



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

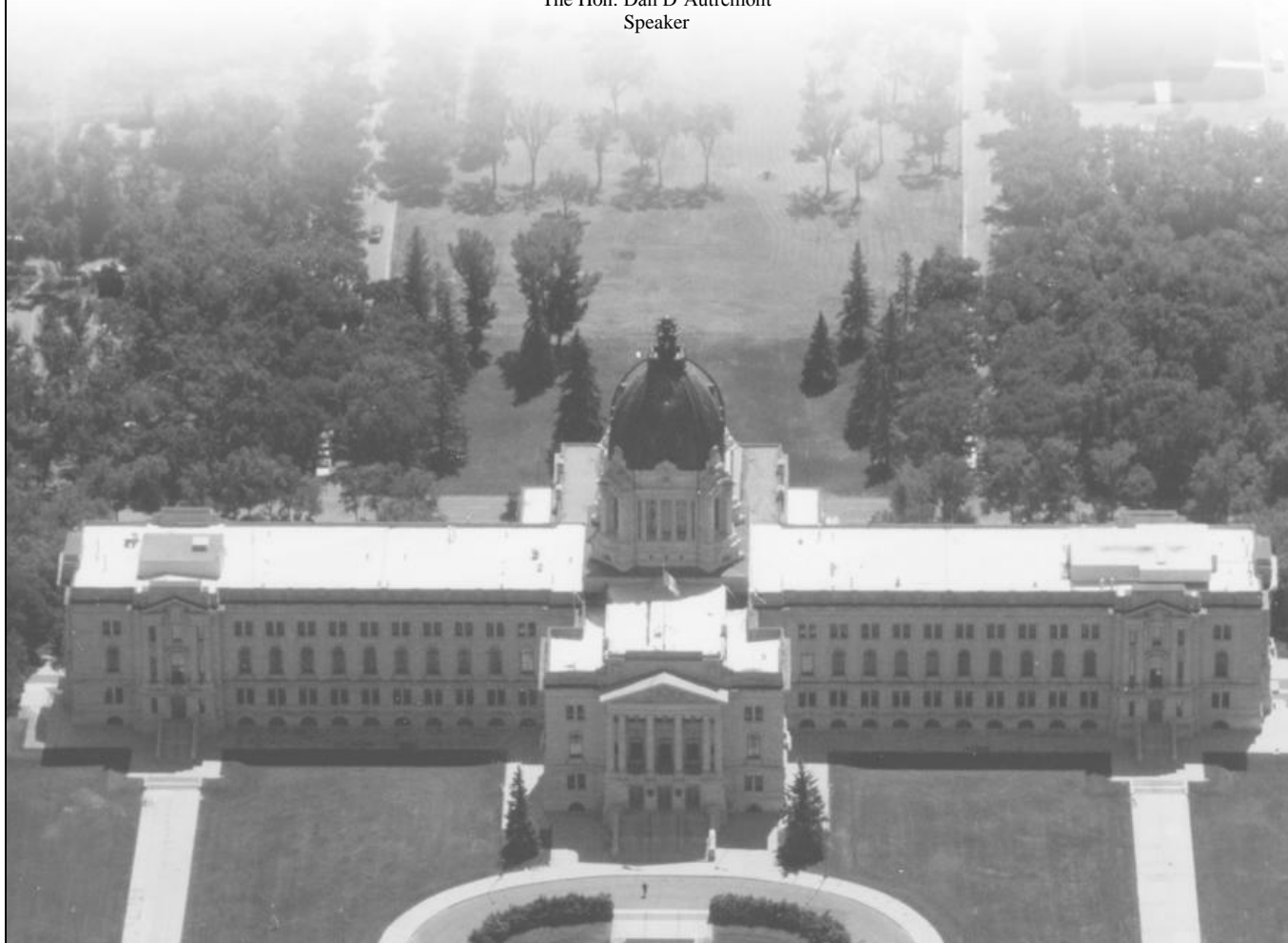
of the

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 — Cam Broten

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 Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I would like to introduce some special guests in the legislature today as we celebrate National Volunteer Week. Today we have some of these fine volunteers with us. You will hear a little bit more about the great work that these particular volunteers do, Mr. Speaker, in a member's statement that is to follow here shortly, but I'd just like to mention who these people are.

Seated in the government gallery, Mr. Speaker, we have the following members of the tea steering committee for Government House. We have Barb Binnie — you can just give us a wave, Barb; there we are — who is this year's recipient of the Marj Ewart and Betty Westmoreland Volunteer Award. We have Leona Howe. We have Sheila Carson, Connie Van Dusen who is also the special events coordinator. And we also have with us members of the Government House Historical Society board, Mr. Speaker. We have Janice Routley, from the board of directors. We have Iris Sirke, vice-president and treasurer; Isabelle Zohner who is the president.

And I had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago to attend their awards ceremony and had a great evening with their folks and the association. Accompanying them as well is Carrie Ross, the executive director of Government House; Chad Debert, assistant manager; Amanda Girardin, visitor experience manager; and Gwen Jacobson, director of operations with the Provincial Capital Commission.

Mr. Speaker, these folks are very excited to be here today, so I ask that all members please join me in giving them a warm welcome to their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to, on behalf of the official opposition, to join with the minister in welcoming these folks who work so hard at Government House, both as volunteers through the society, but as staff through the Provincial Capital Commission as well. Certainly it's a real jewel here in the Queen City that we're all very proud of, and we are thankful for the great work that is done to make it all that it is.

So I join with the minister in thanking these people for the important work that they do. And we look forward to the member's statement coming up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Central Services.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask all my colleagues in the House to welcome 29 public service employees that are seated in your gallery. They are here today to participate in the parliamentary program for the public service. The ministries represented today are folks from Agriculture, Central Services, Economy, Finance, Health, Justice, Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, Provincial Capital Commission, Public Service Commission, Social Services, and the Legislative Assembly Service.

Mr. Speaker, it's a day that they get to spend in the legislature taking in tours, speaking with various people who are involved in the process including, I believe, folks from your office and you as well and members of the opposition. And I look forward to meeting with them later today to discuss what it's like to be a cabinet minister and an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. And I ask all my colleagues to welcome them to their legislature today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming the group from the public service. We know it's an action-packed day of meetings and events, receiving some exposure to what goes on here in the legislature.

And we want to say thank you for all the work that you do throughout the year in providing services to people in this province and helping with the policy work that needs to be done here in Saskatchewan. And I look forward to meeting with you later on this afternoon and having a visit and having some questions and answers, hopefully. So welcome today, and I hope you have an informative and enjoyable afternoon.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I'd like to take this opportunity during the proclamation of National Immunization Awareness Week to recognize representatives from the Rx&D, that's Canada's research-based pharmaceutical company. Seated in your gallery are Renae Hunter, Phoenix Clarke, and Bonnie Swan.

The Rx&D's mission is to continually improve the ability to treat, manage, and prevent, cure illnesses that affect many Canadians, Mr. Speaker. And we want to welcome these individuals on this particularly special week, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members, three individuals seated in your gallery: Trevor McKenzie-Smith, Michelle Beveridge, and Dave Mitchell, three individuals that are active within the New Democratic Party.

Trevor was the co-manager for my leadership campaign, and I very much want to thank him for all the work that he did. Michelle and Dave were active on another campaign, and are

very talented as well. And I'm very pleased that we're on the same team now. So I'd ask all members to welcome these individuals to the Assembly.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming the representatives of the public service here today. And in particular I'd like to welcome two of my old co-workers, Stella Juma-Anderson — give us a wave — and Donna Wilchuck, both members that I worked with at immigration. I'd like to welcome them on behalf of the government again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand today to present a petition in reference to cellphone coverage for the northwest. And, Mr. Speaker, the petition reads as follows in the prayer:

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

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this particular petition are primarily from St. George's Hill and Dillon. And the amazing thing about this petition is that it's been signed from people from all throughout Saskatchewan. 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 present a petition calling for the reconsideration of passing Bill 85, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. And we know since the 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 there's 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. Stable labour relations in all sectors run the risk of being thrown into turmoil as a result of Bill 85's sweeping changes. Thousands of represented workers stand to lose their rights to bargain collectively and be represented by the union of their choice. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the Government of Saskatchewan to 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, people signing this petition come from Shellbrook, Spiritwood, Leoville and Big River. I do so present. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Administrative Professionals Day

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the House today to recognize Administrative Professionals Day. Today is an opportunity for members to express gratitude and appreciation for some of the hardest working people in our workplaces. Mr. Speaker, I would like to specifically recognize all those who work in caucus and ministers' offices as well as constituency offices across the province.

I know I'm speaking for our entire caucus, Mr. Speaker, when I say we are able to perform our duties more effectively thanks to the hard work that Terry Lynn Carefoot does each day and every day in our caucus office. I would also like to recognize and thank all the constituency assistants who act as our eyes and ears at home when we can't be there and are our vital link with our constituents. I'd especially like to thank my CA [constituency assistant], Carol Mellnick, who has worked with me for the past 14 years.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals provide professional, efficient, and timely assistance that goes well beyond what is required. They are detail people and the work they do all too often goes unrecognized. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all administrative professionals that I work with, and I encourage all members to make this a special day for those professionals who keep us on track day in and day out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Walk to Ottawa

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, Bruce McKenzie, a member of Lac La Ronge Indian Band and a resident of Stanley Mission, has organized a walk to Ottawa in protest of the Conservative government Bill C-45. Bruce, along with seven other community members, left Stanley Mission on Saturday, March 16th and they plan to arrive in Ottawa on June 21st, National Aboriginal Day. The 3450 kilometre walk will go through the communities of Saskatoon, Yorkton, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, and finally Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, the walkers have already walked over 1000 kilometres. They arrived in Winnipeg this past weekend and participated in the 7th Generation Walk for Mother Earth on Sunday, April 21st. Mr. Speaker, the walk has been honoured with the name "A Sacred Journey for Future Generations." As part of the Idle No More movement the organizers believe that Bill C-45 will have long-term impact on the environment and

will also have negative effects on treaty and Aboriginal rights.

Mr. Speaker, I pray the Creator will provide Mr. McKenzie and all those that will participate in this walk a safe journey. I ask all members to join me in honouring these walkers.

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

Recognizing Government House Volunteers

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week we pay tribute to volunteers as we celebrate National Volunteer Week. This year's campaign recognizes individual volunteers across Canada who dedicate themselves to improving their communities. And that is why today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the volunteers from the Government House Historical Society.

In 2012 the Government House Historical Society volunteers contributed over 10,000 hours of their time at events, functions that brought visitors to Government House. This group of volunteers fundraise, restore original Government House artifacts and assist at Government House functions.

They also hold a number of their own events throughout the year. From their popular Victorian teas, which recently received international recognition by winning This England's Finest Tea Room Award, to their black tie auction, to their growing junior volunteer club called Jocko's Friends, last year their events translated into almost 3,300 additional visitor hours to Government House.

They also set a fine example to their junior members, who volunteer over 100 hours themselves. Mr. Speaker, many of the special events and programs at Government House would not be possible without these selfless volunteers. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Stubborn Behaviour

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, well, well, we have a problem here. We have all seen the stubborn behaviour, the lack of action, the refusal to admit mistakes. Some things never change, Mr. Speaker. Day after day we see the same thing, and it's unacceptable. And the people of Saskatchewan frankly deserve better.

He has no new ideas, and in recent weeks we haven't seen his leadership. Sometimes he's angry. Sometimes he's mild, and sometimes he blusters. We have heard complaints from across the province. Coffee row is talking about nothing else, Mr. Speaker. Criticism is gusting in from all sides.

And you want to talk about flip-flopping, Mr. Speaker? Some days we think we see cracks in the ice, but other days there is a chill in the air. The people of Saskatchewan are tired and demand a change. We've seen enough of these tactics, Mr. Speaker. He's been around too long. It's time for old man winter to retire.

As the people of Saskatchewan try to escape his grip, he continues with his same old approach. Mr. Speaker, he has shut down a record number of roads this year. We are all familiar with his past record but the jury is still out, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan can't decide if his record was worse in the winter of 1947 or with the storm in 1974. What they do know, Mr. Speaker, is that six months of old man winter is too long. Hopefully the spring brings winds of change.

[13:45]

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

National Immunization Awareness Week

Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As was referenced earlier today, this is National Immunization Awareness Week, Mr. Speaker. This is an opportunity to reflect on the success of immunization in preventing disease and saving lives and also to remind Saskatchewan residents about the importance of being vaccinated.

Over the past 50 years, vaccines have saved the lives of more babies and children than any other medical intervention. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has shown true leadership in vaccine management. We were in fact the first province to vaccinate all children born on-reserve for hepatitis A, and in 2010 we were also amongst the first to introduce a whooping cough booster and have since expanded its availability to all adults.

Our province offers a comprehensive immunization program. Each year Saskatchewan people receive some 550,000 immunizations against diseases, including 175,000 influenza vaccines. We provide vaccines for routine infant, preschool, and school immunization programs as well as for adults.

Mr. Speaker, last fall we expanded our infant immunization program by adding a rotavirus vaccine to the routine childhood immunization schedule that will reduce hospitalizations for small children. Our government will continue to work with health care providers to deliver the best possible health care, to prevent our . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Thank you, Mr. Speaker . . . to ensure that our people do well in our growing province. Thank you so much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Stobart Community School Grand Opening

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to highlight one of our government's investments in my home constituency of Batoche. Mr. Speaker, our government knows that investing in school infrastructure is investing in our students.

Last week I had the opportunity to witness that first-hand by attending the grand opening of Stobart Community School in the community of Duck Lake. In 2008 our government announced funding for this project, and it was great to see the community come together to celebrate its completion. We want to do everything we can to ensure students' success, Mr. Speaker, and we know that the physical environment of the school has a large impact on achieving just that. Stobart

Community School is a great example of what linking education to the larger community can look like.

This \$20 million facility boasts many important features, including child and daycare centres, adult learning, an industrial arts classrooms, a full-size kitchen centre, regional college space, two gyms, and a community fitness room which ensures that this school will be a community hub for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our government's record for school infrastructure: over 600 million to support our students and our communities to date, and we won't stop there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Moose Jaw Bantam Oilers Win Provincial Championship

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to commend the hard work and dedication of the Moose Jaw Bantam Oilers. The Oilers have recently wrapped up a successful season, making it to the league final in Moose Jaw, then going on to win the provincial championships. The team and their coaches travelled to the provincial championships in Saskatoon where they beat out the Saskatoon Red Wings in a very exciting two-game, total-point series by a score of 11 to 9.

We all know the commitment coaches and parents make to minor sports, and it takes a committed group to help get to this level. Congratulation to the coaches, Gord Currie, Jeff Parr, Dave Stevenson, and Brett McAuley. It was a focused team effort that accomplished this victory, and now the provincial banner will proudly hang in the Bert Hunt Arena for years to come.

To quote the great one who was also an Oiler, "Hockey is a unique sport in the sense that you need each and every guy helping each other and pulling in the same direction to be successful."

I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in congratulating the Moose Jaw Bantam Oilers on their win, and recognizing all the hard work, commitment, and dedication by everyone involved with the team.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Health Care for Seniors

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard many examples over the past week of instances where the care for seniors in our province is simply not up to the standards that we expect for our parents and our grandparents. And frankly, Mr. Speaker, it's not close to the standard that they deserve. We've heard about calls for help, Mr. Speaker, in care facilities not being answered. We've heard about seniors being left unattended on toilets for hours because the staff were not properly in the numbers there to care for them. We've heard

about seniors missing their weekly baths, Mr. Speaker, all because of chronic understaffing.

But none of that seemed to get the Premier's attention. But perhaps this will. Barbara Blyth is 84 years old. She has incurable cancer, and she recently broke her foot. Barbara's home care worker concluded that it was not healthy or safe for Barbara to be in her own home. But there was absolutely nowhere for Barbara to go, so she ended up in a women's shelter.

My specific question to the Deputy Premier: does he think it's acceptable to put an 84-year-old woman with cancer, with a broken foot, in a women's shelter?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We within the health care system strive to provide the appropriate care in the appropriate setting where we can, where that is possible, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not aware of the particulars of the case, Mr. Speaker. I would be very happy to follow up with the Leader of the Opposition. But certainly I would make that offer to him to follow up directly with this individual.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this 84-year-old woman with cancer and a broken foot lives in La Ronge, and she recently wrote a public letter which says:

There is a desperate need for long-term care here in northern Saskatchewan, but I was not surprised at all to see it ignored when the budget came out recently . . .

In 2010, a report indicated that La Ronge needs three times as many long-term care beds than it has currently, yet there's nothing in the budget for the community.

Barbara Blyth wants to know, Mr. Speaker, why seniors' care, especially seniors' care in northern Saskatchewan, is not nearly enough of a priority for the Sask Party government. My question to the Deputy Premier: what does he have to say to Barbara Blyth and the situation that she has found herself in?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, we certainly know that this has been in fact a long-standing issue in terms of long-term bed coverage within northern Saskatchewan, particularly in the La Ronge area, Mr. Speaker. We have tried to provide supports to that health region, Mr. Speaker, through increased funding. As well, Mr. Speaker, where there are other options for care, perhaps in personal care homes, Mr. Speaker, we have provided additional funding to and a new program through this government, Mr. Speaker, to subsidize the cost of personal private care homes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we know that we have a long ways to go when it comes to not only the replacement of long-term care facilities. We currently have a budget, money in this budget, Mr. Speaker,

to continue with 12 of the 13 that have already been announced, Mr. Speaker. But we certainly know that this is a, particularly for the area of La Ronge, this is a long-standing issue that frankly does need to be addressed.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Barbara Blyth is concerned about her experience and what happened to her, and rightfully so. She had this to say in the public letter that she wrote:

The Saskatchewan Party government is refusing to give northern seniors what they deserve — respect and long-term care closer to their families. I doubt that Premier Wall would allow this to happen if there was a similar shortage of spaces in Swift Current.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government is refusing to give northern seniors what they deserve. And this is the reality that Barbara Blyth knows all too well for herself and many other people living in the North. And it's a reality shared by many people throughout Saskatchewan, not just in the North, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party government is stubbornly refusing to take the right steps in order to ensure that people like Barbara Blyth don't end up in the situation that she experienced.

My question to the Deputy Premier: will he admit that the seniors here in Saskatchewan deserve far better than what they're getting under the Sask Party government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, in general, senior support by this government, compared to the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, has seen a significant increase in support — whether it be the seniors' income plan, which the members opposite increased in 1991, Mr. Speaker, and then never again for 16 years touched the seniors' income plan, Mr. Speaker, or whether it be subsidizing care for those seniors that are in personal care homes, Mr. Speaker. We have a program in place that subsidizes the cost of personal care home placement, Mr. Speaker. We have doubled the number of seniors that are eligible for the seniors' income plan, Mr. Speaker — something that the members opposite could have done in their days in office, Mr. Speaker. They had 16 years to do that, Mr. Speaker, and they didn't do that, Mr. Speaker.

As well, Mr. Speaker, we acknowledge that we need to do more in long-term care in terms of replacing aging facilities, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite will know that over \$1.2 billion was required to replace and to upgrade long-term health capital, Mr. Speaker, in this province. We are making strides to do that, included in this budget for 12 long-term care facilities.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members opposite can give these answers, Mr. Speaker, but the problem is, is that there's an increasing sense of a disconnect between the answers that government members on the front bench are giving and what's being experienced by people in their communities.

And we see it very clear, Mr. Speaker, with the situation of

Barbara. We saw it with Carrie Klassen, Mr. Speaker. And we've heard and we've seen it as other individuals have come forward, have come forward to share their stories and show that they're not receiving the care that they need.

When we look at the decisions that have happened under the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, we see a discussion about the possible closure of the pediatric oncology ward and the pediatric intensive care unit. We see a hiring freeze and elimination of overtime in the Saskatoon Health Region. In Regina, Mr. Speaker, we have the very troubling situation of a man being cut off from home care services, aware that the same letter was sent out to many other people. We see chronic understaffing, Mr. Speaker, concerns from front-line health care providers about the type of care that they're able to provide to residents. And, Mr. Speaker, we have an 84-year-old woman in La Ronge with a broken foot, with cancer, with nowhere to go and forced to go to a women's shelter.

None of this would we expect, Mr. Speaker, when the economy is doing as well as it is, and this is the disconnect. My question to the Deputy Premier: why do we increasingly have these examples of where health care is not meeting the needs of Saskatchewan people at a time when the Saskatchewan economy is doing well?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, much of the preamble of the Leader of the Opposition is factually incorrect. Mr. Speaker, support to regional health authorities that deliver health care services and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency that provide cancer support for people in this province is up dramatically from the members opposite when they left government, Mr. Speaker — \$1 billion in additional funding for our regional health authorities. That's up 45 per cent, Mr. Speaker, in just six years.

As well, Mr. Speaker, for the Cancer Agency it's up \$12 million in this budget, Mr. Speaker — an increase of 90 per cent for the Cancer Agency since when the members opposite were in government, as well as front-line staff, Mr. Speaker. We know we have made tremendous gains in hiring front-line staff, providing dollars to regional health authorities to hire front-line staff, Mr. Speaker. SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] up 18 per cent, over 1,000 nurses in this province, Mr. Speaker, compared to the members opposite; Health Sciences, up 21 per cent; and the provider unions in general, up eight and a half per cent, Mr. Speaker.

More work needs to be done. But, Mr. Speaker, this government has a tremendous record compared to the members opposite in providing dollars and front-line support for health and for people that need health care services in this province.

The Speaker: — Yesterday the Minister for the Environment indicated that he would respond today to a question that was posed to him yesterday. It would be helpful though if the ministers in taking, indicating a response at a later date, take notice, is what the proper terminology is and that no further responses to that question be given after having taken notice.

I recognize the Minister for the Environment.

Fort Qu'Appelle Fish Culture Station

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for that. Yesterday I attempted to take notice of a question, but didn't use the right phraseology, but indeed my intent is to report back to the House today.

The premise of the questions from the Environment critic yesterday were totally false again. No privatization is taking place at the office of the provincial fish hatchery in Fort Qu'Appelle. No privatization discussions whatsoever have taken place regarding this facility.

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund steering committee have put a proposal forward to administer the operations of the provincial fish hatchery. Consultations would have to take place in this regard. The fish hatchery is not for sale. No job losses will happen. Regardless of what decisions are made in the future, the administration of the provincial hatchery would continue to report to the Minister of Environment.

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund steering committee is concerned about a decision made by the previous government to take money out of the fund to fund Ministry of Environment staff. We are working to correct that. So no old-style NDP [New Democratic Party] fearmongering is needed or appreciated, Mr. Speaker.

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

Racetrack Licences

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In yesterday's *Leader-Post* there's a feature on 130 cool, sporty things to do in Regina. No. 11 on the list is horse racing at West Meadows Raceway. But, Mr. Speaker, it could soon be forced off the list.

For the past six years, in good faith, the operators of West Meadows Raceway have worked with SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] to advance standardbred racing. They were looking for a whole market area licence because such a licence would allow their business to be self-sustaining, using revenues generated from horse wagering.

Mr. Speaker, getting this licence would have encouraged business growth for rural and urban communities alike. Why would the Sask Party government deny the licence to West Meadows Raceway and prevent the reinstatement of the standardbred horse racing industry in Regina?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the question is, is there enough revenue in horse racing in the province of Saskatchewan to warrant two home market areas? West Meadows, which is a privately owned racetrack outside of Regina that has two years of racing history, would say yes. Marquis Downs, however, the thoroughbred racetrack at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon with over 125 years of history in

racing, would say no. And Cornerstone, the standardbred racetrack in Yorkton exhibition with over 60 years of racing history, would also say no.

The struggle with horse racing across our country, quite frankly, is that betting dollars have decreased year over year, and we've seen that indeed also in Saskatchewan. So what is also happening is the home market area is also becoming less and less profitable. The history within Saskatchewan is a decade ago, Regina closed and gave up the home market area because there wasn't enough revenue to support two home market areas in Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the president of West Meadows Raceway, Jane Grainger, joins us in the gallery today, along with Glenn LeDrew of the Saskatchewan Standardbred Horsemen's Association and 15 other concerned citizens and entrepreneurs. Ms. Grainger and Mr. LeDrew are concerned about the apparent favouritism showed by the Sask Party government by only allowing one raceway licence in the entire province instead of restoring it to the two licences that used to be in place before Queensbury Downs was shut down in 2002.

The minister said in committee that Prairieland Park approached the government about their commercial non-viability. That group said they would have to close their doors, so the government brought a bill to the legislature, reduced their taxes, and extended their licence by three years. Why would the Sask Party government favour one existing racetrack over another, and why would they renew one licence for the whole province instead of allowing two home market areas licences to share the market?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — The decision, Mr. Speaker, was not to support one breed of horse racing over another. It also was not to support one city over another, Mr. Speaker. The decision was to support what has been in place for over a decade now, Mr. Speaker. So it was to support, not to change what was already in place.

By reviewing the advisement of the three racetracks that I had already mentioned, it was reviewing whether or not betting in races was increasing or decreasing. It was reviewing the history of why the province went to one home market area in the past. And the reason why was because they found that two home market areas were not viable.

It was looking at other provinces. The province of Alberta which has four times our population only has two home market areas. They do not have four. Mr. Speaker, it was also looking at what would happen if we just took a chance and put Prairieland Park at risk. And I will address that in the next question.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the operators of West Meadows Raceway invested considerable time, money, and land to build the facility they believe would create new opportunities in harness racing in Regina and beyond. But their dreams are crushed when the Sask Party government ignored their work. This has disappointed thousands of people who enjoy attending races in southern Saskatchewan, as well as those who benefit from the economic spinoff of this enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, the West Meadows Raceway operators are not asking for support from the government. They're asking for fairness from the government. Why has the Sask Party treated the West Meadows Raceway unfairly? Why have they turned their back on entrepreneurs looking for fairness and a level playing field for their business?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, when there was two home market areas in the province, the decision was, with those operators, was that there was not enough revenue generated to support two home market areas. So if we change that now and if the revenue dollars from having those home market areas is less now than it was then when that decision was made — and Prairieland Park purchased the assets from Regina exhibition at the time; they weren't just handed those assets, Mr. Speaker — we would then be putting Prairieland Park in jeopardy just to see if it might work.

And what would we jeopardize, Mr. Speaker? Well 300-plus horse owners — over 250 of those are from Saskatchewan; 60 horse trainers, 50 of which are from Saskatchewan; over 175 groomers; over 30 year-round staff for the teletheatres. And the majority of all those employees that I mentioned are First Nations people. Mr. Speaker, we cannot risk that when all of the indicators show that we do not have a big enough market to support two home market areas.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the minister made a choice to ignore the licence application from West Meadows Raceway. The minister made a choice to expand the Prairieland Park's licence from one year to three. And the minister made a choice to reduce the parimutuel tax at Prairieland Park's request. As a result of those choices, the Sask Party government's stubborn decision will crush the dreams of entrepreneurs in our province. Will the minister reconsider her denial of this licence and work with the standardbred industry to expand opportunities in our province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, in my previous answers, I already outlined the reason why we chose to maintain what's been in place for a decade now, Mr. Speaker, within our province. And we chose not to make a change. What I've encouraged the racetrack operators to do is to work with one another, perhaps under one licence. And that is indeed already happening between Cornerstone in Yorkton and Marquis

Downs in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the racetrack operators need to work together in order to make a very, very challenging industry work.

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

Technology Company and University

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we've just received a leaked confidential report that shows that the IPAC [International Performance Assessment Centre for geologic storage of CO₂] relationship with CVI [Climate Ventures Inc.] was a disaster from the start. You'll recall, Mr. Speaker, CVI was the costly company that that government started up with taxpayers' money in 2008. The report, dated March 28th, 2011, shows detailed evidence alleging waste, gouging, and unethical behaviour by CVI.

To the minister: why did the Sask Party create CVI with taxpayers' money and then do nothing to clean up the mess that they created?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite in his preamble has some facts somewhat confused. The reality is, Mr. Speaker, that the university looked for some funding to find out how they could commercialize their research. The Minister of the Economy provided some funding for them to do that. A report was prepared and the university received that report. The university, Mr. Speaker, then either acted on it or did not. I think there's an argument to be made there. But from the Government of Saskatchewan's point of view, we supported the university in the business plan and the development. Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, the university has acted in that manner.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the report shows that CVI, the company that that government created with taxpayers' money in 2008, used access to high-tech computers and software of IPAC to generate more revenue for CVI.

Mr. Speaker, taxpayers' dollars set up both CVI and IPAC, and CVI used taxpayers' money to purchase expensive, unneeded technology assets. Those unneeded assets were used to generate profits for a private company. Strangely, that was exactly what the Sask Party intended to do with CVI back in 2008, that CVI would be a private IT [information technology] contractor.

Mr. Speaker, why was the Sask Party's pet project, CVI, using IPAC's computers, the unneeded assets that taxpayers paid for to generate revenues? And did any of those revenues flow back to the province of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Again, Mr. Speaker, the member's question is completely off base. And in fact in my first answer I referenced that the Ministry of the Economy, Mr. Speaker, funded the university to look at how they could commercialize their carbon research, not how to develop an IT company. Mr. Speaker, that is the facts.

A report was put forward. The research on this was done. The university received the report on how they could commercialize this carbon research, Mr. Speaker. The company the member opposite references is a company that has spun out of the university. It is not related to the Government of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that's unbelievable coming from the minister whose order in council authorized and created CVI in the first place with taxpayers' dollars. And that company as well, CVI, didn't just use the assets that were unneeded; they also charged outrageous costs. In one contract, CVI overcharged taxpayers 171 per cent, Mr. Speaker. The report alleges waste, stating that the greatest part of \$2.1 million was for no acceptable business purpose.

That government had three members, government-appointed members on the IPAC board, and the Sask Party created CVI with taxpayers' dollars. They controlled all the levers. Mr. Speaker, why did the Sask Party government do nothing to intervene and stop the outrageous gouging and waste in its IPAC affair?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I know that the member opposite has been told numerous times that, prior to the board being formed, there wasn't government members that were overseeing the expenditures of IPAC. It was indeed under the management of the U of R [University of Regina].

The Meyers Norris Penny forensic audit said this, and I will quote, "The assets were purchased with funds that the University of Regina controlled on behalf of IPAC." Further it said, and I quote, "Prior to the current IPAC management being hired, it appeared that Dr. Wilson and Mr. Bailey were responsible for overseeing the operations of IPAC. These individuals reported to the VP of research at the University of Regina." Third quote, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, "Financial oversight of IPAC was through the university industry liaison office."

When the agency was incorporated, a board was formed. That is indeed when CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] had board members, and actions were immediately taken, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. That government created, with taxpayers' money, CVI that, with all the evidence, appears to be little more than a flow-through

scheme to rip off public dollars.

This report is scathing, that's in our possession. And it's been in possession of government for two years. It alleges waste; it alleges gouging; and it alleges completely unethical behaviour by CVI, the private company created by that government with taxpayers' money. Why did that government that created CVI not call in the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] to investigate all of the alleged wrongdoing and waste in the company that it created?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, before I continue to give quotes from the forensic audit — and there was a forensic audit as well as the Provincial Auditor audited the relationship between the university and CVI — would we please ask that he say who authored the report that he's reading from, as well as table it?

But, Mr. Speaker, another quote that we have is prior to the current IPAC management being hired, the individuals reported to the VP of research to the University of Regina. Mr. Speaker, financial oversight of IPAC was through the university industry liaison office.

Mr. Speaker, over and over again, the evidence is very clear that the U of R managed the money at the time that this contract was entered into. It's very, very clear that they made . . . that there was university individuals that made the decisions to enter into that contract. When the board was formed, Mr. Speaker, actions were taken. Those actions, we believe, were the appropriate actions, which is severing the contract, moving the control of the money away from the U of R, having a forensic audit done, as well as having an assessment of the assets.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, as far as tabling the report that they've had for two years, I certainly will. Who was it provided to? It was provided to the board of IPAC, with the three government-appointed members on that board, two years ago, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party created CVI with taxpayers' money, something that now seems to appear as nothing more than a flow-through scheme to rip off public dollars, Mr. Speaker. We recognize through all of the evidence that there's huge risk and allegation of waste into the tune of millions of dollars. My question to the minister is: why have the RCMP not been called in? And will the government support that call here today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Crown Investments.

[14:15]

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, our government is very committed to exploring possibilities in carbon capture and sequestration. We believe it's good for the industry and good

for the environment, Mr. Speaker. Is that member suggesting that we should not enter into any agreements with the U of R, Mr. Speaker? Because quite frankly, that is what he's implying, is that there's criminal actions that happened under the U of R. The U of R has asked the Provincial Auditor to review all of their processes, Mr. Speaker. We will see what that report says and then the appropriate minister can maybe make a decision.

But quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, if they don't want us to have any management or any agreements in research with the University of Regina, he needs to stand up and he needs to say that that is the NDP position. Because we do value the research abilities of our two universities, Mr. Speaker. And it's unfortunate these individuals time and time again have not followed the university's processes.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees this afternoon, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:16.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Doherty	3355
McCall	3355
Heppner	3355
Brotten	3355
Duncan	3355
Docherty	3356

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Belanger	3356
Forbes	3356

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Administrative Professionals Day

Hart	3356
------------	------

Walk to Ottawa

Vermette	3356
----------------	------

Recognizing Government House Volunteers

Ross	3357
------------	------

Stubborn Behaviour

Chartier	3357
----------------	------

National Immunization Awareness Week

Hutchinson	3357
------------------	------

Stobart Community School Grand Opening

Kirsch	3357
--------------	------

Moose Jaw Bantam Oilers Win Provincial Championship

Lawrence	3358
----------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Health Care for Seniors

Brotten	3358
---------------	------

Duncan	3358
--------------	------

Fort Qu'Appelle Fish Culture Station

Cheveldayoff	3360
--------------------	------

Racetrack Licences

Sproule	3360
---------------	------

Harpauer	3360
----------------	------

Technology Company and University

Wotherspoon	3361
-------------------	------

McMillan	3361
----------------	------

Harpauer	3362
----------------	------

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