



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

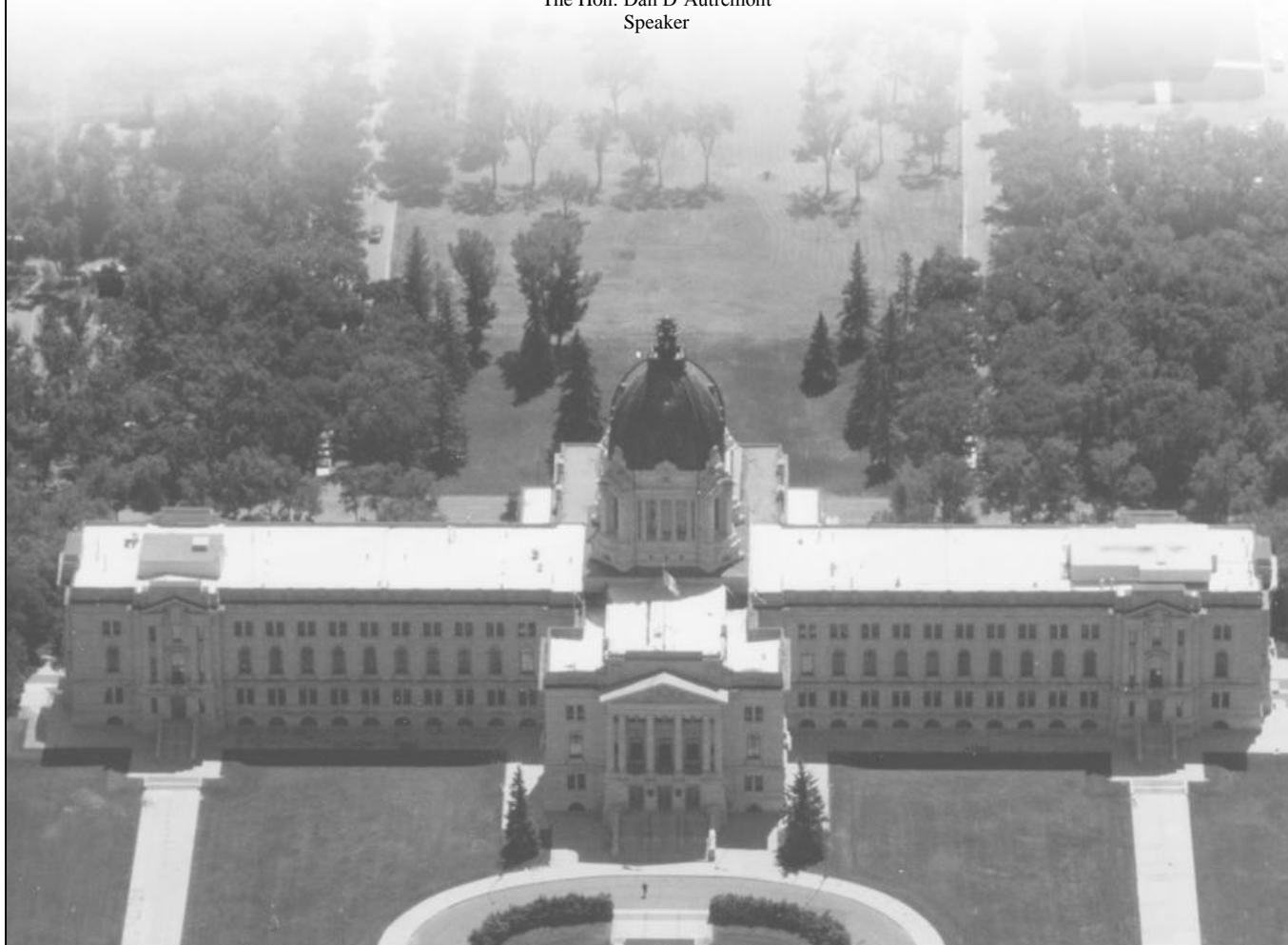
of the

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
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Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
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Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Hon. Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
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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 Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to all the members. This week has been declared Missing Persons Week in Saskatchewan. Earlier this morning, I had the opportunity to join families and community members in recognition of this important week along with the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

A number of people involved in this event have joined us in the legislature this afternoon. Seated in your gallery are a number of members of the provincial partnership committee on missing persons. This committee has played a significant role in raising awareness and educating the public in our province about missing persons over the last seven years.

The members of the committee joining us here today are Staff Sergeant Maureen Wilkie from the RCMP — can you just give us a wave — Inspector Tom Mansfield, Sergeant John Walker and Constable Sarantopoulos from the Regina Police Service; Trish LaFontaine, from the office of the provincial interlocutor; Sergeant Kenneth Palen from major crimes, north historical case unit; Joanne Michael of the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan; Pat Faulconbridge from the Ministry of Social Services; Pat Thiele, Betty Ann Pottruff, Janice Wilby, and Karol Douglas from the Ministry of Justice; Chief Coroner Kent Stewart from the office of the chief coroner; Derek Schmidt from search and rescue, Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers; Phyllis Hallatt and Susan Ramsay from Child Find Saskatchewan; Tracy Knutson from Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions, and Lisa Weeksuk from Métis Family and Community Justice Services of Saskatchewan. The partnership committee has played a role in raising awareness and educating Saskatchewan public about missing persons over the last seven years. And I'd like to thank them for their work.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank the families and friends of missing persons who are joining us here today. They are Carol Wolfe and her son, Desmond Wolfe; Wayne Lachance, Marshall Dreaver, and Leonard Lachance; and Marilyn and Allan Carlson.

In meeting these people today, we were reminded that the consequences of missing persons cases reach far beyond the missing person. It affects their family, friends, and their entire community. So I want to recognize the faith and bravery of people who continue to search and share their stories. I admire their courage in reminding us that all those who are missing are indeed missed. I would ask all members of the legislature to join me in welcoming these people to their legislature.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the minister in welcoming the families and friends of the missing people plus all of the other officials who are working together on the committee to deal with this problem, which is a problem for all of us. They're our missing family in the same way. So welcome to the legislature.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce some individuals seated in your gallery. Here today we have many esteemed representatives from all over the province who join myself and Ms. Draude as we proudly announce their disability strategy. These individuals seated in the House today will play a significant and essential role in ensuring that, as we move forward in developing the disability strategy, we will find success and inclusion for all members of our society who have a disability.

Without further ado, Mr. Speaker, we have Amy McNeil, executive director of the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres and Sarcan; Melanie Weiss, director of member services for the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres; Merv Bender, Chair of the project implementation advisory team and executive director of Community Service Centre in Prince Albert; Theresa Savaria, executive director of the Autism Resource Centre; Michael Lavis, executive director of Creative Options Regina.

From the Ministry of Social Services, we have Tiffany Hewson, senior policy analyst; Craig Torgunrud, senior policy analyst; Murray Wall, senior policy analyst; Joanna Popescu, senior policy analyst; Shauna Wouters, director of the strategic policy branch. I'd like all members to join me in welcoming these incredible people to their provincial legislature. And thanks for all your help.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join with the member opposite in welcoming all the folks from across Saskatchewan who do great work in supporting those who have disabilities. And I know that you'll put a great deal of effort into your work over the next year and a half. I understand that the consultations will begin next spring, and we look forward to being part of that work in doing whatever we can to help out as well.

So thank you for all that you do with respect to supporting people who have disabilities, in ensuring that there is a high deal of inclusion and support offered to people who could use the services. So thank you. I'd ask all members to join with me as well in welcoming these folks to their legislature.

While I'm on my feet, I'd actually like to recognize and welcome Marcel Petit to his Legislative Assembly. Marcel is not a constituent of mine. He, I believe, lives in Saskatoon Centre, but he worked, did a great deal of work for the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op and just wrapped up his time there a few months ago. And the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op is a huge part of the community of Saskatoon Riversdale and is very important. So thanks to Marcel, who did great work at the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op and is a filmmaker and an activist in Saskatoon and contributes a great deal to our city. So I'd like everyone to welcome Marcel to his Legislative Assembly as well.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly a pleasure to welcome a group of students from Vanier Collegiate in Moose Jaw. And they're on the left; I'll just ask them to give a little wave so we know which ones they are. Mr. Speaker, this is a great school because two of my kids went to that school, and so did the member of Wakamow's also attended that school. If we talk about the bright, young future, well, Mr. Speaker, in that gallery, that's where they are. So I'd ask everyone to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly this afternoon.

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

Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you. To you and all my colleagues in the House, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a group in the west gallery of 22 grade 12 students from F.W. Johnson Collegiate from here in Regina on Fines Drive. Their teachers accompanying them are Donarae Deringer, Mandy Crossman once again. They're frequent visitors, and we really appreciate them always bringing their classes out. I look forward to meeting them after question period so, colleagues, help me welcome them.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly two guests that are joining us in your gallery: first of all, Dr. Hope Bilinski, who is a professor at the College of Nursing in Saskatoon; as well as Heather Keith, a nurse practitioner from Fort Qu'Appelle.

Mr. Speaker, both of these nurses have been recognized for

their tremendous contributions to the health care system and to the nursing profession, and we'll hear more about that in a few moments. But, Mr. Speaker, on this, the beginning of National Nursing Week, I'd ask all members to help join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd love to take the opportunity to welcome the Provincial Ombudsman, Kevin Fenwick, seated in your gallery. Mr. Fenwick has been the Saskatchewan Ombudsman for the last nine years.

Later this afternoon, I'll be joining Mr. Fenwick in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Office of the Ombudsman in Saskatchewan. In the celebration, May 5th to 13th has been declared Ombudsman Week in this province. And I look forward to taking part in that milestone with Mr. Fenwick and thank his office for all the very good work that he's done for the people of Saskatchewan over his term in the office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join in welcoming Kevin Fenwick to the legislature. As Ombudsman, he has served the citizens of Saskatchewan very well. And we want to thank him and, I think, more importantly all his staff who work very carefully with him to make sure that the questions that citizens have are appropriately dealt with. So welcome to the legislature.

The Speaker: — I'd like to take this opportunity as well to welcome Mr. Kevin Fenwick, the Provincial Ombudsman, to the legislature, and to welcome the group from Vanier school and Doug Panko. Doug is part of the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] program, for all the teachers that might be interested.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition concerning care for our seniors here in Saskatchewan.

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 seniors' 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 Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition to the Assembly from over 100 Saskatchewan residents. Northern Saskatchewan's 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. And I would like to now read the prayer. It reads as follows:

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, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by folks from Asquith, Saskatoon, Leask, North Battleford, Spiritwood, Vonda, Flaxcombe, Warman, Gronlid, Hague, Prince Albert, Holbein, Birch Hills, Hepburn, and Martensville. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition asking for the repaving and repair and maintenance of north road, Highway 102 from La Ronge to Sucker River. This road is a major highway used by buses transporting our students to schools, tourism for camping and fishing, and by the mining and forestry industry. Mr. Speaker, people are very concerned for their safety. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that the repair and maintenance on the La Ronge north road, Highway 102, is important to northern residents and must be undertaken immediately.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by many La Ronge and area residents. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Missing Persons Week

Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May 5th to the 11th has been proclaimed Missing Persons Week in Saskatchewan. It's an important time to acknowledge this very serious and complex issue. As was mentioned during introductions today, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Corrections and Policing joined families, community members, and representatives of the provincial partnerships committee on missing persons to recognize the ongoing need to resolve missing persons cases.

This is the first year that the province has recognized a week related to public information and education about missing

persons. We are confident that this will serve as a benchmark for similar activities in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, there are currently 114 missing persons cases in Saskatchewan. I wish to have a list of those names tabled today. I have it with me.

Mr. Speaker, unless we personally have experienced the devastating impact of a missing loved one, it's hard to imagine the tragic consequences — wondering where they are, whether they are safe, and when they will return. These are the reasons why the work of the provincial partnership committee of missing persons is so important. This includes cultivating awareness, generating research, dispelling myths, and most importantly, providing assistance to the friends and family of missing persons. The excellent work of this committee ensures that missing persons are in our thoughts this week and every week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Women of Distinction Awards

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I had the honour of attending the 32nd annual Regina and region YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Women of Distinction Awards gala. It was a special night of inspiration and celebration, and tremendous nominees and award recipients abounded. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there was an astonishing 142 nominees overall, each one worthy of thanks and congratulations.

In Leadership and Management category, the award went to Kathy Hillman-Weir. The Circle of Friends award was garnered by Sharon Finnik and Candace Isbister. In Wellness, Recreation, and Healthy Living, the winner was Dr. Sarah Liskowich. Anna Davis received the Young Woman of Promise award, and Joanne Skidmore took home the prestigious Jacqui Shumiatcher Arts Award. Community Leadership and Enhancement went to Danah Hysuick, and Contribution to a Rural Community to Jeannie DesRochers. Cultural Heritage Award recipient Jaqueline Anaquod, brought the audience to its feet in ovation with her acceptance speech. Dr. Carol Fulton received the Education and Mentorship Award. Enterprise and Innovation was a tie between Valerie Sluth and Jacqueline Tisher, and the Lifetime Achievement Award went to Anna Mann.

It was an incredible night, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank everyone who helped to make the gala such a great success. Particularly I want to commend the efforts of gala host Lorie Lindsay, gala committee Chair Carrie Kotylak, and Regina YWCA president Diana Adams, and Regina YWCA executive director Deanna Elias-Henry for another great Women of Distinction gala. And a final word of thanks goes to the staff, volunteers, and supporters of the Regina YWCA for the great work of caring and support that they do the whole year through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognizing Flood Responders and Volunteers

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in this Assembly to recognize the teams of Saskatchewan flood responders and volunteers who have worked so diligently to protect their communities this spring.

Thousands of citizens across our province have donated many hours of their time to help protect and provide flood relief for their communities, whether it be through making sandbags and berms or lending a hand or even a home to community members who were forced to leave theirs due to rising flood water.

While flood relief efforts have been going strong in many areas around the province, I would like to make a special mention of those volunteers working extra long hours in 13 communities which are currently under a state of emergency. Mr. Speaker, in my constituency, the RM [rural municipality] of Wilton, from April 26th to today they have logged over 1,200 man-hours. From Friday, April 26th to May 3rd they had crews working 24 hours a day.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in recognizing and thanking all of those individuals who have worked around the clock to protect their neighbours and communities this spring. The volunteer spirit seen across our province in times like this is what makes Saskatchewan such a truly special place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Occupational Health and Safety Week

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week is North American Occupational Health and Safety Week. Occupational health and safety is an issue that impacts workers through Saskatchewan. This week is especially important, given the tragic workplace-related deaths of 60 people this past year. Saskatchewan also has the dubious honour of the second worst rate of workplace-related injuries nationwide. Clearly, we have a lot of work to do in addressing the real risks that individuals are facing in their workplaces.

We are all pleased to see the work that Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board is doing to tackle the issue of workplace injuries with its Mission: Zero campaign. Shifts in workplace culture will take the co-operation of both employees and employers. And we've also seen real progress this year with two issues that we raised. Jimmy's law and Howard's law are two concrete steps towards protecting the rights of workers in safe workplaces.

Our concern is that occupational health and safety will not be adequately addressed in Bill 85, and we hope to flesh that out more in committee this week to get this important job done correctly. That may mean, Mr. Speaker, that we slow this bill down in order to ensure that workers get the protections they need.

Mr. Speaker, Occupational Health and Safety Week is a great opportunity for us all to commit to safer workplaces. This is a conversation that involves workers of all ages and abilities and

employers from both large and small workplaces, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to continuing this discussion. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Family First Radiothon

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday I along with the member from Moose Jaw North were pleased to participate in the seventh annual Family First Radiothon. This event was put on by 800 CHAB for the Moose Jaw Health Region and held at the Town and Country Mall from 6 a.m. May 2nd until 6 p.m. May 3rd.

All proceeds went towards the new nursery equipment that will be used in the new hospital, Mr. Speaker. The event raised a whopping \$182,369. Moose Jaw and area residents were able to purchase a Radiothon heart to be entered to win concert tickets, food certificates, an autographed Steve Yzerman Detroit Wings jersey, and more. To date the Radiothon has raised over \$1.2 million for new hospital equipment in Moose Jaw.

I would like to take a moment to thank all those people who supported this event. I would also like to give a special thanks to Mr. Kelly McElree and all of the organizers that made this year's radiothon a great success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing the Family First Radiothon 2013 and the generosity of the Moose Jaw area residents in raising money for new nursery equipment in the new hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

National Nursing Week

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. May 6th to 12th is National Nursing Week. This is a special time we set aside to honour the vital role all nurses play in our health care system in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to tell you about Dr. Hope Bilinski and Heather Keith, both guests today in the legislature and wonderful examples of Saskatchewan nurses.

Dr. Bilinski is a nursing professor in Saskatoon who is part of a team that received 3.6 million to partner with organizations in northern Tanzania to improve health services for mothers and their children. Current patients receive health care at the Mama Kwanza or Mother First clinic. They also need economic, social, nutritional, and educational support to keep them healthy. Congratulations, Dr. Bilinski, on your very prestigious grant.

Heather Keith is a nurse practitioner who recently received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her outstanding work in health care. She worked in Sandy Bay for many years and is passionate about advancing health care for people living in northern Saskatchewan. After leaving the North in 2007, Heather remained dedicated to northern people, becoming

director of nurse practitioner education for the three northern regions and authorities. Congratulations, Heather, on receiving the Queen's diamond medal jubilee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking all the nurses for their ongoing contributions to the health care system and in wishing them the very best this week. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Provincial Disability Strategy

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to inform all members that the Government of Saskatchewan has taken another important step towards making this province the best place to live in Canada for people with disabilities. This morning, the process of developing a comprehensive disability strategy for the province of Saskatchewan was launched.

Mr. Speaker, the disability strategy will focus on the priority areas specified in our government's plan for growth: accessibility, affordability, and availability of housing, transportation, employment, education, support for community inclusion, and support for caregivers. Other priorities may emerge during the consultation process.

Nominations are currently open for the citizen consultation team, and we invite interested individuals to submit their names for consideration. The members of that group will be announced in the fall and will get to work right away on developing the public consultation process.

Preliminary plans call for a number of consultation methods to be utilized — including video conferencing, online submissions, written submissions, and face-to-face public forums — to ensure access for persons with disabilities. Community forums will also be held across the province.

Mr. Speaker, our province is growing. We need to ensure that everyone is able to share in the opportunities created by that growth. We'll do that by hearing from as many people and as many different viewpoints as possible in the development of our disability strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Thursday I raised the concerns of Craig Bayliss who visited the Premier's constituency office at least four times since March to seek a group home placement for his son.

Craig's son requires round-the-clock care due to intellectual disabilities and significant mental health challenges. And Craig and his wife are unable to care for their son because of their own health concerns. Despite repeated trips to the Premier's office, Craig wanted his son's case raised in question period in

the legislature in order to get the attention of the Sask Party government. My question to the Premier: why was Craig Bayliss ignored when he sought help from the Premier's office?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We certainly didn't ignore the requests from the Bayliss family, from Craig, on behalf of their child who needs placement with respect to a group home and program services. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we undertook to raise the issue with Social Services as well as with the excellent NGO [non-governmental organization] that operates group homes in the Southwest, called the Southwest Homes.

Mr. Speaker, I can report to the House that a space, a permanent space in Swift Current was offered to the young individual with the intellectual disability in spring of last year. Southwest Homes held off for six months before they actually had to give that space up to another that was waiting, but the family had six months to decide on a space for their child.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since discussions occurred with the family, Mr. Speaker, what has changed is the health situation of his parents and their ability in order to take care of their son. And it's that reason, Mr. Speaker, that they went to the Premier's office so many times in Swift Current.

What's also puzzling, Mr. Speaker, is that their concern is still being ignored. When I raised this issue on Thursday in question period, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Crown Investments said someone would contact the Bayliss family immediately after question period to offer some assistance. Well, Mr. Speaker, as of 1:20 p.m. this afternoon, the Bayliss family had still not received a phone call from anyone.

It's bad enough, Mr. Speaker, that they were ignored when they went to the office. But to have the issue raised in question period in the legislature and to still not have appropriate follow-up, Mr. Speaker, that's completely not acceptable. My question to the Premier: since the Minister of Crown Investments said the family would be contacted following question period, why is it that the Bayliss family has not been contacted?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we take this case, we take all cases brought to the constituency office very, very, seriously. The government takes these cases seriously. That's why we've implemented the 440 wait-list and met those on the wait-list, in fact 215 beyond the list who are getting programs and services.

And I need to repeat for the Leader of the Opposition that a permanent space in Swift Current was offered in this particular case last spring, not that long ago, just in the spring. The space was held on for six months, empty basically, and available for six months by Southwest Homes, is my understanding, waiting for the family to be able to make the decision. They were unable to for whatever reason. Obviously parents make these decisions, and should, but as a result, the Southwest Homes had

to give this space up to someone else last fall.

Since then, Mr. Speaker — and our office is certainly aware of it — Social Services has been working with the family. Southwest Homes has continued to work for the family. So what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is alleging simply isn't true. In fact I understand . . . I believe there's some respite programming over the weekend that they're making available in the interim until another space can become available.

Mr. Speaker, we have many, many more spaces in Swift Current. That's a good thing. But there, in this case, was a space offered, held on for six months, and now in the interim we're working on programming until a permanent space is found again.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, from *Hansard* last Thursday when this was raised, on page 3431 the Minister for Crown Investments said, "Mr. Speaker, we will definitely arrange for someone, immediately following question period, to meet with Craig and his family." It went on to say, "But as I said, we'll have someone meet with this family and discuss their particular issue." Mr. Speaker, as of 1:20 p.m. this afternoon, they had not yet received a phone call about a potential meeting, about when that could occur.

We also raised on Thursday the issue, Mr. Speaker, of Devon Birns. Devon's sister, Jennifer, is his full-time caregiver. And she was shocked by the Premier's slick announcement about the elimination of the wait-list for people with disabilities because her brother Devon, Mr. Speaker, has been on a wait-list of one kind or another since 2006, and he's never been offered an actual spot in a program.

Mr. Speaker, following question period, the Minister for Crown Investments went out in the rotunda, stubbornly dismissed Jennifer's concerns and said that she was lying, that she wasn't telling the truth. Jennifer said, "The fact you can say we've been offered them and refused them is disgusting. If we were offered them, we would know."

My question to the Premier: is it appropriate, when a family comes to the legislature with a very real concern, that a senior minister would go out into the rotunda and seek to discredit those individuals who are caring for their loved ones?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Bayliss family, I'm informed that the minister's office has been in touch, and a meeting is scheduled with the minister. So what the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] committed to is in fact happening.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that the facts surrounding the Bayliss case were available to the Leader of the Opposition. He may want to just call in advance. These are serious issues. We take them seriously. I think he does too. He may want to call in advance just to understand exactly what's happened.

It isn't just government that's responding. It's not all about politics. We have NGOs like Southwest Homes. We have ministry officials who have taken this issue very seriously, who are now providing either a space or programming to 600-plus people that were previously not served not very long ago, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to the Birns family, we are aware that either programs or financial support were offered. Mr. Speaker, I know the minister is prepared to meet with the family to work through these, as are officials at the non-government agencies and at the ministry that are involved. Mr. Speaker if anyone doubts the commitment on this side of the House to these issues, they need only look at the record of this government with respect to people with disabilities.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, for Mr. Bayliss's situation, what he has told us is that a spot was offered two to three years ago, Mr. Speaker, and since that time his health has changed, which has affected their ability to care for their son.

Mr. Speaker, what we see with the Bayliss family and the Birns family is that these families are not alone. There are other families who have contacted us, Mr. Speaker, but they're afraid to come forward because they're afraid of the response from the Sask Party government.

It speaks to a problem with the government, that they will have the news conference; they will deliver a self-congratulatory news release, Mr. Speaker. But then we see a different story emerge and it speaks to another problem with the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. When the concerns of real people are brought forward, instead of listening and trying to fix them, Mr. Speaker, we see a dismissive attitude, a stubborn attitude, and we see a refusal to listen.

My question to the Premier: will he apologize to the Birns family and Bayliss family for how they've been treated?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, again I invite the Leader of the Opposition to call. We can have a discussion, especially if it relates to my constituency office, what has or hasn't happened.

We also made available the individual who does an amazing job, together with her team, of operating of Southwest Homes. The Leader of the Opposition can call and find out some information. And perhaps we're falling short in an area, and he can raise it again in the legislature. But, Mr. Speaker, that needs to happen if we're actually going to make progress.

Mr. Speaker, when we became government in 2007, the then minister of Social Services presented these facts to the government, to the cabinet, that there were at that time 440 people who were on a wait-list. They needed a program, day programming or a place to live — 440 people with intellectual disabilities. We set aside \$52 million, Mr. Speaker, and worked to eliminate that particular list, knowing that this would be a process, not an event. We've created SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] and we've added income support

for SAID as well. Mr. Speaker, the support for those with intellectual disabilities from this government has been unprecedented.

In the last 10 years of the NDP [New Democratic Party] government, 99 individuals received this kind of care, a place to live or programming. We do that almost every single year since we've been elected. We recognize that there's more work to be done. If the Leader of the Opposition is serious and it's not just about politics, we want to work with him. He can call about specific cases or the general issue as well as raise them in the House. But, Mr. Speaker, we encourage him to do that in the advance of raising special cases so that we know all the facts are presented, and so that he has them as well, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, at 1:20 p.m., our office called Mr. Bayliss and asked if they'd received a call about a meeting. He said they had not received a call. So my question to the Premier: if the minister has set up a meeting with Mr. Bayliss, why is it that he doesn't know about it?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, my office has advised me that there was a discussion about a meeting. I am more than willing to meet with the individuals. I do understand that circumstances change. I do know that families have the best interests of their children at heart all the time. I would be willing to meet with them at any time. In fact I was hoping that we'd get a chance to meet with them this week. I've been informed that they had chatted with them. I will check it out again. I will make sure that I'm available for them at any time. But I do understand also, Mr. Speaker, that families' circumstances change and that we need to be discussing it.

Mr. Speaker, the opportunities that we have to deal with people with disabilities in this province is unprecedented. I know that the members opposite don't want to believe that. I know that they don't want to acknowledge the fact that in their last 10 years of government they had 99 new clients recognized. In our first five years we have the 440 wait-list plus 215. That's 131 people a year, Mr. Speaker. We do care about them, and our goal is to make sure this is the best place to live for people with a disability.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following question period on Thursday, it's my understanding that eventually discussion of a meeting was talked about with the Birns family. My question to the minister: is the minister confusing the Birns family with the Bayliss family with respect to a meeting that is scheduled?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the meeting is with the Birns family this week. The Bayliss family is one that I will continue to talk to my staff about. I want to make sure that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is aware that both clients are in receipt of funding and/or services at this time. We have ongoing

discussions with them. The fact that they have a vulnerable individual that needs the care of the province is something that is important to us. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with families and I apologize if I mixed up the names of them. I am meeting with one of them this week, and we'll continue to set up meetings.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Thursday the Minister for Crown Investments said, "The 440 wait-list at that time, of course, now would be five years. And was there an emergent wait-list coming behind it? Absolutely, Mr. Speaker." The Minister for Crown Investments said that there was absolutely an emergent wait-list. My question to the Minister of Social Services: does she agree with what her predecessor said so firmly in question period on Thursday?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, obviously in estimates for I think it was about four hours, and then at other times we've had the opportunity to talk about the wait-list, the 440 individuals that received no services when we became government. There was 440 individuals that were not looked at by the previous government.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have provided services, developed or under development, for these 40 individuals. And we do know that along with that, we have another 215 individuals whose cases came before us, and we understood that they also needed care immediately. That's why we put the effort into it, the funding available to make sure that there was, as we said, always a need for services and we would be providing services for individuals as they came forward.

Mr. Speaker, we know that every year there's between 20 and 40 individuals that are going to need the care of the government. That's why this year we put another \$1 million in to build homes for or services for people with individuals.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 22nd, the day of the Premier's slick announcement about the end of the wait-list, I asked the Minister of Social Services, "But so is everybody then taken care of? Or do you have an additional number of people who are still waiting for services? Or a new list?" The Minister of Social Services replied, "No, there isn't a new list." She went on to say that the government is now looking at children in care who will need support down the road. Yet last Thursday, the Minister for Crown Investments contradicted the Minister of Social Services and said, "We do not deny that there has been a wait-list that has emerged beyond the 440 wait-list. We totally recognize that."

Why did the minister say so clearly that there was no new list, and why did her predecessor completely contradict her?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting line of questioning from the member opposite. She continues to talk about lists and I continue to talk about the people. I continue to talk about the 215 individuals that we have served, that emerged, that came to our attention as we became . . . as we were working on the 440 list. And I said not once, not twice in *Hansard* that I understood there was more people that were going to be needing help. There always will be. We understand that, Mr. Speaker.

The fact that they are not considered on a list is because we see them working into our system all the time. As soon as we meet with them, as soon as we identify them through child and family services, through community-based organizations, through Education, through Health, then we identify their needs. We plan with the community. We plan with the families. We plan with CBOs [community-based organization] to ensure that we will have the appropriate services for those individuals as they move forward.

Yes there is always people that are going to need our support. But no we're not going to put 440 people on a wait-list like you did.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting. On the day that the Premier had a slick announcement about the elimination of the wait-list, the Minister for Social Services adamantly said there is no new wait-list. But then last week the former minister for Social Services, the member for Humboldt, said there is absolutely a new waiting list.

These two very different stories from the Sask Party government have created a lot of confusion and frustration. For who? For families, Mr. Speaker. And it illustrates that the Sask Party government cares more about spin and PR [public relations] than the very real concerns of Saskatchewan people. And when these very real concerns are brought forward, the Sask Party government is stubborn and dismissive.

When the Minister of Social Services said there is no new wait-list, was she aware of the many families who are still waiting?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the disability community participants that were with us the day that we made the announcement were very excited about the fact that they actually had a government that was listening to them. In fact today we have some more of the individuals that came to the gallery to talk about the next steps when it comes to disability strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I don't consider it a slick announcement. What I do is consider the fact that government is working with individuals, that we are able to work with families and communities and supply services, respite, day programming for individuals who desperately need it.

When we became government, we inherited 440 people who the

members opposite didn't seem to care about at all. They were on their list of people that they were ignoring. We know that there are between 20 and 40 individuals every year who are going to come forward. We have already identified them in many, many cases, through child and family services, through community-based organizations, through Education, through Health. It's not going to be a surprise. We're not going to have a backlog of individuals because we see them as people, not just a list.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, they most certainly are people. And that's why, when individuals come to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, they should be respected. They should be listened to and their concerns should be addressed, Mr. Speaker.

We had a situation on Thursday, Mr. Speaker. We brought up the situation of Mr. Bayliss and care for his son. The Crown Investments minister said that he would be called right after question period, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Premier why he was not called after question period because, as of 1:20, he had not been called. The Premier said there was a meeting, which was later cleared up in question period by the Minister for Social Services saying, well actually it's a different family that's having the meeting, and there hasn't been a meeting set up with Mr. Bayliss.

I can understand, Mr. Speaker, how we're concerned about the details when we have conflicting stories from two different ministers, and when the Premier says that a meeting is set up when in fact there is not a meeting set up. So my question to the Premier: following this question period, can he guarantee that Mr. Bayliss will be contacted and his concerns will be addressed?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite, I guarantee that we will be calling to see if we can set up a meeting. I guarantee that our first concern is always for people with disabilities. I know that families are going through a lot of struggles right now, when they have . . . their loved one is very, very vulnerable, and they're asking government for support. Sometimes those needs change.

I know that every year there's going to be more individuals that come forward, and that's why this ministry has received support from this government in every budget, more support, regardless of what the economic situation may be in the province. We still recognize that a big responsibility for government is our vulnerable individuals, not just the wait-list ones, but the ones that are emerging.

Mr. Speaker, we have not just spent money on wait-lists. We've talked about the SAID program. We've talked about disability rental housing. We've got approved private service homes. We've got CBO increments for the people that are working with vulnerable people. Mr. Speaker, this file, there will always be more to do, and as a province we recognize that, and as a government we are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities will be in the leading place in Canada.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, earlier in question period I asked the Premier a direct question about the conduct of his ministers, and he did not provide an answer. The question was, the Minister of Crown Investments, following question period on Thursday she went out into the rotunda and blatantly tried to discredit a citizen who came to the legislature with concerns about her family.

I did not think, Mr. Speaker, that's how, when people come to the Assembly, how they should be treated. My question to the Premier: does he believe that what his minister did in that situation, in blatantly attempting to discredit a person coming to the legislature, what was that appropriate behaviour?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — My colleague, the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation, the former minister of Social Services, understands this file very, very well. She understands the fact that we have not only the people that were on the wait-lists when we became government, but there was emerging needs.

She also understands and sits on a cabinet table when it comes to working with individuals and knowing that there's always more money to be spent. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to individuals, we're not really working with politics like the members opposite. This isn't about politics. It's about families; it's about vulnerable individuals; it's about children. And that's where we're putting our priorities always as this government.

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

Funding for University

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, at the University of Saskatchewan, the Sask Party spin doesn't match reality. On Friday the university put out a press release announcing that a flock of sheep the university has maintained for 100 years will be the next victim of budget pressures. This adds to the dismaying list of developments at the university, such as the closure and sale of the Kenderdine Campus, rising tuitions, hundreds of layoffs, growing institutional debt, and on.

Mr. Speaker, if one were to believe the billboards the Sask Party has spent taxpayer money on, the situation on campus couldn't be better. But a for sale sign on the flock of 300 sheep points to a very different reality. To the minister: does he believe his own spin about how great things are on campus? And if so, why do we see yet another long-standing and valued institution at the University of Saskatchewan being put on the auction block?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker. When the last election came along, I never would have

thought that I would have been answering a question about sheep in the House. However having said that, Mr. Speaker, I do have a little bit of background information. Mr. Speaker, the University of Saskatchewan will continue to make sheep available to meet teaching and research needs in the College of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, the university is an independent institution. We will continue to provide them significant amounts of funding. In 2013-14 we provide \$333 million in operating funding, a 59 per cent increase from 2007. Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, we've invested \$260.3 million in capital. We've provided \$15 million for 400 beds. It is the first investment in student housing since the 1960s. Mr. Speaker, we support the university.

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

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, the University of Saskatchewan is in fact facing a \$44 million operating budget shortfall, and that doesn't even include the broken promise on the capital side, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government's broken promise to complete the health sciences project which has forced the university to max out its credit. I'm sure that the cost of maintaining the 100-year-old flock of teaching and research sheep wasn't costing the university \$44 million per year.

So after the decisions on Kenderdine, layoffs, program reviews, tuition increases, now the university's selling the sheep, the flock of sheep. To the minister: what's next?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite raised the issue of the Academic Health Sciences Building. Mr. Speaker, we have provided \$115.9 million to this. Mr. Speaker, we are also providing another \$4 million this year for completion of the A and B wings, and will continue to ensure that that project completes on time when it was originally scheduled to do so. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the NDP announced approval of the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] Health Sciences Building in 2003 at a cost of \$120 million. Mr. Speaker, construction was not started until after the 2007 election. Now it is going to cost about \$270 million, Mr. Speaker. Had the members opposite done what they were supposed to do on time, Mr. Speaker, we would not be where we are today, Mr. Speaker.

We will continue to work with the university. I am proud to be a graduate of that university, and we will ensure that they continue to be adequately and appropriately funded.

The Speaker: — I just want to remind members that there is no need for animal calls in the House. We may have to call a vet with a very large needle if it happens again.

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 that the House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:21.]

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Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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Minister Responsible for The Global
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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