



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

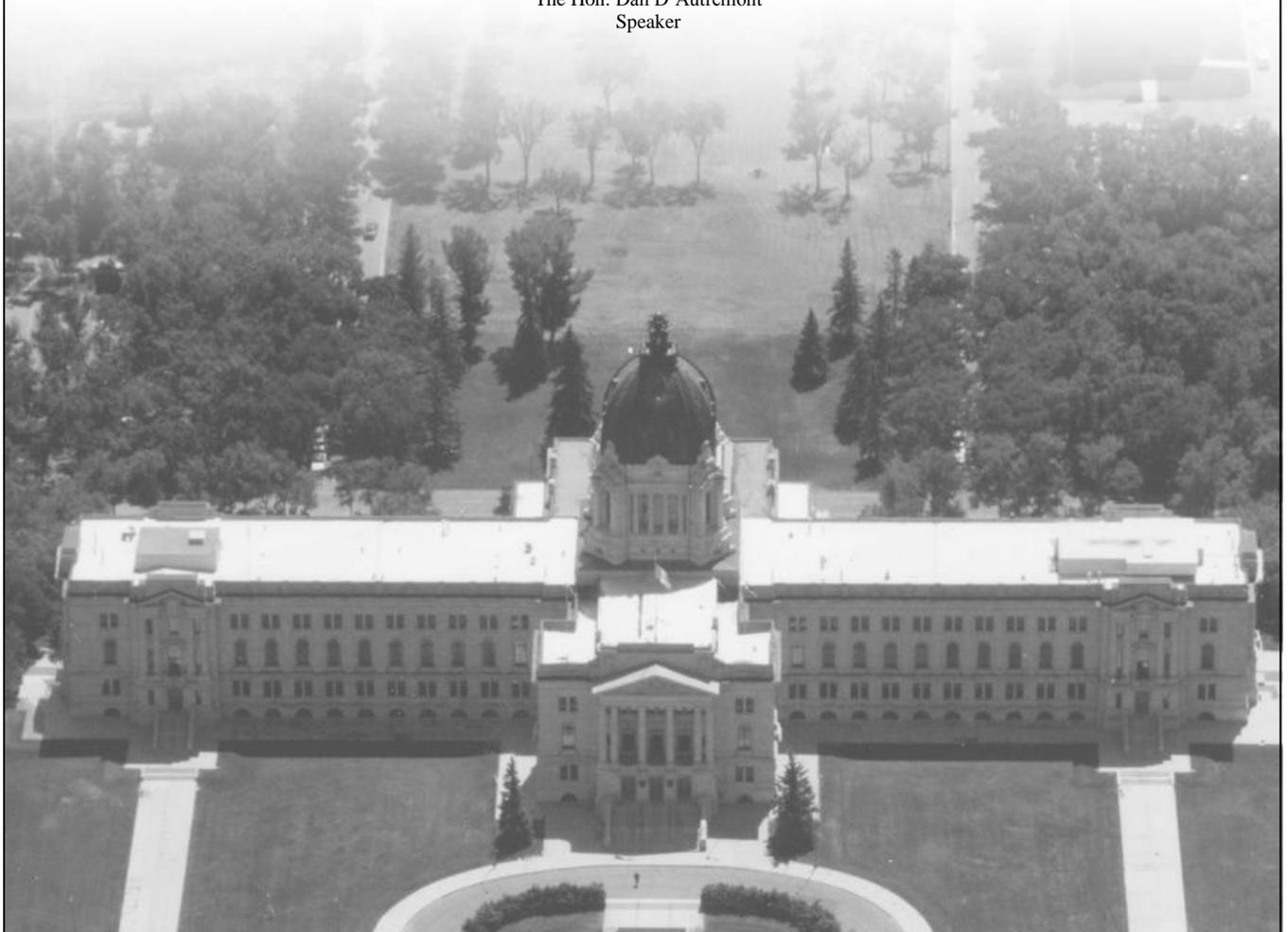
of the

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 member for Prince Albert Carlton.

Mr. Hickie: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. My voice is going, so I'll do this as fast as I can. It's with great pleasure today . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, nothing like having your friends on your side, right? It's a great pleasure I get to introduce today to all members of the Legislative Assembly my good friend and the MP [Member of Parliament] for the riding of Prince Albert, Mr. Randy Hoback who's joined us today in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

I believe Mr. Hoback represents the best riding in Canada, notwithstanding his boss might think otherwise for one in Calgary. But Mr. Hoback has been an MP for five years. He's the Chair of the Parliamentarians for the Americas, which is an independent network composed of national legislatures of 35 states from North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean islands.

Recently he's been appointed by the Prime Minister as the Chair of the Saskatchewan Conservative caucus. And I noticed a few more grey hairs on the side there, Randy, from that appointment, but we want to thank you for your work, and your Conservative caucus members of Saskatchewan work, on the CETA [Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement] agreement. It's going to be great for our province, and thank you for doing that.

And I'm going to try something in Mr. Hoback's second language, if I can, so I apologize to any Spanish-speaking people out there listening today.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Spanish.]

Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Leave, Mr. Speaker, for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture requests leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I would like to introduce guests seated in your gallery from the Canadian Cowboys' Association. The Canadian Cowboys' Association has been celebrating their 50th anniversary of rodeo competition throughout the 2013 season.

This includes over 50 rodeos in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario. The season culminates with the Canadian Cowboys' Association Finals Rodeo at Canadian Western Agribition, featuring rodeo performances every evening from Tuesday through Saturday. The top 11 money earners each season qualify for the finals.

Today we have in the gallery Katie Crossman, ladies barrel racing season leader, and . . . Thank you. And Brady Bertram, bareback riding season leader; Scott Sigfusson, tie-down roping season leader and steer wrestling finals qualifier; Shylo Claypool, Canadian Cowboys' Association president; and Mark Bencze, Canadian Cowboys' Association general manager.

Mr. Speaker, I will have the honour later this week of attending a Canadian Cowboys' Association banquet at Agribition and I expect to find some time to attend the rodeo as well. I ask all members to join me in wishing the best of luck to all the competitors at the CCA [Canadian Cowboys' Association] Finals Rodeo and welcome these cowboys and cowgirl to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I too would like to welcome these guests to our Legislative Assembly on behalf of the official opposition, and particularly want to wish you congratulations for all your efforts in the rodeo circuit in Saskatchewan and in Canada. And certainly I grew up near the Wood Mountain rodeo, which is I think the longest running rodeo in the history of Canada. And I used to hang out with some of the boys from Glentworth back in my day. So I want to congratulate you, all that you do, and would like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to make a couple of introductions, if I could. First and foremost, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce, in your gallery, Dr. Terrence Downey, the president of St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Downey is the 11th president of St. Thomas More and he's making a number of improvements to the college. In fact, just a quick drive down College Avenue for anyone that's interested allows everyone passing by to see that beautiful new building that's under way and under construction.

Dr. Downey is a remarkable political scientist in his own right with a very, very impressive CV [curriculum vitae] and resumé. He's the past Chair of the department of political science at the University of Waterloo. He's the president emeritus of St. Mary's University College in Calgary where he served for a 12-year term. With his work we'll be hearing from the member from Saskatoon Sutherland a little bit later as far as the modernization of the Act. We're delighted to help welcome Dr. Downey to his Legislative Assembly, and we appreciate and thank him for all his work.

If I could, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to draw the attention to

members to the west gallery where Ms. Katie Konkin is present today. Katie grew up in the heart of Saskatoon Greystone. Upon graduating from high school, she went to Queen's where she's recently graduated with a degree in science. We're delighted to help welcome her back to Saskatchewan where she's rolling up her sleeves and helping to contribute to our community and to our province in numerous ways.

She also has the heavy burden of trying to keep me on time and on track, Mr. Speaker, and we know how heavy that burden is. Katie is running my constituency office, and she's doing wonderful work on behalf of the people of Saskatoon Greystone. So I'll ask all members to help me welcome Katie to her Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Dr. Terrence Downey from St. Thomas More to the Legislative Assembly, and to compliment the doctor on all the great work that's done at St. Thomas More. And along with the minister I look forward to the modernization of the Act that will be coming forward here today. So welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Dr. Downey.

And to Ms. Konkin, I guess on behalf of the official opposition, we wish you all the luck with your mission as stated by the member. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, welcome these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to introduce a very special friend of mine. Seated in your gallery is Al Brigden. Al has a large farming operation in the Kisbey area, which is in your constituency, Mr. Speaker. It's a large operation, as I said, and a very impressive operation. But Al is no stranger to provincial politics or municipal politics, and he's also very active in his community. And he's a fabulous cook as well. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming Al to his legislature.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it would be wrong for me not to give a personal welcome to a long-time good friend, that being the president of the Canadian Cowboys' Association, Mr. Shylo Claypool. You'll see Shylo in the gallery here today. He's not a real big guy, you'll see, Mr. Speaker, but I can attest through playing an awful lot of hockey with Shylo over a lot of years that he's tough as nails. He was always an agitator on the ice, elbows up in the corner, and I know that certainly he provides a lot of that same sort of dedication and leadership to the association here today. So I ask all members to welcome Shylo Claypool to his Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in welcoming the cowboys here. I want to welcome my cousin Mark Bencze. I've known Mark all my life, and I know that he's very passionate and he argues very good for the

cowboys and he represents them very well across the rodeos of Canada. I also want to welcome Scott Sigfusson here today. I know he's a great competitor and I wish him the best in the rodeo coming up. And I just want to welcome them to their legislature and wish them the best of luck. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition supporting the replacement of the gym at Sacred Heart Community School. The petitioners point out that the gym at Sacred Heart Community School in North Central Regina started falling apart in an unsafe way this past spring and has been closed since. They point out this is in a context of a temporary solution being provided in terms of refurbishing the former sanctuary of the old Sacred Heart Church, but that that is not a permanent solution. They point out that Sacred Heart Community School is the largest school in North Central, with 450-plus students, 75 per cent of whom are First Nations and Métis. They point out that enrolment has increased by 100 students over the past four years and that attendance and learning outcomes are steadily improving. 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:

The petitioners 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.

This petition is signed by citizens from the good city of Regina. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Home First/Quick Response Pilot Program

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is following through on our Throne Speech commitment to improve the quality of life for our Saskatchewan seniors by helping them remain in their homes longer. Yesterday we announced a \$2 million investment into the Home First/Quick Response pilot project in Saskatoon Eastview. This initiative builds on the government's previous \$2 million investment in Home First/Quick Response pilot project launched in Regina this summer.

Mr. Speaker, we know that seniors want to maintain their independence and live in their homes, where they are the most comfortable, for as long as possible. The Home First/Quick Response project provides them with services and support to help them remain safely in their homes longer. The Saskatoon pilot will enhance home care's response to crisis and intense short-term service needs, encourage early discharge from acute care to community options, prevent unnecessary admissions to emergency departments, and engage additional service

providers to support seniors in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, the Home First/Quick Response initiative reflects our government's commitment to patient- and family-centred care. It speaks to our goal to ensure safe, accessible, and quality living for seniors in our province. We will continue working to ensure the best possible care for all people in our growing province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Community Supports Refugees

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is little more inspiring than community members rallying together for a good cause. This was on full display by a church and a school in my constituency as they came together to support a refugee family in need.

In early 2011, a decision was made by St. Cecilia parish to sponsor a family. The church committed to raise \$25,000 to support a mother and her daughters for the first year here in Regina. Organizers worked to raise funds through donations, special functions, and the efforts of the St. Cecilia sponsor refugee committee. Stephanie and I were pleased to attend and support one of the committee's functions held at St. Cecilia Church where Brad Johner and The Johner Boys put on a great show for a great cause.

With the help of St. Cecilia parishioners, St. Cecilia social justice, St. Cecilia CWL [Catholic Women's League], St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus, St. Cecilia Men's Club, and the students and staff of St. Francis School, the committee has proudly announced they have reached their \$25,000 goal.

I would like members of this Assembly to extend a special thanks to the members of the committee, headed by the leadership of Al and Dianna Jelinski and Father John Weckend. I call on members of this Assembly to recognize the impressive efforts of this faith community, the students, and the incredible leadership of so many at St. Cecilia parish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Groundbreaking for New Saskatoon Mosque

Mr. Parent: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise in this House today to recognize an event I attended in Saskatoon on October 5th, along with the ministers of Justice, Education, and Environment. Mr. Speaker, we and over 400 others proudly attended the groundbreaking for the \$6 million, 27,000-square-foot Darul Rahmat Mosque on Saskatoon's eastern edge. A new mosque is being built at the intersection of Highway 16 and Boychuk Drive and should be complete by 2015. Mr. Speaker, the mosque will contain a prayer space, gymnasium, library, offices, and classroom space.

Mr. Speaker, just as many communities are across this great province, Saskatoon is diverse and growing. This mosque will be a place of worship for some of Saskatoon's rising numbers of Muslims. The mosque currently has 1,000 members and

conducts services at a much smaller location on McKercher and Boychuk Drive.

Mr. Speaker, it was truly incredible to attend this groundbreaking event and to see this project because it is an indication of a growing community and Saskatchewan moving forward. I ask that all members join me in recognizing this important new project and all its members in the vibrant and diverse city of Saskatoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[13:45]

Seniors Awards Presented at Gala

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate this year's Seniors Mechanism award winners, announced in October.

The Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism has been operating since 1990, representing the interests of over 100,000 Saskatchewan seniors in 16 organizations. The non-profit organization brings seniors' organizations together to collaborate and create a stronger voice for Saskatchewan's older residents.

I would like to recognize the hard work of those who took home awards from the October 6th gala, in particular two very special constituents of mine, Jessie and Gary Carlson. I know first-hand of the community service and leadership of the Carlsons, and I was thrilled to hear of their joint award for Seniors Community Involvement. Our leader and deputy leader attended the event and celebrated the evening along with the Carlsons and other deserving award winners.

Guests were impressed by Lloyd Robertson's keynote speech. He contributed great tales, good laughs, and genuine appreciation of the hard work of seniors in our communities.

I ask members to recognize the important work of Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism for their leadership in organizing events like this year's award gala. I would also ask members of the Assembly to take a moment to recognize the important contribution of Saskatchewan seniors who helped build our great province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Progress Made in Housing Program

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the House to talk about a new condominium development in Saskatoon that will allow 12 individuals and families to have a home to call their own. I'm pleased that our government provided \$1.98 million, Mr. Speaker, in financing assistance to build the Mosaic through the Headstart on a Home program.

The goal of Headstart is to increase the availability of entry-level housing across Saskatchewan and, Mr. Speaker, we are making progress. When we started the Headstart partnership, we expected about 1,000 new entry-level homes

would be built throughout the province. But with over three years to go, Mr. Speaker, the program has already approved construction financing for 1,159 homes across this province. Further, as noted in the October 23rd Throne Speech, our government will broaden Headstart to encourage the construction of rental properties in Saskatchewan to help more people access homes that are affordable.

Mr. Speaker, a key part of Saskatchewan's plan for growth is to capture the opportunities and meet the challenges of a growing province. Housing is a key part of the plan, and our government will continue to work very hard to facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

First Nations and Potash Company Sign Opportunities Agreement

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would take this opportunity to congratulate BHP Billiton and the Kawacatoose, Day Star, Muskowekwan First Nations for signing an opportunities agreement for the Jansen potash project.

This is the first agreement of its kind in southern Saskatchewan. I'm pleased to note that the First Nations involved will have an opportunity to work with BHP Billiton to increase community-based economic development, create jobs, and manage local environmental issues. The agreement includes mutual management on the environmental impact of the potash mine as well initiatives for training, education, and labour force development.

Mr. Speaker, First Nation leaders are supporting this agreement because it creates opportunities for First Nations and business. As we know, First Nations and Métis people are a great source of untapped workforce in Saskatchewan, both now and into the future. It is imperative that we all do our part to bridge a gap in Aboriginal employment that can only occur through a greater focus on education, training, and labour force development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating BHP Billiton and the Kawacatoose, Day Star, Muskowekwan First Nations for working together to build prosperous, healthy, environmentally safe communities through meaningful economic partnerships.

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

Treatment of Issues

Mr. Steinley: — Mr. Speaker, we have an infestation issue here in the legislature, and it's quickly spreading. It started with the Leader of the Opposition when he popped up in the spring session and couldn't get his facts straight about hospital care in Saskatoon. He made irresponsible statements in this House to incite fear about our province's health care system.

We know it's still infected. Yesterday he tried to spread more fear, this time about schools turning down the heat on students and teachers.

Luckily there is a cure for this infestation, Mr. Speaker. This cure is called the facts. We tried to administer it yesterday when our Premier read into the record a statement by the director of education for the school board saying, "This is not the case."

Mr. Speaker, this infestation is now spreading amongst the NDP MLAs. Yesterday the member for Saskatoon Riversdale claimed there was an infestation of mice and referenced a memo from the cancer clinic, then tried to tie this to health staffing levels. But according to Scott Livingstone, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency CEO [chief executive officer] and printed in the *Leader-Post* today, which the members opposite should take a look at, the mouse issue is not an illustration of staffing shortages.

Mr. Speaker, members of this Assembly have a responsibility to bring forward issues facing Saskatchewan people, and ministers have a responsibility with those concerns.

But, Mr. Speaker, we also have a duty to tell the whole story with all the facts, not torquing issues strictly for political gain.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — It's question time. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Health Care Conditions and Staffing

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. John Paul contacted me recently with significant concerns related to seniors' care. Due to his own health concerns, John was no longer able to care for his wife, Marjorie, in their home. So she moved into the convalescent home about four months ago. John spends between seven to eight hours every day at the facility just to ensure that his wife receives minimal care. So I guess, Mr. Speaker, it is fair to say that Marjorie is receiving personalized care, which supposedly is the goal of this government. But I know, Mr. Speaker, it's not the kind of care that Marjorie and John expect nor the type of care that they deserve.

My question to the Premier: when can John and Marjorie expect anything close to personalized care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, long-term care improvements have been a priority of this government since 2007. Mr. Speaker, when we took over from an administration that had closed long-term care beds, we sought first to rebuild some facilities and actually to add new beds in the province.

Mr. Speaker, very recently in the last session the NDP, to their credit, raised concerns around long-term care. The response from the minister was to engage all of our CEOs [chief executive officer] in a very detailed tour and then a very transparent report out of the tour where, Mr. Speaker, CEOs were to report some highlights in terms of excellent care provided to seniors and also some challenges that exist in the system that are important for all of us who care about seniors and anyone who is in long-term care, Mr. Speaker.

That's why we've taken the action of an emergent fund of \$10

million. That's why we've added to the pilots in terms of home care, Mr. Speaker, why we have a long-term plan to improve that care. Also, Mr. Speaker, it's why early on in our mandate, we began refilling the gap of personnel on the front lines to provide better care: 1,000 more nurses practising now, Mr. Speaker, a promise exceeded actually by our government; more health care workers, Mr. Speaker, on the front lines as well to deal with some of these issues.

And we know there will always be challenges, Mr. Speaker. We'll look into this particular case as well; I'm sure the minister would. Our commitment is to the seniors who need that care, to all people who need long-term care, and our actions would back that up, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the question was, when can John and Marjorie expect the personalized care that this government uses in its answers when they're faced with these concerns raised by Saskatchewan people?

John Paul says the convalescent home is unbelievably short-staffed. And he talks about a lot of the major concerns that he's seen: a call system that is broken and a temporary call system that is ineffective; two staff looking after 30 residents on the evening shift; residents laying for long periods of time in bed in soiled underwear; residents being left unattended on toilets for half an hour; and residents, Mr. Speaker, begging to be put to bed. So it's no wonder, Mr. Speaker, that John spends eight hours a day at the facility simply to ensure that his wife receives the care and the dignity that she deserves.

My question to the Premier: this government's excuse for getting rid of minimum care standards has said that it wants to have personalized care. So my question: for John and Marjorie, when can they expect this personalized care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear that we do still require minimum basic standards that aim to promote the health and safety and comfort of each resident, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the specifics of the questions, Mr. Speaker, I don't know this particular case, Mr. Speaker. What I would say is at any time that somebody is admitted to long-term care, that within 14 days the first assessment would take place, determine the care needs, and that that would be updated every three months, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the ministry also receives updates from all of the health regions, all of the facilities, as we track certain indicators around pressure sores and other indicators that we do track, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, we are working to address, through the Urgent Issues Action Fund for example, call bells that don't work. That would be something that we would look at through the Urgent Issues Action Fund and look to see proposals, Mr. Speaker. The deadline has closed for those proposals to be submitted, and so we look to evaluate over this next month and for those dollars and those additional funds, \$10 million in the next month.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this is the government that has watered down the quality of care that seniors can expect. This is a government that removed the reference of two hours per day per resident for minimum care. This is the government that removed any reference to sufficient staffing with respect to care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, John is not alone in having huge concerns about the quality of care being provided. And here's some quotes from the resident family council minutes from their September meeting. "It was total chaos." "There was no assistance in the main floor dining area and call bells were ringing constantly on the units." "Care being provided is both shocking and horrible."

To the Premier: when he hears words like chaos, like shocking, like horrible, does he realize how far away we really are from having personalized care and the dignity and the respect that Saskatchewan seniors deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, this government is working to address a number of areas within long-term care as we have talked about over the last number of months, Mr. Speaker. That's why we instigated the first review of every single long-term care facility, Mr. Speaker. This summer that will continue each and every year, Mr. Speaker. We will have a survey that resident family council members can forward directly to the minister, Mr. Speaker, should they feel that their concerns have not been raised adequately.

We also know that we needed to address the issues around staffing. Mr. Speaker, from the end of the last fiscal year to the last year of the previous government, Mr. Speaker, the health providers, many of them that work in long-term care, Mr. Speaker, their numbers in terms of full-time equivalents are up eight and a half per cent. We know in some circumstances, it's up 10 per cent overall, Mr. Speaker. And when you look at nurses within long-term care, Mr. Speaker, it's up nearly 14 per cent, dealing with the same, roughly the same number of beds, Mr. Speaker. So we're working hard to address the staffing issues.

We're also working hard to address the aging infrastructure that we do have, Mr. Speaker. Thirteen long-term care facilities that were long overdue to be replaced, Mr. Speaker, we're working on those. We're working on three in Swift Current, one new one in Saskatoon which the members opposed.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this story, this rationale that the government is using does not add up. The government removed the minimum care standards, removed the two-hour requirement that was on the books. They removed any reference to sufficient staffing, and as their rationale they said, we want to have personalized care. And we hear from families, Mr. Speaker, talking about shocking situations, talking about loved ones being left on toilets for half an hour, about being left in dirty underwear in their beds, Mr. Speaker. So clearly that personalized care is not happening because even the minimum

care is not happening.

Here's a quote from the resident family council minutes: "Staff morale is very low. Staff is overworked." And this has been a constant theme, Mr. Speaker, as we've raised the issue of how seniors care is getting worse and how the quality is not there. Many front-line staff have told me, Mr. Speaker, that they want to provide better care but that they're simply run off their feet.

Last year, last sitting, Mr. Speaker, the minister said that he receives reports on staffing levels and that there was no cause for alarm. We have the CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region talking about the one-time payment program and saying that it won't actually address the short-staffing crisis that is faced and that is affecting seniors here in the province.

My question to the Premier: has he heard enough? Does he recognize that there is not sufficient staff in place?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, while we look to ensure that we have the proper complement of staff within all of our health care facilities — whether they be long-term or acute care facilities, Mr. Speaker — I would think that the member opposite, the Leader of the Opposition would acknowledge that the fact that there are 700 more full-time equivalents working in long-term care alone, Mr. Speaker. That would indicate that this government has done more than just talk about sufficient staff levels, Mr. Speaker. We've actually invested the dollars to ensure the health regions can do a better job to have the sufficient level of staff, Mr. Speaker, in long-term care.

The Leader of the Opposition will also know that staffing levels were not the case in the majority of the reports that came out this summer, Mr. Speaker. While some facilities do talk about staffing issues — and we'll look to address those either through the action fund or in next year's budget, Mr. Speaker — not all of the issues that related to long-term care were around staffing, Mr. Speaker. We need to look at this through a broader lens.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the minister just said that the fund was going to address the staffing levels. That is contradicted by the CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region who says the one-time payment fund isn't actually going to address the short-staffing crisis that we have. Mr. Speaker, all of this flies in the face of the government's rhetoric on this issue. We see that this government has watered down the standards of care for seniors here in the province. As its rationale, it has said that they need personalized care. We agree there needs to be personalized care, Mr. Speaker, but there needs to be a basic level.

When John, who is in his late 70s, has to go to the care facility every day for seven to eight hours just to ensure that his wife's basic needs are met, Mr. Speaker, personalized care is not happening. My question . . . Here's a quote that John said about the situation:

Long-term care residents and seniors deserve much better

care than they are presently getting. I'm asking you to please stand and fight for the seniors who helped make this such a great province.

Mr. Speaker, the stories that come forward here in the legislature from Saskatchewan families are real and they deserve our attention. They deserve our concern. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: at a time when our province's economy is doing so well, why are we hearing seniors' care described as chaotic, shocking, and horrible?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, we're working hard to address issues within long-term care that we acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, and that we have made significant efforts over the last number of years as this government has been in office. And we'll continue to do that, Mr. Speaker.

But to hear from the NDP that they will somehow become the champions of seniors, Mr. Speaker, they ought to look at the history of their government, Mr. Speaker. I know the Leader of the Opposition received this email because I did as well on October 2nd, and I'll quote from it. I'll quote from the middle:

The increase proposed by your then NDP government would have meant that my father would have been about \$300 overspent per month on his pensions. As I requested Mr. Nilson, the then Health minister, he would have had to go on welfare at 82 years old with a full chest of medals from the war.

Mr. Speaker, that was the action of the NDP, Mr. Speaker. That's how they were going to stand up for seniors in our province, Mr. Speaker, when they were government. Mr. Speaker, that's not what we're going to do to seniors in this province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Saskatchewan Transportation Company Bus Routes

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, even as the province economy does well, this government is choosing to cut STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] routes. People rely on STC to travel our province to get to appointments and to visit with family. Mr. Speaker, residents from the southwest of our province are here in the gallery today. They've travelled here on an STC bus. They hope this isn't one of the last trips of this route. They are here because they want the government to admit cutting this route is wrong.

To the minister: will this government admit their mistake and reverse their cuts?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these decisions aren't made easily at all by this government. We do look at the track record of STC over the last 10 years. For example, in 2002 the operating subsidy was about \$2.4 million. Last year it was 9.2 — an increase of about 400

times in the operating subsidy. That cannot continue to go on at that rate. We need to look at the routes that are in the province that are being used very lowly, a low level of ridership, Mr. Speaker. We have chose three at this point to try and reduce that subsidy, to hold that subsidy in check.

It's a very difficult decision, Mr. Speaker. But we do know that half the communities in the province are not serviced by STC. These communities will lose their service into the future, but we feel that there will be other services that will fill the gap such as private delivery, a courier service, Mr. Speaker, and other options. I've met with a number of representatives, I know a couple of them are here today, in my office about two or three weeks ago. It's a difficult decision, but it's a decision that we have to make in order to ensure the long-term viability of STC.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, it's not just people who will suffer from these cuts. Small businesses in rural Saskatchewan rely on affordable and reliable freight service. Farmers use this service to ship parts. Mechanics get the supplies they need without a trip to the city. Even the hospital in Gravelbourg uses STC to ship blood samples. However all of these services will be cut because this government is stubborn and dismissive.

To the minister: why won't this government recognize that rural business and services rely on STC for affordable freight service?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I already answered that question regarding the courier piece, Mr. Speaker. There are roughly about 250 communities in Saskatchewan that don't have STC service but do have parcel delivery through private courier service, Mr. Speaker. We would expect that to be the case in these communities as we move on, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, it's not an easy decision to make. But when you have a bus going to these communities and the average ridership is two people per trip, Mr. Speaker, it is a very difficult decision. But it is a decision that has to be made so that the community can move on and find other services such as private delivery of parcels to their community.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, this group has travelled a long way. They paid out-of-pocket money to come to Regina and they want to hear this government admit their mistake. Instead now they know that this government doesn't respect the rural Saskatchewan needs when it comes to safe, reliable public transit.

To the minister: what does this government say to citizens who join us today? They cut the very important services that the rural communities rely on.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we are seeing the subsidy increase significantly over the last 10 years. We're seeing on some routes the ridership dropped significantly . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well I heard the member from Athabasca and his seatmate from Cumberland House say it's a good investment. It's a good investment. So then why, when you guys were the government, did you close 13 routes under your watch? You closed 13 routes across the province and it was . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I would like to remind both sides of the House to direct their questions and responses through the Chair. I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the NDP were in power, it was perfectly fine to close 13 routes throughout rural Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, because when they do it, it's perfectly fine. When any other government does it, it's a travesty, Mr. Speaker. These are difficult decisions. We wish we didn't have to make them, but we can also realize that it's not sustainable into the future at the increase that we are seeing for the operating grant.

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

Funding for Francophone Education

Ms. Sproule: — Monsieur le président, le Conseil des écoles fransaskoises travail très fort pour satisfaire sa responsabilité constitutionnel d'assurer que les enfants qui vont à l'école française reçoivent un traitement égale. Mais ce gouvernement refuse obstinément de fournir ces écoles le soutien financier dont ils ont besoin. Au ministre: quand est-ce que ce gouvernement va soutenir adéquatement l'éducation francophone en Saskatchewan?

[Translation: Mr. Speaker, the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises works very hard to satisfy its constitutional responsibility to ensure that children who attend French school receive equal treatment. But this government stubbornly refuses to provide these schools with the financial support they need. To the minister: when will this government adequately support francophone education in Saskatchewan?]

When will this government adequately support francophone education in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member opposite for the question and for her obvious skill in the French language. She is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the members and advise the House that we are required under our Charter and under Canadian law to fund the French schools in our province. We have had some difficulties in working out what those funding arrangements will be. But I can advise, Mr. Speaker, that the requirement under Canadian law is that they not necessarily be funded at the same dollar level; it is that they be funded for the

same general equivalent level of services.

We believe that we have funded at or above that level, as well as having made significant contributions to the francophone community by way of other community supports. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to do that. We've had some discussions with them earlier this year since I've taken this position, and I'll look forward to continuing that.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Merci, monsieur le président. Le Conseil des écoles francophones ont du recourir un action en justice cinq fois au cours des quatre derniers années, et n'ont toujours pas été en mesure de présenter leur cas à un juge. La semaine dernière, le gouvernement a été critiqué par le juge pour traîner les pieds.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Conseil des écoles francophones had to resort to a lawsuit five times in the course of the last four years and have still been unable to present their case to a judge. Last week the government was criticized by the judge for dragging its feet.]

Mr. Speaker, they shouldn't even be in court. This should have been settled a long time ago. Why is this government forcing le Conseil des écoles francophones to spend money in court instead of on our children's education?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the expenditure that's made for French students in our province is several times as much as it is for students in the regular stream. We believe that we are funding them at, not just an adequate level, but at a very good level compared to other students in the province. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to continuing to work with them. Unfortunately, where we can't work things out, we have no alternative but to work through the courts to get a resolution.

Mr. Speaker, my discussions with the francophone community this year were to the effect that we would rather do some negotiation, have some discussions, and look what their broader needs are rather than resorting to litigation, Mr. Speaker.

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

Provision of Educational Facilities

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of frustration being expressed yesterday at the annual assembly for the Saskatchewan school boards because this government's approach to education is a mess, because of the disrespect towards our teachers, and because of the disrespect and dismissal of the role of elected school boards.

We heard of one situation here yesterday in the House. Prairie Spirit School Division is frustrated with this government's approach and, in particular, they're frustrated with this government's stubborn dismissal of their innovative proposal to address the overcrowding crisis. The Premier's response was to ignore questions and give his usual torqued-up rhetoric, so

maybe the minister will have an answer for us here today. To the minister: why is this government rejecting innovative solutions by local elected school boards?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, here's what we share in common with the school board in question. We believe there needs to be additional school capacity. It's why a new middle school will be opened later this month by the minister and the member for the area. It's why there's been an expansion at a high school, and it's why we've announced a brand new joint school, two brand new joint schools, Mr. Speaker.

And so the question that was about the proposal that came, it was rejected by the ministry, Mr. Speaker, because it would be about a \$1 million dollar temporary facility is my understanding. If you go to their website, they note that the buildings are fabric buildings. Mr. Speaker, we prefer concrete, steel, and wood for our schools.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we know exactly why this government rejected the proposal or even a discussion with the school board about the proposal, is because they have no interest in listening, and they simply plow ahead with their own agenda, Mr. Speaker. We saw that in this government's grand scheme to bulk buy cookie-cutter portable classrooms — a takeover of school board responsibility and control, and it was a total mess. To the minister: will this government admit it has botched the portable classroom file?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, once again it's very important that the record be corrected when hon. members are on their feet. The premise of the member's question — we'll get to portable schools, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure — the premise of the member's question is why this government would refuse this innovative proposal from the school board, from the Chair, as he's referenced it. Mr. Speaker, with great respect to the board, we do have a fundamental disagreement.

The proposal that the NDP are advocating for students in that community is for basically a fabric, a cover-all school, a \$1 million temporary school. If the NDP are comfortable with that position as appropriate schooling, as an appropriate facility for the children in this province, so be it. On this side of the House, we'll build modern schools, Mr. Speaker, joint-use schools of steel and concrete, the way they should be, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, what this side of the Assembly is simply advocating is that that government start listening to the school boards across this province, start listening to the teachers of this province, and quit plowing ahead in stubborn ways without any conversation with the educational partners in this province.

This government's scheme to take over and bulk buy cookie-cutter portable classrooms was a total mess. All of the

schools received the portables late, and some of the schools even received the wrong portables. And the Minister of Finance should be listening. So yesterday 92 per cent of SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] delegates voted in favour of a resolution to take back the power to choose who builds and installs their modular classrooms, a resolution brought forward by Regina Public Schools.

To the minister: will this government recognize that it couldn't manage the portable file? Will it return this power to local elected school boards? And will they finally stop dismissing and disrespecting the locally elected school boards across this province?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've allocated \$7.8 million for the most relocatables ever. Relocatable classrooms are a viable short-term solution, Mr. Speaker.

The better longer term solution is new schools. Mr. Speaker, we've announced nine joint-use facilities. We've built 20 schools since we've been in this government. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to provide and fund schools very well in this province. We value our school systems. Some of them were diverted because of the flooding crisis in Alberta. We will live with that situation and work our way through it, and I'm sure the school divisions want to as well. We've met with them, and we are going to continue working with them, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Private Bills Committee.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Private Bills to report private Bill No. 903, *St. Thomas More College Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment, and to present its fourth report. I move:

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

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

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

Is the Assembly ready for the question, or do they wish to continue debating each other?

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Okay, enough. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 903, *St. Thomas More College Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill be read for the third time.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 903, *St. Thomas More College Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 903 — *St. Thomas More College Amendment Act, 2013*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 903, *St. Thomas More College Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Support for Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think this legislature had a great debate last week with respect to the future of the Senate, and there were a number of different views expressed eloquently, I think, on both sides of the House. Mr. Speaker, I think we saw this facility, this room being used for its purpose. And it has many intended purposes, but certainly that kind of debate is one of them. And we came to a conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as a result of that debate, and were able to send a message not only on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan and to the people of Saskatchewan but

indeed to the rest of the country, as Canada was a little bit interested at least in what we had to say that day.

Mr. Speaker, we have the chance to do that again. And I want to urge members . . . I'm going to move a motion at the end of my brief remarks, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the proposed trade deal between our country and the European Union. I'm going to urge that this House strongly support in principle the comprehensive economic and trade agreement reached by the Government of Canada and the European Union, Mr. Speaker. And the motion will be . . . There's a bit more detail, but not much to it.

Mr. Speaker, last month we were very pleased, certainly on this side of the House, and I hope — I'm guessing — also members on that side of the House were very pleased to hear that the federal government had successfully concluded the negotiations on a trade agreement with the European Union, known as CETA. Mr. Speaker, on this occasion it's worth thanking the Prime Minister. He was very much hands-on on this particular file, as was Minister Ed Fast, who I think has worked the trade file very well on behalf of the Dominion of Canada, on behalf of our economic interest. And I think they both deserve some congratulations because it's no easy proposition, Mr. Speaker, for a federation to negotiate a trade deal with a European Union. There's a lot of moving parts there.

Mr. Speaker, within our country, we had the federal government checking with the provincial governments on our position on certain issues. And some governments were at times less excited about certain parts of the trade deal than other parts. And, Mr. Speaker, for our part, I would like to put it on the record: the province of Saskatchewan worked to be a force for good, worked to be very constructive. We in fact, Mr. Speaker, were encouraging other provinces, and there would be a mutual encouragement on either side. But it was a difficult thing to herd all of us cats, so to speak, for a federal government. The same I'm sure would be true for the negotiators on the European Union side.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it's no small feat at all that we would now be debating the agreement in principle that has been reached between Canada and between the European Union. And we acknowledge the leadership on both sides of that and our Canadian leadership, Mr. Speaker, in this regard.

It was interesting to see the response in our country to the agreement in principle, especially for those of us who followed closely the free trade debate of 1988 and then the subsequent debate around NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] which moved to take the Canada-US [United States] free trade deal to the rest of North America.

Mr. Speaker, I remember I was involved in that debate. As a young person we — a number of us who believed that this free trade agreement would be good, Mr. Speaker, based on some research we had done — decided to form something called the Alliance for the Future of Young Canadians. And I was happy and honoured to be the western Co-Chair of that. And we tried to insert ourselves into the debate. We noted that both sides — those who opposed free trade with the United States, those who were in favour of free trade — were invoking young people. They invoked the next generation for their position. And so we

thought maybe the country should hear from the next generation, from younger people in the debate, and that's why we formed this particular alliance.

But I also remember actually my first occasion to meet Glenn Anderson actually, from the Edmonton Oilers, because he turned out to be a free trader and joined us at a press event we had in Toronto. And so there was a little bit of talk about free trade but mostly a lot of questions about Wayne Gretzky, Mr. Speaker.

There were other highlights that I recall during that debate, including the vitriol on the side of the debate opposing free trade. Mr. Speaker, the scenarios that were painted by those on the left, principally, in the country — and they would have been the New Democratic Party here provincially and federally and unions and Maude Barlow and the Council of Canadians and any number of folks that you can think of — the vitriol, the opposition to free trade, Mr. Speaker, was borderline hyperbolic. There was no question about it. They said we would lose our culture if we free traded with the Americans — later the Mexicans as well — that we would lose our national identity. Maybe the rules for hockey would change, Mr. Speaker. I remember the commercial that was run in the campaign on free trade where — I think we all remember it — where that hand erases the border between the United States and Canada. Mr. Speaker, the fearmongering was at an epic level. People were scaring Canadians that we would lose our country, that we would lose our identity if we were to enter into this agreement.

Those who supported free trade thought a little differently. Those who supported free trade believed in the ability of our farmers and our business people and Canadians in general to compete with anyone in the world if the level playing field was right. And moreover, those who supported free trade understood with some clarity that a country of then probably about 26, 27 million people, as vast as Canada is, with all of its natural resources needed to trade. That our country, maybe more than most on the earth, needs to trade and needs to methodically remove barriers to our trade, needs to move to freer trade. And so there was quite a debate that shaped up between both sides, Mr. Speaker.

Well what happened? Now I think we're some distance away from 1988. At least it feels like that for me, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's probably a good time to pause then and evaluate the free trade agreement we had in North America as we evaluate the agreement in principle we have with the European Union.

Well as near as I can tell, the Canadian identity is as strong as it ever was, Mr. Speaker. And frankly, I think the Canadian culture is stronger than it was before, in part at least because our economy is stronger than it was prior to free trade.

That's not to say that the agreement is perfect. These agreements are simply not. They're imperfect instruments. It's why you have to spell out binding dispute mechanisms within an agreement. It's why that BDM [binding dispute mechanism] was linchpin in that particular agreement in the first place, Mr. Speaker. And sometimes the binding dispute mechanism doesn't even work and then you go to the World Trade Organization. And the Minister of Agriculture will know this

well, as we've done that as a country over the country of origin labelling in agriculture. And sometimes you lose at, or you win at the WTO [World Trade Organization] and the country that has lost, the United States in this case, continues on with this non-tariff trade barrier. And so, Mr. Speaker, then the federal government, with the support of our province and others, has to consider retaliation. It doesn't . . . Free trade agreements do not mean that the relationship's going to be perfect, that there are not going to be these disputes.

But, Mr. Speaker, here are the economic results of free trade in North America. Since the free trade agreement, Canada's GDP [gross domestic product] has risen by more than \$1 trillion. Two-way trade with the United States has more than tripled. Two-way trade with the United States has now surpassed 740 billion, equivalent to 41 per cent of the GDP of our country.

Saskatchewan's two-way trade with the United States has jumped more than 900 per cent since 1988, from 3.2 billion to \$29.5 billion. Foreign direct investment in Canada by US investors has more than tripled, Mr. Speaker. And all the while our identity's intact, our culture's strong, and the rules for hockey haven't changed. Well they've changed, but not because of free trade, Mr. Speaker. I think they've changed because of the trap, probably, more so than free trade.

Mr. Speaker, it's an important context then for us to consider CETA, for us to consider why the response to CETA has been as positive as it has been with the Liberal Party of Canada supporting in principle CETA, with the NDP, the official opposition in Ottawa not really supporting CETA but not opposing it as they would have in 1988, certainly.

Mr. Speaker, here's the good news. And we can debate this in principle motion today because there's a lot of specifics available to all of us about what CETA will mean to Canada and specifically to our province. Under CETA, approximately 98 per cent of all tariffs will be eliminated, opening up new opportunities for our exporters — new opportunities in a large, lucrative market, Mr. Speaker. The EU [European Union] has a population of 500 million and a GDP of \$17 trillion. Mr. Speaker, right now the EU is not Canada's number one customer, even combined as all those countries. That's the United States, quite clearly. But it is the second largest customer for Canada, and the third largest customer for our province, though it only accounts for 4 per cent of exports.

Mr. Speaker, it is though the world's largest importer of agricultural and agri-food products. That should get our attention here in Saskatchewan. The EU imported 130 billion of these products in 2012. So, Mr. Speaker, what does it mean to Saskatchewan farmers?

What would the EU mean to agriculture in the province? It means EU tariffs will be eliminated on oats, where the EU tariff can be up to 114 bucks a tonne; eliminated on barley and rye where tariffs of up to \$120 a tonne can exist; eliminated on spring wheat where tariffs of up to 122 bucks a tonne will receive now permanent duty-free access, Mr. Speaker; also permanent duty-free access for durum where tariffs can exist up to \$190 a tonne; processed goods and processed pulses and grains, Mr. Speaker, the tariff is eliminated under this deal.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, 100 000 tonnes of low- to medium-quality Canadian wheat will receive immediate duty-free and quota market access. CETA will mean better market access for livestock producers. I think the Canadian Cattlemen's Association have estimated about a \$600 million additional market now for Canadian beef as a result of this particular deal.

Annual duty-free access will now be available because of the deal for up to 80 000 tonnes of pork from our country, for up to 50 000 tonnes of beef — remember we have the second largest beef herd in the country, Mr. Speaker, in our province — 300 000 tonnes of bison, Mr. Speaker, and 15 000 tonnes of high-quality beef. Under the existing Hilton quota, Mr. Speaker, it's worth noting that Americans will still face a 20 per cent duty with respect to this product.

Mr. Speaker, \$1.3 billion in additional sales of agricultural product from our country into the EU — that's going to be good for our province because we have about 40 per cent of the arable acres in the country. We do have the second largest beef herd in Canada. We have, Mr. Speaker, agricultural production — pick a crop that is prodigious, that is prolific, Mr. Speaker, and that actually has world standing.

[14:30]

When we talk about our exports in any given agricultural product — it could be pulses, it could be its grains and oilseeds — we'll get a large percentage. You'll hear me do it and others will speak about this. It will be 17 per cent, 30 per cent, 35 per cent. When we do that, Mr. Speaker, in this province about an agricultural commodity, we're talking about a percentage of world exports, not of Canadian exports.

So, Mr. Speaker, as a province whose economy is increasingly and happily looking to agriculture to drive consistent growth — a third of our exports last year were agricultural exports, and remember our exports broke a record — in a province like that, more access, better access is important. And so I noted in the introduction that Mr. Hoback, one of the members of parliament, is here and was thanked as were members of our caucus. That's why the Conservative caucus members I think were working so hard to encourage this deal. That's why our government was working hard for it as well.

If all that CETA offered to our province was its agricultural access, it would be worth a hearty endorsement from this legislature, Mr. Speaker. But there's more because we talk about a reduction in 98 per cent of the tariffs that Canadian goods face. And certainly we move shortline equipment; we move other products into that particular market that will benefit from CETA.

But here's one more thing that has not got a lot of attention and that should have ours, in terms of a benefit of CETA. It's something we actually as a province put on the table together with our federal colleagues. We thought it might be of interest to Europe, Mr. Speaker. And what I'm talking about is the non-resident ownership provisions which are really restrictions imposed by the federal government — as they have been for years by successive governments — on foreign investment into the uranium industry. It is true today that foreign companies can

invest in uranium industry in Saskatchewan but they cannot own more than a 50 per cent share in a mine. They need a majority partner that is Canadian.

Mr. Speaker, we have asked the federal government for some relief on this because we know there's interest out there. In our province today, we have a good corporate citizen; it's actually a state-owned company from France called Areva. I think that they've long advocated for this change in the event that one day they'd like to own more than 50 per cent of a mine, that they'd like to have a majority interest or maybe an outright ownership on a greenfield project down the road.

Mr. Speaker, there are other companies that are interested that would be affected by this who are EU members or most favoured nation status of the EU and they would get some reprieve here as well, like Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto has invested heavily in the province when they bought out a play known . . . We call it the Roughrider play. I'm sure it has a more technical term. It's one of the richest uranium plays in the world. Rio Tinto is not yet developing it and has told our government when we've been to London to see them, when they've been here to meet with us, that they'd like to pursue a new mine but they're not interested in a partner. Why wouldn't we want a company like . . . If Rio Tinto can invest in a potash mine here, which they could certainly do and own it outright, why in the world would we want to stop them from investing in uranium?

Why would we want to stop investment dollars in uranium, Mr. Speaker, when we know it's a unique advantage here in Saskatchewan, a province that produces about 17 per cent of the world's uranium and has this great resource? So we said to our federal government, we would like this to be gone. Maybe this could be part of the agreement. And again to the credit of the federal government, they did include it in the agreement. The non-resident ownership provisions as regards companies who are headquartered in EU countries, or my understanding is who have, in countries that have most favoured nation status, Mr. Speaker, are now going to be eligible to invest in uranium mining in the province and own a project outright.

When you combine that, Mr. Speaker, with now new market access in China because of the nuclear co-operation agreement the federal government has negotiated there, nuclear co-operation agreement in India, the two most robust civilian nuclear power markets in the world, when you combine the NROP [non-resident ownership policy] removal for European countries anyway, the NCAs [nuclear co-operation agreement] in both China and India and, Mr. Speaker, royalty reductions in the Minister of Finance's last budget so that our uranium royalties are competitive with the rest of the world, I think the long-term future is very bright for the uranium industry.

And here's why that should matter to us in the legislature. There are jobs involved, obviously. There's investment at stake, obviously. But, Mr. Speaker, we also know this. That Cameco, for example, other uranium mining operations in this province, have one of the best records — not perfect — but one of the best records in terms of hiring First Nations and Métis people. I think over 40 per cent of the largest uranium mining company in the world, 40 per cent of their front-line workforce, good careers in mining, Mr. Speaker, good paying jobs, difficult work but good paying jobs and careers, indeed over 40 per cent

are First Nations and Métis, Mr. Speaker.

So others want to speak and I want to make room for them but, Mr. Speaker, for these two reasons alone, and there are others, for agriculture and for mining, we are strongly supportive of what the federal government has done here. And we encourage the provincial opposition who have had courage actually to stand up to their federal counterparts, and I credit them for doing this on a number of issues. On Keystone is one of them, and very recently, based on the member for Athabasca's speech, on fracking for example. We encourage them to take another opportunity to do this, because there's a bit of ambivalence or at least confusion on the part of the official opposition in Ottawa on their position with respect to the CETA deal.

You know, there's been MPs from Newfoundland and Labrador say they basically are very concerned about what it'll do to the Newfoundland fishery even though the unions in the fishery have been supportive. We've heard their position on Keystone, for example, which is not related directly to the CETA, obviously, but it's about energy trade certainly.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would note this. Linda McQuaig, who's the NDP's candidate in the November 25th Toronto Centre by-election, said this a few years back. She wrote that it is "mythology" that Canada has benefited from NAFTA. She went on to say, "NAFTA has done much to erode our sovereignty . . ." That same old song, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't true in 1988. It's not true today.

She says, ". . . denying us control over our own energy resources . . ." Mr. Speaker, take a look at what happened in the potash takeover. I think we do have control over our resources in this province. She said, ". . . creating a wide-ranging set of rights for corporations and limiting our power to protect the environment and shape public programs." Wrong, wrong, wrong. But now, Mr. Speaker, this is a star candidate for the New Democratic Party.

So I am concerned about the position of our federal New Democratic Party, and I encourage all of us to send a strong message from this legislature. I encourage the Leader of the Opposition and members opposite to say, there is lots of specificity here in terms of agriculture, in terms of uranium mining. Surely enough for this legislature to stand up and say, we support, in principle, CETA. We know that Saskatchewan, when we have a chance to trade freely and without barriers that are non-tariff barriers, we know that our farmers and our businesses will succeed. We'll compete effectively with anyone else in the world given that level playing field, Mr. Speaker. We have a chance to level it for the first time with the European Union nations. Let's send a message from this legislature, a unanimous message that it should be levelled and that we support CETA and its conclusion, Mr. Speaker, to the benefit of the country.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move:

That this House supports the agreement in principle for the comprehensive economic and trade agreement reached by the Government of Canada and European Union and calls on all federal parties to support the swift implementation of the agreement.

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

That this House supports the agreement in principle for the comprehensive economic and trade agreement, CETA, reached by the Government of Canada and the European Union and calls on all federal parties to support the swift implementation of the agreement.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased this afternoon to enter in on the debate on the comprehensive economic and trade agreement or more commonly referred to as CETA.

I think that progress on the trade agreement with Europe is a good thing, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan's New Democrats welcome that progress, and I know that Canada's New Democrats have been clear about welcoming this progress as well. We think, Mr. Speaker, that it's simply good common sense to have stronger economic relations with the European Union. These are democratic countries, Mr. Speaker, with some of the highest environmental and labour standards in the world. To put it in other ways, Mr. Speaker, these are good trading partners to have within the EU.

It's also just common sense to strengthen our economic relations with the European Union from an eggs-and-baskets perspective. We trade heavily with the United States, and that's a good thing, but as a trading province it's vital for us to have access to the broader world markets in a bigger way. It's important to have more eggs and more baskets when it comes to our trading partners.

Saskatchewan people and businesses produce world-class products including some of the best agricultural exports in the world, and it's good for us to seek to open up new markets for what Saskatchewan is selling. So that's why New Democrats welcome the agreement in principle that has been reached between Canada and the European Union, because we support expanding and diversifying our trade relationships, and because we think the countries of the European Union make good trading partners.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that the devil is always in the details, as the expression says, when it comes to complex negotiations and agreements. And we know that there are always both advantages and compromises in every negotiation. As a result, Mr. Speaker, it's incumbent on legislators to determine if the deal is, on balance, a good deal for Saskatchewan and a good deal for Canada.

We know that the federal government and the provincial governments already have a lot of details on this tentative agreement, because they have been at the negotiating table and in the various back rooms trying to hammer out this agreement. But opposition parties, Mr. Speaker, don't have the benefit of that information and neither do Saskatchewan people nor Canadians.

So while we absolutely welcome progress on this trade agreement and while we support free trade with the European

Union, we definitely have questions to ask as legislators in order to confirm that on balance this is a good deal for Saskatchewan and a good deal for Canada. That's our job as legislators and that's the job of federal parliamentarians as well. We will not be obstructionist. We will not be ideological, and we will not write a blank cheque either. The job of legislators is to undertake the necessary due diligence to determine if the deal is, on balance, a good deal for Saskatchewan and a good deal for Canada.

We think it probably is a good deal. The news that we've heard is generally quite promising. We certainly have questions about what compromises have been reached in several areas, including the ability of local governments to pursue economic development and about what kinds of increases we'll see in the cost of prescription drugs. We don't know those answers, Mr. Speaker, because we haven't been at the table or privy to the information in the same way that the federal and provincial governments have been. But again, based on what we've been hearing, we think this is promising and we welcome news of the tentative agreement.

Now it's time for a good and meaningful discussion about the actual details of this tentative agreement. So, Mr. Speaker, I move an amendment that I think the government members will surely support, and my motion reads as follows:

That the motion be amended by deleting all words after the words "European Union" and the following be substituted therefor:

and calls on all legislators to undertake the appropriate due diligence to review and assess the agreement and support its swift implementation if it is confirmed to be in the best interests of Saskatchewan and Canada.

I so move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — An amendment has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition:

That the motion be amended by deleting all words after the words "European Union" and the following be substituted therefor:

and calls on all legislators to undertake the appropriate due diligence to review and assess the agreement and support its swift implementation if it is confirmed to be in the best interests of Saskatchewan and Canada.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise in strong support of this, of the motion. Our government has worked with the federal government's very, very strong efforts to acquire this deal over the last I think four years. It's been quite a process, Mr. Speaker. These deals don't just happen. This one was hard fought, and it is an agreement in principle, Mr. Speaker, and hence I don't really understand the amendment. But in any event we'll deal with it.

This, Mr. Speaker, this deal is worth the effort that it's taken on

behalf of our federal government and provincial governments in support, Mr. Speaker. The deal is quite simply historic for our country and particularly this province.

[14:45]

It's also very important from an historic perspective, Mr. Speaker, and I'm of the vintage where I think I can offer, sadly, a bit of an historic perspective. I've been farming now for some time. I think I figured out this morning that I've farmed in five decades. And I haven't farmed five decades, but I've farmed in five decades, so that's plenty scary enough.

But I can tell you from experience out there on my farm, through some times that weren't very prosperous always — you know, the '80s were tough, very tough — and I remember working away every day and we'd hear . . . I've seen two or three of these deals come and go. We'd hear a lot of media reports about these pending deals. And I remember I'd quite regularly, on two or three times at least, I got my hopes up and thought that this was going to be the deal, and it's going to be the deal that'd change our trading relationship with the EU. And quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, until this deal, it never happened. It didn't happen at all. Every single one of those previous trade arrangements or attempted arrangements with the EU were a failure.

But this deal is very different, Mr. Speaker, and it's extremely important to Saskatchewan, particularly in agriculture but, as the Premier so eloquently stated, not only for agriculture. But I'm going to deal specifically with agriculture today.

In this province, last year we exported \$11.2 billion in agri-food exports, where it makes us the largest agri-food exporter in the country, Mr. Speaker. We've overtaken Ontario and Alberta to win that first spot. And we are traders. We're traders, Mr. Speaker. We depend on exports. We have over — well over, I think — I think it's 43 or 45 per cent of all of the arable farm land in this great nation of Canada right here in Saskatchewan. We grow what the world needs. We have a reputation as a reliable provider of safe, high-quality agricultural products, and these include such things, but are not limited to, pulses, grains, oilseed, livestock, and value-added products. The dedication of our farmers and ranchers has created this reputation as a reliable supplier of safe food products to the world, and our farmers and ranchers are the most innovative and productive in the world.

In Canada, Saskatchewan is the agricultural leader. We produce 96 per cent of Canada's lentils, 90 per cent of Canada's chickpeas, 84 per cent of Canada's durum, 70 per cent of Canada's mustard seed, 63 per cent of Canada's dry peas, 78 per cent of Canada's flax seed, 46 per cent of Canada's canola, and 46 per cent of Canada's oats. And we're working, Mr. Speaker, our producers are working every year to build on those numbers.

We expect that this harvest, Mr. Speaker . . . The numbers aren't all in yet, but we expect that this will be a record harvest, the largest ever in the province. StatsCan is projecting over 34 million tonnes. Just a very short time ago we set a target to produce 36 million tonnes by the year 2020. Mr. Speaker, if StatsCan is in the ballpark, this year we came very close to it already.

Also Canada is the leading agri-food exporter. We overtook, as I said, Alberta and Ontario in 2011, and in 2012 we built on that, creating a wider margin between us and them.

Canola seed is our top export product. That increased to \$2.7 billion last year. That's a 215 per cent increase since 2007 and 25 per cent just since 2011. Other top exports include non-durum wheats at \$2 billion a year; canola oil, 1.7 billion; durum wheat, 1.2 billion; lentils, 673 million; peas, 626 million; and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker. Our current top markets are the United States of course, China, Japan, India, Mexico. There's one huge importer of agricultural and food products that's not in that list, Mr. Speaker, and it's the EU.

The EU is the world's largest importer of agriculture and agri-food products and, Mr. Speaker, they imported more than \$130 billion worth of agri-food products in 2012. We need to add the European Union to our list of top export destinations, Mr. Speaker, and this deal, this deal can do that for us.

CETA could generate 1.3 billion in benefits for Canada and will create substantial benefits in Saskatchewan. In fact, because of the massive scope and scale of our agricultural industry, Mr. Speaker, as the percentage of the total Canadian industry, I think we could expect a substantial portion of that 1.3 billion in annual benefits to come to this province.

CETA will help us to increase our total exports substantially. This is an agreement in principle, Mr. Speaker, and the details of the agreement in principle include EU tariffs will be eliminated completely on oats, barley, rye, wheat, durum; oils including canola oil, which is huge for us, Mr. Speaker; process pulses and grains which include baked goods, pulse flour meal, and powder.

Producers will have an annual duty-free access for 80 000 tonnes of pork, 50 000 tonnes of beef — 35 000 tonnes of that fresh and about 15 000 tonnes frozen — 3000 tonnes of bison, Mr. Speaker. In addition, CETA will give farmers duty-free access for high-quality beef under the existing Hilton beef quota or Hilton formula of nearly another, an additional 15 000 tonnes, and for processed beef, pork, and bison products.

Mr. Speaker, nobody should question that this is a phenomenally good deal for Saskatchewan. We have ambitious growth targets in this province that include increasing ag exports by 50 per cent by 2020 from 10 billion in 2011 to 15 billion in 2020; increasing crop production by 10 million tonnes, which we may come very close to this year, Mr. Speaker; increasing value-added production; making Saskatchewan a world leader in biosciences; increasing our livestock herd; and increasing irrigation capacity in the province, Mr. Speaker, to further increase our agricultural production. We've been working on many fronts to reach these growth plan targets, Mr. Speaker, through research, through market development, through trade missions, and strategic programs, many of which we partner with with the federal government. CETA will help us achieve these goals as well.

COOL in the United States, country of origin labelling, has caused significant damage to our livestock industry, Mr. Speaker, and the damage will increase dramatically over the next month or two when the new COOL rules are implemented

in the United States, if indeed they are. We need new markets to overcome the hurt that's been put on our producers by the United States of America in this COOL endeavour. CETA will increase our exports to the EU and increase demand for our animals. This is a good deal in Canada. And I don't think any jurisdiction in Canada will benefit as much as will Saskatchewan.

The NDP do not have a strong record on agriculture or in rural Saskatchewan. They closed 31 rural agricultural offices, cut extension services, eliminated the GRIP [gross revenue insurance program] program. That is, they didn't just eliminate a program, Mr. Speaker, in the ordinary sense. Well into the season in I think it was 1991 or '92 — I remember the situation very well — they discontinued the program after many producers had signed contracts to be engaged in the GRIP program for that particular growing season, leaving producers with no safety net program whatsoever.

They've increased crop insurance premiums on more than one occasion without increasing coverage. They've refused, decade after decade, to address education property tax. They cut spot loss hail insurance, Mr. Speaker, twice. They ignored agricultural disasters, both floods and droughts; blamed the federal government for all of their shortcomings; lost taxpayers' money in private investments — SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], Navigata. Don't get me started, Mr. Speaker. We don't have time. We don't have time to go through the entire list. They closed 52 rural hospitals, well in excess of 100 rural schools, ignored rural roads and highways, off-loaded costs to RMs [rural municipality] and farm families.

We're seeing the same old NDP these days, Mr. Speaker, same old NDP stuck in the past. Won't stand up for Saskatchewan. Won't stand up for farmers and ranchers. No plan for growth. No record of growth. Didn't believe in growth. Didn't believe growth was possible, which begs the question, did they want growth, Mr. Speaker? I think that's a serious question. I think the smart guys in the NDP backrooms in those days decided that prosperous people don't vote for the socialist party, Mr. Speaker, so they intentionally did not want growth. Not sure if they knew how to get it if they did want it, but they didn't want it in any event. Supporting this motion, Mr. Speaker, will go a long ways to showing that they do support agriculture these days.

Many industry stakeholders support this agreement in principle. SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] president, Dave Marit, says, and I quote, "This agreement is welcome news as it will open new markets for Saskatchewan agriculture, an industry that will be a key driver in the continued economic growth Saskatchewan is experiencing." No reference in there, Mr. Speaker, to not knowing enough details about the deal. He understands that this is an agreement in principle. And it's good for Saskatchewan, and his organization supports it.

Mr. Speaker, Harold Martens, president of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, says this: "The Saskatchewan Stock Growers have consistently supported the expansion of export markets as a strategy for ensuring the sustainability of the Canadian beef industry," said Martens. The EU deal

announced today stands as the "... high point in industry and government efforts to expand beef exports in decades." Mr. Speaker, no reference there to not knowing enough details. He understands that this is an agreement in principle. He understands that it's good for Saskatchewan, and he knows that it's good for the Saskatchewan cattle industry, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Chair, Mark Elford, said this, and I quote:

The Saskatchewan Cattleman's Association, the SCA is extremely pleased with the joint announcement by the Government of Canada and the European Union of an agreement in principle for CETA. This comprehensive economic and trade agreement is a game changer for the Saskatchewan beef industry.

Mr. Speaker, he understands as well that this is good for Saskatchewan, good for the economy, great for the beef industry, and good for agriculture. And he knows enough details of the deal to put his name forward as an endorsement of it.

Mr. Speaker, Murad Al-Katib, president of Canadian Special Crops Association said this, and I quote:

This trade agreement between Canada and the EU will give value-added Canadian pulse processors greatly improved access to this market, and give the European food sector access to suppliers from Canada who will compete on the basis of price and quality, not market-distorting tariffs.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Al-Katib understands that this deal is good for Canada. It's good for Saskatchewan. It's good for the economy. It's good for the pulse crop industry. And it's good for agriculture. He knows enough details. Murad Al-Katib has travelled around the world. He knows the industry. He knows agriculture, and he certainly knows his business, Mr. Speaker. He doesn't need more details to support this deal. He's on the record. Mr. Speaker, he understands that this is an agreement in principle, and he is very strongly in support of it.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am very pleased to support this motion, and I will not be supporting the amendment. This deal is good for our province, our farmers, our ranchers, our agricultural industry, and I encourage the NDP opposition to do the right thing regardless of the stance of their federal party and support farmers and ranchers in this province for a change by supporting this motion as well. Thank you.

[15:00]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to enter the debate here this afternoon. In fact I was listening to the minister's speech and I enjoyed a significant portion of his speech. And then I was disappointed that when we're talking about a rather historic trade agreement, one that certainly looks to benefit Saskatchewan in a significant way, that we got into the sort of silly political gamesmanship and nonsense that we heard from our agricultural minister here today.

But I am pleased to enter this debate, and I'm pleased to see the progress on the trade agreement with the European Union. Certainly that is a good thing and we, as the official opposition, Saskatchewan New Democrats, we welcome that progress. And frankly it's common sense to have stronger economic relations with the European Union and to make sure that we're allowing expansion of markets for Saskatchewan to broaden and diversify our trading partners, and certainly that's where we arrive at, bringing agreement to principle of this tentative agreement.

We recognize as well that trade with the European Union is . . . You know, when we're looking at the European Union, we're looking at democratic countries with some of the highest environmental and labour standards in the world. Certainly these are good trading partners to have and could be really important to the future of our province. It is only common sense that we'd be working to strengthen our economic relations with the European Union.

Certainly we recognize that we're quite reliant on trade with the United States, and we welcome that trade. We want to grow that trade, but it's vital for our province and for our country to broaden our markets, to expand markets and opportunity for Saskatchewan, for our province.

When we look at this actual, you know, deal, we have to recognize the opportunities it could present to Saskatchewan people and businesses who provide world-class products, who provide services second to none. And certainly that includes some of the best agricultural exports in the world, something that we are so proud of. And it's a good thing for us to seek, to open up new markets for what Saskatchewan is selling to the world.

And I think of the world-class show that's going on right now here in Regina, being Agribition, a place that brings together our globe and comes together around agriculture and showcases in an impressive way at an international show what we have to offer to the world. And I think that's one example of how we connect to a global economy.

I look as well at many of the items that are mentioned, and certainly the importance of working to open up markets for beef producers and pork producers and bison producers, making sure that we're expanding markets for our farmers and ranchers who are so important to this province, and certainly recognizing the size of that market is something that's really, really important.

So when we're looking at this deal, it's through that lens that we're looking at, and certainly it looks to be a very good deal for Saskatchewan. What we need to make sure is that we apply the . . . and ensure that all the facts are on the table, that there's appropriate due diligence, and certainly that's our motion that we've . . . or amendment that we've put forward here. But we do support the tentative agreement in principle, are proud to do so, but want to make sure of course, which would be only responsible, that the facts be on the table to the public and to legislatures across the country and to the federal parliament, making sure that all the compromises and all of the detail of that deal are known and to ensure we understand the full balance.

But certainly in chatting with many within our province and looking at what is purported out of the trade deal, we're quite pleased to welcome the benefits that could be accrued here in Saskatchewan. But we want to make sure of course that we're responsible to Saskatchewan people and to Canadians in making sure that due diligence is in place. That's our job. We're certainly, as I think the Leader of the Opposition said, we're certainly not going to be obstructionist. We're not going to be ideological, but we won't be writing a blank cheque. We've put forward a very reasonable amendment to the motion here today that states support in principle for the tentative trade deal but then also calls upon this Assembly to ensure that the proper due diligence occurs for all Saskatchewan people and all Canadians.

And that's why I'm pleased to support our amended motion:

That this House supports the agreement in principle for the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) reached by the Government of Canada and European Union and calls on legislators to undertake the appropriate due diligence to review and assess the agreement and support its swift implementation if it's confirmed to be in the best interests of Saskatchewan and Canada.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure to enter into debate here this afternoon. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's a pleasure to join the debate here today on the motion that's put before us with regards to the recently signed agreement, the Canada-European Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, Mr. Speaker.

I think first of all it's important just to frame Saskatchewan and where we are in the world, and our Premier had alluded to it a little bit with some of our volumes of trade in agriculture. But Saskatchewan does over \$32 billion worth of exports, Mr. Speaker, as a province. And that alone makes CETA an extremely significant trade deal for our province.

Increased access for Canada and more specifically, Mr. Speaker, for our province of Saskatchewan to roughly a half billion person market — that's 500 million people in the 28 countries in the European Union, Mr. Speaker — is a significant, significant move forward for trade for Canada, but again more specifically for Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, to put this in perspective, the North American Free Trade Agreement with the USA [United States of America] and Mexico represents about 440 million people, Mr. Speaker. So we're in that same type of swimming pool with half a billion people in the European Union deal, Mr. Speaker. We're in a similar environment as we are with the North American Free Trade Agreement, Mr. Speaker, and we're very well aware as to the benefits that the North American free trade deal has had to not only Canada and the US and Mexico but also Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the European market, as was alluded to earlier, is also one of the largest importing markets in the world, with a

gross domestic product of about \$17 trillion, Mr. Speaker. It's a huge market of half a billion people.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce a guest.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to grant leave?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the Health minister.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, thank you to all members for allowing leave to introduce a guest. Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery we're joined by my good friend Debra Button, the mayor of Weyburn. Debra is also the president of SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and is very involved both provincially as well as at a national level with FCM [Federation of Canadian Municipalities], Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members would join with me in welcoming Debra to her Legislative Assembly. This is I believe the second opportunity that I've had to introduce Debra, and so I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming Debra to the legislature.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the minister opposite, the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy, and welcome Her Worship Mayor Deb Button to her Assembly here today. And certainly I echo the thanks, provided by the member opposite, for her leadership here in Saskatchewan, certainly within her own community but as president of SUMA and certainly on the national stage as well. So thank you, Mayor Button. Welcome to your Assembly on behalf of the official opposition.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Support for Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (continued)

Mr. Moe: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, and welcome to Ms. Button to her Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to just back up and restate again because I feel it's very important to recognize the size of the market that is involved here that we've . . . as Canada, with the Canadian-European free trade agreement here, Mr. Speaker. Again it's half a billion people in the 28 countries in the European Union, Mr. Speaker,

half a billion people with an economy of \$17 trillion, Mr. Speaker. Also, as was noted, it's the largest agricultural importing economy in the world.

Mr. Speaker, this is an economy that we traditionally have not had access to. And on Canada's perspective but also on Saskatchewan's perspective, and more to come on that a little bit later, Mr. Speaker, but this is great strides for an exporting nation such as ours where we have \$32 billion, Mr. Speaker, of product to sell to the rest of the world.

I'd like to touch, as I go along here, Mr. Speaker, on . . . three points I'll touch on with regards to the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, Mr. Speaker, starting with some of the changes in tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers with regards to manufactured products, a touch on forest products, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to also obviously go into some of the gains that we've made in the agricultural trade end, Mr. Speaker.

To begin with, again in relation, our Saskatchewan manufacturing economy in the month of July, Mr. Speaker, we experienced a year-over-year increase of 6.3 per cent. Just in the month of July this last year, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan had \$1.3 billion, which was a record month in July of manufacturing, Mr. Speaker. So we do have manufacturing in this province, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to allude a little bit to some of the . . . somewhere where we've had success in manufacturing, and that's in shortline agricultural equipment manufacturing, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Saskatchewan's top quality farm equipment can be found improving agricultural productivity in virtually all corners of the world, Mr. Speaker, as we do export to many countries in the world. I can think of numerous shortline manufacturers that are doing that, Mr. Speaker, countries such as the United States quite obviously — as I alluded, we had a North American Free Trade Agreement there — but also countries such as Australia, Mexico. And listen to this, Mr. Speaker, we also export to some degree manufactured shortline agricultural equipment to Western Europe.

Mr. Speaker, as it comes nearly 40 per cent, 40 per cent of Western Canada's 11,000 farm and ranch implement manufacturing jobs, jobs, Mr. Speaker, are based in this province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, those are not in traditional. And when we say agriculture, that the CETA deal is good for agriculture, it's not only good for what we traditionally think is the farmer in rural Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, many of these jobs are in towns such as Langbank, Mr. Speaker, in cities like Regina, in towns of Yorkton . . . or cities of Yorkton, pardon me, Mr. Speaker, cities such as Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. Agriculture is much bigger than what has traditionally been the farmer in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It's a big industry, and it's one that affects many people that us in this Assembly represent all over on both sides, Mr. Speaker.

I would also like to draw some attention to a major farm event that is taking place as we speak, Mr. Speaker, in Hanover, Germany called Agritechnica. And it's this year, Mr. Speaker, that we have well in excess of 20 shortline manufacturers from this province of Saskatchewan that are showing their wares, as we speak, in Hanover, Germany. Mr. Speaker, this is the largest

farm show in the world, and we have a great representation by Saskatchewan's manufacturers at that show, Mr. Speaker. It's held every two years, and just two years ago, in 2011, there was 2,700 exhibitors, 415,000 visitors from over 48 countries in the world, Mr. Speaker. And it's quite expected that this mission here with the Saskatchewan manufacturers that are at that show — it was led by STEP or Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership — but it has the potential to secure up to \$75 million in sales agreements as well as over 300 new export leads, Mr. Speaker. And again I bring that that affects all communities in Saskatchewan, communities wherever you may see different manufacturing implement dealers in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. St. Brieux comes to mind with Bourgault, a great success story of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

I can think of one recent manufacturing company in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that since 2006 has had a lot of success in the North American market, with 700 per cent growth since 2006, Mr. Speaker. And as well now with this agreement, there's obviously different companies that are looking into the Western European market, and its growth will be sure to continue.

[15:15]

Mr. Speaker, as I was thinking about this motion here today, I also took the opportunity to just think a little bit of some of the travels that I undertook this last summer with the duties that I was so graciously asked to work on as my duties as Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture. In that, Mr. Speaker, I visited many, many, many different types of processing plants and value-added plants and agri-businesses across the province. As we toured these plants, I couldn't help but notice the different types of equipment, very specialized equipment that they had in their respective plants, Mr. Speaker, whether it was an ethanol or a biofuel plant or feed processing plant or an oat processing plant or a meat processing plant. These are all the different eggs we have in our agricultural basket in this province, by the way. You have a meat processing plant, Mr. Speaker, a pea processing plant, or one of our greatest value-added success stories in this province is our great canola crush that happens.

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't help but look at the specialized equipment that they had and talk to them a little bit. And a lot of this equipment, Mr. Speaker, is not just available at Wal-Mart down the road or wherever you might go to get it. It's available at one, maybe two places in the world, two factories specifically located wherever they are in the world, Mr. Speaker, many of them in Western Europe. And I couldn't help but think that, Mr. Speaker, as with regards to agriculture, also free and open trade with as many countries, Mr. Speaker, is going to help not only the supply of these types of very specialized machines but also the ongoing parts access and maintenance and whatnot may come, again keeping in mind that these are not just available everywhere. They're just available in very specific companies in specific parts of the world.

I would like to touch just a little bit on some of what was mentioned with regards to forestry in the CETA deal, Mr. Speaker. First of all most of Canada's and Saskatchewan's wood is turned into value-added products, and quite often very near to the source of the harvest. And CETA lays out how it

will eliminate financial tariffs on forestry products that are exported from Canada to the European Union. Items such as plywood, oriented strand board, particleboard, Mr. Speaker, these items face tariffs of seven to ten per cent, and those will be eliminated upon bringing in the forest CETA agreement, Mr. Speaker.

And our forest industry will benefit from the increased volume that we have as Canada into this new market, as well as the competitive edge that CETA will provide for our entire forestry sector. And a larger sale market for our forestry products will enhance the industry — not just the company, but for the people that are employed within that company and live in those communities, Mr. Speaker, people that are employed in the mill or in the plant or in the yard site, in the forest or in the cutblocks themselves or in the transport of the industry, and whether that be of the raw product to the mill or the plant, Mr. Speaker, or the finished product out to a delivery port or wherever that may be.

I'd also like to add that again in this industry, Mr. Speaker, it affects much more than the people that are directly involved in the work of those plants or in the cutblocks or in the yard. I think of the forestry equipment dealerships, Mr. Speaker, that are in the different, smaller city centres and also in our larger cities in Saskatchewan. I think of all their sales employment that they provide and all the people that work in their parts dealerships. These are professional careers, Mr. Speaker, that are valuable to our province.

I think of the service managers and all the people that work in the service department of the forestry dealers, Mr. Speaker, as well as all of the administration jobs that come with that. And I think of all of those same varied careers, Mr. Speaker, in those same communities in the heavy truck industry and the trailer industry that provide equipment that work in the forestry sector. There's no doubt that expanding our markets for forestry, Mr. Speaker, will benefit not just the people that live in the communities where forestry takes place but in all of our communities across Saskatchewan, and it would be a very, very big benefit for again the people that we represent in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, lastly but definitely not least, I would like to enter a few comments with regards to agriculture and our comprehensive economic free trade agreement with the European Union.

Again I back up, Mr. Speaker, to our in excess of \$32 billion in exports that we have here in Saskatchewan. And again, as was mentioned earlier, a third of those are agricultural exports. Mr. Speaker, it has been no secret on the agricultural end — on the export piece altogether — but we support more open, more free, more free trade, and more trade in general with whoever is interested in our Saskatchewan products. And that definitely holds true with our agricultural industry.

A little over a month ago, our Premier announced that Saskatchewan will host an agricultural trade summit. This is a great opportunity to bring together producers, businesses, trade experts, industry, and government officials to discuss international trade, to discuss market access, and to discuss how to increase Saskatchewan's agricultural exports worldwide.

In 2011 Saskatchewan was again Canada's largest exporting province. And it was alluded to a little earlier, Mr. Speaker, with regards to when you talk percentages of agricultural exports in Saskatchewan, we talk about percentages of world market share. And, Mr. Speaker, I need to run through a couple of them; they have been entered in this House before, but it's quite exciting when we get to do it.

When we talk about lentils, Mr. Speaker, 61 per cent of the world's lentils exports come from this province, Mr. Speaker. Fifty-seven per cent of pea exports in the world come from this province, 55 per cent of flax, 34 per cent of both durum and canola seed exports come from Saskatchewan, and 40 per cent of the world's mustard exports. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is also a leading provincial Canadian exporter in wheat, canola seed, lentils, canola oil, peas, canola meal, flax seed, oats, barley, canary seed, mustard seed, and chickpeas. Our province leads the nation in those exports, Mr. Speaker.

And I just want to run through a couple of countries here. Saskatchewan itself exports over \$100 million worth of agricultural products to each of these countries, Mr. Speaker: United States, China, Mexico, India, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Italy, Belgium — I'll come back to Belgium — Sri Lanka, Turkey, Venezuela, Algeria, Colombia, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Morocco.

What I notice about that listing of countries, Mr. Speaker, is there is one EU country on there, and that's Belgium. Mr. Speaker, our upside potential of free trade with the European Union is great. We have 27 more that we can increase up to these levels, as well as increasing our trade with Belgium.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we are doing just over \$100 million worth of trade with all of those countries. One of them is an EU country. And as I alluded to earlier, that market is 500 million people, \$17 trillion, Mr. Speaker. The upside potential in that market is there — \$17 trillion.

One thing I would like to allude to as well that I see in the principle of the CETA deal, Mr. Speaker, is we talk about the financial trade tariffs that are there. And I think very much, in a very large way the CETA deal addresses those financial trade tariffs. But if you actually look into some of the print on there, there's also — and just let me find it here — here's where it is, Mr. Speaker:

CETA enhances the existing Canada-EU forum for discussion on biotechnology and emphasizes the promotion of efficient science-based approval processes [efficient science-based approval process, Mr. Speaker] and cooperation on low-level presence of genetically modified crops . . .

CETA also includes provisions to address non-tariff barriers in the EU, such as those related to animal and plant health, and food safety.

Mr. Speaker, so in addition to CETA addressing the financial tariffs that prevent us from trading in these markets, Mr. Speaker, CETA also puts a mechanism in place or a process in place to deal with the non-financial trade barriers, Mr. Speaker, that sometimes have a tendency to pop up here, there, and

everywhere, complete with time limits, Mr. Speaker, time limits to find a resolution on those. And in closing, I'm going to talk about those just a little bit more.

I think that, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the CETA deal, the fact that it does deal with these financial tariffs but it also has a second part of it that deals with the non-financial trade barriers, I think that may prove to be the real strength of the CETA deal, Mr. Speaker. Both are important, and I'm glad to see that both are included in there.

Mr. Speaker, this House supporting this agreement in principle, Mr. Speaker, is a common theme. It's a common theme, Mr. Speaker, and it's one that industry has picked up with. The industry groups, industry organizations, Mr. Speaker, industry organizations that are not just related to agriculture as I alluded before, but industry organizations that we all represent in this House, Mr. Speaker — whether it be in the manufacturing industry, in the processing industry — all under the agricultural envelope but, Mr. Speaker, from all of our communities across Saskatchewan, and these industry groups are supporting this agreement in principle.

And the Minister of Agriculture read a couple of news releases that came that were released with regards to CETA, and I just have a couple more quotes here that I'd like to read. I'd like to put them on the record because I feel they're important.

Mr. Speaker, first of all from the Western Canadian Wheat Growers, Mr. Levi Wood is the president of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers, and in their news release, this was in their news release: "Western Canadian farmers currently export about 70% of their wheat." Mr. Speaker, this fits with our \$32 billion, a third being agriculture. We export a lot of wheat. This should come as no surprise to anyone in this House.

Another 15% is sold to Canadian livestock producers. The deal with Europe will expand market opportunities for grain and oilseed exports, but even more importantly will lead to the growth in sales of the domestic feed market.

Mr. Speaker, the wheat growers have faith that this is not only a good deal for them, but it's a good deal for our cow-calf, our hog, and our bison industry, Mr. Speaker.

He goes on to say, Mr. Speaker, and this is Mr. Levi Wood, president of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers: "Overall, the CETA deal is a tremendous win for prairie grain farmers," Mr. Speaker. That's the Western Canadian Wheat Growers.

Go on to the Canola Council. I can stand here all day, but I'll just do a few. Mr. Speaker, Canola Council of Canada, the president, Patti Miller:

CETA provides for the elimination of tariffs on canola entering the EU immediately upon implementation of the agreement. The Canola Council estimates that this will provide the opportunity for exporters to increase sales by up to \$90 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, that's 90 million in exports that we have not had, again going into this half billion person, \$17 trillion market. Mr. Speaker, I had alluded before to the financial tariffs as well as

the non-financial trade barriers that are existent. The Canola Council has also made note of this, Mr. Speaker:

CETA will also include a vehicle for cooperation on issues relating to biotechnology and trade. A biotechnology working group is tasked under the agreement to address the timeliness of approvals of genetically engineered products, science-based policy and regulation and development of low level presence policy. "This is a critically important area affecting our trade," says Miller . . .

"Canada is an exporting nation and when it comes to canola and canola products, we export over 85% of our production. So this agreement, which eliminates tariffs and creates mechanisms to resolve trade disputes, [Mr. Speaker] is a big step forward."

That's the Canola Council of Canada.

Rick White from the Canola Growers Association:

CETA will improve market access for Canadian canola to one of the world's largest markets. By lowering oil tariffs, the exports of Canadian . . . oil to Europe will increase [again, Mr. Speaker] by approximately \$90 million, creating a new demand for canola seed to feed our [ever] expanding oilseed crushing capacity.

Mr. Speaker, the grain crops production end in Saskatchewan is excited about this. And I might add again that that does add back into the ag equipment dealership industry, Mr. Speaker, into the service industry, into the fertilizer industry, Mr. Speaker, of which people in work in all of those industries live in all of our communities across Canada. All of our crop associations, Mr. Speaker, these crop associations support this agreement in principle, Mr. Speaker. And I'm going to ask everyone in this House to do the same shortly.

Mr. Speaker, President Martin Unrau from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association announced today that this is a game . . . or not today, Mr. Speaker, but the day of the press release, my apologies. President Martin Unrau from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association announced that this:

. . . is a game-changer for Canada's beef industry . . . The removal of longstanding barriers in this agreement, such as high tariffs, finally enables Canadian beef producers to benefit from the high value that the European . . . market represents.

Mr. Speaker, and again, we talk about financial tariffs versus non-financial tariffs, Mr. Unrau goes on:

As important as the new tariff conditions are, resolution of the technical barriers for exporting Canadian beef to Europe are also vital . . . for the first time, there's a written commitment between Canada and the EU, including a timetable, to resolve such technical barriers.

Mr. Speaker, Canadian Cattlemen's Association is in support of principle of this agreement.

[15:30]

Stock Growers, Saskatchewan Stock Growers, as our Minister of Agriculture eluded to as well, are supportive of this agreement. And the president of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers noted the EU has imposed a quota which limited combined Canadian and US imports to 14 950 tonnes annually at a 20 per cent duty rate. Under the new comprehensive economic trade agreement, the duty is reduced to zero on the Canadian beef imports and has been increased to 64 950 tonnes per year.

Mr. Speaker, that's the Saskatchewan Stock Growers.

So in addition to securing . . . Oh, Mr. Speaker, sorry. I've got a new one here, but it'll be my last one for now. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Pork Council of Canada, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a couple of quotes out of the Canadian Pork Council of Canada:

In addition to securing free access for processed pork products on the day this new agreement takes effect, Canada will acquire a quota volume equivalent to over 80 000 tonnes of pork cuts.

"The pork industry appreciates the government pursuing our access interests to the very end. [That's from the Canadian Pork Council's chair, Jean-Guy Vincent, Mr. Speaker.] The Canadian and EU markets for pork complement each other and this relationship holds great potential to enhance our sector's export opportunities, as well as benefit workers, businesses, and families who rely on the pork sector for their livelihood."

I just want to read that last part again there, Mr. Speaker, ". . . as well as benefit workers, businesses and families who rely on the pork sector for their livelihood," Mr. Speaker. This CETA deal, Mr. Speaker, affects families and people in all communities across Saskatchewan, and it's a good deal for Saskatchewan.

I'm just going to jump to the end of their press release, Mr. Speaker. Oh I've got to go back a bit here. Again, still with the Canadian Pork Council:

Based on existing market intelligence and the anticipated market opportunities for specific cuts of pork, this deal could, in a very few short years, lead to annual sales of 400 million dollars.

\$400 million in sales that have not been there, Mr. Speaker. The press release goes on to say:

Canada is the third largest pork exporter in the world. The EU is the only important pork-consuming market for which the Canadian pork industry has had . . . [any] real access with a population of 500 million people consuming over 20 million tonnes of pork.

Mr. Speaker, and we haven't had access to that market in Canada and, Mr. Speaker, now we will. Now we will.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to allude to the fact that I will not be supporting the amendment as I do find it

unnecessary, Mr. Speaker. If you go back and read the actual motion, the motion isn't asking for support on every detail of the deal that is soon to come. The motion is asking, and I'll read it: "That this House supports the agreement in principle . . ." Mr. Speaker, not every detail down the road. We're supporting this:

. . . in principle for the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement reached by the Government of Canada and the European Union and calls on all federal parties to support the swift implementation of the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, it's good enough for all these organizations representing people with jobs across this province, Mr. Speaker. It's good enough for me, and on behalf of our constituents in this province, I will be supporting this motion, Mr. Speaker, and not the amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I just wanted to rise and make a few comments on this motion. I've had the opportunity of hearing the comments of the Minister of Agriculture and the Legislative Secretary for Agriculture and, Mr. Speaker, they both made very, very good speeches about the status of agriculture in Saskatchewan and in Canada and all the good work that our producers are doing here in Saskatchewan. And I think both made very good speeches about the status of agriculture of Canada and the need for a trade agreement with the European Union.

And certainly we know that the European Union is already our third largest trading partner, but this kind of agreement will bring us up to a much larger volume of trade with the European Union, and certainly I think there's no question on this side of the House that we do support the agreement in principle for the comprehensive economic and trade agreement.

And if the motion had only read that, I think there would have been no need to suggest that we have an amendment to the existing motion. But unfortunately the motion went on, and what it did is it calls upon federal parties to support swift implementation of the agreement. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that's a very important distinction that perhaps the Minister of Agriculture and the Legislative Secretary haven't had time to amply consider. I mean certainly they had very long speeches prepared for them that they were able to share with this Assembly. But for example the Minister of Agriculture's speech, only one page dealt with the actual details of the agreement, and that was some projected figures on numbers. But there was no information provided at all in either of their speeches about the actual details of the agreement. And you know why, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Because there are none.

And what's been said about this agreement today, and certainly what the New Democrats have said, is that when it comes to trade agreements, we know that details matter. And I think the COOL issue that we're dealing with right now, the country of origin labelling issues that we're dealing with the United States, is a good example of where details do matter. And until such time, I think it would be irresponsible for us as legislators to support swift implementation of the agreement if we haven't

had a chance to actually look at the details of the agreement.

We know that the Conservatives have kept the details hush-hush. There hasn't been transparency or accountability for the negotiations. Parliament has been kept in the dark and so have Canadians. And this is the issue I think that we feel that the suggested amendment would rectify in terms of the motion that's before the Assembly today. We know that talks were concluded in secret for this agreement, and even though a deal has been announced, we do not have the details of this deal or the text of the agreement. So it would be irresponsible for us as legislators to just wave a flag, and when the federal government says, trust us, that we immediately say, rah-rah, we're on side.

Why would we trust this federal government, Mr. Deputy Speaker? This is the same government that eliminated the single desk for the Canadian Wheat Board. They've eliminated the PFRA [Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration]. They've eliminated the community pastures program. They've eliminated the Indian Head tree nursery. They've eliminated hundreds of positions for food safety inspectors. And the Minister of Agriculture referred to a long list that he had. There's long lists that we have here too, concerns about this federal government. And when the federal government says, trust us, I think that's cause for alarm.

And that's why the amendment to this motion is so important, Mr. Deputy Speaker. What the federal government is asking us to do, and the original motion is asking us to do, is to simply trust the federal government, to sign a blank cheque. And we know that as legislators, that is irresponsible. We need to ensure that proper accountability and transparency is in place. But this government, with the motion as it now stands without the amendment, shows again it's not listening and it's being stubborn. It's sticking to its scripts and it's not actually thinking through the implications of the motion and of the amendment that's been put forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I certainly agree with the long lists of endorsements that both the Minister of Agriculture and the Legislative Secretary for Agriculture provided — the cattlemen's association, stock growers. I mean if this agreement goes through, we agree that better trade with Europe is important for the producers of Saskatchewan. We support the producers of Saskatchewan. We know they're working hard and they're doing their part in order to make Saskatchewan's economy thrive.

We know Saskatchewan stands to benefit a lot from this agreement, and that's why we do support the agreement in principle. We have no issue with that whatsoever. The biggest concern and the reason why we feel the motion needs to be amended is to ensure that as legislators we do our job, which is to look at the details and make sure it's in the best interests of Saskatchewan and Canada.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can't understand why the government is not interested in ensuring that due diligence is done and that we make sure it's in the best interests across the board. We cannot do that until we see the text of the agreement. And for that reason, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do support the motion, but only as amended by the opposition. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I'd like to recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is an important topic that we're debating in the legislature today and I think that I'm most anxious to participate because of the way this agreement will positively impact my own constituents.

I know there's going to be a much bigger story for the province of Saskatchewan, but I want to recite a story as part of the discussion here today that might help put this into perspective. A couple of weeks ago I was at the regional meeting of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association held in Piapot. And it was just after Tyson Foods in the United States had announced that it wouldn't be buying large numbers of Canadian fat cattle because of the implications of cost for their organization to put into place the COOL provisions, the country of origin labelling provisions. And there was an air of pessimism in the room because Tyson is probably the third largest purchaser of Canadian cattle any given year, and with them out of the market, it would have a pretty serious and negative effect for my producers.

I think that the best response I could give those people that night in terms of encouragement was the fact that I know — and I knew at the time — that the Government of Canada was in the process of working very aggressively to conclude a comprehensive trade agreement with the European Union. I also know that we are in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and trying to tap in through that trade agreement . . . or that group, trade agreements that are making our product much more available in increasingly wealthy areas of Southeast Asia where economies are strong, unless of course they're devastated by typhoons.

But there is a growing opportunity for Canadian cattle producers in some of these growing economies in Southeast Asia. We've identified north Africa, the Middle East, some of those areas where there's increasing opportunity. And really our best opportunities are going to be realized through these kinds of comprehensive trade agreements. If we're out there on our own, battling everybody else without the benefit of a trade agreement, it's going to be tough slugging. But Canada has had a particularly aggressive stance on initiating and negotiating and implementing trade agreements. And this is one of the more important ones, I must say, that has come to fruition as a result of that deliberate strategy.

The Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, known as CETA, is going to have some very specific, positive effects for my producers. And I'm just going to recite a few of them. A lot of statistics, a lot of numbers have been put before the House already today, and I don't want to belabour a lot of that. But here's why it's going to be good for my beef producers.

Canada has secured duty-free, in-quota access for beef totalling 50 000 tonnes carcass weight. Seventy per cent of the quota — that's 35 000 tonnes — is dedicated to fresh, chilled product, while 15 000 tonnes is for frozen product. In addition, once the agreement is implemented, Canada will have immediate duty-free, in-quota access under the existing Hilton quota for high-quality beef. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we raise some of the highest quality beef in the world. This will put Canada at an

advantage, a clear advantage over our US competitors who will continue to have an in-quota duty of 20 per cent.

Now, Deputy Speaker, our loss of access to the American market through the Tyson decision could be compensated quite significantly by this advantage we're going to obtain of 20 per cent over American beef trying to get into the European market.

In terms of pork access, Canada has secured immediate, duty-free, in-quota access of over 81 000 tonnes. The quota is available to both fresh and frozen product.

Now the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the Canadian Pork Council have both indicated that they support this level of access, while there's going to be some opposition from dairy producers, I'm sure, who will probably oppose the agreement. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this agreement is no different than any other agreement at an international level. There's going to be some industries that probably would benefit a little more than others. There's going to be some that will maybe lose a little bit more than others.

But I'm reminded of my days selling farm machinery when I worked for an elderly dealership . . . I mean an elderly gentleman who owned the dealership. And his experience was put pretty succinctly one day when I was talking about a deal that I'd put together and it didn't seem the customer was all that happy and I certainly wasn't very happy. And my boss said to me, you know, I've come to understand that if two parties negotiate a deal and they both leave a little bit angry, it was probably a pretty fair deal. If everybody is happy, well that might not be quite so good. And if one party's happier than the other is, that's not good at all. So we'd rather have people go away from a deal who thought they didn't get everything they wanted, because it's probably pretty fair.

And so that's the way it is. That's the reality for these international trade agreements. Not everybody gets everything they want, but they understand that the fundamentals are strong, and overall the benefit will be greater than if they had no deal at all.

[15:45]

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what else is accomplished by this on behalf of particularly Saskatchewan producers? Well other highlights of the agreement include the immediate elimination of tariffs on canola oil. How important could that possibly be to us? We are the largest producer of canola in the world, and canola oil is one of our major exports. And so to remove the tariffs on canola oil in a market as large as the one in Europe is an incredibly important provision.

Immediate duty-free, in-quota access for 3000 tonnes of carcass weight for bison. Now we have a number of bison producers in the province of Saskatchewan. I'm not sure we have the capacity to produce the full 3000 tonnes as yet, but that will happen. As a result of an agreement like this, there will be a growth in the bison industry, I'm sure.

Canada has also secured immediate duty-free, in-quota access for low- to medium-quality wheat for 100 000 tonnes. Now 100 000 tonnes might not sound like much, but when you have

a lot of low-quality wheat lying around after a year where weather conditions have impacted your high-quality growth, well having a market and an access opportunity like this is going to be important. Current tariffs for grains are going to be phased out entirely over seven years.

Canada and the EU have also agreed to letters on technical issues regarding biotechnology and meat issues. Mr. Deputy Speaker, of all the provisions in this comprehensive agreement, I think this might be one of the most important because there have been non-monetary trade barriers thrown up time and time again in our access to markets, both in Europe and other areas of the world, that need a solid foundation for agreement. And this particular agreement will provide that on biotechnology and meat issues. There will be definitions around certain words and diseases and things that have been utilized to keep our product out of Europe. And this an important part of establishing a comprehensive and understandable liturgy around what's acceptable and what isn't. So that's very important to our producers in this country.

I want to read into the record a couple of things here because I think it states very importantly and succinctly the value of this agreement to the province of Saskatchewan:

The Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will bring benefits to every region of the country [and our province]. It will unlock new opportunities by opening new markets for Canadian businesses and creating new jobs for Canadian workers. CETA is a 21st century gold-standard agreement and is Canada's most ambitious trade initiative ever.

We used to think the NAFTA agreement was important, and it has been, and I'm going to cite some statistics that have grown out of that particular arrangement, but this is that much more important. It is broader in scope than NAFTA and deeper in ambition than the historic NAFTA agreement.

Canada's historical and cultural ties with the EU make it an ideal partner for a comprehensive and ambitious free trade agreement. The EU, with its 28 member states, 500 million people and annual economic activity of almost \$17 trillion, is the largest and most lucrative market in the world. It's also the world's largest importing market for goods: the EU's annual imports (\$2.3 trillion) are worth more than Canada's total gross domestic product, which stood at \$1.8 trillion in 2012. Reducing and eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers will make Canadian goods, technologies, and expertise more competitive in the lucrative EU market and benefit businesses of all sizes, as well as workers and their families.

A joint Canada-EU study, which supported the launch of negotiations, concluded that a trade agreement could boost Canada's income by \$12 billion annually and bilateral trade by [up to] 20 per cent. Put another way, the economic benefit of a far-reaching agreement would be equivalent to creating almost 80,000 new jobs or increasing the . . . Canadian household's annual income by \$1,000 a year.

This is like adding over half the total number of jobs currently found in the city of Saskatoon. Those are pretty impressive and

important numbers, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And as a person who comes out of a sales background, there is nothing more important than having a substantial market in which to sell. I mean if you're running all over trying to find a customer here, there, and everywhere, you spend a lot of time unproductively. But if you've got a large and engaged market and a financially secure market, a market that's willing to spend money to buy your products concentrated in an area as confined as the European common market, that is to our advantage as the selling agent. And so that's what's going to make this whole initiative so valuable to us as a province and a country.

You know, I think there's been a lot made of the number of products Saskatchewan produces and how important that is, you know, on the world market in terms of scale. We last year had farm market sales of a little over \$11 billion, and we have a target of \$15 billion that we want to accomplish in agriculture-related production. I think the goal is to reach that by 2020. Well we're going to need these kind of comprehensive trade agreements to help us realize that goal.

And that effort is well under way in a variety of initiatives that were articulated by the Minister of Agriculture early. We're trying to find improved species. We're doing a lot of work around research. We're doing a lot of work around market and transportation and the development of markets. But man, an agreement that puts us in the middle of 500 million people is a pretty important part of our long-term success. And that again would suggest that an agreement like this is so very vital to the province of Saskatchewan.

I think my colleague from Shellbrook identified a number of organizations and individuals who have already spoken clearly about what they see as the value of this agreement. They don't know all the details. They aren't privy to every last jot and tittle. They haven't seen every i dotted and every t crossed, but they know that the fundamentals of this agreement are going to be very important to their industries, and they've already articulated their support.

That support is coming from the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, from the Stock Growers Association, from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. It's very widespread, particularly though from organizations that represent rural interests, and they are fully onside with so much of what is in this agreement, and I'm glad to have their support.

I guess I could read some of the quotes, but I'm not going to do that in the interest of time. But one of the questions I know will come up is, you know, how do you know all of these great outcomes will really be achieved? Well you know, we're not certain about anything in this life. But if you don't try, if you don't put something in place, if you don't move toward a goal and an objective, you probably aren't going to achieve much.

And so what is my reason for confidence in this particular agreement? Well I think I would refer again to the NAFTA agreement. I remember the uproar that was created when that was being negotiated, and if the naysayers had had their way, you know, we'd have pulled down the blinds, closed the doors, and stayed in our dark, little room. But unfortunately . . . The light of day was realized because of this agreement.

NAFTA has done more for the North American economy than anybody ever anticipated. It actually revolutionized trade and investment in North America. It helped unlock our regions' economic potential. And since it came into effect 15 years ago, North Americans have enjoyed an overall extended period of strong economic growth and rising prosperity, interrupted only by an episode in 2008-2009 that was foisted on us by the greed of some individuals.

But nevertheless NAFTA as a whole has had some pretty significant impact on our economy provincially. What has happened here? I think the Premier cited some of the results of NAFTA on Saskatchewan. I know what it is nationally. We've seen Canada's trade with the US more than triple. Since NAFTA came into effect, merchandise trade among the NAFTA partners has tripled right across the board, in fact more so. It's reached a total of \$946.1 billion in 2008. So now we're at 2013, so we can probably add a few more billions to that number.

Today NAFTA partners exchange over \$2.6 billion in merchandise on a daily basis. Heck, we do that with the Americans almost on a daily basis. So we have to add in Mexico's contribution to that as well. Since NAFTA came into effect, the North American economy has more than doubled in size. The combined gross domestic product for Canada, the US, and Mexico surpassed US \$17 trillion in 2008 and that was up from \$7.6 trillion in 1993.

North America employment levels have climbed nearly 23 per cent since 1993, representing a net gain of almost 40 million jobs. People tell you in their most pessimistic moments that a free trade agreement can't be good — can't be good for us. Well you know what? The evidence over the last number of years has been quite to the contrary.

I want to talk to you a little bit just briefly about Mexico's experience. Mexico is a very important player in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Everybody thought they were such a wounded duck socially and economically that they couldn't possibly benefit much, that it would be a drag on the North American Free Trade Agreement because of their problems. But you know, early on in that North American Free Trade Agreement, Mexico determined that they would play an important part, that they needed success because of the poverty of their people. They needed to lift themselves up through this trade initiative. And it has gone gangbusters.

Now I can recite a bunch of statistics from Mexico's trade liberalization experience, but here's something very few people know. When we talk generally about successful third-level economies, we talk about the BRIC nations: Brazil, Russia, India, and China. We hold them up as examples of great growing economies outside of the industrialized first world. Well last year the economy of Mexico produced results twice as strong as the nation of Brazil. Mexico, twice as strong economically from a GDP percentage as Brazil, we don't hear much about that.

But what has happened in Mexico is an incredible indication of how a country that liberalizes its trade laws can benefit. Mexico has as a result become the car capital of North America. Mexico sends more cars and car parts and vehicle parts as a group into

the US economy than Canada does now. Mexico has become the western headquarters for Volkswagen. Mexico exports more Volkswagens to North America destinations, to China and Southeast Asia than any other area.

Mexico has seen its growth propelled by a number of free trade agreements. In fact in their effort to increase trade with other countries, Mexico has a total of 12 free trade agreements involving 44 different countries. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think my research might be wrong. I believe that Mexico has probably got about 20 free trade agreements now. But they have utilized that form of opportunity to transform their economy. And we're finding Mexico as one of the bright lights of the free trade world simply because of the results that we have seen accrue to that economy as a result of this very deliberate undertaking.

Since Mexico began trade liberalization in the early 1990s, its trade with the world has risen rapidly, with exports increasing more rapidly than imports. Mexico's exports to all countries increased 475 per cent between 1994 and 2011. That resulted in \$350 billion worth of activity. We could learn something from Mexico and the experience that they've had as a result of their free trade undertakings.

Now if Chicken Little were alive today, he would best be represented by quotes from former Premier Roy Romanow. We have about three pages of quotes here that I'm going to share with the House today because this would indicate the kind of mentality that existed at the time of the North American free trade conversation. "Mr. Romanow called the trade deal a 'betrayal' of the resource interests of western Canada." That was quoted in the *Toronto Star* in October 1988. Mr. Romanow said, "We're never again going to have a Canadian policy for oil and natural gas." Never again.

... 'the free trade deal places in jeopardy the essence of Canada.' [He said] There are fundamental differences between Canada and the U.S. but the trade deal 'puts these differences at risk' and 'will impose sooner or later the American dream. That's not the Canadian dream.'

[16:00]

And he said:

This in our judgement is the first step of a form of economic union. It's a union with a foreign country whose basic rationale and operation is that of a marketplace, market-driven economy only.

What a shame. What a shame. You know he said further in *Hansard*, June 23rd, 1988:

... I say to the people of Saskatchewan, mark my words, if you like the kind of society that we've built, understand that we have built it because we've had the constitutional authority to do it and the political parties with a will to do it. Understand that if you want that society sometimes built in the future again so that we can be great again, understand that section 6 in the free trade deal raise major risks which 10 or 15 years from now may make this province and this country a satellite to the Americans —

as I say, not the worst fate that could befall us, but not the Canadian fate.

I think history, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has proven the former premier wrong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I've used up my time, and I know there are others yet who want to participate in this debate. But I do want to conclude by referring to our motion here as read into the record by the Premier earlier this afternoon. I noticed that it talks about this House supporting the agreement in principle — not in detail, not in specifics — in principle. I notice that the amendment produced by the official opposition wants more detail, more study, more consultation. You know, once again it's kind of indicative of the NDP. They're so process oriented that they'd rather make sure that the whole thing was drug out longer and longer and longer so we could understand all of the minutiae of the transaction. I think that as usual the NDP are more interested in process than they are in results.

This is a government that is results oriented. This is a government that achieves results. This is a government that sets targets and goes after them. I alluded earlier to our plan to raise agricultural exports from the \$11 billion level to \$15 billion in a very aggressive time frame.

You know, if you don't set targets, it's really hard to achieve increased and improved results. And so I just feel that this amendment put forward by the NDP is really counterproductive to the needs and the requirements and the benefits that will accrue to the people of Saskatchewan.

I couldn't help but notice though that they issued a press release saying that they were going to amend the motion and it's titled, "NDP to amend motion, support European trade deal in principle." That's the same words that this motion says. It reads, "... this House supports the agreement in principle ...". Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't understand the difference. If you can support the amendment, you can surely support the original motion. And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I won't be supporting the amendment. I will be in full support of the motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to introduce a guest.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce a very special guest that travelled a long ways. He lives in the same community as I do. He's an avid curler. He's also an avid hockey player. Not as good as I am, but certainly he's A for effort but a big fat F for skill. He's our local high school principal. His name is Vincent Ahenakew, and he's here today to visit the Assembly.

And I'd like to make an extra effort today to recognize him and to welcome him to his Assembly, and to point out that I've got a very big family back home, and he's one of my favourite cousins, one of the many hundreds of cousins I have. And about the only flaw in Vincent's career, whether it would be sport or education or being the principal, is that he cheers for the Boston Bruins. And I remember the first time he met with the minister of the municipal services, which he mentioned that, isn't that the fellow that cheers for the Boston Bruins? That was the first thing he mentioned to me. But I would ask all the members of the Assembly to welcome Mr. Ahenakew to his Assembly today. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Support for Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (continued)

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to get up to speak to this particular motion and the amended motion. Progress on a trade agreement with Europe is good news for all Canadians, and I personally, and I know our party supports this agreement in principle.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Why is the member from Greystone on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much. Mr. Speaker, to ask for leave for the introduction of a guest.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Greystone.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite and the member for Saskatoon Fairview. During our consultations, we were able to meet with Principal Ahenakew and a number of others in Ile-a-la-Crosse, and it was a great day. We appreciate his presence here today, and we just wanted to make sure that we add the government voice to a warm welcome for his presence in his Assembly today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Support for Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (continued)

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you. As I was saying, I'm pleased to stand here and support the agreement in principle that has been

reached with the European Union around trade, the comprehensive agreement.

It's important that we work together with our European partners. It's also important to understand some of the changes that have happened over the last I guess it's 60 years now, since the Second World War, as it relates to trade. All of us in Canada know that our role and our place in the Commonwealth was very much an important part of our trade internationally for many years. That changed quite dramatically with the North American Free Trade Agreement, and I'll speak to that in a second. But we also need to remember that prior to that time, much of our economic activity in Canada came from Great Britain and from other members of the Commonwealth, but primarily Great Britain.

And so one of the changes that happened in Europe when the European Union was created about 40 years ago was the fact that the trade relations for Britain were quite different than what we in Canada had traditionally been involved with. And so part of the importance of this agreement that we're in the process of negotiating with Europe right now is that it will allow for the re-establishment of many of the Canada-Great Britain long-time traditional trade relationships in addition to the access to the markets of 28 countries and 500 million people.

Now it's quite interesting how long the Premier talked about NAFTA and the negotiations and things that happened there, because one of the differences between the discussion about CETA and NAFTA is that the NAFTA discussion and negotiation was a very open process. And as an open process it then did have many very detailed discussions right across the country, and some of those were quite acrimonious, but they were discussions. And so people had a pretty good understanding of what was in that agreement. Unfortunately now with this particular agreement, we still don't have the details of the agreement. In the NAFTA negotiations we would have had contracts or clauses or things to talk about so that we could look at some very specific things. And, Mr. Speaker, this is the fundamental question today when we're looking at the motion from the Premier and then our amendment.

Now it was quite interesting to follow a machinery salesman — and I emphasize the word salesman — in his speech. And he didn't attribute to where he read a great big chunk of his speech, but I happen to have the text in my hands. And it comes from the action plan of the federal government, and basically he just read what the federal government says about this agreement.

Now it's good information, but it's very similar to buying something by looking at the brochure. And one of the ways that I have been trained personally as a lawyer is, yes, you look at the brochure. You look at the salesman's discussion when you're buying a house or when you're buying a car or something else. But you also look at the detail of what you're going to sign and how much money you're going to spend.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's the fundamental question today. The people of Saskatchewan expect every member in this House to do their due diligence and understand what it is that we will be committing for on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. And I say those words very specifically because I know that the Europeans, when they started the discussion

about CETA, they said to the Canadian government, we're not going to negotiate with just the federal government. We know that under the Canadian constitution, trade is an activity that is both federal and provincial. And so we're not going to negotiate just with federal officials on this. You have to have provincial officials here.

Now the curious thing for me today was, there must be more information that the provincial government has about this agreement than what was presented today in this Assembly, or there should be more information than what was presented today in this Assembly. And, Mr. Speaker, the question becomes, what was the role of the negotiators that Saskatchewan sent forward into the negotiations? I know there's a joke that's been described that when the Canadian team went over with the federal government and the provincial officials they could fill a European Airbus. When the European negotiators came back to Ottawa they could fill a Challenger jet. And so it was this kind of a sense of the Canadian team was a big team of people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the questions that are raised here today relate to that specificity or those concerns about what the text will actually say. And, Mr. Speaker, we have more information with the announcement from the Prime Minister that we had two months ago, but there still are quite a number of questions around what the actual clauses are and what specific things need to be negotiated over the next couple of years.

Now I'd like to thank a good Saskatchewan product and a good Saskatchewan diplomat, Colin Robertson from Regina, who is now in Toronto — and he's a former diplomat for the Canadian government — for some of the comments and questions that I'm going to raise here. But he makes the point that there's a lot of give and take in what happens in any negotiation. Now what we do know since the comments that Colin wrote in June last year when things were a little bit dicey about the CETA negotiations is that we have answers on some questions, at least generally. We don't have the specific terms, and that's the question for all of us is, what are the specific terms?

So we know in general idea what the patent protection for pharmaceuticals is, but we don't totally know what the cost of that is going to be to the province or to Canadians in general. We've got some of the limits around sales of pork and beef into Europe, also bison. And we have some idea of what we've had to give on the cheese and dairy import sides, but we don't know what the exemptions are. We don't know what some of the very specific clauses are. And we all know from what's happened with NAFTA over the years that that's the area where there are some very specific, have been specific concerns, whether it's the country of origin labelling issue or some of the other technical things that have been allowed with the Americans.

[16:15]

Now one of the solutions to that in the CETA agreement, at least in name — we haven't seen the text for it yet — but is something called the Canada-EU regulatory co-operation forum which will facilitate dialogue between authorities around regulations. And I know how crucial something like that can be and it goes right to the heart of the dispute resolution mechanisms within the CETA agreement.

Now it may be that the Premier or the Government of Saskatchewan has more information about this than they've presented here and they're not allowed to tell us. Maybe they could tell us at least that much. But right now what we have is, you know, reading basically the press release from the action plan of the federal government as to detail.

Another question that has more specificity to it now than it did in June is the terms around government procurement. In other words, how much of our Canadian government purchasing can be allowed for European firms and vice versa? Now clearly their market is much, much bigger than ours, so we will have access with some of our businesses bidding into the European Union. So that's a good thing. But we also then need to know what these terms are.

Another question which I'm not sure is resolved relates to oil sands products and what kind of restrictions the European Union may place on products like that. I know it's been a political issue in Europe. And clearly it will be a political issue for us in Western Canada because we are concerned about making sure our products are treated fairly on a worldwide standard. And that's an area where there has been quite a bit of debate. So does the provincial government have detail on that? If they do, we'd sure like to hear about it.

There are a number of issues related to financial services. And we know, given some of the debt issues throughout the European Union, that some of our Canadian protections have stood us in good stead over the last six, seven, eight years. Are there going to be changes in this agreement that affect how we regulate our financial services industry? That's, I think, something that would be in the text. We need to know an answer about that.

Just going back to, are we going to have similar problems like the COOL, like with the country of origin labelling? Because rules of origin can apply. And I know from some of the discussions over the years when I was a minister, but also as somebody who's very much involved with our legislation, that in Europe there is a real strong concern to identify where food comes from and where it's been — from the farm to the table. And how much, what kind of rules or regulations are going to be in that area? Are there things there that we will have difficulty with? We know that we're trying to go back and re-establish some of that. But what are some of the specific terms around that?

Now ultimately all of these general principles will have exemptions and it's often the exemptions that are the parts that are the most difficult to understand and interpret, and it's where there's the wiggle room on both sides to deal with particular issues.

Now we've had some pretty strong sales talk about how this agreement could work. I think what the public expects us as legislators to be is, yes, salesmen or promoters or proud participants in a trade deal which is beneficial for all of the businesses of Saskatchewan. But they also expect us to do our job of analyzing and making sure that we don't end up with a deal that's going to cost different parts of our community more than it should or more than anybody expected.

And so transparency: that's a word that we hear quite a bit about, but we don't get much of it from the federal government, and I'd have to say often we're stymied on a number of things provincially as well. And so on this particular motion that we have today, I think that the Premier may want to agree with our amendment because it gives him a chance to basically say, yes we agree with this trade deal in principle, but we want to make sure Saskatchewan people and Canadians are benefiting, and we want to see what the detail is before we rush the implementation of it.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think it's that fundamental question about what's the role of the legislature as it relates to protecting the province of Saskatchewan and the citizens of Saskatchewan, the businesses of Saskatchewan, versus what's the role of the legislature as the salesman for the action plan of Prime Minister Harper and the national government of Canada.

And so, Mr. Speaker, there are many positive things in this trade deal, and I'm very supportive of us continuing and going ahead with it. But I say that let's do it with due diligence. Let's do it with honour to our jobs as legislators. Let's do it in a way that we all can be proud of supporting something that works for Saskatchewan people.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge the Premier and the members opposite to adopt our amendment to this particular motion, as it will reflect what I think is the Saskatchewan people's understanding of the role of the legislature when we deal with international trade agreements. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to add the voice of Prince Albert Northcote to this motion. We encourage all the federal parties to support the implementation of the agreement in principle for the comprehensive economic and trade agreement, and to do so expeditiously. My colleagues so eloquently explained the positive impact this agreement will have for Saskatchewan — positive impacts in new markets, manufacturing, forestry, mining, jobs. And they went on to explain how other trade agreements have benefited Saskatchewan. I concur. Today I'll be pointing out a little bit about the benefits closer to my own home constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the dynamic intersect of the boreal fringe, with our forest and resources, and the parkland, with its rich agricultural land, is where you will find my constituency of Prince Albert . . .

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — I'd like to ask for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tochor): — Thank you. I'd like to introduce to their legislature two good, well four good friends of ours. We have Jonathan Abrametz. Just give a wave up the Chamber up there. And then we have Claire, and Claire just

started speed swimming. And when she grows up . . . She loves right now spending time with her grandparents, so when she grows up she wants to be a grandparent. And next to Claire is Paul. Paul, can we get a little wave? And Paul is a huge hockey fan. His favourite team is Team Canada. And he might have been a little concerned about this talk about changing rules for hockey with free trade that might have occurred back in the '80s. But thankfully, Paul, it didn't change. And then also with Paul is Paul's lovely mom, Andrea. And Andrea is a teacher up in Saskatoon. And I would ask all members to please welcome the Abrametzes to their legislature.

I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Support for Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (continued)

Ms. Jurgens: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, welcome to the Abrametzes. As I was saying, the dynamic intersect between the boreal fringe and the parkland is where you will find my home constituency of Prince Albert Northcote, which is located inside the boundaries of the city of Prince Albert. It is the reason why the residents of Prince Albert and indeed Saskatchewan will benefit.

Did you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that approximately 54.5 per cent of the total provincial land area is covered by our provincial forest? The rest, Mr. Speaker, is agricultural land. When we read the section of this agreement that discusses forestry, we learn that, on entry into force, elimination of all existing tariffs and a specific bilateral dialogue on forest products to facilitate regular engagement between Canadian and EU forestry experts. Mr. Speaker, the objective is to minimize potential impacts of EU measures on Canada's exports and to help ensure continued access for Canadian forest products into the EU.

Mr. Speaker, uranium is located in Saskatchewan's North. In this agreement we see the opening of foreign investment in uranium mines. We need only to look at Cameco to find a corporate example of the largest industrial employer for First Nations in Canada. When we look at employment at our uranium mine sites, we see that employees and contractors combined make up more than 3,300 people benefiting directly from this industry. Of these, Mr. Speaker, 49.5 per cent are residents of Saskatchewan's North, and 45.8 per cent are of Aboriginal ancestry.

With the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, Canada, and therefore by extension Saskatchewan, will no longer require EU investors to first seek a Canadian partner in order to receive approval for uranium production projects. This will make Saskatchewan the most attractive destination in the world for EU investment in uranium mining. Included in this trade agreement, Mr. Speaker, is that Canada retains the ability to apply national security considerations in its approval process. Thus we learn that CETA creates an enhanced employment opportunity for Saskatchewan's northern and Aboriginal residents.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that Saskatchewan grows more food here than the people that are living here can eat. It is also a well-known fact that the world wants to buy what we produce. Mr. Speaker, as the Premier, the Agriculture minister, and my other colleagues so aptly pointed out, the EU is the world's largest importer of agricultural and agri-food products. In 2012 the EU imported more than \$130 billion worth of agricultural products, including beef, pork, wheat, oats, barley, pulses, just to name a few. Thus, Mr. Speaker, being that Prince Albert is located on the parkland fringe, it is clear that this trade agreement will benefit Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, this comprehensive trade agreement has the social fabric of our province and country at heart. I went online — which the opposition might have desired to do — but anyways I went online and downloaded several documents outlining and explaining some of the agreement. As we read through some of the myriad details of the agreement, I encourage all of our citizens to remember, and I quote from page 5 of the document that is located on the Government of Canada's website about how CETA will benefit Saskatchewan, and I quote:

As do all of Canada's international trade agreements, CETA will continue to preserve policy space for activities that are fundamental to our social fabric. Nothing in CETA prevents governments from regulating in the public interest, including for delivering public services, providing preferences to Aboriginal peoples, or adopting measures to protect or promote Canadian culture.

Mr. Speaker, the agreement goes on to point out how we as a government, a province, and a country will continue to have jurisdiction over the delivery of public services and measures to protect or promote Canadian culture. This preservation of policy space for cultural policies and programs at all levels of government is a recognition of the importance of the preservation and promotion of Canadian culture.

Mr. Speaker, our Premier, the member from Swift Current, and our government is the first to say that growth for the sake of growth is not and never has been the objective of our growth plan. It is to improve the quality of life for all our citizens. As we listen to our colleagues and we delve into the details of this agreement, we see that indeed all Saskatchewan residents will have an opportunity for an improved quality of life.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion brought forward by the Premier. Thank you.

[16:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I didn't plan on rising in this debate, but I've listened with interest to comments from members on both sides, and I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that the position of the opposition makes no sense.

They put out a press release saying that . . . Here, I'll read it to you, Mr. Speaker, "NDP to amend motion, support European trade deal in principle." Okay. Well that's fair enough, Mr. Speaker. What's the motion itself say? "That this House

supports the agreement in principle for the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement . . .” It literally makes no sense. It’s internally contradictory, their position.

And on top of this, Mr. Speaker, I listened to the speech from the member from Regina Lakeview. What the member from Regina Lakeview essentially said in his speech is that he’s smarter than the entirety of the group supporting this — the Canadian Pork Council, the Stock Growers Association, the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, the Canola Council of Canada, the wheat growers, the chambers of commerce. Go down the list, Mr. Speaker. What the member opposite is saying: he is way smarter than them. He knows way more than they do and therefore they support the agreement in principle, but not the agreement in principle. It literally makes no sense.

So what I’m going to do, Mr. Speaker, is encourage the members opposite to support the main motion and vote for it, and I hope they do. And we’re going to have that vote shortly, so thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The motion before the House is the amendment proposed by the Leader of the Opposition:

That the motion be amended by deleting all words after the words “European Union” and the following be substituted therefor:

and call on all legislators to undertake the appropriate due diligence to review and assess the agreement and support its swift implementation if it is confirmed to be in the best interests of Saskatchewan and Canada.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the nos have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 16:33 until 16:37.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 8]

Brotten	Forbes	Wotherspoon
Belanger	Chartier	McCall
Nilson	Sproule	

The Speaker: — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 41]

Wall	Morgan	Stewart
Duncan	Draude	Krawetz
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff

Harpauer	Huyghebaert	Doherty
Norris	Reiter	Heppner
Harrison	Tell	Weekes
Elhard	Hart	Bradshaw
Bjornerud	Brkich	Hutchinson
Makowsky	Ottenbreit	Campeau
Wilson	Marchuk	Kirsch
Michelson	Doke	Merriman
Jurgens	Steinley	Hickie
Lawrence	Tochor	Moe
Parent	Docherty	

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 8; those opposed, 41.

The Speaker: — The amendment is lost. The motion before the House presented by the Premier is:

That this House supports the agreement in principle for the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) reached by the Government of Canada and the European Union and calls on all federal parties to support the swift implementation of the agreement.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 16:40 until 16:41.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise. Close the doors.

[Yeas — 41]

Wall	Morgan	Stewart
Duncan	Draude	Krawetz
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff
Harpauer	Huyghebaert	Doherty
Norris	Reiter	Heppner
Harrison	Tell	Weekes
Elhard	Hart	Bradshaw
Bjornerud	Brkich	Hutchinson
Makowsky	Ottenbreit	Campeau
Wilson	Marchuk	Kirsch

Michelson	Doke	Merriman
Jurgens	Steinley	Hickie
Lawrence	Tochor	Moe
Parent	Docherty	

The Speaker: — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 8]

Brotten	Forbes	Wotherspoon
Belanger	Chartier	McCall
Nilson	Sproule	

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 41; those opposed, 8.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion and verbatim transcripts of the motion just passed to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Leaders of the Opposition parties in the House of Commons.

The Speaker: — It is moved by the Government House Leader:

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion and verbatim transcripts of the motion just passed to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Leaders of the Opposition parties in the House of Commons.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:44.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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Minister Responsible for The Global
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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