



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

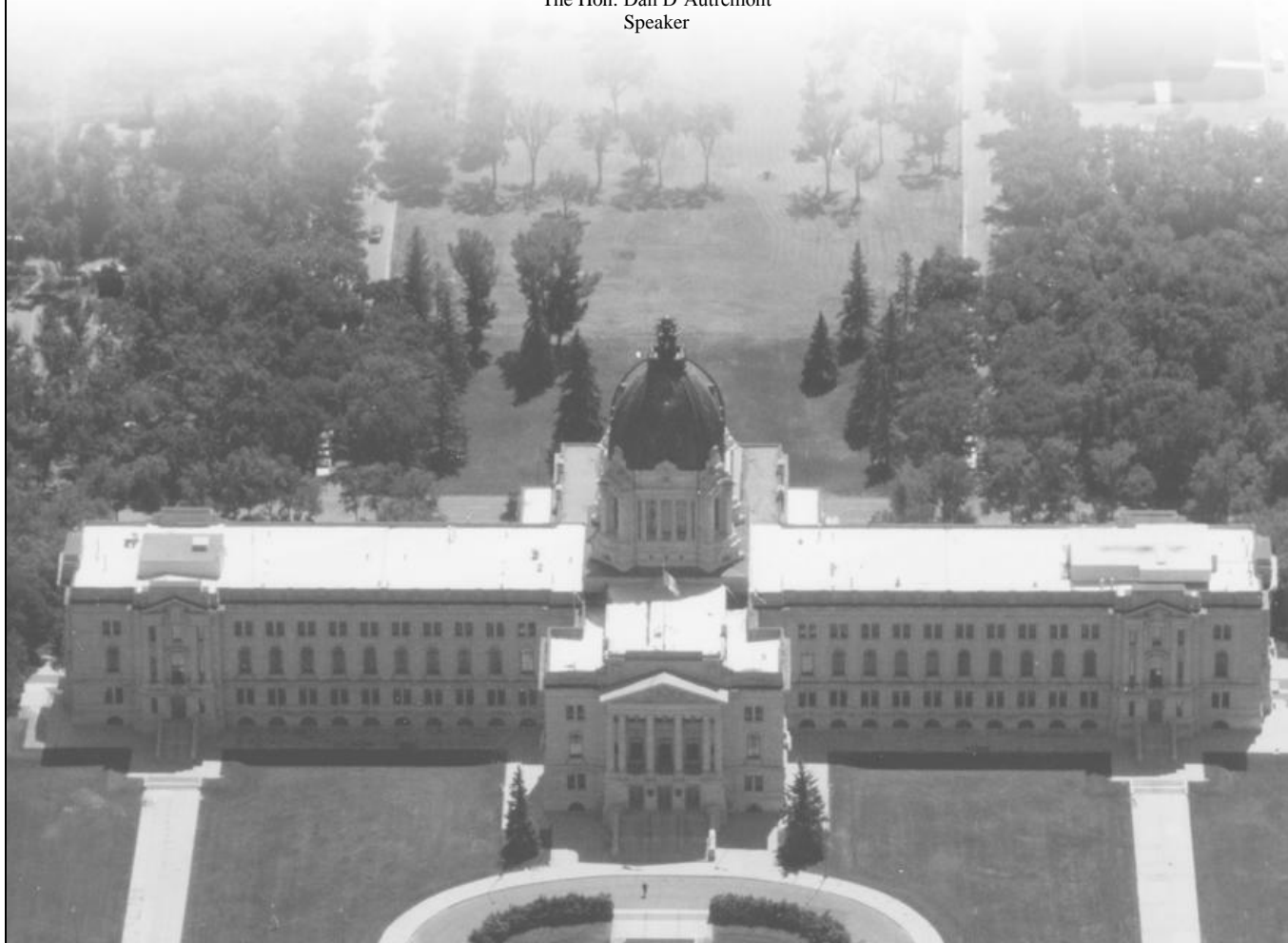
of the

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
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, 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 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce two guests that are in your gallery. Well actually one guest that's in your gallery at the moment and one that we're expecting pretty soon and running a little bit late, I understand. The folks from the Regina Open Door Society represented by Getachew Woldeyesus, the manager of settlement and family services for the Regina Open Door Society, apparently is running just a little bit late, I understand.

But we are joined here this afternoon by Isabel Hernandez. Isabel — there she is waving to everyone — she is a cabinetmaker with A1 Choice Cabinets here in Regina.

These individuals are joining us here today, Mr. Speaker, to help celebrate the improvements to the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program that were announced this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, please, all members, would you join with me to welcome Isabel to her Legislative Assembly this afternoon. And I think our other guest is just coming in now, so if you would be so kind to welcome them to the legislature.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll join with the minister in welcoming the group from the Regina Open Door Society and thank them for the important work that they do here in our province. And Saskatchewan is a great place and it's also important, Mr. Speaker, how we welcome people and how we best encourage their settlement here in the province. So we thank this very important organization for the work that it does, and of course we've had many discussions about the immigrant nominee program here in Saskatchewan. I'm sure those discussions will continue here on the floor of the Assembly, but that doesn't distract from the important work that people in the community are doing. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals to the Assembly today. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce several guests who are joining us today in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. These guests come from across the province of Saskatchewan and are here today to support the creation of a provincial athletics commission to oversee professional boxing and mixed martial arts events in the province of Saskatchewan.

Joining us today, Mr. Speaker, in your gallery is no stranger to many of us, Mr. Pat Fiacco, former mayor of Regina and

current CEO [chief executive officer] of Tourism Saskatchewan. Pat is also the current president of Boxing Canada. Anthony Scales is the head Brazilian jiu-jitsu instructor and co-owner of Complete Martial Arts and Fitness in Regina. If you can just give us a wave. Chris Desautels is the head instructor at the Spirit of the Dragon martial arts facility in Regina and is a mixed martial arts official and an RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officer. His Worship Malcolm Eaton, mayor of the city of Humboldt, Chair of the mayors caucus and Vice-Chair of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association board of directors, is also here. And Randy Fernets, director of industry development and sports tourism for Tourism Saskatoon.

They are joined today, Mr. Speaker, by three officials from my ministry: Darin Banadyga, Melanie Baumann, and Benjamin Orr. Mr. Speaker, these individuals have been very helpful to the government in developing this legislation for introduction here later this afternoon. And I'd like to welcome all of them as guests to their Legislative Assembly today, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I too would like to welcome these guests to our Assembly this afternoon. It's always important when enthusiasts of any area — arts, culture, sports — take their volunteer capacities, work together, and work together to create new initiatives like the one that's being presented here today.

So good work. Congratulations for all the good work that you do. Thank you for being volunteers and enthusiasts for the area that you're interested in. And we hope you enjoy the proceedings here today. Thank you very much and we'd like to welcome you on behalf of the official opposition.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask leave to give an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Minister for Advanced Education has asked for leave to give an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Great. Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce two guests in your gallery today. With us today is a recipient of the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour, one of 20 awards given out this year. We have Corporal Dane Stephen with the 2nd Signal Squadron, 38 Brigade and he's joined by his wife, Brianna Deis, who works in the health care sector here in Regina. We're very pleased to have the corporal and his wife join us today.

A few of us were able to join them over lunch — the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Regina Northeast, the MLA for Wood River, among others — and we heard about the significance of the corporal's studies, about his work in the Ministry of Justice. And perhaps not surprisingly, he was quiet when it came to the service to country. And, Mr. Speaker, we noted that and that furthered our appreciation for that service.

If I could, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to not simply identify the corporal, but I would like to also name for our records here within the Assembly all those that have received the Scholarship of Honour this year. There are 20 names: Master Corporal Ciara Phelps, Corporal Devlin Clancy, Mr. Mark Wade, Officer Cadet William Bellamy, Mr. Fergus Schappert, Leading Seaman David Longchamps, Ms. Jennifer Stewart, Master Corporal Brandi Rink, Mr. Sean Rhind, Chief Warrant Officer Jean-Claude Parent, Mr. Michael Wong, Officer Cadet Jason Leverton, Corporal Jordan Guenther, Master Corporal Graig Gallant, Corporal Jenna Mikituk, Captain Nathan Carreiro, Mr. Jonathan Carreiro, Ms. Megan Wade, and Ms. Selena Carrisse.

Mr. Speaker, we thank all of these recipients, in fact all of those who have so nobly and ably served our country and communities, for their service, especially as we look to Remembrance Day coming in just a few days. I know that the member for Wood River will have more to say in a member's statement and so, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Corporal Stephen, his wife, and a broader tribute to all those that have been recognized by the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming Corporal Stephen and Ms. Deis to your Legislative Assembly, and to quite simply add to what is symbolized in the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour, the words, thank you. To serve country and to put your life on the line, to put on that uniform is such a tremendous service to all of us. And again as the minister has pointed out, coming up on Remembrance Day and when we'll be out thinking about what it means, lest we forget. I think that the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour is a very important contribution to not breaking that faith with those who have gone before but those who have taken up arms, who have put on the uniform, and who have served this country so well both here and right around the world.

So on behalf of the official opposition, again thank you very much. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, and lest we forget.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Many northern residents benefited from the rental purchase option program, also known as RPO. 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 good people of northern Saskatchewan, and I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of replacing the gym at Sacred Heart Community School. The petitioners indicate that the gym at Sacred Heart Community School in North Central Regina has quite literally fallen apart, has been closed indefinitely, and is no longer safe for students or staff. They point out that the school and community have raised this issue with the Sask Party provincial government since 2007 without resolution. They point out that Sacred Heart Community School is the largest school in North Central, with a very diverse population of more than 450 students, 75 per cent of whom are First Nations and Métis. They point out that it's a growing school, and not just in student numbers, Mr. Speaker, but in achievement and in attendance as well. And they point out that as a matter of basic fairness and common sense, Sacred Heart Community School needs a gym. In the prayer that reads as follows, they:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Sask Party provincial government to immediately commit to the replacement of the gymnasium of Sacred Heart Community School.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by good citizens from Saskatoon and Cut Knife. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatchewan Order of Merit

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I had the pleasure of attending the prestigious Saskatchewan Order of Merit awards presented by the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield. The Saskatchewan Order of Merit is the province's highest honour, recognizing individuals who have contributed significantly to the well-being of Saskatchewan.

The ceremony celebrated the achievements of seven people who have had an outstanding impact on our province, including Dr. Richard Baltzan, a distinguished medical specialist and administrator who helped improve the quality of patient care and medical education at the local, provincial, national, and international levels; John Cross, an innovative entrepreneur who celebrates Saskatchewan's potential and advances its innovation by bridging agriculture, business, and bioprocessing research; May Henderson, a passionate Métis leader whose

commitment and advocacy regarding issues faced by Métis has led to significant positive changes within the Saskatchewan community; Grant Kook, a generous philanthropist who has made significant and lasting contributions to Saskatoon and Saskatchewan; Jim Miller, an outstanding professor who has played a critical role in bringing public understanding to Aboriginal history in Saskatchewan and Canada; George Reed, a living legend of the Saskatchewan Roughriders with a lifetime of commitment giving back to this community; and Arthur Wakabayashi, a dedicated public servant whose distinguished career with the federal and provincial public services spanned more than 35 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating these amazing Saskatchewan citizens on receiving the 2013 Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Team Honey Do

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This past summer a very brave woman in Regina Elphinstone-Centre took the challenge to rappel down the 22-storey Hill Tower II for charity. The Saskatchewan Abilities Council Easter Seals held their signature Drop Zone event on October 24th in Regina, and Team Honey Do obliged.

Mr. Speaker, Honey Deglau was coming up to her 80th birthday so she dared her 54-year-old son, Rob Deglau, to join her in this event. The dynamic Deglaus raised a total of \$5,461 for the Easter Seals Regina fundraiser. What an amazing way to mark your 80th birthday, Mr. Speaker.

And just as Honey Deglau has always tried to make a difference, her son Rob has always done her proud. Rob has been a resident in North Central for most of his life, attending Albert School and graduating from Scott Collegiate. He was active on the North Central Community Association board for over two decades, and for three terms served our neighbourhood as city councillor for ward 6. As community member and executive director of the North Central Community Association, Rob Deglau has participated in 20 consecutive North Central community cleanups. In October he was at it again to help remove 40.51 tonnes of garbage as Regina prepares for hosting the Grey Cup.

The Deglau family are tremendous citizens here in Regina from the ground up, Mr. Speaker, and North Central and Regina are better places for their contributions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to recognize the latest recipients of the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a strong history of women and men serving in Canada's Armed Forces. We thank them for

serving with courage often in difficult circumstances in many places around the world.

This scholarship was first announced in 2009 and honours the commitment our members of the Armed Forces make to our country and recognizes all individuals who stand up for peace and freedom. It gives returning servicewomen and men as well as family members of injured or fallen individuals the chance to pursue their post-secondary studies. The scholarship is \$5,000 and is available to all eligible candidates who apply.

Mr. Speaker, it's an example of our government's commitment to the women and men that have fought for our country. To date there have been 113 Scholarship of Honour recipients — 107 of them are returning servicewomen and men and six are children of Armed Forces members.

Today we're celebrating the 20 recipients that have received the scholarships since 2012. This scholarship is a token of our gratitude and respect.

Mr. Speaker, because of these brave women and men, we live in a country where we can pursue our dreams and make plans for the future. For that, we are eternally grateful. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Never Too Late to Change for the Better

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly to recognize an important figure in my constituency. Denise Bougie has shown great perseverance, proving that it's never too late to change one's life for the better.

This fall Denise completed her fourth year electrician training, and this accomplishment requires years of challenging school work and hands-on experience. Denise is now just a few hours shy of the 7,200 hours of work experience required to write her exam and become an interprovincial journeyman.

But, Mr. Speaker, it almost didn't happen. This is the same woman who, just six years ago, had incredible challenges in her life. Denise is not shy about talking of her life and certainly the legal and personal challenges that she had. But as an addict, she says, "A big part of my story is the recovery. And I'm proud that I've been able to turn that around and succeed."

Today she's a proud kohkom of two beautiful granddaughters. Denise is currently employed at the Flyer Electric and is living in her home in Uranium City, which she loves.

Denise offers great advice to others looking to change their circumstances, saying, "To anyone who is thinking about making a change, I would say, do it. It's a wonderful feeling to be proud of yourself, of who you are and what you've accomplished."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to show Denise how proud we are of her and to recognize her perseverance in being an important role model in fighting for a better life. Thank you.

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

Lows in Motion

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise in the House today to talk about a spectacular event that took place in Saskatoon on Saturday. Lows in Motion, Mr. Speaker, was held at Prairieland Park and organized by my former constituency assistant, Travis Low. At the time Travis worked for me, he was instrumental in organizing Lows in Motion on a volunteer basis, and went on to accept the position of executive director of Parkinson Society Saskatchewan.

Travis's dad was diagnosed with young onset Parkinson's at the age of 47, and his grandpa also lived with the disease for over 15 years. Lows in Motion was originally started to honour Travis's dad and the memory of his grandpa, but it has continued to grow and grow. This is their fifth year, and over 1,100 people attended. Their aim is not just to raise money for research and programs, but to create awareness of Parkinson's and the impact that it has on 4,000 Saskatchewan families.

What an incredible Saskatchewan story this is, Mr. Speaker. This group of 25 committee members share a passion for making a difference in the Parkinson community and making a difference in our province. The results of their efforts have been raising over \$150,000 in four years, and they expect the proceeds from Saturday's event will add about \$75,000 to that amount.

Once again, when there is a need, Saskatchewan people astonish us with their generosity. I am so proud of Travis Low and his team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Prince Albert Student Receives Prestigious Scholarship

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Levi Kirkby, a young constituent of Prince Albert Carlton, who received the prestigious 2013 United World College Scholarship this fall. The scholarship was awarded to him on the basis of a national competition and allows students to pursue a two-year international academic program.

United World College is an education movement comprising of 12 international schools and colleges in more than 140 countries. Their mandate is to bring together young people to offer an educational experience based on shared learning, collaboration, and understanding to create students who will act as champions of peace.

Levi began studying at UWC [United World College], Maastricht in the Netherlands this fall. In Prince Albert he has been known as a proud member of the Prince Albert Air Cadet Squadron, a top provincial chess player, and a member of the Sturgeon River Ski Club.

Levi said about the scholarship, and I quote:

I feel incredibly grateful for this amazing opportunity to represent my city and country internationally. I am so grateful to my teachers at Carlton High School, my Air

Cadet leaders, and my family who have helped guide, motivate, and mentor me into becoming the person I am today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Levi Kirkby and wishing him all the best with his studies in the Netherlands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Growth Plans

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP leader is trying to run and hide from his party's record and his own record. The NDP has removed every bit of policy from its website. The NDP platform to the last election is gone. All the NDP policy resolutions are gone. Even the NDP policy review book, the tree book written by the NDP leader, even it's gone. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? What does that NDP leader stand for exactly?

For instance he's been talking about a smart growth plan for months now. Where is the so-called smart growth plan? The fact is no one has seen it, so I take it he doesn't have one.

It's one thing for the NDP [New Democratic Party] leader to throw around buzzwords like smart growth plan; it's another thing to actually come up with a plan.

The good news is Saskatchewan already has a growth plan and it's working. More people are living here than ever before, more people working than ever before, more construction, more investment, more economic growth — that's our growth plan and it's working.

Mr. Speaker, in this session we should get a chance to compare our government's growth plan to the NDP leader's fictitious growth plan. That would be a great debate to have. The problem is, where is his plan? Will the Leader of the Opposition table his growth plan or will he just admit that he doesn't have one? We're about to find out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Environmental Protection Measures

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you're a resource-producing and trade-dependent province, then you have to be sensitive to the perceptions and the policy priorities of trading partners. That's a common sense thing to do and that's a responsible thing to do. That's not what we've seen from this government, Mr. Speaker.

The Wall Street Journal ran an interesting article last week on the Premier's thoughts on the XL pipeline. And this is what the Premier had to say: "What we understand now . . . is that the President needs elbow room on the environmental side. Now we must re-double our efforts there."

So my question to the Premier: what does he mean when he

says we must redouble our efforts on the environmental side? And when might we see this actually happen?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — First of all, Mr. Speaker, I do want to welcome the question with respect to Keystone from the Leader of the Opposition, and I want to welcome his support. I assume that that is still the case, Mr. Speaker. It is a stand that's different than his federal party, and so he deserves to be recognized for that because it's important for the province of Saskatchewan.

The direct answer to his question, Mr. Speaker, is that we've already begun that effort. In my last mission to Washington this spring, Mr. Speaker, for example, we stressed the environmental record of our country. We noted that in Canada we have tougher coal regulations than even they do in the United States. We noted that we have oil and gas regulations coming. And we also noted for our American friends that in our province of Saskatchewan, we have we think the largest per capita public investment in a CO₂ mitigation project, the clean coal . . . the successful clean coal project at Boundary dam 3, Mr. Speaker.

So what we were trying to do by that is — I think the economic argument for the pipeline has been made — we were trying to demonstrate to our American friends that when they deal with Canada in terms of importing our oil or co-operating on a pipeline, they're dealing with a country and they're dealing with provinces and industry that admit we need to do more but that care about the environment, that care about sustainable energy development, Mr. Speaker. We're already about that work. I understand Premier Redford's continuing it. The federal government is, Mr. Speaker. This needs to be a Canadian effort because this project is important to the country.

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

Mr. Broten: — It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, the words may be there, but when we look at the specific actions, Mr. Speaker, when we look at how the walk is matching the talk, that is where there is a disconnect.

This isn't the first time, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier has publicly said that environmental elbow room needs to be provided to the US [United States] administration. In fact he said a similar thing last month. But then, Mr. Speaker, he returned to Canada, returned to Saskatchewan, and we saw cuts. We saw cuts to environmental assessment, cuts to environmental protection, and we saw no reference, Mr. Speaker, no action on climate change programs. So we have a disconnect here between the sales job and what is the reality and the actual actions of this government.

So my question to the Premier . . . He said it's important to "offer assurances to Washington that policy-makers were prepared to do more." Not double efforts in sales but double efforts in actual work, actual demonstration of a commitment to the environment. My question to the Premier: is he prepared to do more on the environmental side, and if so, why was this not mentioned in the Throne Speech?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've been working carefully with the federal government with respect to greenhouse gas legislation here to ensure that we can adopt federal regulations and maintain economic development in the province, Mr. Speaker, at a pace that we need to sustain the quality of life we enjoy in Saskatchewan.

But the direct question from my friend opposite is simply this. His question is, where is the action? One point four billion dollars in the largest clean coal project on the planet, one by the way, Mr. Speaker, that is being tested this fall. It'll be commissioned this spring. It represents a 90 per cent capture of CO₂. It represents the capture of other emissions that we want to take care of. It represents then of course the use of the CO₂ enhanced oil recovery, all of it sold to oil companies. And then we will store it, Mr. Speaker, and we'll store it geologically in our province where almost a third of the world's CO₂ is successfully stored, at least from a geological perspective.

Mr. Speaker, we moved on the legislative front. We're dealing with a legacy of neglect from the NDP, where emissions were up I think 60 to 70 per cent. And, Mr. Speaker, when we are in the United States, we can say to them we support stronger coal regulations in this country, which the government has provided. And more than that, in terms of action, we're investing in technology, that it's important for our province but important for any economy around the world that's still using coal for energy, including the United States.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, carbon capture is an important project. The problem is that's where this government's commitment, that's where this government's discussion about the environment ends. What we see in their overall approach to the environment, Mr. Speaker, after going down to do the sales pitch, coming back and having actions that send a very different message, a very different message to our trading partners.

We see cuts to environmental assessment. We see cuts, Mr. Speaker, to any sort of approach to address climate change, no reference to it in the Throne Speech. We saw the last budget what the actions clearly were. So that is the reality of the actions that this government has pursued. In fact according to a recent Environment Canada report, this government isn't even on track to meet its scaled-back emissions targets. We're now on track to be 24 per cent higher than the target. That's not a record to be proud of, Mr. Speaker.

So again to the Premier: when he said that we need to redouble our efforts and do more on the environmental side, what exactly did he mean by redoubling our efforts, and why was this not mentioned in the Throne Speech?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, you know, just last week we were talking about this issue in the national media again, including in the US papers that have interviewed us on the subject after I think what have been fairly successful missions to the United States where we built support, helped build

support for Keystone for example on both sides of the aisle.

But, Mr. Speaker, the message has been pretty clear. We need to get the message out. We need to redouble the efforts to get the message out to our American friends that Canada has a strong record — imperfect, to be sure, like every nation — but a strong record when it comes to sustainable energy development: that the federal government has moved on stronger coal regulations than they have stateside; that we're moving on oil and gas regulations; that companies are investing and, in our case, our Crown corporation, the government, the people of Saskatchewan are investing in the world's largest clean coal project.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, I think the only ones in this Assembly that would characterize that as inaction, especially with respect to that project, are members opposite. Senator Heitcamp from North Dakota was just touring the facility. I remember what she told her media back home, and in her tweet she said she was promoting the fact that Saskatchewan is acting, that Saskatchewan has something the world is going to look at.

That's why we're building an international consortium to further develop this technology we've developed here, Mr. Speaker. And I note this for the record of this Assembly: we had a chance to be ahead of the curve on clean coal technology, but a government backed away from it, they tabled it, they walked away from the technology. That was the New Democratic Party government, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we know that the Premier likes to get worked up about this, we know that he likes to torque this issue. We all see the ads that he approved that run on a daily basis, so we know his political disposition and what he likes to do. But the problem is, Mr. Speaker, his actions tell a very different story. His whole discussion, his whole approach to the environment, Mr. Speaker, begins and ends with carbon capture, again an important program. But when you look at the overall approach of this government, Mr. Speaker, it's one of cutting programs, it's one of reducing assessment. It's one, Mr. Speaker, where targets are out the window. It's one, Mr. Speaker, where they don't even mention climate change in a Throne Speech. That's how serious they take this matter.

So my question to the Premier: wouldn't it have been more effective and wouldn't it have made more sense, more common sense, to actually do more on the environment instead of simply saying so?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition characterizes some of the changes we've made as cuts, and fair enough. We've made some changes from what they were doing. When we came to office they had set up a climate change office, but they had forgotten to actually staff the office or include any actions as a part of the office. I think they had a bunch of buses and trucks that were ready to drive through northern Saskatchewan and check air quality, but they forgot to

put any gas in the trucks or people to drive them, Mr. Speaker.

So we've moved ahead, for example with a \$1 million effort to clean up . . . to test the quality of our boreal lakes; \$60 million in Go Green Funds in actual . . . in action, Mr. Speaker, that's contributing to our record on the environment; legislation that sets targets for emissions reductions; and again, Mr. Speaker, the anchor that I wish members opposite would be prouder of, because the world is interested, is the largest clean coal project per capita investment you'll see anywhere in the world frankly, as far as we are aware of — that's the Boundary dam 3 project.

Mr. Speaker, if that's not good enough, all of those things, I am going to wait very patiently for that Leader of the Opposition to stand up and say specifically what else we should be doing.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, if the Premier is so worked up about this, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier is happy to comment in *The Wall Street Journal* that we need to redouble our efforts, my question is, why do the actions as demonstrated in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, beyond carbon capture, why are they silent on this issue? Why is he saying one thing to our trading partners, but when it comes down to actually having it stated in a Throne Speech and actually having plans, why is that not there?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we'll try it again. We've noticed a pattern here in this fall session of the legislature where the Leader of the Opposition gets up and asks good questions and we do our best to answer the questions — and frankly, quite specifically, as I've done here today and we've done yesterday and I think last Thursday — so he just keeps repeating the same question and saying the answer is not there. Well, Mr. Speaker, saying that doesn't make it so.

I will repeat, Mr. Speaker, we have passed legislation that sets targets around emissions. We have deployed \$60 million in Go Green funds, Mr. Speaker, and we've undertaken about a \$1.4 billion clean coal project. We'll say it again; that sounds like action to me.

I think if you asked the people of the province of Saskatchewan and you said, here is the side-by-side comparison. Here's what the NDP did: talk and empty offices and empty air-testing vans, versus the largest clean coal project in the world, versus a Go Green Fund that was actually doing something; and then engaging with our American friends, doing something else the NDP never did, going and tell our story in Washington; joining the province of Alberta as a supporter, joining the nation, Mr. Speaker, joining our federal government because that pipeline is important, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly the record of this government, and we put it beside theirs any day of the week.

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

IPAC—CO2

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this government tried to skate around the IPAC [International Performance Assessment

Centre for geologic storage of CO₂] affair for well over a year. When we asked simple questions of accountability for taxpayers of this province, that government failed to provide answers about alarming allegations and wasted dollars of taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, we turned over all the information we had to the RCMP and called on government to do the same. Now the RCMP have confirmed that there's a full fraud investigation into the IPAC affair.

So my question to the Premier is this: when this government stepped in to wind down the IPAC office, did they retain a copy of every document and record, and has everything been turned over to the RCMP?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, when there was an agreement made with the U of R [University of Regina] to do some work on CO₂ and carbon capture sequestration, Mr. Speaker, it was later identified that, at the U of R under their management, that there was some procedures that were not followed. It was some serious mismanagement that was happening at the U of R. At that time the government took steps, and the management of IPAC-CO₂ was taken away from the U of R and an audit was called for from Meyers Norris and Penny. So Meyers Norris and Penny and the Provincial Auditor both audited what had happened while it was under the management of the U of R.

Mr. Speaker, the government to date has not been asked for any information from the RCMP, but when we are, we will be fully co-operating.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the question was to the Premier. There would have been a ton of information that would be relevant to this fraud investigation at IPAC's offices. To the Premier: when this government went in to close up shop, who did it send in to oversee the shutdown of IPAC and its office?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, IPAC had a board. On that board were members from CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]. There was a member from Royal Dutch Shell as well as members from the U of R, and they overseen the shutdown of IPAC.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The question was to the Premier, and the question wasn't answered. We need to remember that the Premier had one of his closest political advisers on the IPAC's board. When we asked that they call in the Provincial Auditor, this government stubbornly refused. The Premier even said in this legislature "... nobody gained. There's no evidence of anything." Then he told the media that there was nothing to take to the RCMP. If that's the case, Mr. Speaker, it's more than interesting that the RCMP is now engaged in a full fraud

investigation.

My question to the Premier is this: why did the Premier dismiss all of the allegations and waste instead of seeking answers and accountability in sending all of the information to the RCMP from day one?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite need to remember that the original arrangement with the U of R, the original funding to the U of R for IPAC came from the NDP. That was approved prior to the election, Mr. Speaker. We have the memo that approves that funding as well as the president of the U of R, Dr. Vianne Timmons, has spoken to how that funding came about, Mr. Speaker. And the initial proposal from the U of R to the government was prior to the election when the NDP were still in government.

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

SaskPower Rates and Boundary Dam Project

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We learned just over a week ago that SaskPower wants a rate increase which, if approved, will mean a nearly 40 per cent increase since 2009. Mr. Speaker, that's a hard hit for people doing their part to pay their bills and make ends meet. But what's even more alarming than that nearly 40 per cent increase is the fact that there may be more still to come. In the same announcement, SaskPower said recent cost overruns at Boundary dam are not included in their latest rate application.

To the Minister Responsible for SaskPower: what will be the impact on ratepayers to cover off this government's over \$115 million cost overruns?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, indeed SaskPower has made a request for a rate increase of 5 per cent to the rate review panel. That is going forward as we see it. The cabinet at some point in the future will look at it and then decide whether or not to approve it or not. The rate increases, as a result of the infrastructure challenge that SaskPower is faced with — a billion, multi-billion-dollar hole that we found ourselves in in SaskPower — we are working towards that.

And I think if I remember right, I believe I do remember correctly that the member herself was aware of that difficulties and commented in a very favourable way with respect to the infrastructure deficit that we found when we took over in government.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This government's 115 million, that's \$115 million in cost overruns, won't be covered in SaskPower's rate increase. Another huge

hike will be needed to pay for those cost overruns, even though the Premier and the minister said repeatedly the carbon capture project was on budget.

The minister said in June, “This project continues on time and on budget.” And the Premier called the project “on time and on budget.” Well now we know the truth. Why did the Premier say carbon capture’s on budget when it’s running at least \$115 million cost overrun?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, if you listen to the member opposite, you would assume that the NDP never had rate increases. Well the history shows anything but; you had approximately 5 per cent rate increases year after year after year under your management. And we also know that the hon. member, she fully understood that there was a problem here when she commented and said, well we know that there is a \$10 billion infrastructure deficit, so they are beginning to catch up. So that is a good thing.

And I would just say that it’s good to see that the NDP, at least one of them, finally recognizes the disaster that they were in government in terms of SaskPower, and now how we are going to do exactly as she suggested, and that is catch up.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Actually the question was about the cost overruns of the carbon capture project. And I’m sorry the minister didn’t take time to answer the question. And then additionally, he actually has his facts wrong because the quote he’s attributing to me was spoken by the Minister of Advanced Education who misquoted me on April 10th of this year.

Mr. Speaker, we’re talking about cost overruns at the carbon capture project at Boundary dam. Here’s what SaskPower CEO Robert Watson had to say on October 18th: “We’re looking at the project being about \$115 million over budget.” But the minister told the committee on June 18th exactly three short months earlier that everything was fine, the project was on time and on budget. What he didn’t tell the committee was that there are least \$35 million of engineering costs still to budget, along with other problems that have since come to light.

Mr. Speaker, how could the minister tell the committee in June, “This project continues on time and on budget,” when costs were about to skyrocket 9 per cent in a matter of days?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, indeed the member is correct that there has been some cost overruns with respect to the power island portion of the carbon capture storing facility down at Boundary dam. And I believe that the CEO explained that very, very well at that time, which was very simply they ran into a number of problems associated with the power island portion of the project down there where they found asbestos, and as a result of that, then they had to do a complete wash of the building. That took place in the early summer months

around the time that the member is alleging there was some problems. So there was a complete wash of the building that cost somewhere in the range of \$30 million for that alone.

Then there was a number of other problems relative to the engineering around the generation facility itself. I think the CEO identified it as saying it was like taking an engine of a car apart — when you get into it, you find out there was a lot more problems with the engine than you thought there was going to be.

[14:15]

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

Public-Private Partnerships and Provision of Schools

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Highways minister was on the radio this morning talking about P3 [public-private partnership] schools. He had just a bit of trouble keeping his facts straight. When he was asked about the problems with P3 schools in Alberta, the Highways minister actually said, “There is no basis behind them.” To the minister: how on earth can he argue that it’s such a rosy picture with Alberta P3 schools?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had quite an interesting morning because I got to listen to him on the radio before he got to listen to me. And you know, he was talking about all the negativity around P3s and bundling of schools. In fact he had to go back to 1990 in Nova Scotia to find an example that was negative, Mr. Speaker.

We’re going to talk about what’s been going on in Alberta, and we’re going to talk about the money that they saved. They will talk about the auditor having to investigate if they actually saved 90 million or 80 million, Mr. Speaker. That’s what the auditor is looking into.

Mr. Speaker, these people stand across the way and they want us to take action on so many fronts. We are taking action on those fronts; they just don’t like the way we’re doing it.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the public simply deserves the facts on this front and the Highways minister also said this morning:

It is a myth and a falsehood that the school division doesn’t have control. The school division has complete control of what goes on in that school as far as activities extracurricular. It is controlled by the school division.

Mr. Speaker, the Highways minister needs to check the record. School divisions did not get what they needed out of those P3 schools in Alberta. And *The Edmonton Journal* reported just last year, Mr. Speaker, that’s last year, Mr. Speaker: “No space was built in for community leagues, child care centres, preschools and other services.” So it’s no wonder that school divisions in Alberta said that they “. . . would prefer to see

future schools built without private involvement.”

To the minister: will he simply admit that he’s wrong to say that it’s a myth and a falsehood that Alberta school divisions lost control of schools when that’s clearly the case?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I would ask the member opposite to check what has gone on in Alberta. In Alberta they went through a first bundle of 18 schools, Mr. Speaker. And if we’re to believe those people, you’d have to talk to the consortium so they could allow the kids to go into the school and allow the kids to come out, Mr. Speaker, because that’s what they talked about, losing control. If that was the case, ask the question, why would have Alberta done a second bundle and a third bundle if they’ve lost so much control?

Mr. Speaker, that really seems like a right wing government in Alberta to give up that much control of the education system. Mr. Speaker, they grab at straws just like CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] did in the water watch and the waste water treatment plant here where they told . . . they were showing kids not having proper drinking water and everything else.

Now we see the same fear tactics coming forward. Here in Saskatchewan they cry for schools. They beg for schools. They read petitions for schools, but they sure don’t support it, building schools.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 108 — *The Athletics Commission Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 108, *The Athletics Commission Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 108, *The Athletics Commission Act* be now introduced and read the 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. Doherty: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 109 — *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2013*

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 109, *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister for the Economy that Bill No. 109, *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations 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. Boyd: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 1 through 84.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered questions 1 through 84.

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 Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s a pleasure this afternoon, after a lively question period, I’m pleased to be able to join in on the debate that’s been going on for a number of days here in the Assembly on the Throne Speech, with both sides of the House, Mr. Speaker, providing some thanks to constituents, providing some thanks to supporters, and giving, each member giving his or her view of the merit of the Throne Speech or what is lacking in the Throne Speech. And so I’m pleased, Mr. Speaker, today to have the opportunity to join in on the debate.

In thinking back to the Throne Speech when we had it read not too long ago here in the Assembly, it was a day of course as many guests . . . And we all make the effort to invite some family members, to invite constituents, to invite important stakeholders from the province who come to hear what is in the Throne Speech. And I, Mr. Speaker . . . The most important people that I invited, at least to me, was my wife, Ruth, and our two girls that came to the legislature for the day of the Throne Speech. And it's not that common of an occurrence to have them here, down in Regina and in the Assembly. So it's always a pleasure to have them here.

But I came down beforehand to Regina and was in my office, and I called back home and spoke with Ruth. And they were sort of . . . We were just having a discussion about logistics of who's coming where, when, and making everything work. And Ruth was on speakerphone, and we were just having a conversation. And I know members know the feeling when you're on a speakerphone conversation talking with someone, and it's sort of cutting in and out and you're trying to follow exactly what's being said. Well it was cutting in and out because our three-year-old was trying to enter into the conversation while Ruth and I were talking about driving arrangements and the logistics, as I said.

And so we paused the conversation, and Ruth said, oh just hold on a second; Ingrid wants to say something. So we waited for a second and, you know, it's always special . . . I know for all the out-of-town MLAs, it's always special to either be skyping or to be speaking with family members back home when we're here in Regina. And so I was thinking, oh, it's my three-year-old. She must want to cut into this conversation to say that she loves her daddy or to say, you know, I'm looking forward to coming to the office and playing with the craft supplies and everything else. So I waited for a second. There was a pause. And Ingrid said, "Daddy, Buckley is funny." Of course, Mr. Speaker, referring to the member from Athabasca. That was a quote from my daughter, so I'll state her name.

So I have to admit, when my daughter was here for the Throne Speech, I doubt she retained very much of what was being said, retained very much of the content. But for all of us and especially for me, Mr. Speaker, the interactions we have with our kids, the interactions we have with our families really reminds us of what's important. And that's what my daughters do for me. It reminds me of why I'm in politics and what the true motivation is for doing the work that we do.

And I know it's a common question that we receive as MLAs when we have school groups coming to the Assembly, a common question. I'm sure most members on both sides of the House have fielded this question at some point. It's, what made you decide that you wanted to run? And for me, Mr. Speaker, the motivation for wanting to run originally as an MLA, wanting to run for the leadership of our party, and to lead the opposition at this time, my greatest motivation is that of people. I think of my kids. I think of my family. And I also think of the extended family that I'm in, and we all have extended families that we care about. I think of my parents, Mr. Speaker, recently retired, and I extend my congratulations to them as they're adjusting to a new reality. And I think of my grandma as well.

And I'm thinking, Mr. Speaker, about not just my own family,

but of course we each live in a community. We have neighbours. We have friends. And this really is what motivates me. The future that I want for my kids, the future that I want for my parents, for my grandma, I want the best future for them and I want that best future for all Saskatchewan people.

And I know it's been a busy summer and fall. We're now into winter, though it's the beginning of November, and even with all the best intentions of getting the leaves raked and getting the yard ready, I have to confess that politics isn't necessarily good when it comes to yard care, and so the leaves will have to wait until spring.

But as I travelled over the summer, over the fall, it really reminded me, Mr. Speaker, of how much I love this province. And what makes this province so great, yes of course, it's the amazing resource potential that we have, that we're blessed to have here in the province. Of course there is the stunning beauty of the different regions of the province. And there's our incredibly rich history that we have as residents of this province. But the best thing about it, Mr. Speaker, is in fact the people in Saskatchewan. And I was reminded of this again last night at the Saskatchewan Order of Merit ceremony when seven highly deserving individuals were recognized with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. And it once again drove home to me that our greatest resource, our greatest strength here in the province are in fact our people.

And it's for that reason, Mr. Speaker, for me politics isn't simply about the province doing well, but it's about people doing well. It's about the people of Saskatchewan doing well. I want every child in Saskatchewan to have the exact same opportunities that my daughters will have. I want every senior in Saskatchewan to be treated the way that I would want my grandma to be treated. I want a future that includes all Saskatchewan families in the economy and promises prosperity and security, not just for a few years, but for generations. When it comes to my girls, my neighbours, and all Saskatchewan families, Mr. Speaker, I'm thinking long term.

And that's why for me, Mr. Speaker, this government's Throne Speech was such a disappointment. The government's Throne Speech fails to deliver for middle-class families. The Throne Speech, it fails to properly address the seniors' care crisis that we have here in Saskatchewan, and it fails to diversify our economy and to save for the future.

Mr. Speaker, here's what's happening in Saskatchewan today. All over Saskatchewan, in all of the corners of our great province, people are holding up their end of the bargain. They're growing our province. They're working harder than ever building homes, paying their bills, which are higher than ever, and they're investing in our economy. They're starting businesses, growing businesses, and creating more jobs, and this is exciting for our province.

But what I keep hearing from Saskatchewan families is this. It's great that Saskatchewan people, that Saskatchewan businesses keep delivering good news for our economy. Now what we need is for the provincial government to hold up its end of the bargain. The government's job, Mr. Speaker, is to strengthen health care. The government's job is to invest in our kids by responsibly investing in their classrooms. It's the government's

job to provide dignified care to seniors, to our parents, to our grandparents, to our spouses.

The government's job is to use today's prosperity and to build for the long term in a smart growth plan. But, Mr. Speaker, the government is not doing those things. Here in Saskatchewan, seniors' care and education are getting worse, and it has to stop. Saskatchewan people are increasingly concerned that this government is missing an incredible opportunity to ensure that our province is an economic powerhouse for decades and for generations to come.

[14:30]

Because this province right now, Mr. Speaker, under this government, is putting all of its eggs in one basket, and it's a non-renewable resource basket. Mr. Speaker, our province is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. We of course have plenty of potash, uranium, a significant amount of oil and gas, a fair bit of gold, silver, copper, zinc, salt, and a variety of other metals and other minerals. These non-renewable resources have made our province strong. And Saskatchewan's natural resources, Mr. Speaker, have also helped make Canada strong. And I'm optimistic about the future of all of our natural resources, all of the resources that our province is blessed with.

But I don't want this government to keep putting all of its eggs in one basket, all of our eggs in one basket, Mr. Speaker. I want more eggs and more baskets. I want a diversified economy. I want our province, Mr. Speaker, to have a smart growth plan that ensures our economy and our prosperity is sustainable for the long term.

You know, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that Saskatchewan families and businesses keep delivering good news for our province's economy, the government isn't being terribly helpful. It's not holding up its end of the bargain, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's economy is not as diversified as it needs to be. And this government, Mr. Speaker, is taking us in the wrong direction. The *Leader-Post* financial editor wrote just a couple of weeks ago something that is interesting, I think, for all members, and certainly interesting for all people in the province. What was written was:

From where I sit, the government's track record in economic development brings to mind Stephen Leacock's famous phrase "riding madly off in all directions." You could say it's been two steps forward and three steps back.

"Riding madly off in all directions." "Two steps forward and three steps back." That's what the *Leader-Post* financial editor has to say about this government's approach and this government's track record when it comes to the economy. And those sentiments, Mr. Speaker, are something that I'm hearing more and more, here in Regina and throughout the entire province.

We've seen the film industry, Mr. Speaker, driven out of Saskatchewan, a move that the chamber of commerce is saying cost our province \$45 million in lost economic benefits every single year. That's something that should concern all members in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and it should certainly concern

many of the Regina members here in the Assembly.

The budgets for regional economic development were slashed. Successful programs to educate, to train First Nations and Métis people for jobs were cancelled. Programs to support entrepreneurship and economic diversification, like Springboard West, Communities of Tomorrow were scrapped by this government.

And this government has also undermined our Crown sector by privatizing profitable Crowns like Information Services Corporation, with contracting out Crown work to out-of-province and out-of-country companies. And this government has undermined our Crowns by stripping them of their profits just to make the government's books look a bit better.

Part of this destructive practice this government refuses to stop, Mr. Speaker, is keeping two sets of books. So it's no wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the *Leader-Post* financial editor says this government's approach to the economy is "two steps forward and three steps back."

Just imagine if we turned today's prosperity and strength into tomorrow's knowledge economy. Imagine if Saskatchewan became a Canadian hotbed for IT [information technology] jobs, for research and development jobs, for green jobs, for value-added industry jobs, and for film and television jobs. Imagine if we ended the boom-and-bust cycle and actually saved for the long term. That's the kind of sustainability and that's the kind of smart growth plan that I stand for because, Mr. Speaker, that's what matters to Saskatchewan people.

But, Mr. Speaker, this government's Throne Speech was a disappointment for Saskatchewan people who want to see our economy better diversified.

Mr. Speaker, seniors' care in Saskatchewan is getting worse and that has to stop. Imagine call buttons going off in nursing homes, ringing unanswered, because of chronic understaffing. Imagine bedridden seniors, Mr. Speaker, going for more than a week without a bath. Imagine people missing meals because there aren't enough staff there to ensure that they are fed. Imagine bed bugs that are allowed to persist in a government-run seniors' residence despite repeated complaints.

Mr. Speaker, this government's own internal report on seniors' care repeats many of the concerns the opposition and I have presented in this Assembly. This government's own record shows the deplorable quality of care in so many care homes. The report talked about, Mr. Speaker, seniors being forced to wake up at 5:30 in the morning. It talked about seniors, Mr. Speaker, being forced to soil themselves because there weren't enough staff there to help them to the bathroom. It talked about seniors, Mr. Speaker, missing a weekly bath. Can any member imagine if this was happening to their parent, to their grandparent, to a spouse?

In response to the embarrassing report, Mr. Speaker, the government rushed out a very small program. But the CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region said the real problem is that there simply aren't enough staff, and she said that the government's plan will not address that. So this government, Mr. Speaker,

knows what the problem is. It's that we need to improve staffing levels to ensure seniors in our province have the dignity and the care they deserve. But this government, Mr. Speaker, is stubbornly refusing to address the problem.

Mr. Speaker, the opposition has been raising these concerns since I was elected leader, but here again the government's Throne Speech disappoints Saskatchewan families by failing to do its part, by failing to put forward a plan that will properly address the seniors' care crisis here in Saskatchewan.

Over the summer, Mr. Speaker, I did a significant amount of travel, meeting with people in communities, hearing about their own experiences, experiences they've had in their families, experiences that they've sometimes experienced personally.

I remember one conversation, Mr. Speaker. It was actually in the community of Melfort, and I was meeting with a group of seniors, and people were relaying their concerns of what they had experienced. And in all seriousness, at one point in the conversation, a woman turned to me, and her words stick with me because of what she said. And she said, if it gets to the point that I need to go into a care facility, I want them to hit me over the head with a shovel.

I think of another conversation, Mr. Speaker, I had. I was actually in the community of Lloydminster, and a man told me about the experience that he had with his elderly father. And on one particular day his dad was especially disheartened by what was happening and what he was experiencing. And the dad turned to the son, and the son had been a tireless advocate for his father's care, but the dad turned to the son and said, is this really how it all ends? Is this really how it all ends?

Friends, that is not how it should be in Saskatchewan. That is not how it should be in Canada. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that our parents, that our grandparents deserve dignity and deserve security in their retirement. But this government, Mr. Speaker, has dropped the ball. This government has failed to hold up its end of the bargain. We've seen this through the actions from this government, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to staffing levels, as it relates to references to sufficient care, sufficient staffing. This government has dropped the ball.

Mr. Speaker, we need more spaces and more choices for seniors. We need better staffing levels in care homes. We need higher standards in public facilities, in private facilities, and for home care. And we need to support our seniors so that they can be independent in their own homes for as long as they want. Because I believe, Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no excuse not to treat our seniors with dignity, with respect, especially at a time when the economy is doing well. Mr. Speaker, that's the kind of dignified quality of life that I stand for when it comes to our parents, when it comes to our grandmas, when it comes to our grandpas because, Mr. Speaker, that is what matters to Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, I'm hearing from families also that many are very concerned not only about our parents and our grandparents but also concerned about our kids and, for some, for grandchildren. They're concerned, Mr. Speaker, when they hear about schools that are overcrowded, schools that are crumbling. We're concerned when educational assistants are laid off because it

jeopardizes the one-on-one attention that many of our kids need for success.

But, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to taking pressure off of classrooms, listening to teachers, supporting our kids, this government's Throne Speech is disappointing. It's disappointing to Saskatchewan families, to students, and to educators.

Last winter, Mr. Speaker, in The Battlefords, students had to actually wear their winter coats in the classroom because the heat was turned down as a result of budget constraints forced by this provincial government. Can you believe that, Mr. Speaker? Students actually having to wear their winter coats during classes. It doesn't make any sense, Mr. Speaker, especially when our economy is doing so well.

I visited, Mr. Speaker, with educators in northern Saskatchewan who can't even afford current science textbooks and where science labs, Mr. Speaker, that are meant for 30 students have 60 students crammed into them. The look on these teachers' faces, Mr. Speaker, is one of complete frustration. And they ask, how can people expect our students to learn when we don't even give them the basic tools that they need? And they ask me, how does this make any sense, especially when our economy is strong? Well, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't make any sense.

Today in Saskatchewan this government, Mr. Speaker, is not holding up its end of the deal when it comes to First Nations and Métis education and employment outcomes. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have a moral imperative to improve this because the current situation is simply unacceptable.

But I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that it's in our province's self-interest to improve it. A prominent U of S [University of Saskatchewan] economist tells us that Saskatchewan is missing out on \$90 billion in economic benefits because we are failing to close the Aboriginal education gap — \$90 billion in economic benefits for all of us in Saskatchewan, for all of us in this province, for every family here. But this government's Throne Speech doesn't address that. We have got to address First Nations and Métis education and employment outcomes.

We need to be a leader, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to First Nations and Métis education and employment outcomes. We need a cap on classroom sizes. We need to provide more one-on-one supports for students who need them. We need to repair leaking roofs and crumbling gymnasiums. And, Mr. Speaker, we need to make responsible investments in building new schools in growing neighbourhoods. And, Mr. Speaker, we need to consult with teachers and educators every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, treating our kids like they're the future, respecting their teachers, and investing in tomorrow — that is what I stand for when it comes to our little ones and the high school students who will be in tomorrow's workforce. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because that is what matters to Saskatchewan people. Government revenues, Mr. Speaker, have increased by a whopping 50 per cent. I don't think there's any excuse, Mr. Speaker, for this government to be dropping the ball when it comes to education. Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech had very little for Saskatchewan families.

When it comes to health care, this government's Throne Speech looks backward. It doesn't prescribe a plan to end short-staffing in hospitals, in health care facilities, and this Assembly has heard about the problems caused by short-staffing. We've heard the conditions, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan's largest hospital the retired nurse calls "filthy dirty." We're heard nurses say, Mr. Speaker, that they fear for patient safety as a result of understaffing, that they fear for patient safety. Yet this government's Throne Speech offers very little that's new and very little that is concrete when it comes to better health care.

[14:45]

And when it comes to the environment, Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech doesn't even go so far as to look backward because this government knows its record on the environment is one of lowering standards, eliminating goals, and slashing environmental programming by 73 per cent over just two years. Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech is a disappointment to those of us who want a clean province and a long-lasting environmental sustainability for our kids and for our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to mention that when it comes to post-secondary education, this government's Throne Speech was a big disappointment. Saskatchewan students pay the second highest tuition in the nation. Our universities, Mr. Speaker, are plagued by layoffs and program cuts. This backwards-looking Throne Speech outlines only how this government brought our universities to the unfortunate situation that they're in today. There is no plan. There is no vision. There are no details.

Mr. Speaker, government revenues are up 50 per cent. Saskatchewan families are doing their part. They're working harder than ever to pay their bills, Mr. Speaker, and they're doing their part for the economy. Businesses and working people have built a strong economy, but the government is dropping the ball. This Throne Speech fails to deliver to middle class families. It fails to deliver for Saskatchewan families, and it fails to look forward to the future.

Mr. Speaker, I'm listening to Saskatchewan families, and what I'm hearing is that we all want the same things. We want to end the seniors' care crisis. We want better for our kids than crowded facilities and crumbling classrooms that they have today. We want a smart growth plan that supports diversifying our economy. We want today's prosperity to mean not only clean hospitals and repairs to schools today but also long-term savings and a diversified economy for tomorrow. That fact, Mr. Speaker, is what matters to Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, that's why I'll be supporting the amendment, and I will not support the government's Throne Speech. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much. Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the chance to enter the debate on the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker. And I want to, as I do, acknowledge the supports at home every chance I can. And I guess at the beginning of this session, this is the first formal opportunity I have to acknowledge my family: Tami, and Megan and Colter actually who are busy with their studies at

the University of Saskatchewan now, and Faith who is now in grade 10 in high school.

To all of our other family and supports, my folks and Tami's and to the constituency support we have that are both a part of our constituency office in Swift Current and also our own constituency executive, the political supports that we have back home, I want to thank them and acknowledge them for enabling me, allowing me to be able to have this great honour of being first and foremost the MLA for Swift Current and then also able to assume some other duties.

Mr. Speaker, I think those of us who've followed politics for some time were very familiar with the refrain from those who review speeches from the throne, those who are pundits, those in the media. And that refrain is basically that they are very vague, that they are general, and sometimes they might outline a vision, but by and large they're very general documents without a lot of specifics.

Mr. Speaker, it was interesting to note that one of the reviews of this particular Speech from the Throne that's the subject of debate here this afternoon, from a daily paper here in the province, was actually quite the opposite. It was actually a bit of a criticism. I should say they were acknowledging the fact that there was a lot of specificity in this particular Speech from the Throne.

There were a lot of specifics in the Speech from the Throne that we're debating and that my friend the Leader of the Opposition is deriding and ruling out of hand. Mr. Speaker, they did note by the way that they'd like to see more vision. So that was interesting. There was an editorial that said, lots of specifics but no vision.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that the Speech from the Throne flows from the growth plan that we announced well over a year ago now. Mr. Speaker, our government has always been informed by some overarching goals, some of them around population — and more on that in a moment — some of them around just general other metrics that speak to economic growth.

We have always been informed by those goals, as a government, as we've implemented a growth plan. Our growth plan has six very clear principles that we can review. It always has. These have been unchanging. They were reaffirmed in the growth plan announcement about a year ago, and so was the vision for the province. The vision for the province in the growth plan is that we would be 1.2 million people by 2020.

The vision for the province is captured in some very specific goals around improving grade 12 completion in the province, leading the country in fact by 2020 in grade 12 completion, that we would increase completion of grade 12 by First Nations and Métis students by 50 per cent by that same period, Mr. Speaker. There were specific goals in health care and the list went on in the growth plan. That was the vision for the province.

The Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, follows on that. It's ordered on that, on the vision, on that basis. It laid out many of the specific measures this government will take to achieve the vision outlined in the growth plan, to achieve the objectives of

the growth plan. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that's why some of those who are reviewing the Speech from the Throne noted that, noted that there was a lot of specifics in it. And there are.

For example in the Speech from the Throne is the \$10 million Urgent Issues Action Fund in terms of long-term care, in terms of care for seniors, as well as a commitment to move forward with more home care, Mr. Speaker, expanding pilot programs to Saskatoon and Prince Albert beyond what we've already done, a \$2 million investment in Regina, and to contemplate long-term answers for seniors' care, for long-term care in Saskatchewan.

But real specifics. Actual numbers. Actual objectives. Actual measures and programs. Not words. Not sort of these platitudes, but specifics in the Speech from the Throne that would help us achieve the vision and the goals of the growth plan.

I note, Mr. Speaker, for example the goals remain around three more collaborative emergency centres. These are exciting new emergency centres that are going to open in those three places. And we know they're going to work because one's already been deployed and opened in Maidstone and welcomed there. We're moving now to . . . Sorry, four — Shaunavon, Spiritwood, Wakaw, and Canora as well.

Mr. Speaker, we are launching a pilot around hot-spotting to relieve emergency rooms across the province. Mr. Speaker, some very specific ideas on that. We're bringing back house calls, Mr. Speaker, for seniors who need them. The Leader of the Opposition said, well we've always been doing it, and he was wrong on that count. He's been wrong on a number of things, Mr. Speaker, but he was wrong on that. We've had in the province certainly the ability. And the fact that doctors will go to long-term care facilities, that would constitute I think the house calls the Leader of the Opposition's referring to.

What we haven't had although in the province is what they're doing at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. And again I urge . . . I think my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition is a thoughtful individual. I know he was involved in the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association]. I think he's very interested in policy. So I urge him to look fully at the ideas presented here before he launches into a criticism — for example 50 minutes to decide the model for nine new schools, one in his riding, was the wrong model.

But on the issue of health care, the same is true. We are not doing the kind of home care . . . The kind of house calls that we will be doing, pioneered by Mount Sinai, Mr. Speaker, where as a result of visits even to emergency rooms, seniors are identified who are candidates for house calls by doctors, by nurse practitioners, so that we can again prevent the overuse of emergency centres but also, Mr. Speaker, that we would be able to improve on a proactive basis the health of seniors who are receiving health calls. So that's a very specific announcement, that part of the Throne Speech, and that we're going to be working on, Mr. Speaker.

The student-first initiative in education also announced in the Speech from the Throne, and the specifics around that have been clarified. It was interesting; we had a good discussion on education here in this Assembly with the Leader of the

Opposition. We've been very clear about things that we're going to move forward with, things that we are pausing on, Mr. Speaker, in terms of change. We've heard from teachers. There has frankly been too much change. And we've responded by pausing the province-wide approach to the standards-based methods we were using but continuing with the proven standards-based initiatives that are happening in places like Chinook School Division for example, continuing with the successful early years evaluation and the Tell Them From Me surveys, Mr. Speaker.

In addition to that, the Speech from the Throne mentions new bandwidth issues in our schools. We're investing in schools for the first time in a very long time to ensure that all the capital they have, all of those computers actually can work because there's bandwidth. And we are appreciative to SaskTel for that effort.

Mr. Speaker, we've also announced 18 schools, actually nine joint-use schools around the province. And so specifics in the Speech from the Throne that respond to education needs, not just in terms of capital but in terms of operating, Mr. Speaker, we've seen year over year in budgets. Again counter to what people might hear from the Leader of the Opposition, counter to what the NDP are saying, we've seen significant increases year after year after year, both the operating side and the capital side for new schools.

And notwithstanding the fact that I think that we've built about 20 new schools under our government; and well over, if you take a look at small capital improvements, over a couple of hundred of those over the years; and a number of major renovations to schools, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding all of that, the Leader of the Opposition in his capacity as the member for Massey Place, Saskatoon Massey Place, has done his duty on behalf of his constituents. He stood up in his place and said, we need a school. And by the way, the MLA for Saskatoon Southeast said Stonebridge needs a school. And MLAs for Regina have pointed to neighbourhoods, one in Harbour Landing, and said, this is a growing area; we need a school. To the point where the number of new schools needed got upwards of 18 or more. Frankly more, because there are rural schools that will need to be done, and we're going to be there for those in the future.

So, Mr. Speaker, I was surprised when the Leader of the Opposition declined the chance to attend the announcement when the Minister of Education invited him right into his constituency. Fifty-four times he had took to his feet in the Legislative Assembly and said to the government of the day, to our government, we need a school in Hampton Village. We need a school in Hampton Village. We need a public school; there needs to be a separate school in Hampton Village, in my constituency — petition after petition after petition.

So, Mr. Speaker, I was surprised when he declined even to come to the announcement. I think he knew we were going to be announcing that school in his constituency. I was even more surprised that he, with the advice of the deputy leader, who is the financial guru over on the other side of the House, the deputy leader took all of 50 minutes, 50 minutes . . . The country's been debating and improving P3s since about 1990, getting better with every iteration, getting better with every

generation in terms of transparency, in terms of timeliness, in terms of the investment required. It's taken a long time as a country to get these right.

We as a government have thought about P3s and their application since we were first elected in 2007. In fact the Finance minister, then Education minister, was quite candid. He went across the country and looked at some of the examples that members opposite point to and said, I'm not sure these are quite ready yet. That's what he said. Work was continuing right across the country, Mr. Speaker. And over the years that have intervened, we've seen Alberta go ahead with 18 . . . with a number of schools, Mr. Speaker, three different phases, and saved \$240 million and get the projects done on time.

Now so given that history of P3s, that history right across the country that literally stretches back to 1990 — when I bet the Deputy Leader might have been still in high school; I'm not sure of his age, Mr. Speaker — given that span of time and the development of P3s as a model and the improvement of P3s as a model, it took the NDP and their financial guru 50 minutes to declare their opposition to these schools. And they're opposed to all of them. Mr. Speaker, you cannot have your cake and eat it too in this legislature.

In terms of saying well we want the schools but we don't, you know, want it this way, it's one or the other. They can agree to work together with the government to make sure that we learn from all of the examples — and we will, Mr. Speaker, across the country — or they can oppose it. And they've chosen to oppose it. We're going to let their constituents know because, you know, I'm sure they let their . . . I'm sure the Leader of the Opposition told everyone back in Massey Place, I stood up in the legislature again today. I fought for a new school here in Hampton Village. I bet you every time he did that he might have sent a few letters out saying, look what I've done. Mr. Speaker, the real test then for all of us is, what is our response when that action is taken, even if it's taken by the other side of this Assembly?

I remember, Mr. Speaker, standing in my place, day after day, during petitions — we did them a little differently back then as you might remember, Mr. Speaker — asking the NDP government for a new hospital in Swift Current. Our hospital had been built I think in the late 1940s, and there was black mould and asbestos, and it wasn't meeting the needs of the region as a regional hospital or certainly the city of Swift Current. So I stood every day with petitions, thousands of petitions, Mr. Speaker, representing thousands of petitioners. And then one day — and I'm grateful the member for Lakeview is here because he was the minister of Health at the time — then one day the New Democratic Party government announced approval for funding and construction of a brand new hospital for Swift Current.

[15:00]

Mr. Speaker, what I did as an MLA was took my place in the Assembly. I stated a few concerns that I was hearing from constituents in terms of the number of beds that were going to be in the new facility. Really that was really the only the major concern. But then, I have the *Hansard* here, I said to the then minister, the current member for Lakeview, the current

associate Health critic — I think there's three Health critics over there — I said, thank you on behalf of the people of Swift Current. It's my job to ask you for these investments as an MLA, to make the case for this new hospital. And then when you respond, Government of Saskatchewan, whatever your political stripe, whatever the difference is between us, it's then my job to say thank you on behalf of the people of Swift Current. And may I say respectfully, Mr. Speaker, if that's our job on this side as individual members, that's also their job on that side of the House when we're building schools in Regina, when we're building schools in Saskatoon. That's just kind of the common decency I think we want in the Assembly.

You could state concerns certainly, but you could acknowledge when the right thing's done, as the member for Elphinstone did just yesterday when the member, when the Minister of SaskTel stood up and said we're building cell towers in northern Saskatchewan. Why is it that the member for Elphinstone is able to do that but his leader, who I would argue should set an example, is unable to simply say thanks for this commitment. We have a few concerns, but we appreciate the fact the government is moving forward on something that we've asked for, Mr. Speaker.

There are a number of other issues and specific issues around the student-first initiative that we could talk a little bit about that are in the Speech from the Throne.

It's true, as well as infrastructure in a general way and highways, Mr. Speaker, we've talked about some very specific action we'll take as a result of the work of the Committee on Traffic Safety. Mr. Speaker, that was referenced in the Speech from the Throne. The work of the committee itself was pretty specific, a specific action by a government responding to concerns of Saskatchewan people with respect to traffic safety.

Mr. Speaker, it is also true that the Speech from the Throne was pretty specific about reacting to the good work of the member for Saskatoon Fairview on the issue of bullying in the province of Saskatchewan, and very soon you'll see the government come forward with some very specific actions from the excellent work that the member for Fairview has done in broad consultations across the province.

Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne there was a lot of specificity around competitiveness because again there was goals in that growth plan, that vision document that's the growth plan. There were goals around the fact that we're going to need thousands of more workers by 2020. We need to start training them now and so there are 1,000 additional training spaces referenced in the Speech from the Throne, 700 of them for adult basic education. Many of those will be on-reserve.

Mr. Speaker, gone are the days when this government will wait for the federal government to do the right thing in terms of training on-reserve. We're not going to try to . . . We're not going to take over all their jurisdiction; the taxpayers here simply can't afford it. But, Mr. Speaker, we're going to pick our spots, and adult basic education is one of those spots where we will go on-reserve. In fact I think the member for Coronation Park helps deliver some of this programming on-reserve.

We will go on-reserve and provide adult basic education. We

have determined and we let the province know in the growth plan that there is a waiting list for adult basic education. That's wrong, we think. If somebody wants that basic education to take the first step to engagement in the economy or perhaps lead them to the next step in engagement in the economy, any step towards engagement in the economy, then you bet the role for government is to provide that training. And there'll be 700 new adult basic education seats that are referenced in the Speech from the Throne, as there are 300 new apprenticeship seats.

Mr. Speaker, you will know that industry is telling us we still need more apprentices. We've done a lot in the government in terms of responding to employers on the ratio question so we can see these new, trained employees deployed more quickly. And, Mr. Speaker, we're actually, in addition to all of that, going to be adding training seats as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne also talked about something — and we've had a bit of a debate about it in question period — on the innovation side of our growth plan with respect to Boundary dam. There is a clean coal project there, Mr. Speaker. It is the world's only post-combustion clean coal project that exists, frankly. It's going to be live; it'll be commissioned in the spring. They're testing it already this fall. But here's what we know.

We know the technology works. We know, Mr. Speaker, that it captures about 90 per cent of carbon. We know that oil companies have purchased every bit of CO₂ it'll produce. It'll produce 1 million tonnes a year by the way, Mr. Speaker, all of it purchased by oil companies, used for enhanced oil recovery. Meaning they don't have to drill new holes. Meaning it reanimates existing oil assets. Then it's stored geologically in southeastern Saskatchewan where we've been doing that successfully for a very long time, in part because of a project that the New Democrats started.

When we came to government, the clean coal project had been completely shelved. We worked with the federal government. We got funding for it, about \$240 million. We added to that funding about \$1.1 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it was strange in question period. The Leader of the Opposition kept saying, where's the action on the environment? Well, Mr. Speaker, how about \$1.1 billion worth of action on one project alone? The largest per capita investment in CO₂ . . . [inaudible] . . . So we gave him that answer, but he just asked it again. It's kind of . . . It's interesting, Mr. Speaker. It's entertaining.

But you know, the good news on our side is the answers don't change because the answers reflect a record on all of these files. The answers reflect the Speech from the Throne, informed by a broader vision in the growth plan that has specifics. The actions reflect a government that's not afraid to set objectives in health care or in education or for the economy, and to be held accountable for those objectives, Mr. Speaker.

We welcome, we welcome the debate but you know, Mr. Speaker, in order for there to be an actual debate when one side presents their specific plans for the future or even their broad goals, in order for there to be a real debate, the other side generally presents its specifics and its goals.

Mr. Speaker, there is a role for opposition to criticize. We did that in opposition. There's a role for opposition to hold the government to account. But as you get further into the election cycle, there is an additional role incumbent upon all of us in this Assembly, and including the opposition, that they would also put forward their plan. Not platitudes, not to say we're in favour of more eggs in more baskets, and not to say we're in favour of sustainability and awesomeness and good, Mr. Speaker, but actual specifics. People will need to make a choice in the next election. And I don't think right now they have a choice.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, when the opposition is holding any government accountable, it's also incumbent that when they make a case or an accusation, that they be accurate, that they actually come with the entire truth.

We've seen a few examples of it lately in this House, Mr. Speaker, where that has not been the case. I remember with great outrage when the Leader of the Opposition had a memo in his hand that had gone into the RQHR [Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region], the health region around Regina, informing front-line staff that in certain situations — staffing shortages — certain functions of care might have to take a bit of a back seat if there was a shortage. And there was some things like bathing on there, some issues I'm sure that would be serious were those emergencies to arise, but they needed a contingency plan in the event that there was one. And I remember the Leader of the Opposition getting very angry about this. That how could this happen under the Minister of Health's watch? How could this happen under this government?

Mr. Speaker, he would have known full well, I am sure, as a former researcher for the SMA, for the Saskatchewan Medical Association — and we produced the memo, by the way, to back this up — that this has been standard practice in the province of Saskatchewan under different governments, under their government and under ours because health regions need contingency plans. And I noted for the record, Mr. Speaker, today, that when we read that memo back from 2004 that said exactly the same thing, he changed the subject. He moved on to another question.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Assembly the Deputy Leader, the financial guru for the New Democrats, was talking about bullying. There's two ways I think you can harm your credibility as a political party. One is to just kind of miss some of all of the facts. One is to perhaps use something other than the facts — I'm being careful here, Mr. Speaker — and another is to take people out of context.

I remember, Mr. Speaker, not very long ago in the life of politics in the province, where our New Democratic friends monitored an interview of mine and took the tape away and then they spliced the tape. I didn't say anything in the tape that would be advantageous to them but what they could do . . . I guess they thought is, well we'll just splice the tape, put words together so that it reflects something that he actually never said — didn't even come close to saying — and then we'll make an ad out of it.

Well the Deputy Leader was a big supporter of the leader of the opposition who was behind this. Mr. Broten . . . Oh sorry, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition was involved in writing

the platform document for the NDP, was involved in the political life of that particular opposition. That's what they did then. Have they changed? Did they learn? Because I think they were widely criticized for that tape.

Well, Mr. Speaker, just yesterday in the Legislative Assembly the Deputy Leader, on the issue of bullying — by the way which is very much germane to the debate as part of the Speech from the Throne — was asking the Minister of Education a question. And he was referencing the fact that the member for Fairview that's been working on bullying had said some certain things about when we could report out and take some action with respect to bullying. And so, you know, Mr. Speaker, I could read it all into the record, except I will tell you that we have now checked the actual tape, checked the full quote, and, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition took the member completely out of context.

He quoted her as follows, "It's really hard to keep my mouth shut when it comes to that because I don't want to jump the gun and let the cat out of the bag . . ." And he just ended the quote there. And then he went to a question of the minister and said, you know, this is all ready, this is all staged, why haven't you released it? The rest of the quote, Mr. Speaker, is that the member said, and he would have access to this, is ". . . until we actually, you know, we do as much due diligence as we need to do."

Mr. Speaker, that's a pretty important part of the quote from the member who's been working very diligently going across this province, canvassing what other provinces are doing to deal with bullying, Mr. Speaker, as earnest an effort as you will find by any member regardless of politics. So she says in an interview, I'd really like to tell the province some things now, but we're not quite ready; we haven't done all the homework. Except the last part he leaves out because it doesn't fit his political purposes, Mr. Speaker. I don't think they've learned anything from politics in the last couple of years in this province.

Mr. Speaker, in the debate around the Speech from the Throne we've heard, just very recently, we've heard today another call for a smart growth plan from the New Democrats, from the Leader of the Opposition. And I just want to conclude here, because this Speech from the Throne is very much about our growth plan, and more specifically it's about our specifics on how we're going to achieve our growth plan.

We have six components, Mr. Speaker. We know that it's employers that are creating the wealth of this province. We know that the people of Saskatchewan and external factors are the driving force behind our growth. But governments can help or hurt that growth, and so we've laid out a plan that we think will help it. Mr. Speaker, dealing with the labour shortage is at the top of the list. Infrastructure is at the top of the list, if I can read these into the record. Competitiveness, we've dealt with that. That means competitive taxes. That means labour legislation that's balanced, by the way, and competitive with other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker. We're working on that. It means a focus on our strengths, which include natural resources and agriculture, by the way.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition just speak on the Speech

from the Throne. It's a chance to talk a lot about what's right in the . . . or wrong, whatever really he wants to talk about. And I don't think members . . . I'm not . . . I don't think there was one word breathed by the Leader of the Opposition on agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, last year we broke our export records in this province — 32 billion in exports. We exceeded British Columbia. A third of those exports are from agriculture. This province is leading the world, leading the way in the production of, you name it — pulses, cereals, oilseeds, Mr. Speaker, the canola oil itself. Mr. Speaker, second largest beef herd in the country. One of the rock stars, if I can use that term, of our economy is agriculture. And you know, Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne recognized that. The Speech from the Throne took steps to provide a voluntary livestock insurance program as announced at another specific action.

Mr. Speaker, I think the people of this province know that as long as members on this side of the House have a chance to serve on this side of House, we will never, ever forget the importance of agriculture. More than that, we understand that it is very much at the heart of the Saskatchewan advantage, Mr. Speaker.

The fifth component of our plan is an innovation agenda, and the sixth is fiscal responsibility, balanced budgets. So there you have it. That's our growth plan. And we can talk about specific measures under each of those, some of them mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. Again the NDP say they don't like that plan. They've said it in a debate today. They said they would have a smart growth plan. Fair enough. What is it?

[15:15]

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important question. I remember when I had the honour of becoming leader of the opposition in March of 2004. Mr. Speaker, we knew we had to take immediate steps to respond to what had happened in the last election because people had sent our party a message, and so, Mr. Speaker, we undertook a broad and sweeping review of all of our policy. We said, I said, look, we're going to actually go beyond the membership of the party and talk to academics, talk to others, talk to people in business, talk to labour, and develop new policies.

Mr. Speaker, we also presented an economic paper for the province called *The Promise of Saskatchewan*. And then that fall, the fall of 2004, we met as a convention, as a party. We took the input from not just party members, but all those we had had consultations with across the province. We actually threw out all of the existing policies. Some of it was going to come back; we knew that. But we wanted to start with a clean slate, and we rebuilt the policy of the party. And from that then we proposed a platform in the last election, and from that we kept the promises we've made, and we've subsequently offered another platform. But, Mr. Speaker, we did all of that in that early part, in terms of development of brand new policy, between March and the end of November in the same year, Mr. Speaker, in the same year.

Well my friend across the way has got half of it right. He's wiped out all the NDP policy. If you go to their website and look for policy, Mr. Speaker, you cannot find any policy. We

have a political party in the province of Saskatchewan that wants to present itself as a credible alternative to the government, says we need a smart growth plan, doesn't like this, that, and the other thing. And you go to their website and say, well I wonder what these guys think about that, then click on policy and there is nothing there. How is that possible? Really?

What we get though, Mr. Speaker, and we just heard it in the Assembly today, is things from the Leader of the Opposition that he says we need a smart growth plan, whatever that is. I think that if people thought the NDP were now in favour of smart growth plans, that would explain a lot about what they did in the 1990s, Mr. Speaker. He says, well he gave us a few more details today. He said a smart growth plan is sustainable, very — I think everybody can understand now what he means — it's sustainable and that it's more diversified, Mr. Speaker.

Then he went on to say, well one financial writer was critical of the economic policies of the government and said we were going off in all directions. I would point out for my honourable friend that that same business writer, Mr. Speaker, wrote after we released our growth plan that our plan was "... pragmatic and visionary, ambitious and achievable."

But, Mr. Speaker, my point is not what any one financial commentator might say. My point is this, to our friends opposite, we were waiting. If the NDP want to engage in a meaningful debate — if they want to share with us what a smart growth plan would be; if they want to share with us what their targets are in health care, how many health care workers should be there; what their goals are in education — and then, not maybe even right now, we'll give them some dispensation, but as we get closer to the election, maybe cost it out and find out, are they still in favour of balanced budgets or not? When they have that level of detail, even some more generalities, then we can have a debate, Mr. Speaker.

As for the government, we can only control what we do on this side of the House. And so we make some commitments to the people of the province of Saskatchewan. We're going to work hard every single day to earn the mandate that they gave to us, Mr. Speaker, in 2011. We're going to keep the promises that we made, Mr. Speaker. We're going to be focused on growth. As long as we have a chance to be on your right side, we will be focused on growth and those six components that we think will help sustain and facilitate further growth.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, we're going to work very hard to deal with the challenges of growth. We know they're there. They're there in education. They're there in health care. They're there in infrastructure. We have specific ways and ideas to do that, Mr. Speaker, some of them traditional, some of them like P3s that are innovative. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake. Make no mistake. This side of the House, in terms of those particular priorities, will always, always prefer the challenges of growth to the challenges that faced this province under those long years of NDP government which were the challenges of decline.

Mr. Speaker, when actual members of the government would take to their feet, NDP government, and basically, Mr. Speaker, dismiss the fact that this province could even grow at the national average, when someone who I think at the time might

have been the Finance minister would say about our goals on this side to be 1.1 million people would call them farcical, would say that they fly in the face of reality, Mr. Speaker, whatever happens as a government, we're going to make mistakes going forward, but we will never make the mistake of underestimating this province or its people, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to believe that growth can be sustained, that our best days are always ahead of us, Mr. Speaker.

We understand it'll take work to accommodate that growth, but the people of this province have a solemn commitment in the Speech from the Throne and in the actions, in the words, in the deeds of this government that we do believe in this province, not just today but for the future. We do believe it can lead the country as it is today, not just today but into the future, Mr. Speaker. That's our commitment to them. That's what's reflected in the Speech from the Throne. That's why I'll be voting for it later today.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — I must inform the Assembly that under sessional order of November the 4th, it is my duty to put the question on the amendment. It has been moved in amendment to the main motion by the member for Regina Rosemont, seconded by the member for Athabasca:

That the motion be amended by adding the following:

And that this Assembly condemns this government for its lack of vision, for its actions and often failure to act which are making education and seniors' care worse; and for its failure to deliver a smart growth strategy which includes diversifying our economy so that our prosperity is sustainable in the long term.

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

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion please say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion please say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I think the nos have it. I declare the amendment lost. Call in the members. Recorded division.

[The division bells rang from 15:22 until 15:30.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 9]

Brotten	Forbes	Wotherspoon
Vermette	Belanger	Chartier
McCall	Nilson	Sproule

The Speaker: — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 41]

Wall	Morgan	Stewart
Duncan	Draude	Krawetz
Eagles	Cheveldayoff	Harpauer
Toth	Huyghebaert	Doherty
Norris	Reiter	Heppner
Harrison	Wyant	Tell
Weekes	Hart	Bradshaw
Bjornerud	Brkich	Hutchinson
Makowsky	Ottenbreit	Wilson
Marchuk	Kirsch	Michelson
Doke	Cox	Jurgens
Steinley	Hickie	Lawrence
Tochor	Moe	Parent
Phillips	Docherty	

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 9; those opposed, 41.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion lost. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Under sessional order of November the 4th, it is my duty to put all the questions necessary to dispose of the main motion. It has been moved by the member for Regina Dewdney, seconded by the member for Saskatoon Sutherland:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed, please say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members for a recorded division.

[The division bells rang from 15:34 until 15:35.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 41]

Wall	Morgan	Stewart
Duncan	Draude	Krawetz
Eagles	Cheveldayoff	Harpauer
Toth	Huyghebaert	Doherty
Norris	Reiter	Heppner
Harrison	Wyant	Tell
Weekes	Hart	Bradshaw
Bjornerud	Brkich	Hutchinson
Makowsky	Ottenbreit	Wilson
Marchuk	Kirsch	Michelson
Doke	Cox	Jurgens
Steinley	Hickie	Lawrence
Tochor	Moe	Parent
Phillips	Docherty	

The Speaker: — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 9]

Brotten	Forbes	Wotherspoon
Vermette	Belanger	Chartier
McCall	Nilson	Sproule

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 41; those opposed, 9.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion passed. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:37.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

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

Hon. Nancy Heppner

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Tim McMillan

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

Hon. Don McMorris

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

Hon. Don Morgan

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

Hon. Rob Norris

Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. Jim Reiter

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Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
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Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General