lot of clear land that . . . unless somebody's been in there harvesting.

And sometimes whether it's a fire . . . There's a way that the land, you know, traditional trappers that have their land . . . It could be a fire, mother nature. It could be somebody coming in the area makes a mistake with a cigarette — who knows? —

open fire, and next thing you know you have a fire.

But having said that, I just want to show the support that this Northern Trappers Association's getting. They're going to have their annual general meeting coming up, and we'll be there. But they want to make sure, and I've heard this at the trappers' meetings very clearly, before somebody comes into their trapping area and is going to harvest wood, that's going to come in and do damage to their trapline, and they do see it as damage because it's their lifestyle and it's their culture, the way of life that they have lived for generation after generation. And they're very proud, and some of them live that traditional lifestyle, they still live off the land.

And you know what? I know that the Northern Trappers Association sent letters to the Minister of Environment, clearly stating that before any industry comes into their traditional traplines that the northern trappers want to be consulted. That's the obligation that the Crown, the Supreme Court made very clear, the Crown had the obligation to do. That process has to happen. So they've served notice, the Northern Trappers Association, to the First Nations, to the Métis, to the government, letting them know, before you come into our traditional traplines and you impact our trapline, we want to be consulted.

They're not saying that they're opposed to industry and the economics and understanding. They're not. They've said that. I've talked to some of them. They're willing to work but they want to be consulted. And they want to say, well maybe, you know, there is a better way of doing it if you consult with them. And maybe there's areas where they want protected a little more because there's certain reasons why they don't want anybody going in and harvesting the wood or doing damage to their trapline.

They just want to feel . . . they want to be heard and they feel they have a right. And the Supreme Court of Canada I think made that very clearly. There is an obligation to traditional land users like First Nations, Métis, and our trappers.

So they sent out the notice again to the government. And what does the government do? It sends back, I guess, a letter notifying the Northern Trappers Association that the mechanism, the framework for the duty to consult and accommodate, will not be triggered if it is a commercial trapper.

These traditional trappers clearly . . . And I say traditional trappers who live off the land and are trying to teach it to their next generation, you look at the response when they received the letter. And I've got a copy of that letter that they shared with me. And the frustration, and I know that they've passed that on to the tribal councils, the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations], on their behalf, to look at this.

And the response was this, if they are a commercial trapper, then the mechanism to trigger the duty to consult and accommodate will not be triggered because they classify them as a commercial trapper. So let me give you a story and I don't know, it has to be, there has to be . . . We have to clear this up.

An Hon. Member: — Make it a short story.

Mr. Vermette: — No, it's going to be very long. They have to clear up this matter. Is it somebody who's taken their grandchildren and their family and they go back to the trapline and they spend a lot of time on the trapline. And I think of individuals from Stanley Mission, you know, Adam O. Charles who's a traditional trapper, who, with his grandchildren, there's so much pride. You watch this man and the way he goes back every, every, every year to his traditional trapline and they harvest the fur from the animals in his area.

And just the way the man tries to share with the community, his grandchildren, and all of us the culture and the pride, and how the healthy choices of food that they get to eat . . . It's amazing to watch how he believes in it when he's concerned about diabetes and he's concerned about the way Aboriginal . . . And you look at the diabetes, and he says, live off the land the way they did, there wasn't as many problems. And to watch him talk about that, it's amazing.

So when I say this, here you go. You have an individual who's trying to share that with not only his grandchildren but all of northern people and anyone else. He'll share that knowledge and understand and the wisdom he has. But having said that, here's an individual, like I said, he goes to the trapline. He brings his grandchildren and he may bring some other individuals to teach and so that they can see the culture and the custom and the way they live. And he does some harvesting of the fur and he sets out his traps and he goes on his traplines and together they — him and wife, Jean — they take the animal and they prepare it. And they take the fur from it and they eat the meat. And they use so much of that animal, it's not wasted done the way they do it. It's just to watch . . . And there's the culture.

And at the end of the day, they take some of those furs and they use them. And they might make mukluks, mitts for themselves, and the different things that they make. And then you see the gloves, the mitts that are made in northern Saskatchewan by some of the traditional trappers and traditional . . . the culture that they have. And you see some of the coats and you see some of the beadwork and some of the work that they do, the custom that they do, and they hand this on to generation to generation.

But having said that, so the cost to them to have a Ski-Doo and to buy the traps, the fuel that they need to go to their trapline, whether they're flying in because they . . . [inaudible] . . . another way or they skidoo in. There's different ways, the cost, they get in there and do that. And they want that lifestyle and they don't make a lot of money, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they don't. But they want to teach something to their grandchildren and they want to keep that going.

So now all of a sudden the government says, yes you're living a traditional lifestyle, we see that, but because you sold one of your furs, because you sold one fur to try to get some, to try to get some resources to help you put fuel in your Ski-Doo or to pay for some of the traps or to cover some of your cost, food, while you're out there, whatever they need — whether it was coffee, whatever it is — the government's saying, well if they're a commercial trapper then it doesn't trigger and we don't have to consult them. The ministry, it says in their document, the duty to consult and accommodate framework that they came up with, the government, Sask Party government came up with, that I said earlier was rejected by FSIN, by the

Métis Nation not only once but I believe twice was rejected. So that tells me something. You're saying, here's the document the way it is and you have to accept it. And it's not being accepted. So having said that, that's how the northern trappers got treated by the Ministry of Environment.

Now I want to go back and share a little more and use comparisons because this bill and these individuals that are going to be certified or they're going to have the experience to go and actually do the work of the industry, we have to make sure that they understand what's going on in there when they go into an area — that we have traditional trappers, that we have individuals, whether they're First Nations, Métis, whether they're commercial fisherman, the impacts of going on.

And when I think about this, and again I want to even go a little further on this because I think it's important. They're an organization that's trying to work for northern Saskatchewan and it's the northern trappers. And I know there's an organization in the South that have a trappers association. But the Northern Trappers Association, they're trying to lobby and work on behalf and trying to keep the industry, the culture going, making sure that there is an opportunity for trappers to harvest.

So having said that, they apply for a little bit of money, and they put in a proposal to the government. And then the government says, oh yes, we're going to look at it. And a meeting was set up. And I'll give credit to the Minister of Environment, you know, he did come to a meeting. He met with them. He accepts the proposal. But unfortunately he gave them the sad news: we're not giving you any money for your proposal. I'm sorry, we don't have it, even though he said they would do that. So there you go.

And I just want to show some comparisons, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But clearly here's what I'll say: we have millions for more politicians, we have money for hardwood floor, but we don't have money to help an industry that's so proud. And a very small amount of money that they were asking for, very small amount of money, I think it was in the neighbourhood of 80, \$90,000. It wasn't much but they could have done so much to help the industry. But unfortunately the government couldn't find it, any money for them.

But having said that, I want to come back to this bill, Bill 49, and where they're saying they're going to have individuals who will be, if it's certified to be a forester, to go out on behalf of the industry and do the good work of the industry out there, to harvest wood and prepare. How do we do this? How will this impact? How will it impact the land? And I just have to assume because I don't have all the details here, you know, we get this bill and there's not . . . So we're going to have to, you know, have a lot of conversation in committee. But this gives us an opportunity just to initially start our conversations, so the people back home who are listening and who have raised concerns about the way the forest, the environment protection . . . And I talked about that a little bit, and I think I'm going to go back because this is a good example, and this was a bill that you can use to talk about protecting the forest, the environment.

And you look at the damage and even the wildfires that are going on, you know, the government's policy, we've asked

them to review that, the let-it-burn policy. So how was this group be monitoring, and how will they be working with the government's policy? That's been asked by people, for a complete review of northerners because of the damage that it's doing not only to the rivers, to the fish from forest fires that are going on, but to traditional traplines that are burnt out, to the way of life — healthy choices, that Aboriginal people have that choice who live the traditional life, who live off the caribou, the wildlife, the berries. And I go on with the custom and the culture and the way of life that they had. And some of them still hold on to that way of life and take it very serious.

[16:45]

So when we walk about Bill 49, how will these individuals, and I don't know that they will have much impact because I don't know. We'll have to work this out in committee when it goes to committee, but it's going to be interesting to see how are we going to make sure that these individuals that will be going off the land . . . And there's some of them and I have to give them credit, there's some of them are very educated. There's some of them that know a lot about the forest, about the culture, about the way of life of First Nations and Métis, of northerners, of the way our trappers live off the land, the way the commercial fishers . . . So they have to, there's provisions that they have now.

They're supposed to be the experts in the area. They're supposed to make sure that they take care of the environment, the water. There's a lot of regulations that they will have to follow. And these individuals . . . And it's going to be worked out again, like I said, on Bill 49, we're going to have to work it out and we're going to have to . . . But I'm going to go back and use some examples again because I think it's good to do that. And with this bill we have a little bit of leeway to show some examples on how this could impact Northern Saskatchewan, but also in the rest of the province when it comes to forestry.

Now you sometimes can, you know, you look at the profession. There are, you know, individuals and they want to harvest wood. And there are some of them harvesting wood in our province and that's fine. And right now there's regulations that they have to follow, and if they're not in compliance then we have enforcement. And Environment has enforcement officers; they will go out and they will see if you're in compliance. And if you're not in compliance, well there's provisions for them to give you fines. They might give you timelines to clean things up. They might say, you need to adjust this. You're blocking off a water or a stream or you're creating . . . You're stopping the flow of the water, and they may not like that.

And some of these individuals, they work mainly in the wintertime. And they may go out to harvest wood and to get what they need out of the forest in winter. But there's all those provisions and regulations that these individuals have to learn. And they're going to be the experts to know.

And that's my understanding of this bill is, you're going to have those foresters who are out there who have to know the rules, who have to know the regulations, who have to know whether it's oceans, you know, and fisheries. They have to know that. So when I say that they're going to have a lot of knowledge, how much knowledge will they have? And I hope . . . And I

don't see any provisions in here, and maybe in committee we can work that out. What provisions are there to understand about the obligations of what the duty to consult and accommodate traditional land users — our trappers, our fishermen, our First Nations and Métis communities — that are impacted by foresters going in there and looking, and by companies in the industry going in and wanting to harvest in there? What provisions are there?

So there's a lot of questions that individuals have out there, and I know that. You hear these individuals when you're going to the trappers' meetings, when you're going to meet with leaders. They talk about the environment. You hear that around the tables. People are concerned about the environment. And this group will harvest a lot of our forest. And sometimes, you know what? There's areas where maybe it's all right and we need it to be harvested, and there's reasons why they're going into areas. And I mean sometimes we have a certain disease that will attack the trees, and maybe there's a reason why we want to go in certain areas and harvest.

And maybe if you explain that to a traditional person who is living on the land, or First Nations, Métis, or citizens, or a community that's going to be impacted by the way you're harvesting, you have an obligation as a government, and the Crown does, to consult with those individuals to make sure they understand why that's happening. Not go and harvest and start cutting everything down, and clear-cutting, and then say, oh yes, well, yes.

And I've heard stories about that, that a trapper will go to his trapline and all of a sudden somebody's been in there harvesting away, and there's so much of his trapline has been harvested, cut down. And he's looking; he's wondering, how did this happen? And it might be a trapper. I even heard of some of the cabins, the trapper cabin that he stays in — gone, you know, for whatever reason. He's wondering what's going on. And so you have the frustration. And when you listen to some of the trappers and you hear some of the concerns of traditional land users, that's the frustration.

So if this group of foresters are going to understand, they've got to make sure that they understand the impact that they're having on traditional land users, and that's clear. But I have shown an example that I've used to try to have, you know, a comparison to what's going on and how strong these individuals feel and the compassion they have for their lifestyle, for their grandchildren, to hand it on to the next generation. Clearly I want to show that. But there's so much in this bill that could impact our forests in our province and the way they can be impacted. But I think clearly the government has the obligation, and in committee we'll have a lot of questions for this.

But I think it's important. And I want to go back to some of this. And we look at this, our forest, and we look at northern Saskatchewan, and I've raised this before and I've shared this with some, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this bill, will this bill . . . These harvesters that are going out there, in any way will they be able to go into the forest and if they see something happening — because of the training that they have, because of the experience, because they are professionals in their industry — will they be able to go into an area and see . . . And they can see if there's a disease going to be affecting an area working in

their field. They can definitely bring that information to the traditional land users, to environment, to say, here we've noticed this. And I mean there might be putting out little areas where they have testing, where they're doing, where they'll know if it's being infested by some type of a bug, you know. We've seen like in BC and Alberta, you have the forests . . . Are these individuals going to be monitoring?

And when I go on and I talk about the damage that greenhouse gases . . . When we look at that, the pollution, is that impacting our trees? And can these individuals and would this bill give these experts and these professional people some ability to monitor that, and is that in here? And I don't know that it is. This talks about what they will have, what they are taking away, and how they want to certify. And if you look at it . . . But there's so many questions that we have on this bill.

And I say, I was sharing earlier, you know, and you think of the communities, and some of I guess the concern that individuals have. And for those that didn't hear this, you have some communities in northern Saskatchewan — and I think of Camsell Portage, and I think of someone that's close to me over there — that, you know, certain winds come in, you know, and the wind is coming from we'll say the side of Alberta, and it comes. And there's certain days there's a film. And I don't know. She tried to explain it. It's sticky, rusty. She said there was a film on everything. And they have to deal with that. And obviously if that's in their community, it's happening. It's going on our trees.

And will these individuals be monitoring that? Will they have the opportunity and will they report that? And when they're having certain experts in those areas, will there be tools for them? And well that's what we're going to have to work out. Will they be watching for this stuff out there and making sure that they're advising Environment of these conditions? Is that provision in here or is there regulations that are going to allow it?

And that's kind of a lot of the questions we're having, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this area, and I mean whether it's protecting the forest, whether it's provisions in here. And you talk about the minister's comments in here and he refers to giving them, making sure that it's not just any individual that can go out there and start — from my understanding, what I got — that just can't go out into the industry and just start saying, well they're an expert and they're going to go . . . And they talk about the seal and about the profession, about . . . So if it's certification, is it making sure that that group . . .

And we know that, that we have other industry and other groups where they get a certification. It's a seal and it says that they are certified and they have got the education and the expertise, and they've done and they've met the qualifications to give proof on what they're talking about. And they are the experts, and they can bring that forward. And that's what it sounds like to me, a provision in here that the minister was trying to do in his notes, and I look at that.

So when I say that, I'm hoping that in those regulations . . . And if individuals will be the experts, do they understand about the process on how do you reach out to the traditional land users that will be impacted, when they're in there looking at the trees

to harvest for the industry? And how do they communicate? Are they going to go directly to the trapper? Is there an obligation there? I think there is. Or do they think they can go to the, you know, the mayor and council? Is the process to the chief and council? Is it to the Métis leaders? What is the process? And how are they doing this? But I know the trappers and the Northern Trappers Association made it very clear they want to be consulted and their trappers want to be consulted before people go on their land and their traditional land and do any impact that will impact their traditional lifestyle and their traditional land. They want to be consulted.

So that is clear, and we're not sure that that's going to happen. And how do we ensure, how do we ensure that that happens? Well this is the venue where we ensure that the concerns of our northern trappers, the concerns of trappers in the province do have their concerns raised here in the House, whether they're here or whether it's in committee.

And as I attend the meetings with them, they share. And you know, you're having coffee. And you go around and you have a coffee, a cup of tea, and you sit there with some of our elders, and the traditional individuals live off the land. And they're concerned about the forest and they're concerned about environment. And I've talked about this.

So these individuals here we're talking about that will be the experts in that field, in forestry, will go on. They have, and I think this provision's going to give them a lot of . . . And I'm not sure if it is, and that's why we're going to have to work this out, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Will it give them any more clout? Will it give them any more?

Will they have to have more training? Will they have to be certified in a certain way? Is it going to be the industry that will say who is the expert, who is not? Who is going to be certified? Who will be the experts to go into the areas and say, yes, we've done this study? We've gone into an area. We've done the research. Or we've looked at what we need to look at, and as far as our professional opinion and our certification, we can say this, this, this, this.

And I mean there are individuals out there, I know, who have a lot of knowledge of the forest, and each company has to have, you know, a plan and how they're going to harvest and that. And if these individuals are the ones doing it, will the regulations come out clearly on how that's going to be done? Or do we have to ask these questions in committee? But having said that, I've got quite a bit more I want to talk about on this one because I think it's important to relate back to the provisions in here.

So having said that, now let's just say somebody does have a cabin and a trapline. And right now they have a certain area, and it could be 10 miles by 10 miles, so it's a pretty fair size of a trapline. And let's just say the industry wants to go in there, and they want to harvest wood now.

And this is why I say it's important that these professionals understand. And is the government making sure that they understand that there is an obligation of the Crown because of the Supreme Court of Canada ruling saying First Nations and Métis traditional land users must be consulted and

accommodated? And sometimes, you know, we talk about the accommodations, and a lot of people don't understand that. And I think it's going to come out clear: what did that ruling mean? And I think people are going to find out, and they're going to try to find out. And we need to find out, and the government needs to know what is exactly . . . And I mean everyone's going to have their definition of it. But to consult and accommodate, and that could be meaning a trapper who has a 10 mile by 10 mile say, well yes, I know you're going to come in here and harvest, and you're telling me you're going in this area. But this area over here we've always had as our family, and there's a lot of berries in this area or mushrooms or we use this quite a bit. Can you not put your road through there? Could you make your road go around?

And that's what I look at, some accommodations. Is that what it means? And it could mean as little as that — that they consult with the individual and they make the road in a different area. That's what we're talking about it. Or accommodate, does it mean if you're going to come in here, is it accommodate . . . In what way does it mean you have to accommodate them? Is it you have to give them a trapline in another area? How is it you're going to accommodate them? And I think that's the very concern that they're starting to wonder about. What does that mean?

They understand about consulting, but they know the government doesn't consult them. They know that. They understand that. The word's used nice, and the government likes to say the word, but they actually never do that. We see the way the government's been handling some of that. So I know I look at that.

So where do we go from here? And how do we ensure that the government consults the traditional land users? And how do we ensure that the government is going to use this bill and these provisions to deal with this type of legislation that they're introducing? And it might be, you know, minor stuff, and sometimes we have housecleaning stuff, but unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this one isn't just house . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — It now being past the hour of 5 o'clock, this House stands recessed till 7 p.m.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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Bill No. 49 — *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2012*

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President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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Minister Responsible for The Global
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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

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

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Minister Responsible for First Nations,
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Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

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Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General