

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

N.S. VOL. 55

NO. 54A MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

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
	SP NDP SP	Saskatchewan Rivers Regina Rosemont

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce some special guests seated in your gallery. These special guests are here representing STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] as our provincial helicopter emergency response organization celebrating one year in the province, Mr. Speaker.

So in your gallery — I'll ask them to maybe wave when I mention their names — Ron Dufresne is the vice-president of operations for STARS in Saskatchewan; Cindy Seidl, the base operator out of Saskatoon; Kelly Brossart, communications and external affairs lead for STARS in the province. As well in the blue suits, Mr. Speaker, Jon Antal, flight paramedic; Ryan MacMillan, a flight paramedic as well; Darcy McKay, clinical operations manager and a paramedic; as well as one other special guest, Mr. Speaker, Carrie Derin who's a STARS VIP, which actually stands for very important patient here, from Regina, Mr. Speaker. We'll hear more about them in a member's statement. I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, it's my pleasure to bring to your attention, seated within this Chamber are a number of special guests we are pleased to have with us today, the Special Olympics Team Canada West and coaches from the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

By leave of this Assembly, I call upon the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and the sports critic MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Cumberland for remarks. And I will then recognize the members of the Assembly to introduce their constituents. I now recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I am honoured today to welcome the athletes and coaches of the Special Olympics floor hockey team, Team Canada West. These athletes, Mr. Speaker, and coaches hail from Saskatoon, Martensville, Prince Albert, and Debden. They range in age from 17 to 47. Sixteen players, three coaches, and four training coaches attended the games.

Today we're celebrating this team's gold medal win at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Korea this past February. We are so proud of them, Mr. Speaker. The people who make up this team are excellent athletes, wonderful ambassadors for our province, and strong role models. Their dedication to health and physical activity inspires all of us. These athletes, Mr. Speaker, train year-round, often in more than one sport, and compete in numerous events every year. Unfortunately there are a few players, coaches, and training coaches who couldn't make it here today, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to mention them now. Absentee members include players Scott Pocha, Terra Dagenais, and Trevor Fendelet; assistant coach Darren Whitehead; and training coaches Ryan Elder, Chris Cherepacha, and Will Grant. Although they couldn't attend today, they are all of course important members of this team.

I would also like to welcome representatives from Saskatchewan Special Olympics, Mr. Speaker. I know they are seated in the west gallery — maybe they could just give us a wave — Roger Dumont, CEO [chief executive officer]; Darlene Macquarrie, director of programs; Faye Matt, director of operations; Rick Sanden, community development coordinator; Kashmir Bahia, youth development coordinator; and Carissa Trenton, administrative and operations coordinator.

We also have Dale Kryzanowski, Sask Sport manager of provincial development; and Della Ruopp, communications coordinator for Sask Sport. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome all of the family and friends that have joined the athletes and coaches for this special occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I know the MLAs are keen to introduce each of the team members from their constituency. So in closing, athletes, coaches, thank you for representing Saskatchewan so well. Congratulations.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I would also like to join the minister in welcoming the athletes who are here today who won gold at the World Winter Games. I would like to thank the athletes for the dedication and hard work. You're truly amazing individuals. You truly inspire us. You make us proud to be Saskatchewan. You make your families proud. You make the whole province proud. So with that, we honour you.

For the athletes that make new friends, renew old friends and acquaintances on your way, and you've done that, we say that's part of the journey of being athletes. And we want to acknowledge that the friendships that truly are made — new ones, old ones — that truly is something that we have to say, I think, inspires many athletes to go on. So with that, I would say that.

But you know, to the coaches and families, to the supporters, you know, sometimes the families . . . And I was talking to the family, Mr. Speaker, earlier today. The dedication to making sure that these athletes get to all the practices and games, it's so important. The time that goes in from the family and supporters to make sure these athletes get to what they need to do, to inspire and to become the good players that you have become, that is truly amazing devotion by family.

To recognize the coaches, you know, the coaches, Mr. Speaker, it's unreal the dedication, the support that you're giving the athletes. Truly from the heart, it's an honour. In the North we say, truly it's honouring people. It's individuals like you that we need to honour. So thank you to the coaches. I want to say that. Now to the organizations and the many volunteers of the Special Olympics, when you look at this, I think that's why the Special Olympics is so successful. It's because of the organization, the dedication, and I think truly the awareness of what young athletes, older athletes, and just individuals coming together can accomplish as a team. And you are truly a team. It's amazing. From my heart I say to you, we are so proud of you.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming the athletes, coaches, their families, and supporters to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I am pleased to introduce to the members Shawn Altenberg. One of the veterans on the team, Shawn has been competing with the Special Olympics for more than a decade. He has won many gold and silver medals. To prepare for competitions, he runs. When not playing sports, he enjoys helping out around the house. His mother is his hero because she pushes him to work hard and inspires him to stay active. Shawn, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Tochor: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it's my honour to introduce to the members Dean Boechler. Dean is one of the team's many veterans. He has been with Special Olympics for two decades. When he's not playing hockey, Dean is outdoors competing on softball and soccer fields. To prepare for the games, he spends time bonding with his teammates, Mr. Speaker. He works as a cook, and his hero is a baseball player, Albert Pujols. Dean, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I'd like to also introduce Colin Brisebois. Colin has been involved with Special Olympics for an incredible 32 years. He boasts that he got the first penalty in the gold medal game at nationals in 2012. Despite this early penalty, his team ended up winning. To prepare for the games, Colin listens to music and he dances. He works and volunteers at Cosmo Industries, a recycling and processing facility. His hero is head coach Ken Snell because Ken looks after him well. Colin, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour to introduce to you Kyle Couture. Kyle hails from Debden, Saskatchewan. The World Games this past February were Kyle's first. He's been involved with Special Olympics for three years and has already earned an impressive amount of hardware — gold and silver medals.

When he isn't playing floor hockey, Kyle competes in track and field and works as a hockey arena scorekeeper. His mom is his hero because she motivates him to work hard. Kyle, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is my honour to introduce to you today Ryan Darmokid. Ryan has been competing with Special Olympics for six years, and he also competes in soccer and has won many medals.

When not playing sports, he works at the workshop at the Abilities corporation. Alexander Ovechkin is his hero because Ryan admires his talent as a hockey player. Ryan, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'm privileged to introduce to the Assembly Tyler Gilbert. A veteran athlete, Tyler Gilbert has been with Special Olympics for more than 20 years.

In addition to playing floor hockey, and a goalie I might add, he competes in softball and works at Home Depot as an associate. He listens to music and focuses on all aspects of the game to ensure he's mentally prepared for competitions. His hero, not surprisingly, is his dad, the person who first taught him how to play sports.

Tyler, welcome to your Legislative Assembly, and congratulations.

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

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's a pleasure to introduce to the members Jamie Rezansoff. Jamie has been involved with special Olympics for 17 years. In addition to floor hockey, he competes in bowling and soccer.

When's he's not training, he works as a wood shop trainee and enjoys going to movies. This year's Special Olympics world games were Jamie's first. And it's his one for one, one gold medal for one world games, pretty impressive, Mr. Speaker.

Jamie, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour to introduce to the members Lee Salzl. Although Lee has been with the Special Olympics for only three years, he has earned a number of gold medals, including at the most recent provincial and national games. He keeps busy all year round playing softball in the summer and working at Safeway as a clerk. His parents are his heroes. They support him unconditionally and taught him dedication and perseverance. Lee, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is my honour to introduce to you today Chris Sayers. Chris has been competing with Special Olympics for a decade. In addition to floor hockey, he also competes in bowling, which he enjoys immensely.

Outside Special Olympics, Chris works as a groundskeeper at the University of Saskatchewan. He tends to landscaping and keeps the area outside the stately brick buildings of the campus looking healthy, tidy, and beautiful.

His hero is head coach Ken Snell because Ken pushes him to work his hardest. Chris, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I am honoured to introduce to you today, Susan Shier. Susan is a 14-year veteran of Special Olympics and competes in both floor hockey and softball. She prepares for competitions by focusing on her play and trying to relax the night before. Her hero is head coach Ken Snell. Susan, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is a pleasure to introduce to you today Mike Siwy. For the past 14 years, Mike has been involved with Special Olympics. Like many other players on the team, Mike is an all-around athlete and competes in softball in the summer time. He works at Sarcan Recycle as a baler. His heroes: his sister and brother-in-law because they helped him get involved with Special Olympics. Mike, welcome to your legislature.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'm pleased to introduce to the members Mike Snell. Mike is one of the team's veterans. He's been with Special Olympics for nearly two decades. He, like many of the other players as part of the hockey team, went and won gold at the nationals in 2012. A versatile athlete, he also competes in soccer and 10-pin bowling. His hero is his dad, head coach Ken Snell, because he is such a great mentor to him and his teammates. Mike works at the recycling process facility at Cosmo Industries. Mike, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I would like to introduce to you and through you, it's a pleasure to introduce the member, John Wickett. John has been a Special Olympics athlete for more than 15 years. In addition to playing floor hockey, John bowls, golfs, and plays soccer and softball with the Special Olympics.

John is a busy man. He also works at three restaurants. He has served as a board member on the Saskatchewan alternative living and has won many sports awards. John, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour to introduce a friend of mine to the members of the Assembly, Mitch Hesson. Mitch is an assistant coach with the floor hockey team. She has been involved with Special Olympics for over 15 years, but didn't start coaching until being encouraged by most of the team's mentor, Ken Snell. Before coaching she was on the board of Special Olympics Saskatchewan and a proud Special Olympian parent. The experience in Korea was her first time at an international competition. Mitch, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour to introduce to you today Ken Snell. Ken is the head coach of this great team. He's been involved with the Special Olympics Saskatchewan in various capacities for the last 25 years. He's been coaching the Special Olympics Saskatoon floor hockey team for the past 15 years. He appreciates the opportunity to mentor these men and women. Ken admires his athletes' passion, their enthusiasm for not only floor hockey but for each other. He says these athletes are more than players to him; they are members of his family. Ken, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister's earlier welcome to the delegation from STARS. It's a pleasure to see you in the Speaker's gallery today, and I look forward to hearing the member's statement later on this afternoon. And thank you so much for the work that you're doing here in Saskatchewan in caring for our citizens. I'd ask all members to join me in once again welcoming this group to the Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce a group of students from the University of Saskatchewan Edwards School of Business sitting in the Speaker's gallery today. They are: Cole Thorpe, Mike Vossen, Colin Paterson, Hilary Carlson, Brennan Toh, Ryan Wig, Jared Fingler, Michael Tastad, Paul Mantyka, Kelsey Heggie, Kent Janostin, Landon Grubb, and Ellen Glaze. Also from the Edwards School of Business accompanying these students are Dr. Daphne Taras, the dean; and Trevor Maber, the JDC [Jeux de commerce] West faculty coach.

Mr. Speaker, these students competed in the JDC West competition held this past January at the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia. JDC West is Western Canada's largest business school competition, where over 600 business school students compete in 10 academic disciplines. I'm pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Edwards

School of Business took home the highly coveted School of the Year trophy.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of these students and want to ensure that they work hard and stay in the province. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members welcome them to their legislature today.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister for Advanced Education on behalf of the official opposition, welcoming these students from Edwards School of Business, faculty as well, and congratulate them for the prestigious School of the Year award at the JDC competition last year.

While I'm also on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a number of individuals seated in your gallery as well. They are here today because over the past 10-months-plus they have been working and advocating on behalf of Victoria Ordu and Favour Amadi. We are joined today, Mr. Speaker, by Kay Adebogun, Naomi Beingessner, Emily Eaton, Simon Enoch, Tyler Gray, Paige Kezima, Chris Kortright, Vanessa Mathews, Michelle Stewart, Sean Tucker. Terri Sleeva has joined us here on the floor — good to see you here, Terri; and Helena Seiferling as well as Muna Di Ciman. They're here today to get the update from the Minister of Justice in terms of the undertaking that was made last week. Please welcome these individuals to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce in your gallery Arden Fiala. Arden hails from Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, works locally, provincially, and nationally for people with autism. Arden was recently awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, recipient for her work on behalf of autism throughout Canada. She is the mother of an autistic child and she is the current president of Saskatchewan FEAT, which stands for Saskatchewan Families for Effective Autism Treatment.

Arden, thank you very much for everything that you have done and continue to do for people with autism in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the member opposite and welcome Ms. Arden Fiala to her Legislative Assembly. I know Arden to be a passionate advocate for those young people and all families that are impacted by autism spectrum disorder. I know she's joined here today by her son, Hartley. And I know that she's occupying the role as president of SaskFEAT [Saskatchewan Families for Effective Autism Treatment], and I know that she'll be providing leadership and service to all of Saskatchewan in that role.

I also know that she knows all too well first-hand the challenges and realities of autism as it relates to her daughter. And she's a strong advocate within her community, within her school division, and to all within this province with her voice on behalf of her daughter. I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Ms. Arden Fiala.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly today, some constituents of mine from the Melville-Saltcoats constituency. I want to start with Shirley and Morley Thorpe from the Spy Hill area. Some may have heard Morley; he's a quite renowned cowboy poet, but also a very renowned baseball player. And I'd like to carry on with that. They've taken the opportunity to come to their legislature today to join their son who's also with the Edwards School of Business, a very accomplished young man. And I also want to acknowledge at the same time Kaleigh Zerr, who is also from Langenburg area in my constituency.

I just want to take a minute because I've known Cole, Cole Thorpe, since he was a little guy, a lot shorter than I was at that time and now he's a lot taller.

Mr. Speaker, Cole has been in sports for the majority of his life. He's been with the Canadian all-star team in baseball. He's won nationals at Summerside, PEI [Prince Edward Island] with a Saskatchewan team. He's also won bronze at the Western Canada Summer Games. He's also won provincial titles with the Yorkton team. So he's been around. Very accomplished in baseball, Mr. Speaker. But it doesn't stop there.

Cole has also been a member of the Hartung curling rink from Langenburg that also won the gold medal in 2008. And it doesn't stop there, Mr. Speaker. Volleyball: 3A high school champions with the Langenburg school. So as I mentioned, this is a very talented young man. And it shows with the group that we have up there today, that the future of Saskatchewan is in very good hands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you today I would like to introduce two young ladies from my constituency. If they just want to give us a wave — Sherri Woolridge and Shauna Kadler.

These two ladies are very energetic, busy, and caring people. They're here today on behalf of The Battleford Boys and Girls Club. We had a chance to meet with them earlier this morning. They were on the road at 5 o'clock this morning from The Battlefords to get down here for a 9:30 meeting. And we did have an excellent meeting.

The Battleford Boys and Girls Club, Mr. Speaker, provide a great program for youth in The Battlefords between the ages of 6 and 14. They provide mentoring. They help out with homework. They provide healthy snacks, cooking classes and, among other things, sports opportunities. I would like to ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in thanking them

and welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a busy day with introductions today, and I would be remiss if I didn't through you and to you and to all members of the legislature, add my words of welcome to two constituents: Ms. Arden Fiala who's been introduced by the member from Sutherland, and the member from Rosemont added some additional information. You know, she only lives 20 miles down the road from where my office is, and we communicate by email. And unfortunately I've never actually met her in person. So it's a pleasure to welcome her to her legislature today.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge Ryan Wig. Now Ryan's a very shy young man, and when he was introduced, he just kind of gently waved. Ryan, I want you to stand up, if you would please. He's a big fellow, but Ryan is a special young man in my life.

He's served as an intern in my constituency office three summers ago, and I was so impressed with this young fellow. He came to me and said, I would like to learn what you do in this office. And I guess that set the tone because the first day on the job when we didn't have enough for him to do, he kept saying, have you got more for me to do? Have you got more for me to do? And when I listened to his life plans and what he's got scheduled for not just this summer but many summers thereafter, I know that he's going to be a real success. So, Ryan, welcome. Thank you for working with me so diligently and good luck in everything you do.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, because there's still a few people that we haven't introduced in the Assembly here today, it's my pleasure to provide a brief welcome to the Southeast Saskatchewan Surface Rights Association and members that are seated in the west gallery. It's a pleasure to have you here today. I know they're meeting with government. They're also meeting with opposition. I look forward to that meeting here afternoon. And certainly they provide leadership to the entire Southeast and to those landowners and to those that have surface rights and surface leases, and we look forward to the discussion here this afternoon. So I ask all members to welcome members of the Southeast Saskatchewan Surface Rights Association.

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I join with my colleague across the floor to welcome the group from southeast Saskatchewan. I had a great meeting with them this morning. They represent a terrific part of the province, which is one of the most productive parts of our province for both agriculture and the oil industry. So it's great to see the type of leadership that they provide.

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 up today to present a petition in relation to cellphone coverage for the Northwest. And, Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

To undertake, as soon as possible, to ensure that SaskTel delivers cell service to the northern hamlet of Dore Lake, located in northwestern Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this particular petition are from Dore Lake, from Big River, and from all throughout Saskatchewan. And I so present.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition calling for better support and better seniors care here in the province:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to immediately undertake meaningful steps to improve the quality of seniors' care in our province, including creating more spaces and more choices for seniors; ensuring higher standards of care in public facilities, private facilities, and for home care; ensuring appropriate staffing levels in senior care facilities; and providing more support to help seniors remain independent in their own homes for as long as they desire.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like 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 interest of due diligence. And we know that stable labour relations in all sectors run the risk of being thrown into turmoil as a result of the sweeping changes that are contained. 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 this new labour law.

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

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan. Northern Saskatchewan is being targeted by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to become a storage site for millions of used irradiated nuclear fuel bundles. These radioactive nuclear bundles would be shipped on provincial highways. Some provinces have already banned the storage or transport of used nuclear bundles. So the prayer reads as follows:

We respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly pass legislation to permanently ban nuclear waste storage and transportation of nuclear waste into, out of, and through Saskatchewan.

And this petition is signed by citizens from Saskatoon, Beauval, Regina, and Montreal Lake and Canoe Lake and Prince Albert. I so submit.

[14:00]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Holocaust Memorial Week

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the city of Saskatoon proclaimed last week as Holocaust Memorial Week. As part of this week of remembrance, last Thursday nearly 500 students from across Saskatoon participated in the city's first Holocaust Memorial Walk, which remembered victims of the Holocaust and paid tribute to the survivors.

Saskatoon's march was lead by Holocaust survivor Max Eisen. During the Second World War, Mr. Eisen was only 15 years old when he and his family were sent to Auschwitz. After the walk around Raoul Wallenberg Park, he shared his story with the students, inspiring our young people to create a positive change in their lives and across our communities.

In addition to last week's march, yesterday Saskatoon's Congregation Agudas Israel held its annual Holocaust Memorial Service. Again Max Eisen was the keynote speaker. Citizens of all faiths gather annually at the Jewish Community Centre to participate in this moving event. I was honoured to be joined by our Attorney General, who spoke eloquently, as well as the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, and the member for Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in thanking Max Eisen as well as all of the volunteers behind both events for their vital and valued work in Saskatoon marking Holocaust Memorial Week.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Before we proceed I would like to remind our guests in the galleries not to participate in events on the floor, and that includes applause.

I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Regina Police Service Half Marathon

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The city was alive with energy, packed with runners and spectators, as the Regina Police Service held its 10th Annual Half Marathon. The RPS [Regina Police Service] Half Marathon displays the Regina Police Service members and employees as positive role models and leaders in the community. It demonstrates their commitment to wellness, physical fitness, and a healthy lifestyle.

Several hundred people participated in this year's event, walking or running 21.1 kilometres around Wascana Lake and the University of Regina. Runners included Police Chief Hagen, many members of the force, as well as those of the running community. I'd like to give a special shout-out to the impressive runners from A.E. Peacock in Moose Jaw and the team of student photographers from Sheldon-Williams in Regina.

I was proud to run in the half-marathon, Mr. Speaker, and I have the sore legs here today to prove it. It was truly a beautiful spring-like morning to run, despite a rather stiff wind. Appropriately at the starting line, a moment of silence was held in response to the tragic bombing at the Boston Marathon.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to all runners and walkers that participated, I'd like to thank the Regina Police Service, the many volunteers, sponsors, and organizers who donated their time and support into making such a great event and such a fine spring tradition here in Regina. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Construction Begins on Moose Jaw Hospital

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I was honoured and privileged this morning at an exciting event that I attended just a few hours ago in Moose Jaw. Along with the Premier, the Minister of Health, and the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow, I was privileged to participate in the ceremony to celebrate the start of construction at the new Moose Jaw hospital.

Mr. Speaker, this is an amazing sight to see the first step and the next step in this hospital project, which is a modern, state-of-the-art design to put the needs of patients first. This hospital will be the first health care facility completed in the province to fully integrate the lean methodology in the design, operation, and the culture of the facility. The design and care model of the new hospital will allow health care providers and services to be mobile, which will result in more convenient services for patients, operational efficiencies, and improvements in safety.

Mr. Speaker, our government is contributing 80 per cent toward the total estimated project costs of \$99.5 million. The Moose Jaw Health Foundation will also work in partnership with the health region, Ministry of Health, and health care professionals to equip the new regional hospital.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great news story and a first in Saskatchewan. The new hospital will provide a great health

care experience for patients in the Moose Jaw and the entire Five Hills Health Region. Thank you.

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

90th Anniversary of Naval Volunteer Reserve

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday April 27th, Saskatoon's Naval Reserve Division, Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *Unicorn* celebrated its 90th anniversary. As their local MLA, I was pleased to attend their anniversary dinner along with Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor; the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour; and the member for Wood River.

It was on April 27th, 1923 that the then Saskatoon Half-Company was established as one of the first units of the three-month old Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve. Commissioned as HMCS [Her Majesty's Canadian Ship] *Unicorn* in 1941, it became an active recruiting centre for the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War, enrolling and providing initial training to over 3,600 prairie sailors. Many of those sailors served in the Battle of the Atlantic, which will be remembered this coming Sunday. They served from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, from the English Channel off the Normandy's beaches, across the North Atlantic to the coast of North America.

Unicorn's personnel also served off the shores of Korea, in the former Yugoslavia, the Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan. And they continue to serve today in ships off both East and West Coasts, as well as responding to emergencies closer to home like the Manitoba floods of 1997 and 2011. At all times they serve to remind their fellow citizens of the importance of Canada's Navy: that the sea is at our gates, even if those gates are over the horizon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing a very happy anniversary to HMCS *Unicorn* and the Naval Reserve. Thank you.

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

First Anniversary of Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House today to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the STARS operation in Saskatchewan. We are proud of this province's long tradition of air ambulance service. Adding critical care services by helicopter to the mix of ground ambulance, fixed-wing aircraft, emergency services, and first responders has increased our ability to respond to emergency situations.

Mr. Speaker, this has enabled us to help us save lives across our province. Our government believed in STARS from the beginning, providing \$6.1 million in the 2011-12 fiscal year, \$10.5 million last year, and another \$10.5 million this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, this province is blessed with wide open spaces and many rural and remote areas where people live, work, and

enjoy our province's natural beauty through recreational activities. As our province experiences economic and population growth, it is essential that we make emergency medical services even more responsive than they were before. To improve access to emergency departments at provincial tertiary hospitals, a rooftop heliport will be developed at the Regina General Hospital this year, and another is being included on the roof of the children's hospital and the new Moose Jaw hospital.

Mr. Speaker, on this first anniversary of helicopter air emergency services in Saskatchewan, I am pleased to acknowledge the dedication of the whole STARS team and the strong support the corporate community, individuals, and families have shown to allow STARS to fly in our province. Thank you all very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday evening the 2012 Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence were held at the Conexus Arts Centre, and the Cypress Hills constituency was well-represented among the winners. These awards are presented every year by Tourism Saskatchewan and were established to recognize excellence in emerging and traditional areas of the province's tourism sector.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize some of the great representation from Cypress Hills in the House today. The renowned Cypress Hills Eco-Adventures Ltd. was once again a winner after receiving the Rookie of the Year award at last year's event. The president and CEO of the organization, Jori Kirk, was presented with the Fred Heal Ambassador Award. This award recognizes an individual's contribution to the promotion of Saskatchewan as a tourism destination. His company was also a nominee for the Business of the Year award this year.

Krista Berg, who is employed by Cypress Hills Eco-Adventures and who's responsible for first impressions, tour safety, and operations received the Service Excellence Award. She was recognized for her professionalism, leadership, positive attitude, and passion about the tourism industry.

Mr. Speaker, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Saskatchewan region, and Royce Pettyjohn with the town of Maple Creek were both nominated for awards and have a significant presence in the Cypress Hills constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the Assembly join me in congratulating all the award winners who go above and beyond to offer superior tourism experiences to visitors and residents alike. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Government Supports Habitat for Humanity

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to rise today to recognize last Friday's Habitat for Humanity ceremony

Mr. Speaker, Friday's announcement was an important one as it provides these five hard-working families a safe and affordable place to call home and stability for their children. Since March 2009, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested \$6.5 million to assist Habitat for Humanity Saskatchewan affiliates, and providing a total of 130 homes for low- to moderate-income families across the province.

In addition to the \$2 million in funding from the provincial government, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation provided an additional \$600,000 to Habitat for Humanity through the Summit Action Fund. This funding will create sustainable revolving land trusts in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert to assist in the development and purchase of land for 39 to 49 units.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in recognizing the Habitat for Humanity ceremony in Saskatoon and congratulating each of these five families on their new homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Capacity and Investment in the Health System

Mr. Broten: - Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last weeks and months, we've heard a lot of concerning news about our health system, Mr. Speaker, and especially for our care for seniors - cuts to home care services, understaffing in seniors' care facilities. We've heard stories, Mr. Speaker, of seniors being left on toilets unattended for hours, not receiving baths for longer than a week at a time. We've heard of an overtime freeze, an overtime ban and hiring freeze in the Saskatoon Health Region, and possible closure of the pediatric intensive care unit here in Regina, as well as the pediatric oncology ward.

Absolutely none of that, Mr. Speaker, is what Saskatchewan people expect when our economy is doing so well. The Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker, says this isn't cause for alarm, and the Premier has dismissed these real life issues, Mr. Speaker, affecting patients here in Saskatchewan.

Perhaps this issue, Mr. Speaker, will receive the Sask Party's attention. My office has received an internal report showing that last Thursday, St. Paul's Hospital was over capacity by 47 patients. My question to the Premier: does he think it's acceptable that St. Paul's Hospital is so crowded that 47 patients are left in the hallways?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. There have been a number of questions raised by the opposition on health care, as it should be in this particular Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the government has been responding to health care issues, not just this year or the year before, but over the life of the government since we were elected in 2007 when we took over a situation where we were short 1,000 nurses working in the system, where there weren't enough doctors practising in the system, where we didn't have appropriate emergency care like we do now, complementing good road ambulance and good air ambulance now with STARS, Mr. Speaker, and where the government never had any objectives or goals as we do now around, for example, the surgical wait times initiative which has now seen, I think in its fourth year, the gradual reduction of

There are pressure points in the system. The government addresses those pressure points in part through the efforts of the regions but also, Mr. Speaker - and this is important through significant increases in resources to the regions like the Saskatoon Health Region. Mr. Speaker, in this particular budget, a 4.5 per cent increase for those regional budgets.

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

wait times for surgery, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the report that shows last Thursday 47 individuals were receiving care in the hallways of St. Paul's Hospital, Mr. Speaker, is not an isolated incident. Front-line health care workers, Mr. Speaker, tell me that this is the situation in other hospitals throughout the province.

Earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, a media outlet reported on a death of a 49-year-old patient who was in a makeshift unit due to overcrowding at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. We know that last year, Mr. Speaker, there were cancellations of surgeries here in Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region because of hospital overcrowding.

We know this has been an issue for some time. My question to the Premier: how many other hospitals in our province are currently overcrowded and having to deliver hallway medicine?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, we know that certainly our tertiary centres in Regina and Saskatoon are facing issues, Mr. Speaker, because of growing population. More people into the system is causing some concern for those regions in terms of being able to deliver service, Mr. Speaker. That's why in this budget, in order to help regions address overpopulation, growing population, Mr. Speaker, this budget invests \$29 million into our health regions, largely to go to Regina and Saskatoon because we do know that this is - today, as opposed to under the members opposite this is a growing province.

We have more people in this province, the highest population that we've ever seen in this province, Mr. Speaker, and we are providing additional support for regional health authorities to provide additional services for these additional clients, Mr. Speaker, and patients in the system. And we'll continue to provide that support.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My specific question to the Premier was, how many hospitals are facing an overcrowding situation similar to what we saw last week at St. Paul's Hospital where they were over capacity by 47 individuals?

The vice-president of the Saskatoon Health Region said that in overcapacity situations they have had "several or a few critical incidents." The official went on to say, "A critical incident is defined as when death or harm is caused that is not anticipated or planned." So we have a situation, Mr. Speaker, where a patient dies unexpectedly in January, and we know that there are questions around that. We know, Mr. Speaker, there are media reports in which a senior health official acknowledges that they have had several incidents in which unexpected harm or death has occurred in overcapacity situations.

Mr. Speaker, this ought to be alarming for all of us, especially to the Health minister and the Premier, Mr. Speaker. But we question the urgency and the seriousness this has taken, Mr. Speaker, because we know, despite this occurring months ago, that as of Thursday there was a situation in St. Paul's where overcapacity occurred by 47 individuals.

My question to the Premier: how many critical incidents have occurred during overcapacity situations when hallway medicine is being delivered here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I will provide that information to the Leader of the Opposition, but I will tell the member opposite this, and all members of the House: on a quarterly basis I receive a report of all critical incidences that are reported within the system, and I take every single one of them serious, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in the work that we're doing with our health regions and within the health system, we are doing a better job I think than ever before in tracking critical incidences, tracking measurements that we never used to track in this province, Mr. Speaker, and publicly identifying those within the walls of health regions and health facilities all across this province so that not only employees see this, Mr. Speaker, so that the general public at large and that patients and their families can see how well we are doing, and frankly, Mr. Speaker, in areas that we need to do a better job. Mr. Speaker, this is a part of the work that we're doing to transform the health care system in Saskatchewan. And we have been recognized for the work that we're doing in accountability and transparency, knowing that more needs to be done.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's concerning to Saskatchewan people when they hear of a situation where there's overcapacity in a hospital by 47 individuals. And we've asked, Mr. Speaker, where else this has occurred and how many critical incidents there have been when this situation is happening here in Saskatchewan. And people in the province, Mr. Speaker, are wondering how this situation will improve, given the budget decisions by the Sask Party government as it relates to for example the Saskatoon Health Region where we see a funding

gap of \$25 million, Mr. Speaker, and we see an accumulated deficit of nearly \$70 million.

They can't understand why we're seeing cuts to home care; why we're seeing poor staffing levels, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to seniors' care here in the province; why we're hearing about possible closure of the pediatric intensive care unit, pediatric oncology ward, Mr. Speaker. All of this doesn't make sense to Saskatchewan people when the economy in Saskatchewan is doing well.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: how is it that when the economy is doing well, we hear these increasing stories of individuals who are personally affected, their loved ones are personally affected by the decisions that the Sask Party government has made? At a time when our economy is doing well, why is the Sask Party government struggling to deliver high-quality health care here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the record is this: in successive budgets implemented by this side of the House in government, we have seen huge increases and investment in health care in the province, huge increases in health care operating. We see a 4.5 per cent lift in this budget for the regions that the Leader of the Opposition's talking about. Huge increases in capital, Mr. Speaker. An expansion to emergency response system. Millions of dollars invested in the surgical wait times initiative. Millions more invested in having the right complement of nurses and doctors, Mr. Speaker.

The minister has acknowledged that there's more work to be done. He's also highlighted the fact that we are better tracking and reporting on incidents, Mr. Speaker. It's part explanation for that member opposite for his questions.

But here's what we haven't heard from the member. When he ran for the NDP [New Democratic Party] leadership, he said unequivocally in his platform that were he to be elected, he would find efficiencies in the health care system. Well he sort of shrugs his shoulder. That's exactly what he said.

When those efficiencies are sought in the budget, he opposes them, Mr. Speaker. He's going to have to get on one side of the issue or the other, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we have to look at the financial reality the Saskatoon Health Region has been placed in by the Sask Party government. We see a budget shortfall, Mr. Speaker, of \$25 million. We see an accumulated deficit, Mr. Speaker, of nearly \$70 million. We see a freeze on hiring, Mr. Speaker. We see elimination of overtime and, Mr. Speaker, we see large overcrowding in facilities like at St. Paul's with 47 individuals, last Thursday, over capacity in the hospital.

My question to the Premier: why will he not take this issue seriously? These are real issues affecting real people here in the province, Mr. Speaker. And does he not see the connection between the decisions of his Sask Party government and the reality that patients and families are now experiencing in the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, again it's important to correct some of the preamble we hear from the Leader of the Opposition. It's important for us, for example, to put on the record that since our government was elected to power, we have increased funding to the health regions by a cumulative total of \$1 billion in five years, Mr. Speaker. We have increased the operating budget in this particular budget, a budget that was balanced — the only balanced budget in the country — we've increased operating to the regions by 4.5 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, we've also reported back to this House and answered some questions from the Leader of the Opposition of all the strategic investments we've made in health care that frankly are delivering better results for people — with more work to be done, but better results in terms of wait times, better results in terms of leaning out the system, in terms of a patient-first approach — than we ever had under the NDP.

And now, Mr. Speaker, I do think it's reasonable, first of all, for the Opposition Leader to ask questions of the government. That's part of his job. But there's another part of his job and that's to prescribe what he would do. We saw a glimpse of it in his leadership campaign when he said if he were the Premier there would be efficiencies in the health care system. Mr. Speaker, yes or no: is that his position today?

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

Immigration Issue

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, today marks the end of the academic semester at the University of Regina. It means that Victoria Ordu and Favour Amadi, two young international students, have lost a year of their studies. This has happened because Victoria and Favour made an honest mistake and worked a couple of weeks at Wal-Mart.

In response, the federal government invoked one of the harshest punishments possible and placed deportation orders on these two young women. Favour and Victoria have been taking sanctuary at local churches ever since, and we are joined here today by citizens who have been steadfastly working and advocating on their behalf.

These individuals and Victoria and Favour heard the undertaking from the Minister of Justice last week to raise this case with the federal government. Can the Minister of Justice inform this Assembly as to his actions in this matter, and can he inform the public as to the federal government's response?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I did provide an undertaking to the House that I would speak to the federal Minister of Public Safety, and I did that last Wednesday. I was in Ottawa discussing issues of cyberbullying and victims' rights. I did raise the matter with the minister. He agreed that he would raise the matter with the Minister of Immigration. We did point out to him that we thought that the transgressions were relatively minor in the greater scheme of things, Mr. Speaker. He took that position, and he will take that forward to the Minister of Immigration. And we hope to hear further from the minister in due course.

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

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, I thank that minister for his action and I thank him for that response.

But his answer underlies one of the challenges that has faced this case from the start. The Saskatchewan Minister of Justice raises the case with federal Minister Vic Toews, and Toews says that he will raise it with Citizenship and Immigration Minister Kenney. In March of this year, this issue was raised again with Minister Kenney's office, only to have an official state that the concern should be addressed to Minister Toews. While this federal buck-passing has gone on, two young women have lost their academic year, and Saskatchewan's reputation for being a welcoming place for international students has been damaged.

To restate, we are thankful for the action of the Justice minister on this matter. But will this government also press the matter through the Minister of the Economy to the federal Immigration minister? Or better yet, will the Premier endeavour to bring the federal buck-passing to an end and take the matter up directly with Prime Minister Stephen Harper?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I will remind the House that this matter is a matter of federal responsibility, and it's housed within the Minister of Immigration. I said we've raised the issue with the minister. We have agreed that we'll follow up with him on the matter.

It will be of some interest to see whether or not the member opposite has raised this issue with his federal counterparts in Ottawa. Any correspondence that they provided would be very helpful. We can provide that on to the minister as well.

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

Plans for School Gymnasium

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sacred Heart Community School has a vital place in the community. But the students of the school here in Regina have no access to the gymnasium for physical activity. The school's gym has been ruled off limits as the lights fell off the ceiling and the scoreboard fell off the wall. Now the foundation is heaving and the walls are crumbling and, as a result, the school staff has scrambled to come up with activities for the students.

Mr. Speaker, the school pushed for repairs for years, but no one in the Sask Party government seems to be listening. In the meantime, students sit idling as they await access to their gymnasium. To the minister: how could the Sask Party government stand by as the school's gymnasium literally falls apart?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the member opposite for the question. I have been apprised of the situation at Sacred Heart Community School. Our officials are in contact with the Catholic School Board officials, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, I met with the chairwoman of the Sacred Heart Community School this morning. We have elevated the situation from the critical space category to the health and safety priority, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue to work with the Sacred Heart staff and the Catholic School Board to mitigate that situation, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, the Regina Catholic superintendent of facilities told the local media last week that the wall in the gymnasium has major damage. And as the school sincerely, sincerely focuses on improving grades and literacy, the lack of physical activity this spring and into the week's muddy season will even put more pressure on the staff and administrators of the school.

But, Mr. Speaker, the school and the division have put in continual requests for improvements for the provincial government. But they say this is the first time, this is the first time they've heard it's been a health and safety concern. This is a serious matter, Mr. Speaker. And in the words of the superintendent, this isn't just something they've stumbled across. And yet the Sask Party leaves the school gym's replacement on its waiting list indefinitely.

Why has the Sask Party government denied these students access to the renewal of their school, and does no one in the government benches understand the negative effect it has on students when they don't have access to their gym?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, and again thank the member opposite for the question. I'm very aware of the importance of physical activity in student achievement, Mr. Speaker. And we are working, as I said, with the separate school board to do everything we can to alleviate that situation.

I do want to remind the member opposite that in this year's budget, we have again increased spending for capital by \$7.2 million, Mr. Speaker, for a total of \$119 million. And included in that amount, Mr. Speaker, is an amount for preventative maintenance and renewal.

We are working with the school board to mitigate the circumstances so that our children do have access to quality physical education activities, Mr. Speaker. I fully realize the importance of that, and we're doing everything we can to alleviate that stress.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the school's principal says there's been a noticeable change amongst the students because they're not getting enough gym time that they need to stay healthy. And the school's had to bus students to other schools so that they get their physical education. And the staff have gone above and beyond to ensure the health and well-being of their students.

And as a community school, that is all the more important. And that's why it makes absolutely no sense this provincial government's spokesperson told the media that there would be no decision, no decision of the situation until next spring.

Mr. Speaker, is that the Sask Party's official answer? That they're going to expect the community school to operate without a gymnasium for an entire school year?

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I can't ... A third time, we are working with the school division to address the physical education needs of the students at Sacred Heart Community School. I realize that physical education is a very important part of student achievement, Mr. Speaker.

But I can't emphasize enough, Mr. Speaker, in the Sask Party's six years of government, we've invested \$600 million in capital compared to the NDP's six years of 165, Mr. Speaker. As well, Mr. Speaker, in our six years, renovations have increased by 228 per cent, Mr. Speaker, \$450 million from the members opposite ... or from our government, Mr. Speaker, and 137 million from ours, Mr. Speaker. We've invested in 43 major school capital projects, over 900 additional projects, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to invest in our education infrastructure.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Highway Conditions

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well the results are in and while there are many to choose from, the people of Saskatchewan have voted on this year's worst roads in the province. And after nearly 3,000 votes, the top 10 list includes roads from across the province, north to south, rural to urban.

Mr. Speaker, what the poll and the voting should tell the Saskatchewan Party government is, for all their bluster, they just can't get the job done to fix the roads and highways of Saskatchewan. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in the budget they actually cut funding while the costs to fix our roads keep going up and up.

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister of Highways, is the Minister of Highways planning on a spring pothole tour to check out these goat paths, moose tracks, and pothole-ridden roads across the province? Will he take that tour, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I have to correct the member opposite. He said at his preamble that the results are in. Actually they're not in. They're going for two more weeks, Mr. Speaker. So maybe those results will change a little bit. I'm not thinking so. I think they're still going to have the 10 worst roads in Saskatchewan like they've had in every other year, Mr. Speaker.

We certainly know that CAA [Canadian Automobile Association] is a membership-based organization. But having said that, we look at the results that people are saying anecdotally, what they see as some of the poorer roads in the province, Mr. Speaker. And when you look at some of the ones that we'll be fixing into the future, it addresses a few of them. Some of them will no doubt be put off into other years, Mr. Speaker.

But I can say that I'll take no counsel from the member opposite when he talks about spending on highways, Mr. Speaker. This government has record spending this year alone, combined with last year — so I guess that would be the last two years, Mr. Speaker — a total of over \$1.1 billion, Mr. Speaker, well on the way to meeting our campaign commitment of 2.2 million, Mr. Speaker. People of rural Saskatchewan and people all over the province like that commitment, Mr. Speaker — not willy-nilly promises at the end of the election cycle like the former Dwain Lingenfelter.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Unsurprisingly to the residents of the North, the worst road in the province is Highway No. 123 near Cumberland House. And while this great community grows, Mr. Speaker, the roads keep getting worse. Competing with Highway 123 is Highway 42 near Dinsmore, Highway 908 at Ile-a-la-Crosse, and Highway No. 2 near Earl Grey makes a comeback. And, Mr. Speaker, last year Highway 22 was on the list and yet the Sask Party chose to ignore this very public survey and didn't get that road fixed.

Mr. Speaker, rounding out the top five is Pasture Road near Rosetown. From the Northeast to the west side of our province and everywhere in between, the roads are crumbling.

So, Mr. Speaker, instead of a luxury hardwood flooring for the Premier's office, why can't the Sask Party focus on a hard packed pavement on all the roads for the province of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I would hope the member opposite — he spent a little bit of time as the minister of Highways, Mr. Speaker — would know that to fix a kilometre of highway, Mr. Speaker, is extremely expensive. He tries to take political shots, Mr. Speaker. We understand that, coming from that member, Mr. Speaker. But certainly this government has taken highway safety and construction, Mr. Speaker, as a major priority. And you can see it in the investment that is done across the province.

Mr. Speaker, there are years where we don't get all the construction done because of weather, inclement weather. Highway 22 was worked on last year; it will be completed this year, Mr. Speaker. Highway 123, which was on the list, will have some work done on it, Mr. Speaker. A number of those highways will, as well as many other highways across the province.

I will say though, Mr. Speaker, that — I said in the interview last Friday — that the vast majority that carry the heaviest traffic and by far the most volume traffic never made it on the list, Mr. Speaker. Not that there isn't work to do, but people are pretty happy with the majority of the highways in this province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister should know that the roadwork in the province of Saskatchewan should be their top priority. Once again, Mr. Speaker, very clearly, the roads across the province need fixing and the Sask Party government stubbornly refuses to do anything about it.

Mr. Speaker, people want to see their potholes fixed, the gravel replaced, and the safety of their loved ones and their vehicle protected. Mr. Speaker, the economy and the businesses want to see the growing province that puts a priority on the safe transportation of all goods, Mr. Speaker. It's good for the economy. It's good for communities. It's good for people.

Why is this concept so foreign to this minister and that government, Mr. Speaker? So once again, Mr. Speaker, why does the Sask Party government neglect to fix the roads of Saskatchewan? Why, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, you can look at the investment of our government in the four years after we first became government, and these first two budget years. Absolutely record amounts of spending, Mr. Speaker, far outweighing what the members opposite did when they were in power. Mr. Speaker, we know that there is more work to do, but that's why we put the budget forward.

I'd be very interested . . . As the Premier challenged the Leader of the Opposition, I'd say to the critic: what would the budget under the NDP look like right now, Mr. Speaker? It would be way up. That's what he's saying. Absolutely, it would be way, way, up just like the way Lingenfelter said, Mr. Speaker. He was promising four-lane highways to Yorkton to try and get a few more votes. He was promising highways all over this province, just like that member is doing right now, Mr. Speaker. Oh, away more spending, you bet; you can trust us because we're the NDP.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012* without amendment.

The Speaker: — The minister has ... The chairman has moved, has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012.* I'm just promoting him. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

The Speaker: — Thank you. The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012.* Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to grant leave?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 63 — The Regional Parks Act, 2012

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 63, *The Regional Parks Act, 2012* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Again, Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 64, *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012* — this is a bilingual bill — without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 64, *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 64 — The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Regional Parks Act, 2012

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 64, *The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm further instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 89, *The Creative Saskatchewan Act* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 89, *The Creative Saskatchewan Act* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed with third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 89 — The Creative Saskatchewan Act

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 89, *The Creative Saskatchewan Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the chairperson for the Private Bills Committee.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Private Bills to report private Bill No. 901, *The Orange Benevolent Society Repeal Act* without amendment and private Bill No. 902, *The Lutheran Sunset Home of Saskatoon Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment and to present its second report. I move:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be now concurred in.

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

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 901, *The Orange Benevolent Society Repeal Act* and that the bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 901, *The Orange Benevolent Society Repeal Act* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The member may proceed.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 901 — The Orange Benevolent Society Repeal Act

Mr. Hart: — I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 901, *The Orange Benevolent Society Repeal Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — I move that this now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — Waive leave.

Mr. Kirsch: — I waive leave for the bill to be read a second time.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 902, *The Lutheran Sunset*

3397

Home of Saskatoon Amendment Act, 2013 and that the bill now be read the third time.

[14:45]

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill No. 902, *The Lutheran Sunset Home of Saskatoon Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Bill No. 902 — The Lutheran Sunset Home of Saskatoon Amendment Act, 2013

Mr. Kirsch: — I move that this bill now be read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 902, *The Lutheran Sunset Home of Saskatoon Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 422 through 425.

The Speaker: — Did you say, or 425 or 429?

Mr. Ottenbreit: — 425.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions . . . ordered questions 422 to 425. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers of questions 426 through 429.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 426 to 429. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to

facilitate the work of committees this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:47.]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Duncan	
The Speaker	
Doherty	
Vermette	
Jurgens	
Tochor	
Wilson	
Merriman	
Norris	
Sproule	
Forbes	
Morgan	
Broten	
McCall	
Wotherspoon	
Bjornerud	
Cox	
Elhard	
McMillan	
PRESENTING PETITIONS	
Belanger	
Broten	
Forbes	
Sproule	
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	
Holocaust Memorial Week	
Norris	
Regina Police Service Half Marathon	
Wotherspoon	
Construction Begins on Moose Jaw Hospital	
Michelson	
90th Anniversary of Naval Volunteer Reserve	
Forbes	
First Anniversary of Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society	2200
Steinley	
Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence	
Elhard	
Government Supports Habitat for Humanity	
Campeau	
QUESTION PERIOD	
Capacity and Investment in the Health System	
Broten	
Wall	
Duncan	
Immigration Issue	
McCall	
Wyant	
Plans for School Gymnasium	
Forbes	
Marchuk	
Highway Conditions	
Belanger	
McMorris	
PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice	
Michelson	
Standing Committee on Private Bills	
Wilson	
THIRD READINGS	
Bill No. 63 — The Regional Parks Act, 2012	
Doherty	

Bill No. 64 — The Regional Parks Consequential Amendments Act, 2012/Loi de 2012 portant modifica	tions
corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Regional Parks Act, 2012	
Doherty	
Bill No. 89 — The Creative Saskatchewan Act	
Doherty	
Bill No. 901 — The Orange Benevolent Society Repeal Act	
Hart	
Bill No. 902 — The Lutheran Sunset Home of Saskatoon Amendment Act, 2013	
Kirsch	
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
Ottenbreit	

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

> Hon. Dustin Duncan Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

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

Hon. Nancy Heppner

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

> Hon. Ken Krawetz Deputy Premier Minister of Finance

Hon. Russ Marchuk Minister of Education

Hon. Tim McMillan

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

Hon. Don McMorris

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

Hon. Don Morgan

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

Hon. Jim Reiter

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

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General