



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

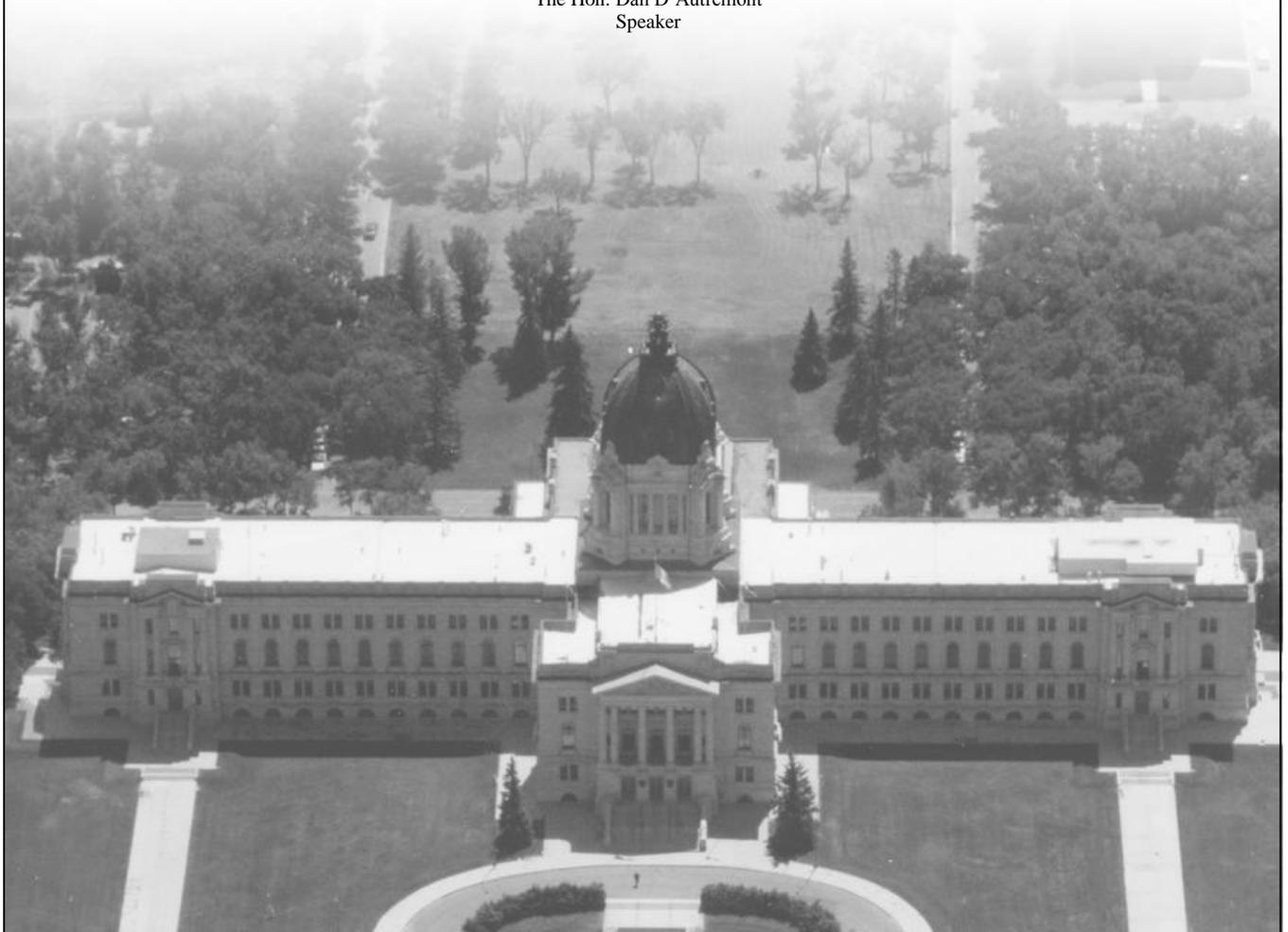
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D'Autremont
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Cam Broten

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
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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, 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, Hon. 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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: — Introduction of guests. We're setting new records here twice this week.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Many northern residents benefit from the rental purchase program, option program also known as RPO [rental purchase option]. These families are very proud homeowners in their communities. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly cause the Sask Party government to restore the RPO rent to own option for responsible renters in northern Saskatchewan, allowing them the dignity of owning their own homes and building community in our province's beautiful North.

It is signed by many northern people. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today presenting a petition in support of replacing the gym at Sacred Heart Community School.

The petitioners point out a number of things, Mr. Speaker. One is that the school and community have raised this issue with the Sask Party provincial government since 2007 without resolution; that the gym at Sacred Heart has played an important role in the school's efforts to become a literacy leader, having served as a gathering place for the very successful reading assemblies and reading nights; and moreover, Mr. Speaker, that Sacred Heart Community School is the largest school in North Central with 450 students, 75 per cent of whom are First Nations and Métis.

In the prayer that reads as follows:

The petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following actions to cause the Sask Party provincial government to immediately commit to the replacement of the gymnasium of Sacred Heart Community School.

This petition is signed by citizens from Melfort, Maple Creek, and Swift Current.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Health Care Providers Week

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every day health care providers in Saskatchewan work tirelessly to provide their patients with high-quality care. They are dedicated to the people of Saskatchewan and help keep the health care system focused where it needs to be focused — on the patients and families it serves. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, October 27th to November 3rd is being recognized as Health Care Providers Week.

Mr. Speaker, health care providers play a vital role in our province. Anyone who has come into contact with the health system can attest to their compassion, caring, and professional nature. There are a wide range of health care providers such as dietitians providing medical nutrition therapy, nurses providing care to the sick, special care aids looking after elderly patients, and surgeons providing life-saving operations, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, our government is working to ensure that we have the right mix of health care providers to offer the best possible care for our province. We are grateful for the role they play in all areas of the health care sector.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking our health care providers for their ongoing commitment to high-quality, patient-first care. They are making a real difference in the lives of Saskatchewan residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the month of November as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and also to kick off the 7th annual Movember campaign.

Since 2003 the global movement to raise funds and awareness for prostate and testicular cancer has involved millions of participants across 21 countries. Last year Canadians raised 42.6 million for men's health initiatives.

The Movember campaign has also recently developed programs to address mental health issues. Men face high levels of suicide and depression, yet are often less inclined to seek the help they need. Mental health remains a challenge in Canada, and it's encouraging to see effective campaigns like Movember branch out to address these issues.

We're proud to announce our participation in this year's fundraising. All male staff and some of our braver MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], including myself and our leader, will be seeking donations for Team Jack in this year's campaign.

What makes this movement so effective is how it transforms our brothers, fathers, and friends into walking and talking billboards. For the month of November, we are surrounded by moustaches of all shapes and sizes. As we saw in the legislature

last fall, this can be both good and very, very bad.

But outside of showing off people's sprouting skills, these public displays are never detached from what they symbolize. Many participants have personal experiences with men who have struggled with cancer or mental health issues, and there is no advertisement as effective as the personal experience. I would like this Assembly to join with me in recognizing all the individuals organizing, participating in, and supporting such important initiatives and that are supporting Movember. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Wadena Student Wins Bronze in Cross-Country Competition

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Dr. George Sheehan, a runner, writer, philosopher, said, "Running makes you an athlete in all areas of life . . . trained in the basics, prepared for whatever comes, ready to fill each hour and deal with the decisive moment."

Today it gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise in the House and recognize a cross-country runner from my constituency, James Lorenzen of Wadena Composite School. James won bronze at the high school cross-country meet held on Thanksgiving weekend. This is his third provincial high school cross-country win.

Since his high school win, James also competed in the junior men's category at the Saskatchewan Athletics provincial cross-country championship in Saskatoon and placed second overall. In this category he's competing against athletes who are two years older, many of whom are second year university students. This gives him funding from the Saskatchewan Athletics to cover half of his travel costs to the nationals in Vancouver on November the 30th.

His coach, Harvey Weber, said that this is an incredible feat because James does most of his training on his own most of the year. In the winter he trains once a week in the Tisdale Track Club. I'm sure we'll be hearing much more about James as he pursues his passion for cross-country running.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating James and wishing him the best of luck as he represents Saskatchewan at the nationals.

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

Women's History Month and International Day of the Girl

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize both Women's History Month and the second International Day of the Girl held on October 11th.

Women's History Month is celebrated each year and seeks to recognize the important contributions of women in Canada and across the globe. This year's theme, Canadian Women Pioneers: Inspiring Change Through Ongoing Leadership,

highlights women's historical contributions to a number of growing fields.

In December 2010 the United Nations passed a resolution to declare October 11th as the International Day of the Girl. The theme of the UN's [United Nations] second observance of this day was Innovating Girls' Education. Girls throughout the world face higher rates of violence, poverty, discrimination; and access to education is seen to be integral in ending this cycle. In Canada, girls have higher rates of depression, sexual harassment, and dating violence than their male counterparts. Days like International Day of the Girl help raise awareness of how support for girls and their basic human rights is key for healthy communities.

I encourage all members in this House to join me in celebrating Women's History Month and the second International Day of the Girl. Furthermore I call on all members to continue to fight for the rights of girls and women daily. It is these very girls, when given the opportunity, who will become women pioneers of the future. We need continued vigilance to ensure our daughters, sisters, mothers, and friends can live in peace and security. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Policing and Corrections.

TV Series Stars Local Athletes

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise in the House today to speak about two extraordinary young men who grew up in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, Mark and Craig McMorris are world-class snowboarders, born and raised in the heart of the Saskatchewan prairies.

These boys are brothers and best friends. They enjoy competing against each other in snowboarding, wakeboarding, skateboarding, boat racing, golf, hockey, and almost any type of athletic activity. The brothers have gained recognition in the last few years with victories at several international snowboard competitions such as the World X Games in Aspen, Colorado, where Mark took home two medals this past January.

But, Mr. Speaker, over the past year the brothers have begun a new endeavour. For the past several months, Mark and Craig have been busy filming their own activity-packed MTV documentary which follows them on their exciting adventures around the world. The series, titled *McMorris & McMorris*, is set to debut tomorrow night, 7 p.m., on MTV Canada. Staying true to their prairie roots, the first episode takes place in the beautiful Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, where the boys first learned to snowboard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating the McMorris brothers on their accomplishments and invite everyone to watch the premiere of *McMorris & McMorris*. Thank you.

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

Happy Halloween

Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr.

Speaker, today is a big day for children across the province, and they're probably already counting down the hours until school is finished for the day. They're going to rush home and change into their costumes, quickly transforming into the likes of Iron Man and Disney princesses, witches and vampires, and of course, my favourite, zombies.

Kids will be putting in a hard night of roaring their best trick or treat and carrying around heavy pillowcases and bags before they go home to search through their loot of chocolate bars and candy, gum and chips. After tonight, kids are going to have a supply of sweet treats to last for the next little while and, if we're lucky, maybe the big kids will get some too. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure about that.

What I am sure about, Mr. Speaker, is that it gets dark quite early these days, and I'd like to remind everybody to slow down and keep a watchful eye for kids while driving tonight. I'd also like to encourage all the parents, big brothers and sisters out there, to join their young trick-or-treaters to ensure that they cross the street safely while they're having fun.

Most of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to wish everybody a happy Halloween. Thank you.

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

Building New Schools

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, well, well, the Education critic's letter to the editor in today's *Leader-Post* is just another example of the same old NDP [New Democratic Party] fearmongering tactics. This time they appear to be against building new schools.

In addition to our current capital investments, the nine new joint-use P3 [public-private partnership] schools will be built on time and on budget, faster than we ever could through traditional procurement. P3s cost less. We can say that because we will be undertaking a value-for-money analysis as part of the process. We will hire a professional firm as an external financial adviser for P3s we undertake, and ultimately projects can be reviewed by the Provincial Auditor.

The member from Rosemont also wrote about a project that took place in Nova Scotia in the late '90s . . . I don't know, Mr. Speaker, before Twitter, before Facebook, before best practices, before value-for-money, and before the P3 market had matured. Today's P3s do not have these same issues. Mr. Speaker, he even suggests that we will be giving up control of our schools and that community access will be compromised.

As we've said repeatedly, our government will be examining the best practices of successful P3 projects from across Canada. Why can't the NDP get on board with the rest of Canada and support P3s? Their federal leader, Thomas Mulcair, does. Janice MacKinnon does. The Manitoba NDP does. And even they did when they ran their own P3 office between 2000 and 2005 under Maynard Sonntag and Pat Atkinson. Mr. Speaker, they may have a new leader, but it's the same old NDP.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Health Care Conditions

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Health said he would look into the concerns raised by retired RN [registered nurse] Suzanne Stewart about hospital cleanliness and the standard of care. It's good that her concerns are finally being looked into, but my question to the Premier is this: why was no follow-up done last year when Ms. Stewart raised these concerns directly to the Premier?

[10:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Mr. Speaker, we do take concerns raised with the government very seriously. I can look into reasons why that a response may not have been provided with respect to the specific question by the Leader of the Opposition.

I think a pretty good indicator though of response from government is really the record of government in terms of funding in health care, in terms of a larger complement of staff in the province than we've ever had, including more doctors and more nurses. Mr. Speaker, I think you've heard members on this side of the House, the Minister of Health, make the commitment that we understand that the improvements will always be needed in the health care system. We're committed to those improvements. That's why we've increased health care funding since 2007 by 41 per cent.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Suzanne Stewart first wrote to the Premier on September 24th, 2012. Yet despite acknowledging he received a copy of this letter with reference to short-staffing with rather revolting details about filthy conditions in the hospital, the Minister of Health said to the media yesterday, "No, no, I didn't follow up specifically." So if the Premier wants to know why there wasn't a follow-up, he can just call over two seats, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the Premier: does he find it acceptable that the Minister of Health is not following up when he receives some pretty shocking letters?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we can check into the specific case, but I would say this about the current Minister of Health — and frankly the former minister of Health and the Minister now of Rural and Remote Health, and all members on this side of the House — when we hear concerns with respect to the health care system, but really with respect to government, we work hard to address those concerns. To the extent this one wasn't, we'll check into it.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think you could accuse this Minister of Health of not responding to concerns, whether it's long-term

care, whether it's health care or specific health care cases.

Mr. Speaker, let's remember what this government has been dealing with over the last number of years. We're dealing with taking over a health care system that was neglected by members opposite. They were unwilling to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well, the former minister of Health wants to enter the debate, the former minister of Health and other ministers of Health over there who refused even to set goals for the right numbers of health care staff in our systems, Mr. Speaker. The only health care goal they ever set over there was the number 52 — that's the number of hospitals they closed on that side of the House.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, here's a goal that this government could look at. How about ensuring our hospitals are clean? How about ensuring seniors receive the baths that they need in our care facilities throughout the province?

Mr. Speaker, while the Minister of Health admitted that he ignored Suzanne Stewart's shocking letter last year, he did acknowledge that the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatoon Health Region reported in the summer that significant cleanliness problems exist at Royal University Hospital. But the Minister of Health said this to the media yesterday: "I wouldn't want to speak to what processes are going to be put in place by the Saskatoon Health Region without talking to the CEO, so we're making arrangements to do that."

It's bad enough, Mr. Speaker, that the minister and the Premier ignored the shocking details in the letter from Suzanne. It's even worse, Mr. Speaker, that the minister has been alerted to cleanliness problems by the CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region and doesn't even know what processes are being put in place, Mr. Speaker. It's now October 31st and she raised these earlier on.

My question to the Premier: how is it that the Minister of Health still doesn't know what processes are going to be put in place in order to ensure that our hospitals are cleaner?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we've learned with this Leader of the Opposition that we have to ensure we do a fact check in terms of his preamble. And so, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health has just confirmed for me that there was a letter that went back to the person in question, Mr. Speaker, and moreover the Ministry of Health referred the matter to the Saskatoon Health District. The Saskatoon Health District looked at the concerns that were raised and worked to set up a plan to deal with it, to deal with it in terms of cleanliness. And so his facts are just fundamentally wrong, Mr. Speaker. That's not to say that all the health regions, that the Ministry of Health, that everyone can't ensure we're doing an even better job to address these issues. We will do that, Mr. Speaker.

I think the best way we can ensure we are providing the best quality care and the cleanest and most modern facilities is to have a government that will make an investment in those human resources, add more human resources, add huge

numbers in terms of the capital budget.

While recognizing we have more to do, Mr. Speaker, we're happy to defend the record of the government over the woeful, the lacking record of members opposite when they formed the government in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, here's the facts from the minister's own words yesterday in a scrum: "I wouldn't want to speak to what processes are going to be put in place by the Saskatoon Health Region without talking to the CEO, so we're making arrangements to do that." Hardly proper follow-up when shocking details are revealed.

Let's get this straight, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and the Health minister were alerted to rather revolting conditions in the hospital last September. There wasn't the proper follow-up. They also learned over the summer, Mr. Speaker, that the health region admitted that there are significant cleanliness problems in hospitals and at RUH [Royal University Hospital]. Yet as of yesterday, the minister didn't know what was going on. And the minister bragged yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that he had walked the gamba, which apparently is lean terminology that just means he'd walked the halls of RUH, Mr. Speaker.

Now I don't know Japanese, Mr. Speaker, so I don't know the lean terminology for clean bathrooms, for clean floors, for patient safety, for patient dignity. But those, Mr. Speaker, are clearly the basics that this government needs to be focusing on.

My question to the Premier: how is it possible, how's it acceptable to him that the minister has walked the gamba but he's not paying attention to the details that matter in health care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I assume NDP staff taped the entire scrum. And so I would then assume that this Leader of the Opposition knows he's being very selective. He's cherry-picking the minister's comments.

The minister said, the minister indicated in the scrum yesterday that as a result of this letter and as a result of the process, and as a result of the process under way now by the Saskatoon Health Region, that there's a 90-day process that has been allotted by the health region to investigate the issue to determine how best to deal with it to ensure facilities are clean. These are the rest of the comments that the minister said.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important for a brand new leader of the NDP, leading apparently the same old NDP, to ensure that he is accurate, to ensure that what he reports to this Assembly is the full report, Mr. Speaker. We actually can get things done together — together — opposition and government. But not if, not if the Leader of the Opposition insists on every single day coming into this House and torquing serious situations in the province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well here's a serious situation, Mr. Speaker, a situation from the nurses here in our province. We haven't yet heard from the Premier with regard to the fact that our province's nurses are very afraid for patient safety in our hospitals, in our long-term care facilities. Tracy Zambory, president of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, says staffing levels are "dangerously low" and that nurses are "very fearful for patient safety."

My question to the Premier because we haven't heard from him on this issue: does he share the concerns raised by Saskatchewan's nurses, or will he continue to stubbornly dismiss them?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we are working carefully with all the health care providers to ensure there's a proper complement of health care workers in the province. In fact the member will know that this government has an unprecedented partnership with SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] that has flown from the first contract that our government signed with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses.

Mr. Speaker, the member will also know that we set a goal to hire 800 new nurses, to have 800 more nurses working in the province to deal not only with public safety but to help shorten up wait times for health care, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition will know there are not 800 new nurses in the province today. There are 1,000 new nurses in the province today.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that this government, this government has invested in unprecedented ways, not just in capital but in health care, in human resources, and specifically for nurses. This is after a government that was in place for 16 years who refused even to set a goal.

And, Mr. Speaker, they did some things with respect to nursing, 15 July, 2000, here's a *StarPhoenix* article that is headlined "Nurses axed: Saskatoon and Regina to bear the brunt of attrition cuts." Two hundred and eighty jobs lost under their watch; 1,000 new nurses working today in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. More work to be done, but progress on this side and complete neglect on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, a quote from today or from very recently from the president of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses: "very fearful for patient safety." The Premier would be served well to listen to what nurses are saying today.

We also haven't heard from the Premier, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the fact that patients' families are actually having to pay for private care providers to go into hospitals in order to ensure that their hospitalized loved ones are receiving basic care. The Phillips family was spending about \$1,000 per week so a private care aid could go into the hospital in order to ensure that their mom was fed, in order to ensure that their mom could get to a bathroom. This is appalling, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the Premier: we haven't heard from him on this issue. Does he believe that this is acceptable? Is this fairness for families? Does this amount to dignity? Does this amount to respect for Saskatchewan seniors?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we've been making this issue a priority as well. There are 33 per cent less waiting times now for people in acute care who are needing to move to long-term care. We've cut that by fully one-third, Mr. Speaker.

These are the facts of the matter. My understanding is, thankfully, is the family in question has reported that there is now a long-term care bed, I think effective earlier this week, for their loved one, Mr. Speaker. And so again, again I think it's important to reference the entire stories in these things, recognizing that progress is going to be made.

But he began his question again with the preamble where he's lecturing this side of the House on nurses. It's pretty rich, Mr. Speaker. It's so very rich that the NDP would sit over there, the NDP who neglected nurses in this province to the point where there was a pretty famous strike, who refused to set goals for hiring enough nurses. And then when the opposition asked for a goal, they accused us of being naive. Mr. Speaker, from a party in government that cut nursing positions in 2000 and in the '90s reduced nursing training seats as they did doctor training seats in the province, Mr. Speaker, there are no lessons in health care, human resource policy to be learned from members on that side of the House.

We'll continue to step up. We'll continue to hire with 1,000 more nurses that are practising, 300 more doctors, Mr. Speaker. And case by case we'll deal with issues as they arise in the legislature.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, talk about being dismissive of the concerns that are raised by Saskatchewan people. The direct question, Mr. Speaker, was whether the Premier thinks it's appalling that families have to pay \$1,000 a week to have a private care aid come into a hospital to ensure that their mother receives the basics, Mr. Speaker. That was the question.

We also haven't heard from the Premier, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the fact that it was his government that changed the regulations to strip away minimum standards in seniors' care homes. The excuse from the minister, Mr. Speaker, is that minimum care standards weren't as up to date as they should be. Well I agree, Mr. Speaker, and that's why the standards should be strengthened, not erased. Instead, Mr. Speaker, this government just does away with them.

My question to the Premier because we haven't heard from on this issue: what is his rationale for erasing, for eliminating minimum care standards here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well the Leader of the Opposition has heard the answer to the question from the minister. When he

asked it, I was actually here a week ago today when he asked it.

Mr. Speaker, we're looking to individualize care in the province of Saskatchewan. There was an updating of regulations that dated back to 1966. Mr. Speaker, it used to be in this province that long-term care meant level 1, 2, 3, 4. And, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't happen anymore in Saskatchewan. Now level of long-term care doesn't have sort of a number assigned to it, but it would all be, if you had to estimate, it would all be 3, 4, and frankly even more intense care than that.

So, Mr. Speaker, why would we want to even prescribe the same number of hours for those who simply don't require, i.e., level 1 and 2 that used to be in those facilities when the regulations were written? Why would we want to limit the care to people in long-term care to that kind of a paradigm, Mr. Speaker?

I would also point this out. I've also been watching question period. I know the member's been asking a lot of questions of me knowing that I wasn't here, but that's fair enough. I would just say this, Mr. Speaker: as he asks these questions, there's going to come a day — maybe not now, maybe not soon — where he's going to have to say to this Assembly and the people of the province, what would he do. What are his plans around the staffing complement? What are his plans around standards of care? He'll have to cost them out. He'll have to present them to the people of the province. How many nurses should we have in Saskatchewan? How many doctors would he have? And what would be the cost of that to the system, Mr. Speaker? We're waiting for that. I'm hopeful. I'm an optimist. I think the Leader of the Opposition is going to come forward with some of those specifics soon and very soon, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We also haven't heard from the Premier, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the fact that health regions, Mr. Speaker, instead of addressing significant short-staffing are just throwing their hands up in the air, lowering the bar for the quality and level of care that seniors received. Talk about pursuing mediocrity, Mr. Speaker. So now bathing, changing bed sheets, basic cleaning, and hot meals are actually listed as discretionary.

My question to the Premier because we haven't heard from him on this issue: why is he lowering the bar instead of addressing the real problems in health care and in seniors' care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — You know, Mr. Speaker, it has been the practice in health care in this province for a very long time that health care management together with the front-line workers would consult on what would be contingency plans, what would be emergency plans in the event there was a labour shortage on any given day, Mr. Speaker, including the fact, including the fact that in rural long-term care the information would be sent out to front-care providers, priorities that needed to be done. Residents need to be fed and hydrated. Residents have to be kept comfortable. Residents need to be kept dry,

skin care completed. Residents need to be safe.

And then, Mr. Speaker, towards the end of the page, what can be left? Pull bed changes; bed-making can be left. Restocking rooms may be . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well he's helping us out, Mr. Speaker. These are guidelines from 2004.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier should be listening to what the Health minister is saying during his gembas, during his talks with people in the community, Mr. Speaker.

We hear from health care professionals that working short-staffed is very, very common, Mr. Speaker, and as a result the quality of care of our seniors is suffering. We also haven't heard from the Premier, Mr. Speaker, the fact that the CEO of the province's largest health region says the main problem is a lack of staff and that this government's one-time program will do absolutely nothing to address that. She also says it will do nothing to address the conditions of facilities. That's a damning assessment, Mr. Speaker.

This government knows what the real problem is. The CEO of the largest health region, Mr. Speaker, says the government's one-time program will not address the staffing issues, will not address the other issues facing the health care system and facing seniors. This government knows what the real problem is but is refusing to act, refusing to address.

My question to the Premier because we have not heard from him on this issue: does he agree with the assessment from Maura Davies, CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region, or does he dismiss her comments?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, here's what else the NDP government were telling front-line workers in terms of long-term care, in terms of contingency plans in the event that there was an emergency: developing a care plan at the beginning of the shift, all staff meet with supervisor and decide, can some bowel care be left? Can some baths be left? What else can be left? What will be left with that particular shift? Mr. Speaker, these are plans that I think every organization needs to have. You need to have a plan in the event that there's staff shortages and work to prevent them, knowing that they're going to happen under . . . It doesn't matter who the government is, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to the hon. member's question, we don't dismiss the counsel and the advice of our CEOs or those that serve on boards or, even more importantly, front-line workers in health care. Mr. Speaker, that's why we've responded to those concerns. That's why we have historic investment in health care. That's why we have wait times for surgeries, Mr. Speaker, falling dramatically in the province of Saskatchewan. That's why there are 1,000 more nurses than there ever were when they were the government. That's why there are 300 more doctors. That's why we're pioneering CECs [collaborative emergency centres] for rural emergency service. That's why there's STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society], Mr. Speaker, to ensure people can get the health care they need, and

I know there's an important development coming from them today.

This government has made a priority of health care, Mr. Speaker. I think the people in 2011 recognized the fact that we made a priority, and the configuration in this House, Mr. Speaker, is a manifestation of the health care priority of the government of the province.

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

Taxation on Credit Unions

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of confusion about this government's intentions in various areas these days. One of those areas is with regard to taxes on credit unions. When the federal government hiked taxes on credit unions this past spring, it was a direct hit and certainly a shock. I've raised this repeatedly with the Minister of Finance. Surprisingly and unfortunately though, the minister hasn't been able to rule out following suit and hiking provincial taxes on credit unions. Credit unions have made it clear that if the province follows suit the impact would be devastating.

So my question to the Premier: can he commit today to maintain the current tax regime for Saskatchewan's credit unions, yes or no?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the member's question, which I think is a good question, credit unions have served the province of Saskatchewan very well for a very, very long time. I think most if not all members have been spoken to by local credit union representatives — at least on this side, perhaps on the opposition side as well — about their concerns around this issue.

We have had some discussion in cabinet and elsewhere about the issue that's presented. There is a federal dimension to this whole question, and until we get clarification from the federal government on the steps that they're going to be taking, we'll be taking them under advisement at that point and making some decisions.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, through my correspondence, my understanding is that the federal government made their choice. We think it's the wrong choice, but there's now a response that the provincial government needs to take, and they need to do so very timely. In fact I was told by the end of the month we'd have an answer, and here we are.

We have 55 credit unions in the province. They serve over 500,000 members in this province, serving communities large and small. They provide lending, 55 per cent of the lending to small- and medium-sized businesses, really an engine of the economy. And of course if the province were to follow suit and hike taxation on credit unions, it would be a direct impact on

their members and the communities they serve as well. So, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the comments around the federal government, that doesn't hold water. It's past time for this government to make a commitment. Why can't the Premier simply commit today not to hike taxes on our province's credit unions?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, when it comes to increasing taxes, the member opposite would be pretty familiar with it. It's something that the NDP [New Democratic Party] did on a regular basis, Mr. Speaker, and it's something that we are loathe to do on this side of the House.

I would advise the member opposite that this is something that is under consideration right now. We are taking a look at this very seriously. We are having discussions, for clarification, with the federal government on their position. We are also discussing with credit union officials about the impact that it may or may not have if anything were to come about here. And we'll be letting the people know, the credit union executives know very soon with respect to the decision.

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

Expansion of the Canada Pension Plan

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, another issue that's of importance to Saskatchewan people, that's timely as well, is the Finance ministers' meeting tomorrow. And an issue that's important to Saskatchewan people and Canadians is that of the Canada Pension Plan. And we know that this is a place as well that this government's been less than straightforward, less than clear, and their position has been confusing.

So to the Premier: the Finance minister will be there tomorrow. Saskatchewan people deserve expanded Canada pension and the retirement security that it would provide, and they deserve an answer as to what position our Finance minister will be taking forward.

So to the Premier: will his minister be pushing for expansion of the CPP [Canada Pension Plan] tomorrow at the Finance ministers' meetings?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I think the position of the province of Saskatchewan is well known, and I think the hon. member is familiar with our position. We have been offering up an innovation in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, rather than simply sort of a blanket approval for an increase in CPP, and that of course is the Saskatchewan Pension Plan to which we've tried to make some improvements in Saskatchewan. And those improvements are being well received.

Mr. Speaker, our message to the Finance ministers of the country and Canada's Finance minister who will be here later this day for a meeting, our message has been let's, in this very tentative, tenuous economic time in the world and in our

country — although our economy is quite strong — let's be very, very careful about what we do in terms of the burden on those who create jobs.

And I'm hearing from the NDP you'd like to see a broad expansion of the pension plan. We know what that would mean in terms of employer contributions. I guess that's one choice, one that might have some serious effects on the economy frankly in terms of those job creators. We've chosen another route. We want to showcase and further develop local plans like the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, as we've done today. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 102 — *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 102, *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 102, *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 103 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 103, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 103, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 104 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 104, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — Order. I do have a loud voice, but I would like to be able to hear what the minister has to say as well.

It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 104, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 105 — *The Informal Public Appeals Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — I move that Bill 105, *The Informal Public Appeals Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 105, *The Informal Public Appeals Act* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 106 — *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 106, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed an honour for me to stand in this House today to speak to the Speech from the Throne, which is entitled “Meeting the Challenges of Growth.”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking all of the constituents from the Humboldt constituency, not only for their confidence in me in several elections now, but also for their contribution to the growth of our province because indeed the Humboldt constituency is a very vibrant and growing constituency. So my thank you goes to all of those constituents.

I’d like to thank my constituency assistant who mans the Humboldt office and does a fabulous job. That is Susan Dunne. And I need to say that the office would not run nearly as smoothly without her. So I want to say thank you to Susan.

I want to say thank you to my staff here in the building, and that would be Raynelle, Chantelle, Megan, and Alicia. I do undoubtedly believe, and I think many others do too, that I have the best staff in the entire building. They do a great job and definitely keep me on track.

[10:45]

On the home front, I have three daughters that I’ve spoken about numerous times in this Assembly — they are truly my reason for doing much of what I do — that is Crystal, Shannon, and Lindsay. They have been a team with me for obviously their entire lives, but we’ve been a team. And those girls, they’ve done me proud. They truly are remarkable women. Through them I also have acquired two remarkable boys as well — that’s Rusty and Carter — and three amazing little grandchildren, James, MaKenna, and just recently, within the beginning of this month, Emryk. So I am indeed a blessed mother.

And last just in the thank yous, although there’s so many people I should thank, I want to thank my father who is now 93 years of age. He still lives on the farm where I was raised, in the area of Guernsey. And he told me that, you know, when he gets old, he might move into an assisted living facility, but he’s not sure when that’s going to be yet. So it’s quite amazing. He has been an inspiration to me, obviously, for many years.

As I mentioned when I first began, the Throne Speech is entitled “Meeting the Challenges of Growth.” And it’s a follow-up to our government’s plan that was revealed last fall, I believe it was, entitled *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: Vision 2020 and Beyond*.

It was a plan that our Premier laid out that had a number of initiatives within it to deal with the fact that we have a growing province, we have a growing economy, and we want to, as government, help facilitate that. We’re not the driver. We’re not the engine. The people of the province are that. But we think we can help facilitate and give an environment that will encourage growth, both in people and in industry.

It’s something that the NDP have never thought possible. I was elected in this Assembly when we had the NDP member Doreen Hamilton say that it was statistically impossible to grow the province at the rate that this party had predicted it would be. I was elected in this Assembly when the NDP, Eldon Lautermilch, said that, you know, just not a big deal that people are leaving our province by the groves because that just means there’ll be more for the rest of us. And I was elected in this Assembly when the NDP, Harry Van Mulligen, said that . . . I forget. What did he call it? Whimsical? He just had a number of names of how this simply wasn’t possible and . . .

An Hon. Member: — Farcical.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Farcical. Farcical was the word. And this just wasn’t possible for the province to grow. And sadly the NDP hasn’t changed from those days one bit. Because quite frankly, when our government did put out the growth plan, vision 2020 and beyond, this is what the then acting leader of the NDP had to say. The member from Regina Lakeview, he said, and I quote, “A document like this distracts everybody,

and I think his [meaning the Premier's] popularity will stay up there as long as there's sort of a myth of a booming economy."

That was October 17th, 2012. That was this NDP, the same old NDP. They haven't changed one bit. And I will just repeat that — as long as there's sort of a myth of a booming economy, meaning that those men and women do not believe that growth in the economy and the people of Saskatchewan is entirely possible.

Well you know, Mr. Speaker, maybe they don't believe that we've now grown by over 100,000 people in just six years. Maybe they don't believe that the population has surpassed 1.1 million and can do even more. But I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House, we do believe it. We believe that we can grow the economy. We believe the population can continue to grow. We believe that Saskatchewan is an extremely promising province, and we're going to help support the people and the industry that come here.

Mr. Speaker, there was a man — I didn't necessarily believe or support all of his ideology, but I did respect a great deal — and he had this to say, and I quote: the acid test of any government: is the population growing, or is it decreasing in its population? Are we getting people to come here because there are jobs and hope and opportunity for the future? Or have we faced massive jobs, massive outflow and exodus of people of Saskatchewan?

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman who said that was Roy Romanow, and that was April 19th, 1989. And I will repeat that yet again. The acid test of any government: is the population growing, or is it decreasing in its population? Are we getting people to come here because there are jobs and hope and opportunity for the future? Or have we faced massive jobs lost, massive outflow, and exodus of people of Saskatchewan? Roy Romanow.

And what was, you know, the NDP record? Well quite frankly, from 1991 to 2007, in 16 years the NDP government . . . Saskatchewan's population dropped by 2,500 people. Mr. Speaker, that is the record of the NDP government. That is the record that people of Saskatchewan should never forget because that is the government that drove people out. That is the government that quite frankly is why many of our children left the province.

Mr. Speaker, the exciting thing about the growth we're experiencing is it is both urban and rural.

In the Humboldt constituency, going to Stats Canada from 2006 to 2011, Humboldt, the city of Humboldt, grew by 680 people and even more now in the last two years since those stats were taken. Aberdeen, a small community just outside of Saskatoon, 72 people. Allan, again another small town but it's not on a major highway, grew by 17 people. Bruno, a small town not on a major highway, grew by 79 people. Colonsay grew by 50 people. Lanigan grew by 157 people. That's the small towns, but what about the rural municipalities, Mr. Speaker? Well the RM [rural municipality] of Aberdeen grew by 251 people. The RM of Grant grew by 19 people. And the RM of Humboldt grew by 43 people. The list goes on and on and on. Both urban and rural Saskatchewan are growing.

Mr. Speaker, is that important? Is growth important? And I say, yes it is. And this government believes that, yes it is. Growth in industry and small businesses means more jobs. More jobs are critical for our province. And looking at the stats again, using Stats Canada, I will quote, "Unemployment in Saskatchewan was 4.3 per cent in September 2013, tied with Alberta for the lowest in Canada, and well below the 6.9 per cent record nationally. Saskatchewan has the lowest unemployment rate among the provinces for nine consecutive months." Mr. Speaker, those jobs are important for the people of Saskatchewan.

Growth means better quality of jobs. It means better lifestyles for the people within our province. And again looking to Stats Canada for the month of July, average weekly earnings in the province were \$939.58 — the second highest in the nation and well above the Canadian average of \$914.25. Mr. Speaker, that means that people are getting jobs and they aren't just part-time jobs, Mr. Speaker. They're full-time jobs and they are high-paying jobs.

Are there still people that need our help and need our assistance? Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. But the more and more jobs that become available, the more opportunity will be for people right here in our province, and they will be meaningful jobs.

Growth means that we as a government will have more money for education, Mr. Speaker. And education is one of the priorities of this government. Mr. Speaker, we have invested now \$600 million for 43 major school projects. Twenty of those are brand new schools. One of those brand new schools is right in the city of Humboldt and one of those major projects is right in the city of Humboldt. So Humboldt is quite excited about the investment we've made in the new schools within the province. Mr. Speaker, that is unprecedented spending in school capital projects in the history of our province.

And now we've announced nine more schools — nine more schools that the members opposite are conflicted on whether or not they can even support, even though one of those schools, Mr. Speaker, a joint-use school, is going to be right in the leader's own riding. One that he read many, many petitions in this Assembly and wanted us to do something, but now he's not . . . He's silent. He has said very little to nothing on whether he supports the fact that Hampton Village will be getting a new school or not.

Having money, Mr. Speaker, and having a growing economy and more population means that this government was able to increase the operating funding for school divisions by over 23 per cent. It means that we have increased the number of child care spaces within this province from the days of the NDP by 48 per cent. It means that we've increased the funding for the CBOs [community-based organization] that manage those child care spaces from when the NDP were government by 19.1 per cent. It means that we have increased pre-K [pre-kindergarten] programs within our province since the NDP were in government by 94 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we are investing in education. We will continue to do so. We will continue to consider that a priority in our province.

Mr. Speaker, a growing economy and growing population

means that we'll have more money for health care. We have significantly reduced the surgical wait-lists. We have more hospitals. Again I speak to Humboldt. Humboldt has a brand new hospital. In the days of the NDP, it was an announcement and it became a brand new announcement because they kept reannouncing it. So we had many brand new announcements. We even got a brand new sign because the original sign had weathered waiting for some construction, so it became a brand new sign with another brand new announcement. And now in Humboldt, under this government, there is a hospital that takes patients. It actually exists. It's real. It's not just a sign.

We have a hospital in Swift Current. We're working on a hospital in Moose Jaw. Of course the children's hospital in Saskatoon, and we'll be moving forward with the hospital in North Battleford.

We have more nurses and doctors in our province since the NDP. They say that there's a shortage and that it's critical. And we will always be listening to those front-line workers to see where there are stress factors within the system, but quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, there are over 1,000 more nurses than when the NDP were in power. So I don't think anyone wants to go back to those days. I don't think anyone wants to go back to those shortages. I know no one in this side of the House wants to see that happen.

A growing economy and a growing population means that we have more money for highways, Mr. Speaker. In rural Saskatchewan, of course that's quite critical, although it isn't just for rural Saskatchewan. We all need our highways to conduct business and travel within our province. And this government has invested, just in our first mandate, \$2.2 billion, which is unprecedented spending on highways.

It means we have, Mr. Speaker, more money for the vulnerable people. And as I mentioned before, there will always be those that we need to help and we need to support. We need to be there as a government. But we've increased the income for people with disabilities. We gave them the dignity of their own income plan. We've increased housing allowances and we've indexed it and we were the first province in our entire country to do so. We've increased the low-income tax credit to help those of the lowest income within our province. And we increased, Mr. Speaker, the seniors' income plan which is something . . . Again, the NDP when they are in government, they may talk the talk now, but when they had the chance to actually walk the walk, they did nothing for the seniors' income plan.

We increased the number of social housing units that are available and we've increased many programs for those most vulnerable. And we know that there's more that needs to be done. We'll be continuing to listen to those stakeholder groups and the people of Saskatchewan and we will see what can be done to move forward to make this a great province and an even greater province to live. And that's what this Throne Speech is about, Mr. Speaker. It's about the challenges of growth because growth does have challenges and they are real.

It was kind of humorous. A challenge I don't think anyone on this side of the House or that side of the House anticipated happened in Humboldt. And there was an article on June 12th,

2013, and it was entitled, "Postman won't be ringing twice in Humboldt."

As of June 3, there were 16 people on the post office box wait list at the Humboldt Canada Post outlet, a statistic Lucy Unrau, an employee of the facility, never expected to see.

Unrau explained that about five years ago, an additional one thousand post office boxes were put in at the outlet, bringing the number to its current total of 3,460.

"At that time I thought "Why are we doing this? They're never going to fill . . . all those extra boxes," Unrau recalled.

Now there's been a wait list for the past two months.

"If I had a crystal ball, I'd say the list is only going to get longer," she added.

With Saskatchewan's population growing at its fastest pace in 90 years, the shortage of post office boxes will likely be an issue that the Humboldt Regional Newcomer Centre will be hearing (about) from immigrants to the area for the foreseeable future.

So yes, that's not a challenge I don't think we anticipated, but it's an exciting challenge to growth.

And we do acknowledge there are challenges. That is what this Throne Speech is about. That is what this Throne Speech identifies, and it gives the outline of where this government wants to move forward in health care, in education, in highways, in housing, and in agriculture. And the list goes on throughout the Throne Speech, recognizing that all must be within fiscal responsibility because this government has brought the debt down by 44 per cent, and we're not going back to the NDP days. We are not going back.

[11:00]

And so what did the Leader of the Opposition say? What did the Leader of the NDP say about the Throne Speech? And quite frankly he said he was disappointed. Now keep in mind, the Leader of the Opposition is the author of the tree book, the tree book that then became the policy for the last election in the province, the one that was where the NDP were resoundingly defeated. That is the NDP leader who's now disappointed with the Throne Speech.

This is the NDP leader who, on his website states, and I will just quote, "Cam Broten and his team believe that Saskatchewan needs a smart- growth plan." Well at, you know, first glance, that's not a bad thing to say, except where is it? In every single situation where we have looked to the NDP and said, what's your plan; what's your solution; what's your suggestion; what's the alternative — nothing. They're absolutely silent on anything that they would suggest that they would improve, that they would do better. They're absolutely silent.

The NDP leader says that we need to do more in health. This is

the NDP that never once increased the senior income plan when they were in government. This is the same NDP that closed 1,200 long-term care beds. This is the same NDP that set no targets in trying to hire and recruit nurses to our province. This is the same NDP that closed 52 hospitals, Mr. Speaker. Let's not forget. Nothing has changed. There is no new plan. There is no new direction. This is the NDP that . . . That's what they did to our health care.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, the NDP leader said that, you know, he'd like to see more for education. This is the same NDP that closed 176 schools in our province. It's the same old NDP that planned for a reduction in students, that didn't believe for one minute that we could have growth in our student numbers. They were totally flat-footed. They had . . . And I remember it well because I was elected at a time they struck what they called the ACRE [action committee on the rural economy] committee to take a look at the decline in Saskatchewan. The whole purpose of the ACRE committee was to identify the winning and losing communities in Saskatchewan, and plan the decline of the losing communities. It was directed. It was going to be orchestrated under the NDP, and we should never forget that is what their vision of this province was.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP Leader of the Opposition also said that he was disappointed that there isn't more diversity in the revenue for the province, that we're too reliant on non-renewable resources, and that we need more eggs, more baskets. He has no idea what the eggs or the baskets would be. He doesn't give any suggestions on what eggs or baskets they would be. But we just need more eggs and more baskets.

And you know, when you think about that for even two seconds, you can totally understand why the NDP are shut out of rural Saskatchewan. Because yes, our non-renewable resources are extremely critical to our province. There's gas, oil, potash, uranium. I am the one that has often said how important potash in particular is to the constituency of Humboldt. Within the boundaries of the Humboldt constituency there's four potash mines. They are very good employers on the very edge . . . I know the member from Melfort likes to claim it, but on the very edge of the Humboldt constituency is the new development with BHP. But largely the Humboldt constituency is agriculture. And Saskatchewan is the top agriculture exporting of province in our country. That's a renewable resource.

And I'll tell you, in agriculture it is so diverse. There's so many eggs in so many baskets. And it is so exciting what's happening in agriculture today. And it seems like the NDP have no clue that this is such an important driver for our province — more than \$11 billion dollars in agriculture exports in 2012. That's incredible, and it's so critical to the economy of this province.

We are, Mr. Speaker, the provider of 53 per cent of the world's lentils, 38 per cent of the world's peas, 21 per cent of the world's canola oil. Mr. Speaker, the 11.2 billion in agri-food exports in 2012 is a 32 per cent increase over the five-year average of 8.5. Two years ago, in 2011, Saskatchewan overtook Ontario as the top agri-food exporting province.

So perhaps the NDP need to recognize that yes, the

non-renewable resources are important, but we do have renewable resources that are extremely important to this province, to the province's economy, and to the province's growth.

So this government will welcome, always, we'll welcome more industry. We'll welcome more people. We'll welcome more innovation. But what we won't welcome is the negative attitude of the NDP and how they have no faith or belief in the potential of this great province.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I support the Speech from the Throne, and I will not be supporting the amendment.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy and honoured to stand and give my reply to the Speech from the Throne. And in part of doing that I don't get up here and have the opportunity to speak a lot. So I want to take a little bit of time to thank my family.

And I want to start off with my wife. We've been married for what seems like, for her, probably a really long time, but for me it's like yesterday. So my wife, Marjorie I give the biggest thank you and shout-out to you because without her — and as our other members speak up on both sides of the House we agree on this — without our spouses and our support back home we wouldn't be able to do the job that we do here today.

I also want to say a thanks to my kids. I have three boys that were my own and then we had lots of foster kids come through the house, and all my kids helped me get to this place. They're some of my strongest critics. They are some of the voices from young people that I get to listen to on a, if not daily basis, a weekly basis for sure, so I've got feedback from young people. And luckily my youngest has moved home to start a job out at the airport in Moose Jaw, where he's apprentice mechanicking, working on planes. He's already a pilot at 20 and he is looking at furthering his career in that field, right here at home, right here in this province. And I'm going to thank a few other people but then I'm going to go back to my kids.

I also want to thank Laurie Koslor who is my constituency assistant. She's the one that helps me with the day-to-day business of running the office, listening to the concerns of the constituents of Moose Jaw Wakamow, and keeps me in touch when I'm here at home. I really respect the job that some of the people that have been here longer than I have because I really admire the job that they could do before, before we had texting and instant messaging and how they kept up on things. Because right now, something's going on at home and it needs to be taken care of that's . . . It's right there. They're able to contact us almost immediately and we're able to take care of those issues going on back at home. So you know, thanks, Laurie. You do a great job.

So I want to take it back to my kids again. I'm very lucky. My children are part of the growth plan for this province. My middle son actually made me a grandfather this summer and so of that 100,000, one of them's another Lawrence. So that makes me very happy that I'm a grandfather, and it gives me a whole

new outlook on what I have to do to keep this province moving forward.

My kids, it was all about, how are we going to make sure that they have jobs and the education that they need so they can continue building their life here in the province? Now I have a brand new addition to my family and that gives me a whole new drive to keep this province moving forward. So on top of that, this tells you how much we bleed green and how my son takes it to a whole new level. My grandson's name is Jordison Rider. So it's not R-y-d-e-r; it is R-i-d-e-r. So my son and my daughter-in-law Kayleigh have named their son after our famous football team. And that just shows you how much they love our province, love our football team, and you know, we've got the home game in the playoffs.

And just to bring the Riders into this a bit, I'm trying to think of how many times the Riders won a Grey Cup when the opposition was in? What was the number? Zero? Just pointing that out to all the Rider fans out there.

An Hon. Member: — Same as the amount of MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] they have in Moose Jaw.

Mr. Lawrence: — Oh, that's a good point. You know, listening to the other side speak is sometimes very interesting, and I've had them ask me why I'm laughing. And sometimes it's because I really wonder what colour the sky is in the world that they live in, besides the grey, gloomy world is coming to an end and there's no light in sight. It's really, it's almost sad how they have such a dim outlook for our province, to the point where their plan for decline scares me if we . . . Oh it's just, it's not good.

The last 16 years, this is their plan for growth — in quotation marks, their plan for growth. The last 16 years the NDP closed . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . not the last 16, the last 16 they were in — not ours. The last 16 years they were in, they closed 176 schools, 176 schools. Yes, thank you for pointing out that I need to get the details correct. So that's 11 schools a year that they closed, 11 a year on average they closed. So over the last seven years our government has opened 20 new schools, 20 new schools.

On top of that we've announced that we are going to build nine joint-use schools. Now some people say those nine joint-use schools are actually 18. I'm not . . . That's nine new schools we're going to go forward with. What do they want to do? Probably close more schools because that's what they do. They plan for decline. They don't plan for growth.

A couple of other things they said, there's a couple of members over there that like to talk about Métis and Métis youth quite a bit. I'm Métis, proud to be Métis. I've worked with the Métis youth in my community, and they said, how come they keep talking about the Métis youth and they never, ever come and talk to us? Never, not once. So I don't know how they can say they speak for the Métis youth, but they don't talk to Métis youth. I don't pretend to say I speak for all the Métis youth. I just pass it on what the Métis youth tell me.

[11:15]

They have no plan. Zero plan. They even took their old plan — the tree book we talk about quite a bit that the Leader of the Opposition authored, signed his name to — they took it off their website. So what is their plan? We have a plan for growth. It came out last year. We did an update to the plan for growth, and with that update this is where we're at.

Population growth. Okay, we said we wanted 100,000 new people in the province. We've got 100,000 new people in this province in 7 years, not 10 years. Job growth through the first nine months of 2013, the number of working people in Saskatchewan is up by nearly 20,000 on average. Now I grew up in Estevan and it's a great town to be from, a great little city to be from, but 20,000 new people . . .

An Hon. Member: — Great MLA too.

Mr. Lawrence: — Yes, awesome MLA. That's two new Estevans or two new Weyburns or one new Yorkton working in this province, working in this . . . We're not talking about the 100,000 growth any more. We're talking about 20,000 more people working.

What does that help us do? We talk about growth, not for growth's sakes, but what it can do in the end. So what do we do with that? A thousand new training seats. They say we have no plan for the future. There's no outlook for the future. Well we have a great plan for the future. We've even put a book out what this plan for growth is. And I think they need to really pick it up, take a look at it, read through it, and then go, okay maybe we can do a little better on this. Maybe we can do a little better on that.

We actually make targets, and guess what? Targets are scary. You know why targets are scary? Because if you don't make them, that makes you accountable. And there's absolutely . . . This side has no problem being accountable to the taxpayers and the people of Saskatchewan.

We talk about closing 52 hospitals, but we're not closing hospitals here anymore. We're building new ones and guess what? Our member from Moose Jaw North and our Health minister have announced, two years ago, a brand new hospital in Moose Jaw. It's going to be built for the entire Five Hills Health District. And guess what? If you follow me on Facebook, you can go there, and I try and go every week and take pictures, and you see this new, brand new hospital being built. How many new hospitals did the other guys build? Well, I'm sure they might have worked on one or two, but they closed 52. In fact they closed the hospital I was born in. So you know, that says their plan for growth.

Along with these 20,000 new jobs over last year, we have new companies coming to Saskatchewan. One of them is in Moose Jaw. It's called Agrocorp, a direct result of the work that our Premier does reaching out to new places across the world to bring growth, jobs, and growth to this province.

Exports, our province surpassed BC [British Columbia]. We're a landlocked province. We don't have a port. We've got railways that go both directions. We've got highways. And what do we do? We surpass BC in exports. Would have that happened under the other side? Likely not. Why? Because they

like to close things down. They don't like to open things up. They close schools. They close health care facilities. They close long-term care beds. Hospitals? Hospitals, yes well. We do the . . .

Because I have a new child in my family, a grandchild, I care about schools. Granted, yes I have three, but a brand new child in my family, my grandchild. And you know, everybody says that when you have a grandchild your life will change. And they're right; it does. It gives you a whole new vigour and a whole new outlook. It's not just your kids and your family any more. You now have an extended family. And you have these little wonderful bundles of joy that we want to care for.

And we want to make sure that they can build their lives right here in this province. There's absolutely nothing wrong with travelling the world, going, seeing things, but they don't have to stay away. They don't have to live in BC. They don't have to live in Alberta. They don't have to move to Toronto. They can do it all right here at home. They can build that future here in our province.

You know, it's sad that our greatest export for years was our young people. There's a reason there's a sea of green across Canada. It is because for years the people left, year after year after year. And they knew Saskatchewan was their home and they knew that the Roughriders were their team. So that it doesn't matter where you see them play, there's green in that crowd. If you go to the Calgary game, it's like a Christmas tree — red and green, red and green. Go to Edmonton, well it's all green, but mostly our shade not theirs.

Innovation, we look at innovation. And I'm going to talk a little bit about Estevan again because in the Boundary dam power station, we're building the first new clean coal facility in the world — in the world — right here. I've spent a lot of time in my younger years working in that coal plant. I did some of the fly ash years ago where we'd take the fly ash, we'd capture it, and we'd sell it to some of the cement companies to mix with their cement. I've been inside the boilers, cleaned the boilers, knocked this stuff out. And now we're trying to woo the world in another way to come back to Saskatchewan and take a look at what this little province of now 1.1 million people, 1.1 million people can do. Innovation — brand new coal, clean coal facility at Boundary dam power plant.

Again and again and again we ask them, what's your plan? What's your plan? Their job is, as the opposition, to oppose what we do, criticize what we do, and take a good, hard look at it. And that's all they're doing, is they criticize. Because we ask again and again and again, what would you do instead of that? What is the fix? What are we doing wrong besides it's just wrong? And they don't have an answer because they don't have a plan. They don't have a vision. They have an old vision, new leader, old vision. Same old NDP.

I had to look up this quote to get this point across. If the best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour, I'll go with what we do any day over what they do. We open long-term care facilities. They close long-term care facilities. We open new schools. They close schools. We open new hospitals. They close hospitals. So if past behaviour is what they're going to base their future on, it is completely worrisome. And if, if I was

out there and wasn't decided, I'd be going, holy cow. They have no plan. All they want to do is close facilities, not open facilities.

We talk about it a lot, the challenges of growth. And the Premier has said it over and over and over again. We are way happier to deal with the challenges of growth than the challenges of decline. Because with the challenges of decline there is no future. It's decline, you know? People don't say, the last one leaving from Alberta shut off the light anymore. They don't say that. That was well-known across the country. Everybody's leaving Saskatchewan in droves. Why? Because there was no plan. We have a plan. We talk about the plan. The plan's out there. There's nothing to hide. It's there in black and white and green. Where's theirs? Well it's . . . it can't be found anymore. They even took it off the website. And I'm thinking the reason they took it off the website is probably because it wasn't a real good plan.

So we need to be very aware of what the other side says we're going to do. We've been right out in the forefront taking it forward. We have a plan for growth. We do an update on that plan for growth. We do a follow-up. We have a vision. Our Speech from the Throne is called "Meeting the Challenges of Growth."

They make fun of us because we say there's more work to be done. They sit over there and they laugh about that. So it's not funny. You know, if we didn't close 176 schools, if we didn't close 52 rural hospitals, if we didn't close all those long-term beds — 1,200, 1,200 long-term care beds — would we be in the situation we are now? We're meeting the challenges of growth. We know there's more work to be done.

And we're not afraid of that work. That's what makes us up 49 to 9. We're not afraid of that work. We're ready to do that work. We go on and do that work every day. We have people on this side of the House that have been teachers, police officers, farmers, people that worked in unions, people that worked for a Crown corporation, business owners, lawyers. We have a wealth of knowledge on this side of the House that the Premier draws from daily and talks to us and tells us, go talk to the people in your constituencies. Go listen to what they have to say. And I think that's the biggest difference between us and the other side, is we actually listen. On top of that listening, we actually care. On top of actually caring, we actually put forward the work to meet the challenges of growth. We're going to continue that growth.

We're going to continue working in the health care field. Why? Because there's more work to be done. So what is the other option? There's no work to be done? We're finished? Does that go with the last person leaving the province shut off the light? Is that when their work is done? When everybody else is gone?

Post-secondary education. Got a son in university, got another son waiting to go to apprenticeship school. So what are we doing for them? Well we have the plans to keep our students here afterwards because we have the jobs for them, so they don't have to go to Alberta or Manitoba or BC when they're done.

Highways. We have a former minister of Highways from the

North complaining about the roads in the North just about daily. And you know, what did he do when he was minister of Highways? Nothing. You know, barely filled the potholes on No. 1. Nothing.

Housing. Housing. Our housing demand's growing. So last week, as our member from Moose Jaw North spoke, we had the Premier in the city for a supper. We had a young entrepreneur, under 30 years old, come and talk to me, and actually has partnered with the Ministry of Social Services, not to create low-income housing but to create affordable housing. That gap that was missed. And what's he doing? He's looking forward to building more. As soon as our city has the land and lets him build more, he'll build more. He needs to work with the city a little bit more to get all the paperwork in place so he can move forward, but as soon as that city paperwork gets forward, we're going to partner with him and build some more. And he's very happy about that. Under 30. Building houses. Been doing it since he's 16. That is awesome.

Competitiveness. You know, it's nice when I get to get up here and speak because if you talk to my family, I go on rants and I go hard, and oh yes . . .

[11:30]

An Hon. Member: — Who knew?

Mr. Lawrence: — Who knew? Yes. This is where my friends from back home in Estevan go, yes, that's the Greg we know, not that guy that's sitting in the back being all quiet and nice. And it's this guy that's standing up here right now going, competitiveness. It's what we do. You take a look. We have former football players on this side. You don't get, you don't get much more competitive than a professional . . . somebody in professional sports . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, well he is a big boy, yes. Not as big as he was. I don't know. He's slimmed down.

So to keep with that competitiveness, some of the things we're doing . . . They say we ignore First Nations and Métis. So SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] has committed . . . Oh, and it's right here, right here in green — not black and white — green. SGI has committed to fund driver education programs for on-reserve high school students in the province. It is anticipated that 2,600 First Nations students will take advantage of this program in its first year, its first year. So you know, it's just a small step, but it is a step in the right direction. It's making sure that we meet those challenges of growth.

International engagement. I spoke about that a bit already with the new facility in Moose Jaw. The parent company is out of Malaysia, and it's 20 new jobs for my city, 20 new jobs in what's going to be my new riding. And you know what else they did? They built it so it could be expanded. They didn't go, we only need this much because we're not going to grow. Because when I got there, the first question I asked them, is it big enough? And they said, well it's big enough for this year, but these are our plans for expansion. So they're not even fired up, running on all cylinders, and they've already got plans for expansion. So what does that mean? They have plans for growth, just like we do.

Agriculture. We tend to talk a lot about oil and gas. We tend to talk a lot about potash. And it's not that we forget about agriculture, but agriculture is a huge part of this province. In 2012, in 2012 Saskatchewan's agriculture exports climbed to a record, again, a record, \$11.2 billion, highest among all the provinces and one-third of all of Saskatchewan's exports. Agriculture makes up a third of what we do. We feed the world.

There used to be a sign at Rouleau when you drove in. And last couple of times I've been through, it said and it was, breadbasket to the world. Well with our growth in agricultural exports, it's more than the breadbasket of the world now. We export lentils. We export peas. We export wheat. We export barley. One-third of all the beers, one-third or one-fifth of all the beer in Japan — Japan — comes from Saskatchewan barley. One-third of all the barley for malting barley in beer in Japan comes from our province. Amazing. And that just opens up more doors for us to grow.

On top of that, we have fiscal responsibility. On top of them not having a plan for growth but a plan for decline, I don't even . . .

An Hon. Member: — We've got a smart plan.

Mr. Lawrence: — Well smart, I don't even want to go there. But their fiscal responsibility I think could be called fiscal irresponsibility when you take a look at what was their plan, a \$5 billion spending spree, \$5 billion. Now to me that seems like an awful lot of money and a deficit budget.

We want to make sure that this province keeps growing but does it in a intelligent manner. And doing that within a balanced budget is a lot of hard work. When you talk to our Health minister, our Social Services minister, our Education minister, trying to do what's best for this province within a balanced budget is hard and a lot of hard work. And they're doing a great job at it. You know, when you talk about those three ministries, they take up the bulk of what we do.

And what do we do to help that? We grow the province. We grow industry. We grow the people that are here. Twenty . . . And again I got to go back to 20,000 new jobs. Twenty . . . That's, again, two Estevans, two Weyburns, you know, and half a Moose Jaw. So we've grown 100,000 people, 100,000 people. So that used to be, when I was a kid, the population of our capital city. We did that in seven years, seven years. They couldn't do it in 77, you know. So it's worrisome when I think about what they'll do.

We want to be more accountable as a government. So we will be introducing a new lobbyist Act that's to make sure that we can tell the people of Saskatchewan what other corporations and lobbyists are trying to get us to do. How do I know we're going to do that? Well because it's in here, and we do what we say we're going to do. That's one of the biggest differences between us and them — we follow through.

So I want to take a quote right out of this because I don't want to get it wrong:

We are mindful the growth we seek is not an end in itself but a means to build a better province for all Saskatchewan people.

We move forward more confident than ever that our resilient, determined, optimistic citizens can meet any challenge as they work to fulfill the enormous potential of this great province.

We as government, we're not sitting back here patting ourselves on the back going, good job. We're sitting back here going, how can we help the people of this province build a better province? Take it forward, move it forward, make it a better place for our kids, our grandkids, our great-grandkids, and everybody else's in this province. It's not just for us. It's for everybody.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be speaking against the amendment and speaking for the Speech from the Throne.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, or Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's my pleasure to join in on this debate of the Throne Speech that was delivered by Her Honour in this very Chamber last Wednesday. And I ask you to bear with me, Mr. Speaker, as I have a bit of a cold, so I'm not going to be here for a long time.

But before I get into my comments on the Throne Speech, there are a few remarks that I would like to make and a few thank yous. First of all I would like to thank my family, my son, Terry, and my daughter, Trisha, for all that they do for me, Mr. Speaker. I absolutely could not do my job without them. And like the families of all MLAs on both sides of the House, they have made huge sacrifices for me, as have my grandchildren — my grandson Beau who will be 19, my grandson Shelby who is 15, my granddaughter Bailee who will be 15, and my grandson Tristan who just turned 13.

And it just seems odd that I have grandchildren that age when other members are getting up in the House and talking about the ones that have just arrived, but I would like to congratulate them on their new grandchildren. And also we have a couple of colleagues over here that have new children — the member from Regina Walsh Acres and the member from Saskatoon Eastview — and so congratulations on them.

Mr. Speaker, there's also other members of my family and a host of friends that have supported me tirelessly throughout this journey, and I would like to really thank them. And I also have to make a special mention of my mother who lives in Estevan, and she watches this faithfully every day. And so I'd like to say hello to my mom and just to let her know that I love her.

Mr. Speaker, my executive that is very constant, thank you to them, as well as my CAs [constituency assistant]. My full-time girl is Rosalie. My casual girl is Wilma. And I just appreciate so much the way they treat my constituents, their promptness into answering calls, the courtesy and professionalism they have towards the constituents. And of course these girls are the first people that the constituents talk to. So you know what? First impressions mean an awful lot. And I really want to thank these girls for being there and caring for the constituents when I can't be there.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, the people of the Estevan constituency, of whom I have had the pleasure of serving for the last 14 years. Time sure flies, but it's been, it's just been an absolute privilege to have their support and truly an honour to be here on their behalf.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not thank the Premier for his leadership and as well as all my colleagues for just being the greatest bunch of colleagues I could ask for, the men and the women on this side. I couldn't choose better colleagues if I had that choice, and I really enjoy working with them and also their friendship.

Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Estevan is booming like never before, and I almost feel like I'm being repetitive here because the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow did a pretty good job of mentioning what's happening in the constituency of Estevan with the carbon capture sequestration, the aquastore, and also throw in the Energy Training Institute. But it is a very . . . It is booming like it never has before.

The energy sector, the agriculture sector, small businesses are enjoying a great 2013. The city has seen five or six new hotels in as many years. And new businesses are starting up, existing ones are expanding, and we even have two Tim Hortons now, which is kind of awesome.

Crops in the area have been very good this year. The majority of farmers are finished their harvest, but there are a few that aren't. We've had some wet weather down there. And hopefully the weather we're having now will hold until they get finished and that the quality of the grain hasn't declined too much.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, my constituency is diverse and booming, but we are not immune to the challenges that come with growth. However we are working diligently to address these challenges and overcome these challenges, not only in Estevan but in all of this great province.

And, Mr. Speaker, when speaking of growth, I can clearly remember when the members opposite were in government. Actually it's pretty hard to forget. But I can remember the comments made by members opposite when we said we would like to grow Saskatchewan by 100,000 people in 10 years. And Doreen Hamilton who was the NDP MLA for Regina Wascana Plains that it was . . . and she said it in this very Chamber that it was statistically impossible. In fact, there is a quote that she had. And let me find it here.

Yes, this is from the *Whitewood Herald*, February 11th, 2003. And this is what Doreen Hamilton had to say, quote, "The Saskatchewan Party's plan to increase our population by 100,000 people in ten years is more wishful thinking than statistically attainable." You know, talk about attitude, a negative attitude.

[11:45]

And then I'm going to go on, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to quote NDP MLA Harry Van Mulligen, and this is taken from *Hansard* in March 24th of 2003. And here's the quote:

. . . they propose to increase the population of

Saskatchewan by 100,000 over . . . I forget what number of years, Mr. Speaker.

Well it's so over the top, it is so farcical, Mr. Speaker, that it flies in the face of reality.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can say their plan flies in the face of reality, Mr. Speaker. Now it may be . . . an admirable goal, but it's not very realistic, Mr. Speaker. It's also . . . I might say, if this is the basis . . . for their whole approach to government, that this is a shaky . . . [basis] for an economic plan, Mr. Speaker. Because these plans, Mr. Speaker, if you're not right, you will in effect take hundreds of millions, billions of . . . dollars to put into a plan that is doomed to fail because the reality says that plan will fail, Mr. Speaker.

And that is from Harry Van Mulligen.

A couple of other . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, and that's right. That attitude still exists on that side today. And, Mr. Speaker, also a couple of other comments, and this one is from Eric Howe, a leading U of S [University of Saskatchewan] economist in the province:

[He didn't] . . . believe the Saskatchewan Party's plan would provide the promised population growth of 100,000 people in 10 years. From his perspective, the province has hovered around a million people for 70 years and that may well be the natural population level.

And that was taken from CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] *Saskatchewan Votes* feature October 31st, 2003.

And another quote from a policy paper by U of S agriculture economist Murray Fulton, Rose Olfert, and Mark Partridge, September 8th, 2005: "Large increases in population for a region such as Saskatchewan are clearly not possible and should not form the basis for public policy."

So, Mr. Speaker, I mean there's still the negative nine over there. That's still what they really believe. But our population has increased by over 100,000 people in the last six years. In fact in the most recent quarter we grew by 6,895 people. And, Mr. Speaker, that's the largest increase ever recorded in one quarter.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can't image how Eldon Lautermilch must be feeling about now. It was Mr. Lautermilch that said, "As people left this province, there would be more left for the rest of us."

Mr. Speaker, a number of days ago the Premier and the Minister of Education announced that nine new joint-use schools would be built in Saskatchewan using the P3 bundling approach. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has stood in his place 51 times lobbying for a new school to be built in his constituency in Hampton Village. And he has stood either through petitions or questions, and now he is against having that school built in his constituency because the P3 model doesn't conform to his ideology.

And I can't imagine how his constituents . . . they just

absolutely must be shaking their heads in disappointment over the Leader of the Opposition's comments. And I mean, I guess it's understandable why he doesn't get up and ask those questions in question period. He defers to his seatmate because it would put him in an awkward position because he wants a school. But he just doesn't agree with the P3 bundling whereas his constituents, I'm sure, are very happy to be on the receiving end of the new school. And those comments that he makes, Mr. Speaker, are just reassurance again that this NDP may have a new leader but it's still the same old NDP.

And I find it ironic when they ask him to comment on any question on . . . whether it's the economy, regardless of what area it is in, all he talks about is having more eggs in more baskets. And I wish he would . . . I don't even know what that means. I don't know if he knows what it means, but that seems to be their smart growth plan — more eggs, more baskets, and that's the details.

And again, Mr. Speaker, we must all remember that it was that leader, that leader was the author of the tree book — the 2011 NDP election platform, the \$5 billion in promises that the people of this province, thank goodness and rightfully so, said no thanks to.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture continues to be a very important driver of our economy and last year in 2012, our ag exports climbed to a record 11.2 billion, and that's the highest among the provinces and a third of all Saskatchewan exports. And the ag sector is on pace. Just set a new record this year with exports up 13 per cent in the first six months of 2013.

Mr. Speaker, since we formed government in 2007, we've had two Agriculture ministers. The first was the member from Melville-Saltoats who used to be a farmer and understands agriculture, just the ins and outs and the minutiae of agriculture, and he understands the people that he was serving as Agriculture minister. And the present minister, the member from Thunder Creek who currently farms and ranches in his constituency. And that is so important as both of these gentlemen know and understand agriculture and the implications of changes to any programs.

And I can't tell you how many times constituents have approached me and they said just how important it is and what it means to them to have an Agriculture minister that understands what they're talking about, that lives and breaths agriculture. Not someone who, oh maybe went out to his grandfather's farm when he was a kid or maybe drove by a farm on the way to town or something like that, but they know. They understand it. They breath agriculture.

And I still live on my farm, Mr. Speaker, and I enjoy helping out with the farming operation. Although I'm pretty much limited to making lunches and being the gofer, because it keeps me in. It's something to do with clutches and I'm kind of hard on them or something, so they don't let me into stuff like that. But it's a life that I enjoy and I do, I do try my best.

But, Mr. Speaker, we also have to keep in mind, speaking of Ag ministers, I can't remember the last time an Ag minister on the NDP side was re-elected. I can't remember. I mean, I can remember Bernie Wiens. I can remember Eric Upshall. I can

remember Darrel Cunningham, Mark Wartman, and none of them were re-elected because they just didn't understand agriculture.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to move on to make some remarks in seniors' care. And you know, we hear the members opposite saying how seniors are scared and people of the province are scared. And I just think, you know what? If they're scared with this government, imagine the terror they felt when they were in power. And I mean that was the party that closed 52 hospitals, shut down 1,200 long-term care beds, and didn't build one long-term care home.

And, Mr. Speaker, there have been issues identified that need to be and are being addressed. Money has been targeted to issues such as better nutrition, more baths, improved responsiveness to call bells, better training to deal with patients with dementia. Steps are also being taken to reduce the pressure on the long-term care system by launching new home care pilot programs in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. And, Mr. Speaker, I think we owe a great deal of thanks to all those who work in the long-term care and the whole health care profession. They are angels and they work very hard.

And just last week, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had a call from a nurse in my constituency who works in long-term care, and she had concerns over what the opposition was saying regarding time allocation. And she went on to say that the opposition wants to dedicate a specific amount of time to these people. And she said, you know what, there is no cookie-cutter method. She said some patients require more care than others. And then she also had concerns what the Leader of the Opposition was saying about lack of tub baths. And she said to me, she says, you know what, lots of times the patient will wake up in the morning, and she says they don't want, they're insistent that today they just do not feel like having a tub bath. And she says, rather than upset them, she says we give them a sponge bath.

So you know, some of the workers out there are starting to take offence at what the members opposite are saying. And again, I mean I know there's pressures. But they would lead you to believe that this is happening to every senior in this province and it's not, Mr. Speaker. And I know if, you know . . . all seniors, we have to respect them and we have to do our best in dealing with the issues that pertain to them.

But the staff is doing a great job. And she said that, you know, lots of the times what the opposition is saying is neglect is actually listening to the patients and compromising with the patients so that they don't get upset.

Mr. Speaker, my daughter works in dietary in a long-term care facility. It's at Mainprize Manor in Midale actually. And last Thursday she had a day off, and her and a bunch of other of the staff that had a day off, they took a Smile van. They took patients to Estevan, took them out for lunch, and just let them, you know, get out and get some fresh air. And these workers all volunteered their time. And the next day I was in Estevan, and I saw another group of long-term care residents. I believe it was some from the facility at St. Joseph's Hospital, and the volunteers had taken those residents out for lunch that day.

So again, I realize that there are pressures in this area, but the

way the Leader of the Opposition talks, one would think that the issues he raises are the normal in every long-term care home in Saskatchewan, and that simply isn't the way it is. And he is trying to claim ownership of seniors' issues. And you know, he stands in this Chamber, and he grandstands, and he acts pretty righteous actually.

And many remember, when the NDP were in power, it was they that closed 1,200 long-term care beds. And they wanted to increase the fees in the homes, the rental fees by 90 per cent, literally kicking seniors out of their beds. And I'm sure the member from Regina Lakeview remembers this well, as he was the Health minister at that time.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, or Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just happen to have *Hansard* here from April 2nd, 2002. And in it the member from Kelvington-Wadena is questioning the minister of Health, the NDP minister of Health, on the increase in long-term care fees. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm quoting now:

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, under the new fee structure, under the new fee structure the NDP . . . will be taking \$828 a month, plus 90 per cent of a long-term care resident's income that's over \$828 a month.

And it goes on, Mr. Speaker. She continues. And then at the end of it, I will quote the member from Kelvington-Wadena again as saying, "Why is the NDP betraying these people?"

[12:00]

But, Mr. Speaker, the interesting part was before the minister of Health of the day, who was the member from Regina Lakeview, got up to answer, another minister chimed in. Mark Wartman was the minister of Highways, and he chimed in. And I bet you everyone over here knows what he said: because it's the right thing to do. That's what he said, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely unbelievable.

But you know what? Mr. Wartman, he probably holds the record for having the costliest heckle in this legislature. Because I also happen to have the 2003, or pardon me, 2002-2003 quarter final financial report. And keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Wartman was minister of Highways. And at the bottom of page 6 on this it says,

The amounts in *The Appropriation Act, 2002 (No. 4)* differed from the 2002-03 Estimates for Health and Highways and Transportation.

The Appropriation Act, 2002 (No. 4) reduced the Estimate for Highways and Transportation by \$7.4 million and increased the Estimate for Health by \$7.4 million.

So that heckle cost him a few gravel piles back in 2002, Mr. Speaker. And I hope it was a lesson learned from them, but they all seem to have a short if not selective memory.

An Hon. Member: — It's almost amnesia.

Ms. Eagles: — Yes. But, Mr. Speaker, I know time is passing, and there's other members that would like to speak. But just before, just before I move on to highways, I also have to

mention another quote, and this one is from *The StarPhoenix*, April 20th, 2004. And this quote is from Judy Junor, former NDP MLA, former associate minister of Health, and she was talking about the long-term care concerns in the province. And, Mr. Speaker, this is what she had to say:

“I often say to them that if you make different choices even after 60, which the literature supports, that you will live healthier longer and die quicker. That means you will not [have to] linger.” . . .

Now how unbelievable is that, Mr. Speaker?

And they get up here and, so sanctimonious and righteous, and ridicule what this government has done. And all they have to do is . . . And I'm sure the member from Lakeview could refresh their memory just a little bit. I'm sure he remembers what happened.

But as I said, Mr. Speaker, time is passing, and there are others that would like to speak. But I do have to mention highways. And I was extremely pleased when the Premier and Highways minister recently announced the twinning of Highway 39 from Bienfait to Estevan, and further to that, in the Throne Speech, that the Ministry of Highways will begin to plan the twinning of Highway 6 and 39 between Regina and Saskatoon . . . or pardon me, Regina and Estevan.

Mr. Speaker, the increased traffic and I guess the type of traffic really warrant this. And I can remember, when I was first elected in 1999 and driving into Regina, I would meet 40 to 50 semis. And we have to remember that that highway runs north and south, and probably the busiest highways of all were the ones heading west, you know, because there was an exodus of people. But now that number, Mr. Speaker, is — oh goodness — 125. And this is just like in an hour-and-a-half time span. And that isn't including the 20 or 30 semis that are parked at the truck stop at Weyburn that will be catching 39 at some point of their journey.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, there are other highways in my constituency that do need attention, and we'll talk just specifically on Highway 18. And I know the ministry has been and continues to work with the local officials, the RM out there, to find a resolution that is acceptable to all the people that are involved, and hopefully this will come in the very near future.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much more that I could say, but there are others who do want to speak here. And I just think that our balanced growth approach is so very important to this province, and we are seeing the results of it.

And just before I offer my support for the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that November is Movember. And I know we have a team in the legislature here that will be growing their moustaches in support of prostate cancer awareness and research. And I hope everyone in this province will support this cause. I don't think there's one family in this legislature whose life hasn't been touched by this. I know mine has been. My life changed because of it. And I also know the member from Martensville, you know, is very serious about this cause as well. But I encourage everyone just to dig in and support this cause.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you. And I will be supporting the Throne Speech, and I will not be supporting the amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As always it's a delight to stand in this House and participate in the Throne Speech debate. I was just thinking back to 1999 when I participated in the first debate of my political career. I remember coming here with such enthusiasm and optimism and even a little aggression because I was not going to let the government of the day ignore us any longer. And I think, after elaborating on a whole series of issues that I had enunciated that were problematic for the people for Cypress Hills, I said, we just are not going to take this kind of treatment anymore. We're here to make our voices heard. We aren't going to be ignored anymore.

And I think back to those days because that sort of set the tone for the way I approached the representation of the people of Cypress Hills. Whether I could affect change or not was actually in somebody else's hands many times in those early years, but I wasn't going to let the issue or the situation or the topic just be ignored and swept under the carpet. I was going to raise it as often and as frequently as I could. And we did have some successes. I am quite pleased with the opportunities we had to impact the government of the day and some of their decision making, which had long-term benefit for the people of Cypress Hills.

But today we're doing our 14th edition of the reply to the Speech from the Throne, and it's a pleasure to participate again. I notice that I've been scheduled to speak just after 12 o'clock. I'm assuming they put me in this spot because they know when the clock strikes 1, the House shuts down, and I won't be able to speak any longer than that. So we're going to take full advantage of the time I've been given.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is normally a time when we also take the opportunity to recognize the people who work with us, who support us both politically and personally, and I want to do the same this morning because I'm going to have some changes in my staff in my constituency office in the community of Eastend.

Beth Humphrey has been with me for 12 years now, 12 of the 14. She's provided yeoman service over that time as a very dedicated employee, and I want to thank her for contributing to the strength and the character of our office. We've got pretty stringent guidelines about how quickly we respond to people when they phone, and Beth has lived up to that standard and overseen the, sort of the delivery of services from my constituency office for most of the last 12 years. And I'm very grateful for her on my behalf.

Glenna Gordon has been with me for about nine years I think. I've lost track of the exact time, but it's about nine years. And she's about to step down. She'll be leaving our office at the end of November. And she has other things she'd like to pursue and thinks that this would be a good time to leave our employment. So we're going to miss Glenna because she's been one of those

people who's so fastidious and detail oriented that you just couldn't get out of line because she was there to make sure that everything was done precisely. And we're going to miss that skill and that conscientiousness on the part of Glenna.

Carol Miller has been with us now for about 5 years. And she's the kind of person who brings a lot energy to the office. You know, she's pretty, bright, and perky most of the time, and looking for fun and looking for opportunities to brighten the day and a bit of a practical joker. But she takes her job very seriously and looks after as much of the office details as she can, and has been very helpful over the last few years because she took a more leadership role in the office. And we appreciated her taking on that added responsibility.

Joining our team is a lady by the name of Linda Wig, who just started a month ago I guess, and she's answering the phones now. She's taking responsibility for the office on her own already from time to time. And we're glad to have Linda as part of our team, and we're looking forward to working with her.

These four ladies — it's usually three, but I've identified four now — they job-share. They work on one job and they keep in constant communication with each other to make sure nothing, sort of, falls off the table. And when one can't be there, another one is ready to step into the gap. And it's really been a good and worry-free situation for me because they work out the schedule amongst themselves, and I don't have to be there to manage those minute details.

And I just am really grateful for the willingness that these ladies have shown to co-operate and make sure the office is open. I'm pretty fussy about how often and how long my office is available to the public, and I don't like closing the door and walking down the street because we haven't got anybody to cover. And I think that having people like this available is very important to our success in the service of the constituents of Cypress Hills.

I want to say a special word of appreciation of course to my family again: my wife, Marilyn; my son, Jonathan, and his wife, Denise, and their two children; and our daughter, Brooklyn, who is going to school in Ontario. These people have not only provided me a tremendous amount of encouragement and support; it's their encouragement that has allowed me to work on behalf of the people of Cypress Hills in sometimes very long hours and sometimes in difficult circumstances.

This was an unusual summer and I have to say that in terms of family life it was probably a disaster. But we had 14 separate 100th anniversaries being celebrated by towns and RMs in the constituency of Cypress Hills. And just about every one of those celebrations entailed a full-blown weekend, a time when homecomings and big events were part of the celebration, and as the MLA for the area I was often invited to attend. So for about 12 out of the 14 weeks of this summer I was in a community someplace celebrating with the local individuals, the local citizens. That meant I wasn't at home. That meant I wasn't with my family. And so my family didn't complain about that. They just said, what we'll do is we'll take our family time at a different day of the week. And so we had that opportunity to share with our children who were around Eastend quite a bit this summer, as a matter of fact, enjoying

time together.

And so we had a very unusual summer, but you know, when you're in this particular job you have to be prepared to sort of roll with the schedule of others, the expectations of others, and my family was willing to support me as I travelled around the constituency on just about every weekend this summer, helping them to celebrate their 100th anniversaries. So I want to identify again how important the support of our family members really is to the success of individual elected people from around the province.

You know, as I've alluded to already, I've served the people of Cypress Hills now for just over 14 years, almost fourteen and a half years. And I can't imagine frankly a better constituency that one could be elected to represent because the people there are so encouraging and supportive. I've had very good electoral success in the five elections that I've run in so far. Numbers have been better each time, but what it really comes down to is the contact I'm able to achieve with those constituents who have been so, so supportive. And it's made my job that much easier because of it. And I want to thank publicly again the people of Cypress Hills for their generosity toward me, frankly both personally and politically. And I have been blessed to represent that area of the province for these many years.

[12:15]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I picked up the Speech from the Throne and read it word for word, sat through the presentation by the Lieutenant Governor. I've gone through the speech a couple of times since. And I want to say that I am, having heard other speeches from the throne, I'm particularly impressed with this speech. And I think it's not because it's particularly dramatic or well written, or those kinds of things, but it addresses honestly and straightforward, in a straightforward manner, the issues that our province is facing today.

I noticed the title of this is "Meeting the Challenges of Growth." Now I said earlier that we came here 14 years ago and made a speech in response to the Speech from the Throne, at which time we were talking about all the failures of the government to address the problems of my large rural constituency. You know, what this speech does is identify the fact that there are still challenges, there are still issues that need to be dealt with, but they're not issues of decay, they're not issues of falling numbers, they're not issues of failure of policy. These are issues of growth. And if I had my druthers, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd rather deal with the issues of a growing province, a growing population, a growing prosperity, a growing economic opportunity than I would ever want to deal with problems of decay and decline and falling numbers.

You know, I remember very clearly the issues of roads falling apart. I remember the concern about elevators being closed and rail tracks being torn up and schools being closed. You know, we had more schools in these remote areas of rural Saskatchewan being shut down by school boards because of falling student numbers. And I remember Jim Melenchuk standing in this House and presenting a plan for educational spending that had a number attached to it. They were planning for a loss of 30,000 students over the next 10 years.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how can you possibly think that that is a sign of success? How can you possibly think that is a sign of growth and prosperity and good public policy, to stand in the House and admit that you were planning for decline in student numbers, a total of 30,000 lost students over the next 10 years? It's no wonder that the previous government didn't worry about building new schools. They were going to have more space than they could use in the schools that existed at the time. And so, you know, it wasn't a real big or burning issue as far as the members opposite were concerned when they served on this side of the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the benefits of growth, as challenging and maybe difficult as they are, are far superior for everybody than the challenges of decay and decline. And so this particular document admits clearly that there are challenges. It acknowledges where they are and it lays out a plan for how this government will address the challenges of growth — not denying, of course, the reality whatsoever. There are real benefits with growth.

One of the differences I think between the members of the opposition and the members of the government when you talk about growth is the half-full or half-empty cup syndrome. We believe that the challenges of growth represent a half-full cup. The members on the opposite side of the House believe that the challenges of growth represent a half-empty cup. And if you listen to question period, you listen to their comments, you see their quotations in the newspaper, all they ever talk about are the problems and the difficulties that growth is presenting. Well growth also happens to pay for a lot of the benefits that this province is experiencing right now. Growth has paid for a significant increase in our status as a province. We are now an economically have province as opposed to traditionally being a have-not province. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I prefer being in the have camp as opposed to languishing in the have-not camp.

The benefits of growth are what pay for increased health care budgets, and we've seen growth there over the last number of years. For a while it was at a record pace. But even today the growth in health care may not be quite as dramatic percentage-wise, but in hard dollars it's a very significant part of our provincial budget. Growth in the economy pays for that health care expenditure.

Growth pays for the 8000 kilometres of highways that our government has either rebuilt or repaired in the first six years of our experience here. Without growth, you couldn't afford to fix highways. You let them decay; you let potholes develop. In fact you turned a bunch of them back to gravel. You just didn't think it was important. And even if you did think it was important, you didn't have the money to do it. You couldn't fix those roads.

You know, we've seen the benefits of growth in terms of schools. Now we're spending literally hundreds of millions of dollars of repair money to restore schools that were in such a dilapidated condition that there was mould in a number of them. There was leaky roofs. There was ventilation and heating systems that weren't working properly. There was overcrowding in some areas and no crowd at all in other areas. So now we've had money and opportunity to repair some of those schools that were in such desperate need of attention.

Not only have we been able to fix some of the existing schools. We've been able to make significant inroads in replacing schools in communities where the growth and the school-age population has been so dramatic that new schools are required. And as everybody's familiar with now, we just recently announced a P3 package of bundled schools where we're going to build nine new facilities that will accommodate 18 schools in rapidly growing communities in the province of Saskatchewan. That would never have happened under the previous government, never would have happened, but it's happening here because there's growth.

You know, growth has not just allowed us to experience sort of better economic conditions at the provincial level. Growth has allowed us to experience better employment conditions. I mean growth impacts people positively. There is some downside statistics — among the lowest unemployment numbers in the entire province, more people working year over year than ever before. I stand to be corrected, but I think the number is about 20,000 people more working in the province of Saskatchewan this year than a year ago. That's about growth. Those people are contributing to our communities, our societies, our churches, all the social clubs. That growth has revitalized all kinds of communities in this province, and that's why it's important.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have seen the benefits of growth in some of our small rural communities, and I'm going to talk about one in particular today. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the town of Shaunavon at one time had as many as 2,300 people in the last 30 years that I've lived there. In a very disheartening timeframe from the mid-1990s to the early 2000s, we lost 600 people — 600 mostly young families with children — from the community of Shaunavon. That happened in a very short period of time, and the community was desperate to stem the bleeding, to stop the hemorrhaging of people, young families from their community. And so they undertook a very aggressive project to build a very large new public skating arena and curling arena. It was a dramatic and bold initiative, and only a few people really believed it could work. But nevertheless those committed people started raising money, and they did everything they possibly could that a small community will undertake to raise the funds to try and get this new facility built because they thought if they had this new facility, it would at least maybe hold some of the young people there as opposed to seeing them flee. It might even, it might even bring some new people to the community.

Well as we all know, inflation is a pretty ugly beast and they couldn't raise the money fast enough to keep up with the construction cost of this facility. And so what was originally going to be, you know, a 4 or \$5 million facility, turned out to be much, much more than that. But with some assistance from corporations — and there was quite a bit of money from oil companies that came into the community — some support from the provincial government, a little money from the federal government, they finally got the place built. And it is a very, very attractive event . . . or I'm sorry, a facility in the community named after Hayley Wickenheiser, by the way, who is a proud product of Shaunavon.

But they got that up and it symbolized a whole new attitude in the community because what else has happened in the

meantime is there's been a lot more oil and gas activity in the immediate area of Shaunavon, and incredibly we have seen some of that lost population restored. And so I just asked the town manager yesterday in a phone conversation what their stats are, what their numbers are. And he said well, census figures say we've got about 2,100 people in Shaunavon now. But if you look at the health care numbers . . . health card numbers, it's closer to 2,400. So that's a community that has come back from the precipice at 1,700 people and falling back up now in the last eight, nine years, they've moved back up to anywhere between 21 and 2,400, depending on what source you want to utilize. And that is growth that is stimulating a whole variety of things in the community of Shaunavon.

I'm going to recite some of them because it's a classic example of what can happen when you have this kind of activity in a small community. Now I've just told you about the Wickenheiser Centre. Crescent Point was a financial partner and so their name is on the building as well. But that particular edifice has been used by the community for such a wide variety of activities and entertainment opportunities that it's taken on a whole sort of new importance in the community as a source of community pride.

But what we've seen also is a brand new hotel set up in the town of Shaunavon. Canalta Hotels came to Shaunavon and built a beautiful hotel there — a multi-million dollar facility. They don't build hotels in communities that they don't think have a future.

We've also seen a brand new building downtown sponsored by an environmental company that needed a facility. They do work in the Shaunavon area but also all around the province. And they invested in a brand new office structure in the downtown area. We've seen a brand new tire business established in the town of Shaunavon with a new building. We are seeing a new cardlock being developed within the commercial confines of the town of Shaunavon. We have seen new businesses open up, new meat processing and retailing plants.

We have seen a whole new subdivision opened up because the existing lots have all been sold out. And right now under construction is a, I think it's a 28-unit new apartment building. Not designed for the faint of heart, it's designed for folks my age who are looking for a quasi-retirement facility and it's a very beautiful building, well-designed and very well finished, and it's an impressive addition to the town of Shaunavon.

I saw a new facility go up under the name of Fauser oil that has, oh, let me see, probably about eight or nine doors going into the shop. It's situated along the highway. I don't know how long it would be, maybe 300 feet long and a hundred and some feet wide. Brand new shop to help that one company service the oil industry. And it's just one of several new oil servicing businesses that are located in Shaunavon.

You know, this is all within the last year and a half that this new construction has taken place. We're seeing new businesses spring up, maybe of a little smaller scope and size, but this is a community on the grow, and this is because there is an oil presence down there, and the industry is very active in the immediate Shaunavon area.

I use that as an example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because it's indicative of the positive things that can happen to a community when there is a growth-minded agenda in place. What about all the other communities in the constituency of Cypress Hills? We have about 25 distinct communities and not all of them are growing at the same pace. But what has happened in many of the smaller communities is, at least their population has been stabilized. They may be not experiencing the kind of dramatic change that Shaunavon is undergoing now, but they are seeing stability brought back to their communities, and that stability is very important. You know, when there's no hope for the future, those communities started dying, and we saw the impact of that on the psyche and on the aspirations of many of these smaller communities. And now they know that there is a potential for them to, if not grow dramatically, at least hold their ground. They don't have to worry about their school closing tomorrow. They don't have to worry about some other event, very negative event, happening in their community because they know that there is enough people there to stabilize the services that they enjoy.

[12:30]

We are pretty optimistic in the Cypress Hills about our future. I know I just had an individual come up to me the other day and say, you know, we've had a long, tough time in the cattle industry, but this year we sold our calves for more money than we've ever seen — ever — more money, far more money in fact in some cases.

I just . . . when I hear the prices, being a former cattleman, I know how important this once-a-year paycheque is. And when you hear about some of the prices that the cattle industry are achieving this year, that's very encouraging. And it might make up for some of the losses over the last 10 years since BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy].

But do you know the other good news for the cattle industry? In spite of COOL, the country of origin labelling in the United States, in spite of the Tyson Foods decision not to buy Canadian fat cattle, there is a 10-year horizon here for the cattle industry that I believe will be among the most prosperous the industry has ever seen.

And I'm thinking about this as a result of some of the conversations that I personally have had in my role as Provincial Secretary with the diplomatic corps. People who have come to Saskatchewan and have told us about the increasingly prosperous economies that they represent. Countries like Singapore and Indonesia and of course China and India, which are the big players, but Malaysia — these countries in Southeast Asia are experiencing a growing economy. And with the growing economy their people are looking for more and new sources of protein, and Canadian beef is going to be one of those sources that those countries are going to depend on. And with the population growth in those areas, the demand for our beef product I believe will grow at a significant pace over the next number of years. And so I'm optimistic about that.

And of course, you can't help but be optimistic about agriculture given the growth in the commodities, the variety of commodities we're producing here, commodities we never

heard of 10 years ago that are being grown here, the prices that are being paid for those commodities, the interest that that wide scope of commodity production is creating in the international communities. We have reason to be optimistic. This glass is at least half full and may be about to overflow. And I think that we have every reason to be preparing ourselves for the good of that expanding economy and preparing ourselves in a more specific way and a more deliberate way for the challenges that that growth is going to bring our economy.

I want to talk about the benefits of growth in a couple of other specific ways in the constituency of Cypress Hills. We've got better highways in our constituency right now than we have seen ever. We have had more work done in the Cypress Hills constituency. The Premier knows one in particular, Highway 32, which was rebuilt virtually in its entirety a few years ago

An Hon. Member: — No more naked calendars.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — No more naked calendars. That's right. No more naked pothole calendars out of the people up there.

But we rebuilt most of that highway and early in our mandate. And just recently, just this past summer, we went and did some of the pieces that still needed to be done. So the stretch of road from Prelate into the town of Leader was all rebuilt this summer. From Leader north to the river and across the river into the constituency for the member from Kindersley, that was done a year or so ago. And so the people of Leader are driving on better roads than they've ever driven on. And they are very grateful.

There's people in the immediate Shaunavon area. We rebuilt the road from Shaunavon to Eastend. We just rebuilt the road south of Shaunavon into the Frenchman River Valley which was badly in need of doing, but we've done it. We rebuilt the highway from south of the Frenchman River Valley to the town of Climax. The people down there never, ever thought they'd see that road fixed. The previous government went out and staked it every couple of years to make them think it would be fixed, but it would never happen. And under our watch, it happened.

We've repaved a number of roads in the constituency. There's more work to do. But people can see the progress and they know that the progress is the result of growth and increasing prosperity in the province of Saskatchewan.

Health care, have we solved all the problems with our growing economy? No we haven't. But there are serious and appropriate initiatives being undertaken in many of the communities of Cypress Hills to address the most urgent health care needs. And as you heard in the Speech from the Throne, the town of Shaunavon is going to be one of the next communities to roll out a CEC, a collaborative emergency care model. We've got one up in the northern part of the province. The Shaunavon model will be the second roll out we're hoping, and it's just a matter of time until that becomes a reality. And that new approach to health care delivery is going to be very welcome in the community of Shaunavon and the communities around Shaunavon that that health facility will serve.

You know, we're right in the middle of construction of a \$40

million health care facility, brand new, in the town of Maple Creek. And there aren't many towns the size of Maple Creek that get that kind of investment. But our government has made a commitment to the community of Maple Creek and the whole southwest corner there for a brand new facility, and we're going to be excited to see it open sometime in the latter part of 2014. That's a huge commitment to health care in the constituency of Cypress Hills. That was paid for by the benefits of growth. It isn't something that just happened. And if the economy had been going sideways or downhill, that project would never have happened.

We're hoping for a new facility in Leader sometime in the next year or two, if that's a possibility. We don't know what's going to happen there, but we're looking forward to a creative health care solution for the community of Leader where we're going to eventually combine four or five different facilities under one roof. And maybe that can become a reality as prosperity continues in the province of Saskatchewan. But that will be paid for by growth.

Mr. Speaker, we have so much to be thankful for in this province. And I know that I could probably go on indefinitely and talk about other elements that I personally have an interest in, but I want to just identify a couple more, quickly. I want to talk about the international engagement that I have been involved with as Provincial Secretary. The Premier gave me this challenge a year and a half ago and said we needed more direct involvement with the diplomatic community. So over the last 18 months I have visited diplomatic missions in Ottawa and in Toronto. We've been to Calgary and we've been to Vancouver. But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, we have brought representatives from those missions to Saskatchewan. We've brought them here to show them first-hand what this province is all about. You know, for far too long, Saskatchewan has flown under the radar in terms of international awareness.

And so Alberta might have been fairly well-known internationally. Ontario might have been well-known, but Saskatchewan was an unknown quantity. And we have worked very actively to expand the diplomatic representation here in the province with the appointment of several honorary consuls just recently. Our numbers are growing and the awareness of Saskatchewan is growing in the international community.

Last Wednesday on the occasion of the Throne Speech we had 18 different countries represented in the gallery. And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you in visiting with them later that night and hosting them at a dinner, they were absolutely thrilled with the way they were treated here, with the way they were informed about the great things that are happening here, and the potential for increased business and economic and social interaction and engagement with their respective countries.

Just yesterday, Mr. Speaker, in the gallery we had the ambassador from Finland with his spouse and the new honorary consul and we introduced them to the legislature. Over lunch with that delegation yesterday, I learned much to my surprise that they were here not just to find out what we're doing from a technical and academic perspective, but what we're doing from a business perspective that is so appealing. And I said, so give me an example. And the ambassador said, well there are two Finnish-based companies actually located here in Saskatchewan

that have expanded their operations from other parts of the country because they wanted to be part of the Saskatchewan experience. They are creating products that have application here, and they think that there is a tremendous potential here. One of them builds pipes, a flexible pipe that has an application, and SaskEnergy is utilizing a lot of their product for their expanded gas distribution business.

But here is the other example they gave, and that was a company from Finland that builds high-capacity, high-lift cranes — very large pieces of equipment. They are in Saskatchewan doing business here with an order for 50 additional cranes that companies around the province doing development work, expanding their mining operations, undertaking new construction or new mine development — 50 cranes that are being sold to companies that are operating in Saskatchewan. And that is a magnificent order of significant financial and economic value. And these were companies I'd never heard of, but they're here in Saskatchewan doing business.

What the ambassador saw, he's going to report back to his business community and his government and he, I can almost assure you, will recommend Saskatchewan as a great place to do business based on the experience of those two companies from Finland and what the ambassador saw himself.

That's how we're going to grow this economy. That's how we're going to expand this economy, outside of the very aggressive plans that we have in place to ship more agricultural products around the world and sell more uranium and more potash. We have to look at all the elements of a diversified economy, and having that manufacturing sector with an international connection and reputation present in the province is going to only do us a whole lot of good in terms of growth.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you a little story about one of my trips down east. I went to visit the ambassador from Algeria as part of our outreach program last spring. We visited about eight or nine different ambassadorial missions, and every one of them were interesting. We got a very warm welcome everywhere. But the ambassador from Algeria sat us down in this very opulent living room, fed us coffee and figs, and was just as warm as he could be.

And as we exchanged pleasantries and kind of got to the substance of our visit there, he said to me, why are you here? I mean, why are you here? We deal with Canada, but what about you as a representative of the province of Saskatchewan? And I said, well we are here to tell you our story. You don't know our story very well, and I want to tell you about the opportunities in Saskatchewan and how we are anxious to do more business with your country.

And I outlined all the growth statistics that we've talked about many times and how, you know, we are an economy on the move. We're a province on the move. We're punching above our weight class, although our weight class is getting bigger. And you know what that ambassador said to me? He looked at me dead serious and said, Algeria has been buying wheat from the province of Saskatchewan for 40 years, and you are the first person who ever came to say thank you. Forty years of sales to that country, and we'd never been there to say thank you.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I've been a salesman most of my life, and I think ultimately we're all salesmen at some level, but one of the first things a good salesman comes to understand is that if you have a customer that puts their trust in you and your product, you say thank you. There's no sale you'll ever make that's easier than the last person you sold to. And so, Mr. Speaker, this government is taking its international responsibility seriously by going to them and saying thank you for your past business. We hope we can do more business with you in the future.

[12:45]

Mr. Speaker, I have one other little anecdote I want to close on. I was in the Winnipeg airport just about a week ago and just waiting for a plane to come back to Regina. And there was a fellow I'd met at the hotel. We'd said hello, and then we re-met at the airport. And we're waiting for the plane and I said, tell me about what you do in Regina. And he said, well I'm a motivational speaker. And I thought, well that's interesting. You know, how do you make a living doing that? And he said, well I do quite well at that. But he said, you know, I've lived in Regina for a long time and I was never really enthused about the message. But he said, my attitude has changed dramatically over the last few years.

Now I'm going to quote here, Mr. Speaker. He said, I like Brad Wall. I like him. You know, I'm sure the Premier won't take that to his head. I'm sure he won't. But you know what he was saying? He's never met the Premier. It's an impression that he has developed because of the views the Premier's expressed, the confidence he has expressed in the province, the salesmanship the Premier has provided, the leadership he has provided. He has brought an optimism to this province that that motivational speaker recognized and has apportioned to his own message. And so when he tells me that he likes this gentleman, he's saying in broader terms, I have real hope and optimism for the future of the province.

And I think that that is really what I want to celebrate today as we look at this Throne Speech. It's the changed mentality in the province. It's the changed attitude. It is the hope for the future, the pride in what's been accomplished already and the expectations for the days to come. And so, Mr. Speaker, I recite that story as just an anecdotal example of what's happening in the province of Saskatchewan. We haven't solved all the problems, but we've got a plan. And we're working toward completing that plan for the sake of the future of this province and for the sake of the future of our children. And so, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the Throne Speech.

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

Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to rise in the Assembly and a pleasure to offer some comments with respect to the Throne Speech debate. I'd like to begin by saying it's a great day. It's a great day in Saskatchewan for a number of reasons; we'll get to some of those later. But for Boston Red Sox fans, it's a great day because they won the World Series and, if I'm correct, for the first time at their home field, Fenway Park, since 1918 — 1918.

But, Mr. Speaker, that's just one-third of my dream sports

trifecta. The second part will be when the Roughriders win the Grey Cup here in Regina. And the third part, when the Stanley Cup is won by the fantastic Montreal Canadiens, the mighty Habs. See, politics isn't the only divisive subject we discuss here in the legislature. More on that later. I had the great misfortune of growing up as a Habs fan in a Toronto Maple Leaf household, and that explains a lot I'm sure.

In keeping with tradition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin with a few well-deserved thank yous. More on that later too, I'm getting sure. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to begin by thanking my fantastic constituency assistant, Kyle Leonard, for his organizational wizardry and his attention to detail and his enormous patience.

Congratulations as well to Kyle and his lovely wife, Michelle, on the birth of their beautiful daughter Emily, a wonderful little girl who was born a few weeks prematurely. Scared the heck out of us, but she's on track, Mr. Speaker. She's gaining in size and weight, and she's a lovely creature, one of the reasons that Saskatchewan's population has now reached 1.1 million, the highest ever in the history of this great province.

Regina South executive and membership also is much deserving of thanks and praise for their vision and their energy. Staff in the government caucus office for their hard work and unflinching enthusiasm: John Saltasuk, Sean Osmar, Kim Gillies, Lee Guse, Enyinnah Okere, Ellen Glaze, Shawn Parchoma, and Terry Lynn Carefoot. They all do a fantastic job for us. I think they deserve a round of applause.

And certainly, Mr. Speaker, our fellow MLAs whose passion for the issues of the day, a lively sense of humour — we've seen a little bit of it already today — are essential parts of working in this great building. We thank everybody for their participation.

Even more importantly, I want to thank the residents of Regina South, the constituency that I have the great honour to represent. Certainly I appreciate their ongoing support, and recognize that it is indeed a privilege to represent them here each and every day. But I'm particularly grateful for their insight, along with the time that they take at the constituency office or on the telephone, through letters or emails, at dinners and ribbon cuttings, barbecues and community events, in shops, and on street corners to share in their own words the three things that elected representatives need to hear most: where are we as a province? Where should we go and how to get there? This is the most important advice anyone in this Chamber could ever receive.

And it never fails to amaze me, Mr. Speaker, so many times when I approach constituents they say, you're doing me a favour by listening to me. And I listen politely and whenever I can I offer the following reply: with respect, I disagree. You, sir, you, ma'am are doing me a great favour by sharing your wisdom. That's how we become better informed. Through better information comes better debate and, no question about it, better decisions. So I thank them.

Finally and most important of all, Mr. Speaker, I must thank my wonderful wife, Jocelyn, whose constant love and support makes it possible for me, as it does with every member in this

Assembly, to serve the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, darling. You're simply the best.

Now, Mr. Speaker, last year when talking about thank yous and words of introduction, I finished my remarks by mentioning our dogs, Katcha and Krissy, and mentioning how much they look forward every year to listening to the debate on the Throne Speech on television, and how much they like being mentioned individually in *Hansard* as well. Once again, they're sitting in front of the TV and no doubt being good girls. It's the new dogs, Jessie and Josie, Mr. Speaker, that we have to worry about. Being pups, you see, they have a lot to learn. So first thing when I get home after this afternoon's proceedings, I'm going to be checking the kitchen floor to see how it all turned out.

Mr. Speaker, a few remarks a little bit more germane to today's discussion, I want to simply mention one word, growth. Growth, Mr. Speaker, meeting the challenges of growth and ensuring that all Saskatchewan residents benefit from growth, this is what the 2013 Speech from the Throne is all about.

Now we know that it's not what the NDP want to hear, Lord knows. Whether we're talking about growth in our province's economy, whether we're talking about growth in our province's population, all the facts, all the figures, Mr. Speaker, just serve to remind the NDP — and everybody in Saskatchewan of course — about the growth in population, about the growth in our economy that didn't occur when the NDP formed the Government of Saskatchewan. They don't want to hear about it. It's probably a great reason to do it again, don't you think?

The statistics remind them of a dark era in Saskatchewan's history when the economy was stagnant. A time when people left this province in the hundreds of thousands when we used to sadly joke that our prime export was our young people. A time when those who were moving to Calgary to get a job said to those who were still left, last one out, turn out the lights. A time when Saskatchewan had the longest surgical wait times in the entire country, in the entire country, Mr. Speaker. And as we were reminded in debate earlier this week, there were so few nurses that the president of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses at that time was quoted as saying — and I have it in front of me — “There is no light at the end of this tunnel unless it's a train. These staffing levels are dangerous.” Dangerous, Mr. Speaker. Well that's the way we used to be — an economy going nowhere, people leaving in droves, a dysfunctional health care system, an infrastructure that was sadly neglected and decaying.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that's the way it used to be. Fortunately things are a lot better now. Welcome, everybody, to the new Saskatchewan, a place where the population is growing day by day and, as I mentioned, has reached an all-time high of 1.1 million people and is growing at a rate we haven't actually seen in close to 100 years. A place where thousands of our young people are staying, more than ever before, where thousands of Canadians are moving from other provinces and returning as expats and, once again I'm thankful to say, coming to Saskatchewan from countries all over the world to live, work, and raise their families.

Mr. Speaker, some of this is outlined in an article that I have in front of me. Now this comes from the Canadian Press,

September 26th of this year.

According to Statistics Canada, [it says] the number of people living in the province has passed the 1.1 million mark for the first time — growing over the past year by more than 20,000 people to 1,108,303.

Premier Brad Wall said the rapid growth shows the strength of Saskatchewan's economy. When the Saskatchewan Party took government in 2007, it set a goal of increasing the population by 100,000 [people] within 10 years. After reaching that target in six years, Wall says the government is now hoping to reach 1.2 million by 2020.

I think we're going to do it. We're on track.

He says the economy is drawing people to Saskatchewan for jobs and helping to keep new graduates in the province.

The premier also says better immigration policies helped.

"We've got to keep our eyes focused on that because we need newcomers as well, [he says] not just for the economy and the labour shortage, but because it makes us better . . ."

Because it makes us better, Mr. Speaker.

"I love all the accents [he concludes]."

Amol Cheema is one of those newcomers who has settled in Saskatchewan [the article goes on to say].

Cheema, who is originally from India, was in university in Toronto when a couple of his friends moved to Saskatchewan. He followed in 2011.

"They said it was a good province, lots of opportunities, so I came here," Cheema said at a gathering for newcomers Thursday at the legislature.

He said it's been great, except for the "really harsh" winter, which Cheema jokes that he's getting used to.

Thank goodness for that. Cheema . . . Yes, one winter and he's starting to get used to it. He's tough.

Cheema, 27, is working as a civilian with the Regina Police [Department]. He hopes to become an officer when his permanent residency paperwork is complete.

We all wish him well in that.

Cheema said he "absolutely" sees himself staying in Saskatchewan for the long-term.

"I love it here," he said.

". . . life is kind of relaxed [he continues], you're not rushing to your job. It takes five minutes to go to work. And then I got this opportunity [he said], and I think as an

immigrant it's my responsibility to serve the people of Saskatchewan and the people of Canada."

Noble sentiments, indeed. We agree 100 per cent.

Wall boasted about the rapid growth over the past six years.

The article goes on to say:

From 1905 to 1930, the province grew from 236,000 to 900,000. In 1983, the province finally hit one million residents before dropping below that number in 2001. In 2007, Saskatchewan reached one million again and has been growing [ever] since.

"So from 1930 to 2007 — 77 years [in total] — Saskatchewan grew by 100,000 people," said Wall.

"Because of that, some thought 100,000 people in 10 years was impossible. [More on that later.] Now, we've grown by 100,000 in just six years. It really shows the economic strength of this new Saskatchewan, and it shows the naysayers who believed this kind of growth was impossible were dead wrong."

Dead wrong, Mr. Speaker. I think everybody on this side of the House agrees with that sentiment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, how about growth in the economy? By almost every measure, we are number one or number two coast to coast to coast in this great country — GDP [gross domestic product] growth, retail sales, wholesale sales, export sales, capital investment, job creation, increases in average weekly wages all across the board. Almost every kind of measurement you want to think about, the growth has been impressive. We are Canada's leading economy.

And it's the same in construction. Historic investments in road infrastructure totalling, we know, is \$3.7 billion — that's impressive — including highways and bridges, like the twinning of Highway No. 11 from Prince Albert to Saskatoon, and the new bridge, and ring road completion project in Saskatoon as well.

I'm from Regina. Let's talk about what's been going on here for a moment. Here in Regina, we have the new Lewvan overpass, the new Pinkie Road overpass, and the new roads serving the Global Transportation Hub.

Mr. Speaker, I had the great pleasure just a couple of years ago . . .

The Speaker: — It now being after the hour of 1 o'clock, this House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. Monday and not later.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:00.]

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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

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Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority

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Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

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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 Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation
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Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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Hon. Rob Norris

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Hon. Jim Reiter

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Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General