



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

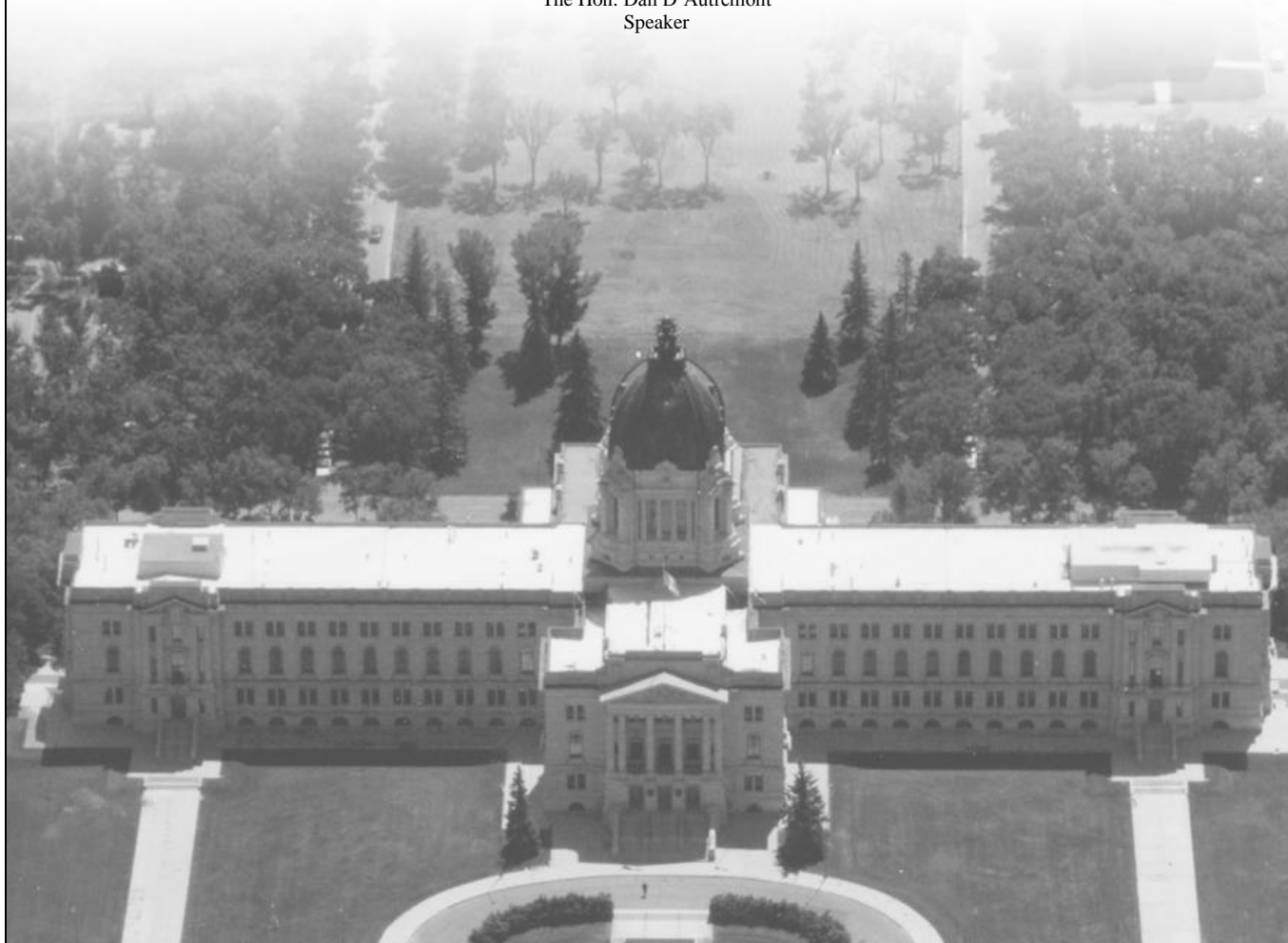
of the

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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There is a lot of things that are completely unique about the Saskatchewan Roughriders when you compare it to any other franchise in the CFL [Canadian Football League], and this morning we were introduced to yet another wonderful feature of the Riders that is very new to this season.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we're fortunate to have the Saskatchewan Roughrider Drumline, not just drumming outside the legislature today but also seated in your gallery. And we want to thank them very much for coming, thank them for what they've done all season. It has added a lot to the game day experience, Mr. Speaker. Again we're the only club I think in the league that has it.

Corey Taylor is . . . I think he's there with us, is he not? Behind the clock. He really envisioned this and founded this. And of course a vision without drummers or action is just that, and it's come to fruition because of these amazing players. And so, Mr. Speaker, we just want to thank them for providing a bit of pre-question-period encouragement, if I could use that term, and also to thank them for what they've done for the Riders and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly today, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming the drumline, thank them for starting off the events here in the Assembly in an interesting and unique way. But what we most look forward to is the role that they'll be playing on Sunday, leading a chorus in a sea of green. So I join with the Premier in welcoming the drumline to the Assembly today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to all the members of the Assembly, seated in your gallery and in keeping with this wonderful championship season that we're having here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce 16 graduating players from the Dr. Martin LeBoldus Golden Suns football team that recently won the provincial 4A championship, Mr. Speaker.

They are accompanied by their coaches, Mr. John Foord who I asked this morning related to our Stu Foord, and indeed he did say yes. In fact I think, John, you have Stu's number on. Awesome. And along with John is Billy Brennan. Billy Brennan is the assistant coach. Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that both these gentlemen of course have spent countless

hours developing and working with our student athletes. And I'll have a little bit more to say about that later on.

Also about Bill Brennan, I think it's important to note that Bill has served the province of Saskatchewan probably for the last 45 years in many different capacities as a student coach and contributor, as well as being one of our foremost basketball referees, not only in Saskatchewan but in all of the country. He's refereed at the highest national and international levels, Mr. Speaker. And so I'd like all the members of the Assembly to welcome this championship football team and their coaches. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite to welcome the provincial champion LeBoldus Golden Suns to their legislature, and to welcome Bill Brennan who has a long legacy in sport here in our province, and as well Coach John Foord, of course.

And a couple of familiar faces up there of, I guess, children of good friends: Trevor Morin's son Dylan and Muna De Ciman's son Chan I think is up there as well somewhere. But I welcome all these athletes to their Assembly. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you'll recall just last week that we welcomed a group of students from Peacock Collegiate, and in fact they were celebrating their high school championship football team.

Well we've got 34 more students from Peacock here in the west gallery, and we'd like to certainly welcome them and especially . . . They're very in tune with government, systems of government, and it all goes to the credit of their teacher, Carrie Kiefer. So Mrs. Kiefer is up there as one of them with the students, along with Dana Skoropad, Brittany Gabel, Freya Knafelc, and Lloyd Beutler. So I'd ask all members to welcome the Peacock Collegiate High School grade 12's.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you'll indulge me, I have a couple of introductions here this morning. First of all, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it is my honour to introduce you to Mr. Shayne Smith. Mr. Smith joins us on the floor of the legislature here this morning.

Shayne is in Regina doing a presentation to Regina high schools to celebrate the success of athletes and the spirit of the 101st Grey Cup, Mr. Speaker. He has been talking to students. He told me he's visited with four or five schools now, high school students, about bullying and making the best of what you've been dealt with.

Shayne has spent much of his life proving people wrong, Mr. Speaker. These people range from doctors who didn't give him much of a chance to live after he contracted a form of meningitis at just four months of age, to coaches who watched

as it took four years for him to sink his first shot in wheelchair basketball, Mr. Speaker, a sport he went on to compete in at the international level in the 2012 Paralympics.

Mr. Speaker, Shayne now travels all over the world as a motivational speaker. His goal is to fuel dreams through motivation, inspiration, and collaboration. I want to thank Shayne for sharing his message of the only thing holding you back is you, to the young athletes and aspiring athletes in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'd like all members to join me in welcoming Shayne Smith to the Legislative Assembly today.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, as I'm sure all members have friends or family members travelling into the province for the Grey Cup, I have a couple of friends joining us in the Speaker's gallery today, Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mr. Rob Lee who hails from Edmonton, originally from Winnipeg, but now lives in Edmonton. His daughter is part of the Eskimo cheerleading squad that's going to be arriving here later today to partake in the festivities. So welcome, Rob. And joining him is Mr. Jason Weinstein, a good friend of mine from Vancouver, Mr. Speaker, who is a lifelong Lions fan, a season ticket holder. I didn't say anything to him, Mr. Speaker, after the western semi-final. He arrived at my house last night very gracious, went into the room that's been assigned to him and came out wearing a Ti-Cat jersey, Mr. Speaker. So I threw him out.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to welcome these very good friends of mine to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce a few guests up in your . . . up in your gallery. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. It's been an interesting morning, especially for a Minister of Advanced Education.

I'm delighted to help welcome Dr. Larry Rosia who is the president of SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]. He is joined this morning by the board Chair of SIAST, Mr. Ralph Boychuk, and they're both joined with our deputy minister, Louise Greenberg. Mr. Speaker, a little later this morning we're going to see the introduction of *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act*.

But I think importantly, especially given the context, I need to highlight that Mr. Boychuk is a lifelong Rider fan and that matters profoundly because he's helping with a little bit of acculturation of our new president at SIAST, who joins us from Alberta. I have some empathy here. It takes a little bit of time to understand the significance of Rider nation. I asked him this morning where his loyalties are and I think at breakfast he said he was still on the fence. He's still got a little bit of affinity towards the Stamps but I think, Mr. Speaker, having seen the drumline, I think it's safe to say that he's coming down on this side of Rider nation and certainly getting behind everyone in Rider nation.

And so I'd like to welcome all three to their Assembly and thank them for their great work, and I'll ask all members to join me in welcoming all three.

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. Larry Rosia, board Chair Ralph Boychuk, and Deputy Minister Louise Greenberg to their Legislative Assembly. The good work that is done on behalf of SIAST is much appreciated, you know.

The Rider nation piece, you know, I'm sure that the conditioning is coming along nicely. The fact that you've shown up here I'm sure is, you know, speaks well to that, but again I'd wish the minister well with the acculturation.

But seriously, Mr. Speaker, we're here today to see the introduction of the polytechnic Act which looks to be a good piece of legislation and a signal to the good work that is done at SIAST. So again I'd join with the minister opposite in welcoming Dr. Larry Rosia, board Chair Ralph Boychuk, and Deputy Minister Louise Greenberg to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Legislative Assembly, please join me in welcoming my constituency assistant, Trudy Deranger, seated in your gallery. This is her very first visit to the Assembly — and welcome — but it will not be her last. Trudy stepped up to the plate in June when I needed a new constituency assistant, and I can assure you that despite being a very big job, she's filling the job very capably. Trudy is a treaty member of Fond Du Lac First Nation and I have been very privileged to learn about the Dene culture in northern Saskatchewan from her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming Trudy to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it may not be a surprise to you that I also have guests that are here this week, in fact my youngest sister Sharon and her husband, Ken. They are here visiting Ken's mom. They live in Vancouver, more specifically South Surrey, so they may want to introduce themselves to the Vancouver guest that's sitting beside them.

Mr. Speaker, both Sharon and Ken grew up in Cupar and went to high school there and so on, left Saskatchewan back in the mid-'70s. But as you can see, they are still true Rider fans. They're here to take in some of the festivities and also, as I mentioned, visit Ken's mom who is doing very well and lives in the seniors' complex just here on South Albert. So I'm so pleased. They don't have many opportunities to come and see Sharon's older brother, the place where he works, and so I'm really pleased that they could be with us here this morning and I'd ask all members to welcome them.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and

through you to all members, I'd appreciate the opportunity to reintroduce a friend and constituent who was previously introduced by the member from Moose Jaw North, Mr. Dana Skoropad. Dana is a brilliant young educator in the city of Moose Jaw who has contributed and continues to contribute immeasurably to the future of Saskatchewan and to the lives of his students. I hope that all members will welcome Dana.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed that while introductions were under way we have some more guests that came into the Assembly. Seated in your gallery is the CEO [chief executive officer] of Cameco, Tim Gitzel, and seated with him is a senior official with Cameco, Jeff Hryhoriw — or as I like to call him, Jeff.

Mr. Speaker, not very long ago Tim Gitzel or officials sent me a tweet with a picture of the very, very first shipment of Saskatchewan uranium at Shanghai port as that very robust civilian nuclear market is now open to Saskatchewan uranium — a very significant development, not just for the company but for the province. This industry, of course, employs a great many people in Saskatchewan, specifically in northern Saskatchewan and specifically Aboriginal people, in great careers. And so we want to thank them for that. But we want to welcome them as well this morning to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming Tim Gitzel and Jeff Hryhoriw to the Assembly today. As the Premier said, Cameco is a hugely important corporation for Saskatchewan, representing employment in the North but bringing large benefits to all of the province. So we thank them for the role that they're serving here in the province, and we welcome them to the Assembly today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome all our guests today and to remind them to please not participate on events on the floor, and that includes applause.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of anti-bullying. And we know that bullying causes serious harm, and the consequences of bullying are devastating, including depression, self-harm, addictions, and suicide. And other provinces have brought forward legislation and various tools and programs showing swift and effective government action. And we know that bullying can occur within schools, but also through social media, cellphones, and through the Internet, also known as cyberbullying. It's a human rights issue, one of safety and inclusion.

I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government

to take immediate and meaningful action to protect Saskatchewan children from bullying because the lives of young people are at stake and this government must do more to protect our youth.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

[10:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

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

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

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of replacing the gym at Sacred Heart Community School. The petitioners point out that the gym at Sacred Heart Community School in north central Regina has been closed since last spring, when the gym became unsafe for occupation. This fall petitioners were well aware that there was a temporary solution put in place with the refurbishment of the old sanctuary of the old Sacred Heart Church, but a permanent solution is needed. The petitioners point out that the school and community have raised this issue with the Sask Party provincial government since 2007 without resolution.

They point out that any school needs a gym as a place for the school and the community to gather together to engage in cultural and educational activities and to promote physical activity, which we know is good for the mind, body, and spirit. They point out that Sacred Heart Community School is the largest school in north central Regina with 450-plus students, 75 per cent of whom are First Nations and Métis. They point out that the 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, that 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 government to immediately replace the gymnasium of Sacred Heart Community School.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from Estevan, Regina, Saskatoon, and Hagen. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Green is the Colour

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the table is set for the 101st Grey Cup to be a historic and classic battle here in Saskatchewan — home field advantage, the last Grey Cup to be played on Taylor Field at Mosaic Stadium.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you may have noticed that we don't always agree on both sides of this Assembly, but I know we're all united with Rider pride and want nothing more than to win the cup right here at home on Sunday. So today I ask all of us to sing from one song sheet, literally. So I ask every last member in this Assembly, on both sides of this Assembly, would you please join with me in a chorus that Rider nation knows by heart. One, two, three:

Green is the colour, football is the game.
We're all together and winning is our aim.
So cheer us on through the sun and rain.
Saskatchewan Roughriders is our name.

One more time. A little more oomph here, folks:

Green is the colour, football is the game.
We're all together and winning is our aim.
So cheer us on through the sun and rain.
Saskatchewan Roughriders is our name.

Mr. Speaker, let's go Riders!

The Speaker: — I would suggest members don't quit their day job. I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

High School Football Champions

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a tough act to follow. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, thank you. I rise in the House today to recognize the entire LeBoldus Golden Suns football team from Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School in Regina. For the second year in a row, Mr. Speaker, the Golden Suns are Saskatchewan's 4A provincial football champions and for the second year in a row they defeated the Holy Cross Crusaders from Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to both football programs. Mr. Speaker, every championship game has its highlights and this game was no different. Early in the first quarter, quarterback Chan De Ciman completed a 106-yard touchdown pass-and-run play with receiver Kade Belyk. Again in the final quarter, Shamar Donelson was on the receiving end of a 108-yard pass-and-run score. Mr. Speaker, we could use a couple of those Sunday for sure.

Mr. Speaker, this was the 18th consecutive victory for the Golden Suns, who haven't lost a game since the 2011 city semi-finals. Mr. Speaker, the football program at LeBoldus has been rated the no. 3 high school football program in all of Canada for the second consecutive year and boasts graduates like Scott Flory of the Alouettes and Paul Waldu of our own

Riders. Mr. Speaker, these are big accomplishments.

Equally as big as the Golden Suns' accomplishments are those of the Pinehouse Lake Lakers football team who recently captured the six-man Northern Saskatchewan Football Championship last Saturday against the Buffalo Narrows Eagles, Mr. Speaker, a truly significant accomplishment in many, many respects for the community of Pinehouse Lake.

Mr. Speaker, to the LeBoldus coaches, John and Bill, and to the Pinehouse Lake coaches, assistant coaches, volunteers, and staff, thank you for all that you have done for our student athletes. You have dedicated countless hours, ensuring that these students achieve to the best of their abilities both on and off the field.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in congratulating the LeBoldus Golden Suns and the Pinehouse Laker football programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Before we proceed I just want to inform members that we're having some problems with the clock, so please bear with it. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Celebration in Rider Nation

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Grey Cup 101 is well under way. It's impossible to go anywhere these days without seeing and experiencing the infectious spirit of Rider nation.

I want to take a moment to pay tribute to all those who are helping to put on this 101st Grey Cup festival. This week's Celebration in Rider Nation would not be possible without the support and passion of all the organizers, volunteers, and fans. Everyone is chipping in to make this Grey Cup celebration a huge success. The volunteer committee announced that over 2,400 volunteers have signed on to help with the game and related activities. And we know that there are thousands more in form of volunteers who are giving rides and opening their homes and spreading the Rider nation spirit.

CFL Commissioner Mark Cohon had this to say:

Saskatchewan's passion for Canadian football is legendary. Its hospitality is second to none. And its pride in all things Canadian is tremendous. The 2013 Grey Cup will bring all of those ingredients — as well as thousands of Canadians — together in a very special way.

We echo this sentiment, Mr. Speaker. We couldn't be more proud of the Roughriders, and we couldn't be more proud of the way Saskatchewan people have come together and lined up this year's Grey Cup celebration for success. Go Riders!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Players Carry on Weyburn Football Tradition

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later this day as part of the 101st Grey Cup celebrations, six CFL awards will be handed out to recognize this season's outstanding players. In announcing the nominees two weeks ago, the league noted that seven players nominated are Canadian, a CFL record.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to single out two. Not only are nominees Brett Jones of the Calgary Stampeders and Brendon LaBatte of our Saskatchewan Roughriders both from Saskatchewan. Both are proud Weyburn boys and, Mr. Speaker, are we ever proud of them. Both should be commended for their hard work and dedication in achieving this level of excellence and deserved recognition.

Mr. Speaker, Weyburn has a proud football tradition. From the 1966 Grey Cup champion, the pride of Weyburn, Hank Dorsch, to Kelly Trithardt of the 1989 Riders to the builders of the high school and minor football programs like Brent Allin, Len Williams, and the late Darold Kot who coached our high school Eagles for 30 years, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, this tradition continues today under numerous coaches and volunteers at the minor football level, as well as at our high school team under coaches Chris Michel, Michael Hoffman, and for the past 19 seasons, head coach Darren Abel.

So, Mr. Speaker, all of Weyburn is hoping that these two young men come home this off-season with awards in hand, and for Brendan, with the cup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Donation Supports Power Engineering Program

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate SIAST on receiving a generous donation from Husky Energy to support the power engineering program at its Saskatoon Kelsey Campus. And yesterday SIAST announced it received a 1.125 million donation from Husky Energy.

Two-thirds of the donation will support upgrades to the power engineering technology lab. The remaining third will be dedicated to scholarships for students seeking to obtain their third class power engineering certification. The scholarship recipients will be offered employment opportunities with Husky upon graduation. And as a result of the renovations, SIAST will be able to run its power engineering lab year-round and increase lab capacity by 25 per cent to almost 200 students annually.

The scholarship portion of the donation is being matched by the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship program offered by the Ministry of Advanced Education. 375,000 from this program will go towards these scholarships. Up to 10 scholarships will be available per academic year over the next five years. And, Mr. Speaker, the Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship program offers \$5 million per year to support students in new and emerging areas of innovation.

This program encourages institutions to find industry and business partners to match scholarship funds. And, Mr. Speaker, we would like to thank Husky Energy for their very charitable donation and to SIAST for helping move Saskatchewan forward.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

British Parliamentarians Visit Carbon Capture and Storage Facility

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday I and some of my colleagues had the pleasure of meeting with seven members of the British parliament who were in Saskatchewan to learn more about the Boundary dam project. These members are part of the select committee on energy and climate change in the British parliament.

As you know, the Boundary dam project is the world's first and largest commercial scale, coal-fired carbon capture and storage facility, and is a world-leading project in environmentally friendly power generation.

In May of this year, SaskPower and the UK [United Kingdom] Carbon Capture and Storage Research Centre entered into a memorandum of understanding to examine research opportunities of mutual benefit. One of the key observations raised by Sir Robert Smith, Chair of the committee, was the importance of actually seeing a carbon capture facility being built rather than just talked about. They were impressed by the leadership of Saskatchewan in this area. Furthermore, retaining coal as a fuel in an environmentally responsible way was perceived by some of the members of the committee as a sensible and highly encouraging example for their own country.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is recognized as an international leader in innovation for the capture and storage of carbon. It was a privilege to showcase our government's leadership and commitment and to further strengthen our province's ongoing relationship with the British government. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Go Riders, Go!

Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're going to finish today's member statements the same as we started.

It wasn't that long ago that Rider nation began dreaming of a 101st Grey Cup championship featuring the home team. This dream has now come true, Mr. Speaker, and we are just a few short days away from the championship game featuring our Riders and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Rider nation couldn't be more proud, and the level of excitement is evident in the amount of green and white seen around Regina this week, not to mention this very room, Mr. Speaker. The 101st Grey Cup will feature many familiar faces, including Kent Austin, Henry Burris, and Andy Fantuz, but we kind of like Corey Chamblin and Darian Durant and Weston Dressler a little bit better, Mr. Speaker. We do.

Mr. Speaker, it's guaranteed to be a great matchup, and I'm certain that all of Saskatchewan will have their eyes glued to the game this Sunday. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, go Riders, go!

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Educational Assistants and Classroom Supports

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. More and more teachers are expressing their complete frustration with how this government has handled our education system. Of particular concern, Mr. Speaker, is the lack of educational assistants to help teachers and to provide the necessary one-on-one supports that many students need.

Darren Cannell wrote, “In the end, when you close your classroom door, you stand in a room which is underequipped, overcrowded. And if you are unsuccessful, it will be your fault.”

My question to the Premier: when the economy is doing well, why are there fewer EAs [educational assistants] in so many schools, and why are teachers left alone to deal with underequipped and overcrowded classrooms?

[10:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This government recognizes that investing in education is very much a part of the growth plan for the province. In fact the dividends of growth help provide for the increased investment.

Again we have to check the Leader of the Opposition’s preamble to his question. As is the case, it’s incorrect or would certainly lead people to believe something that’s not the case if unchecked. The fact of the matter is our government has increased operating funding in education significantly year over year over year. And, Mr. Speaker, more to the point in terms of capital funding, Mr. Speaker, this government has invested in renovating schools, in building new schools, frankly like no other government in contemporary history in Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, I’d point out a couple of other initiatives. Last year, for the first time in the history of the province, we actually provided an increase in-year to deal with the very issues that are being raised by the Leader of the Opposition. When I met with teachers last spring, we heard some of the same things. We have a lot of growth. We have, in some centres, some classrooms that need more supports. That’s why we made that decision last fall. It’s why we have actually more educational assistants in the province today, significantly more than when members opposite were in the government.

We know there’s more work to be done, Mr. Speaker, but education’s a priority for the government. It’s not just talk on our side, it’s action. And there’ll be more in the budget upcoming.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier can claim what he wants, but the facts show a different reality. Half of our province’s 28 school divisions have actually lost educational assistants under this government: Christ the Teacher, Good Spirit, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, Horizon, Living Sky, North East, Northwest, Prairie Spirit, Prince Albert Catholic, Regina, South East Cornerstone, and Sun West School Division. Mr.

Speaker, all of these divisions have fewer EAs now than when this government came into power.

Again to the Premier: at a time when our economy is doing well, why do we have fewer EAs in so many schools, and why are teachers left to stand alone and deal with under-resourced classrooms and overcrowded classrooms, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, here are the basic facts, and I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to pay close attention to them. In 2007 Saskatchewan school divisions reported 3,546 EAs. January 2013 there were 3,565 EAs. There are more EAs today in the province of Saskatchewan than there were when members opposite were in government. That goes contrary, precisely to the contrary of what that member just said.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, psychologists in the school system, 21 per cent more; speech language pathologists, 22 per cent more; medical facilitators, nurses, 105 per cent more for the classroom; and 6 per cent more social workers. Right across the board, Mr. Speaker, right across the board, more EAs, more supports in the classroom.

More needs to be done, especially in high-growth areas, Mr. Speaker, but if the best indication of future activity is the past activity, based on this government’s record, we’re going to continue to see increases in school . . . in classroom supports in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the activity that we’ve seen from this government is the fact that today, in the school divisions that I listed, there are fewer EAs now than when this government came into operation.

And, Mr. Speaker, we need the professionals that the Premier mentioned in his reply. We need the speech language pathologists. We need those professionals. And teachers tell me and parents tell me, we also need the professional educational assistants who are in the classroom to assist teachers, Mr. Speaker, and to pay attention to the children’s needs.

What the Premier is saying, Mr. Speaker, doesn’t match the reality that many parents and teachers and students are experiencing. A teacher from north of Saskatoon wrote in and said, “Now our EAs’ hours are maxed over the school day, and we no longer have that block of time to get students caught up. And it is really showing.” And that’s the reality, Mr. Speaker, that this government’s ignoring.

Here in our capital city, there have been no additional EAs added under this government, despite a significant increase in students, many new Canadians, Mr. Speaker, who require additional support. No wonder teachers are demoralized. No wonder parents are frustrated. No wonder students are frustrated.

My question to the Premier: when our economy is strong, why is it that so many schools have fewer EAs and teachers are left on their own to deal with it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the economy is strong and that's helping us provide more educational assistants into the system through funding. Mr. Speaker, the final decision about where those educational assistants are deployed are made by school divisions. They're made by administrators. Mr. Speaker, in some cases, Mr. Speaker, it could well be that students leaving the school system, or in some areas where we haven't seen enrolment growth, there may or may not have been some decreases or at least the status quo in educational assistants.

But again, I'd point out to the members opposite, under the NDP [New Democratic Party], their focus was solely to, at least indirectly, provide educational assistants in the classroom. And that's important. But what we found and what school divisions were telling us, and in many cases teachers, is that other supports like psychologists, like speech pathologists were not the focus of their administration. Mr. Speaker, under our government, that has changed: 21 per cent increase in psychologists; speech language pathologists up 22 per cent; medical facilitator, nurses 105 per cent increase. Mr. Speaker, this is important.

In addition to that, compared to 2008 shortly after our government took over, there are now 439 more teachers in the province — teaching, funded and teaching, and 86 more student-support teachers. All of that combined tells us that the government's committed to classroom support. We've heard from teachers more is needed. That's why we responded last fall. That's why we will continue to respond, Mr. Speaker.

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

Cyberbullying Legislation

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the federal government introduced changes to the Criminal Code to address some aspects of online bullying, in particular those related to inappropriate sharing of intimate images. The Premier said yesterday that the government couldn't really comment on it until he'd actually seen the text of the bill. To the minister: has the government assessed the federal legislation yet, and does it recognize there's a need for this province to fill in some of the gaps?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, let me first say we're very pleased with the federal government's response. Last October in Regina at the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers' meeting, we raised the issue of the distribution of intimate images on the Internet without consent, and we're very pleased that the federal government has reacted.

Mr. Speaker, we have reviewed the legislation. It's not the position of the government at this particular point in time that we need to make any changes to provincial legislation. However, Mr. Speaker, I will say that we will monitor the effects of the legislation, how it's being implemented, and how it's being enforced by the police, and we'll assess that as time goes on, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, the federal legislation only covers intimate images, but we know there are many other aspects to online bullying. And the websites that young people are on these days, like Ask.fm, are ones that parents may not have even heard of yet, but they're places where there's awful bullying going on that's happening far too often.

Nova Scotia has implemented concrete, specific actions to combat cyberbullying, and we have repeatedly called on this government to do the same. One of the things Nova Scotia put into place to fight cyberbullying was the cyberbullying investigation unit called CyberSCAN. To the minister: will this government adopt the CyberSCAN model for Saskatchewan kids?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we have reviewed the legislation that was introduced in Nova Scotia. We don't have any information with respect to how that legislation is working. We are, however, monitoring that legislation to see what effects it will have.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, as I've said, we're very, very supportive of the amendments that have been brought forward by the federal government with respect to amendments to the Criminal Code. We on this side of the House, as do all members of this House, abhor cyberbullying in any of its forms, Mr. Speaker, so we'll do whatever we can in terms of making sure that an end is put to it.

But, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to monitor what's happening in Nova Scotia, but as I said, we have no concrete information at this particular point in time how it's working.

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

Public-Private Partnerships and Provision of Schools

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago I called for transparency and accountability in that government's private P3 [public-private partnership] school plan. That government couldn't offer a thing. In fact they haven't shared any more details since my bill's introduction to clarify its plans, like how much it will cost or how long Saskatchewan students will have to wait for relief from today's pressures.

Mr. Speaker, this private deal is worth hundreds of millions of dollars and will impact taxpayers and students for generations. My question to the minister: why has he failed to provide the public the details they deserve?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've seen growth in the education system across the province for sure, but never more obvious than in our two major cities and communities around those major cities like Martensville and Warman, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we're

moving forward to address those pressures.

We're looking at examples in other provinces that have been successful, such as Alberta that's moved forward with bundling of schools, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're looking at here in Saskatchewan: a bundle of nine schools through a P3 model that has been effective, that has saved taxpayers money in Alberta. We believe that will be the case here. We are going . . . It'll be transparent, Mr. Speaker. We will be going through a value-for-money evaluation of this, Mr. Speaker, before we get to the RFP [request for proposal].

All that due diligence will be done because it is proper protocol and procedure that's been successful across Canada. We want to duplicate that here in Saskatchewan. The only ones that are standing in front of new schools in this province are the NDP.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we know the experiences of other jurisdictions with P3 schools. The experiences haven't been good: costing more, forfeiting control, causing delays.

And I'm glad the minister mentions Alberta because we're hearing far-reaching current concerns about the P3 plans, P3 schools in Alberta. For example, Alberta school board members and community groups denounce the current P3s. The auditor is currently investigating purported claims of government, and the current Alberta P3 bundle has gone off the rails with only one bidder, no competition, with all opposition parties united calling for the P3 plan to be scrapped.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan taxpayers, communities, boards, parents, and teachers have concerns and they have valid questions. My question to the minister: why does that government think they can deny Saskatchewan people the answers, accountability, and transparency that they so deserve?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, what we're hearing from parents, students across this province: when there's overcrowding, we need to address that. That's what this government is doing, Mr. Speaker. We're not talking . . . We're not closing hundreds of schools, Mr. Speaker. This government is talking about building new schools that will deal with those pressures, Mr. Speaker. There will be a due process that is gone through that has been proven out since 2004 where there's 204 P3 projects going on across Canada.

In Alberta they're on their fourth bundle of schools, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is only one proponent, and they're looking at that and making sure that the value for money for the Alberta taxpayer is still there. We'll be doing the same. But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, on our first bundling, we expect that there'll be strong interest, Mr. Speaker, that there'll be strong competition, which is only good for Saskatchewan taxpayers.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's really evident that despite concerns and without any details from this government,

they're ramming forward with its P3 school plan. An RFP for its P3 bundle's project management had already opened and in fact it closed this week already, Mr. Speaker. This is only one month after this controversial plan was announced.

It's obvious this government has chosen not to listen to the public's concerns, and plans to plow full steam ahead with its P3 private school plans. My question to the minister: if that government is so confident in its private P3 school plan, if it's actually defensible, then why won't that government support our bill, put some daylight on their plan, and provide the public with the upfront, independent accountability and transparency they deserve?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we went through a very interesting time in the city of Regina not too long ago with the waste water treatment plant, Mr. Speaker. We know the results of that. The people in Regina, Mr. Speaker, voted in favour of a P3. But, Mr. Speaker, during that debate there was some very strong claims made by, not the opposition, but by CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees]. Those same claims are being made by the opposition right now. They've got their speaking notes straight out of the CUPE briefing book.

You heard in the preamble, Mr. Speaker, that the member opposite called them private schools. They are not private schools, Mr. Speaker. They're simply trying to fearmonger, Mr. Speaker. You can have the Leader of the Opposition stand up and say, there's crowded schools. We're taking action. And then you've got the Education critic saying, no you shouldn't build new schools, Mr. Speaker. Which page are they on?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Funding for Care Facilities

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, there's a great need for seniors' care spaces all over northern Saskatchewan. In La Ronge we need a facility that would hold 48 beds, according to the Croft report prepared for the health region four years ago, but we currently have 16 beds — 14 for long-term care and two for respite. To the Minister of Rural and Remote Health: when will that government meet this need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know we had this question from the member opposite in the spring after the budget. At that time, Mr. Speaker, we said that we'd be evaluating future projects as we get to future budgets, Mr. Speaker. We know the need particularly in La Ronge, Mr. Speaker, a need frankly that has been there for a number of years, Mr. Speaker.

[10:45]

Mr. Speaker, we have committed over \$230 million to building and rebuilding long-term care beds across this province, Mr. Speaker, 13 new long-term care facilities. Mr. Speaker, we're doing replacements in other communities as well and, Mr.

Speaker, this will be something that we'll look at in future budgets.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, northern seniors are suffering as a result of this government's neglect on seniors' care in northern Saskatchewan.

In April we heard how Barbara Blyth, an 84-year old woman with cancer and a broken foot, ended up in a women's shelter because there was no space in the care facility in La Ronge. Barbara was treated well by the shelter staff, but the point is that she should've been able to go to a care facility when she needed it.

There are many stories, heartbreaking stories from seniors and families in northern Saskatchewan. To the minister: when will the government finally do something to meet this need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe in that particular instance, while that individual needed some short-term housing while I believe a furnace needed to be replaced, it wasn't necessarily a case of somebody being assessed for long-term care, Mr. Speaker. So I want to make sure that that's, that's clear.

Mr. Speaker, we have, as I've said, versus the members opposite who invested about \$300 million in health capital over a six-year period at the end of their government, we've invested \$1 billion in health care capital, Mr. Speaker. In long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, it's over \$230 million. We know that we have a long way to go to fix the infrastructure deficit that was left by the members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

Of those 13 long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, they all have a compelling need to be replaced, as do more. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members opposite which of those 13 would they have us not do, Mr. Speaker, under this \$230 million package? Mr. Speaker, which one would they not have had us replace?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, clearly her health care nurse told her that, her home care nurse told her she needed to be in a facility.

Mr. Speaker, community members and leaders in La Ronge and area are coming together to push for a care facility. The health region has done the work it needs to do. The community is doing its part. To the minister: why doesn't this government . . . Why does this government keep turning its back on seniors in La Ronge and area?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we're not. Mr. Speaker, through the review that took place, Mr. Speaker, the \$10 million Urgent Issues Action Fund, Mr. Speaker, all health regions are eligible to apply for that funding, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and we look forward to

flowing those dollars out in the coming weeks, Mr. Speaker, that will address many of the urgent issues that came forward from the CEO report.

Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned before, we know that there is over \$1 billion in health infrastructure that does need to be replaced, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know the records of the members opposite — \$300 million in a six-year period; this government, \$1 billion in health care capital. But we know that we have a long ways to go, and we'll evaluate additional projects, Mr. Speaker, in future budget years.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Prince Albert Bridge

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This government has been stubbornly dismissive of Prince Albert residents and the residents of northern Saskatchewan who continue to demand a second bridge in Prince Albert. The government finally agreed to fund an underwater inspection of the current bridge in order to look for erosion of the piers. That's good, Mr. Speaker, but it's not good enough.

P.A. [Prince Albert] needs a second bridge, not just a replacement of the current bridge, if indeed the original study was wrong and the bridge is not structurally sound. To the minister: is this government still completely dismissing the idea of a second bridge, or is it finally going to listen to the people in Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we're well aware of the concerns in the Prince Albert area and some of the people that are lobbying for a second bridge. We're certainly aware of that. We're also aware that the work that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has done on the bridge that is existing there, Mr. Speaker, to have it up and running this whole past season in good shape, all four lanes running, Mr. Speaker.

There has been a study done by McNair and associates that was sponsored partially by the city of Prince Albert as well as the Government of Saskatchewan that said that, at the current economic development right now in Prince Albert, the one bridge will do. But if there is more economic development into the future, Mr. Speaker — and we certainly hope there is, there's a much better chance of there being more economic development under this government for sure than there was ever under the NDP — if we can see more economic development and more traffic in that area, Mr. Speaker, we'll certainly look at it into the future. But at the time right now, Mr. Speaker, the bridge that we have is up and running quite well, Mr. Speaker, actually quite a bit better than when the NDP were in government.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just last week, the Prince Albert City Council passed a motion, a fully supported motion to seek the support of SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] for a second bridge in Prince

Albert. Councillor Zurakowski said:

Since SUMA speaks on our behalf and is a lobbying organization to the provincial government, it would be my expectation that they step up with us shoulder to shoulder and advocate on our behalf.

Isn't it a shame, Mr. Speaker, that the two MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from P.A. are such ineffective voices for their community that the city council needs to look elsewhere for help to convince this government for that second bridge?

To the minister: why won't this government recognize what P.A. residents and northern Saskatchewan residents know, that P.A. needs a second bridge now?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, over the past number of years, Mr. Speaker, over the past couple, we've had both seats in Prince Albert. And before that, prior to that when we only had one, we had great representation. They've carried the message of Prince Albert to this government very, very effectively. In fact, Mr. Speaker, that's why our government put \$4.2 million into the bridge in Prince Albert.

I find it curious, Mr. Speaker, the member is so anxious to talk about Prince Albert. When he was the minister of Highways, Mr. Speaker, he did nothing. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they took the top off the bridge and they made Prince Albert put it back on.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious issue for not only Prince Albert, for the entire part of northern Saskatchewan. Prince Albert is the gateway to the North; 80 per cent of the traffic that goes to northern Saskatchewan goes through Prince Albert. So this is also a big northern issue.

And the people of Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan know better than this government as to what they need. They need a second bridge. This government finally finished twinning Highway 11 — which the NDP started, Mr. Speaker — and now there's a new bridge at St. Louis, Mr. Speaker. So the importance for a second bridge in Prince Albert is growing because of the increased traffic and the great opportunity of that whole region, Mr. Speaker.

To the minister: I realize that the P.A. MLAs are not strong voices. But why is this government completely ignoring, completely ignoring this important need, this very important need for Prince Albert and the entire half portion of our province called northern Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we know that not only the two members from Prince Albert but all the members around Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker, that sit on this side of the House have been strong advocates. And that's the reason, Mr.

Speaker, that you're seeing this government in the P.A. area because of the strong advocacy of the members all across the . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I know . . . Order. I know we had the drumline in here revving people up today, but I don't think we want to see members practising their tackling on either side of the House.

I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, and I do, when I look back sometimes I have a hard time finding them out of 48. I never have a hard time finding the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. Never, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, \$90 million has gone into the P.A. area, Mr. Speaker, from other ministries as well as the Ministry of Highways. That is a strong representation and strong support of P.A. and northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, what I would say though, Mr. Speaker, is that we haven't had any concerns from the P.A. area when they had to go to Rider games. And I know that bridge is going to be used a lot this weekend as they come down for Grey Cup, and we see a Rider victory on Sunday.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 118 — *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 118, *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act* be now introduced and read for a first time, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Advanced Education has moved that Bill No. 118, *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 119 — *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 119, *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Advanced Education has moved first reading of Bill No. 119, *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 120 — *The Lobbyists Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 120, *The Lobbyists Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved that Bill No. 120, *The Lobbyists Act* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Support for Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity today to get up and debate the CETA [Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement] deal, the free trade deal that the federal government and the European Union have agreed to in principle. And I think it's important to repeat that, that this is an agreement reached in principle.

We had this debate not long ago in this legislature, very similar to this, Mr. Speaker, and what we were asking for is the members opposite and the members in the government to support the federal government in their negotiations with the Europeans. But at the same, it was in principle; many of the details we don't know yet. But really what we're looking for is support of this legislature overall.

Now it was interesting that day, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite, in fact some of them when they got up to speak, seemed to support the deal. But then out of the blue came an amendment to that motion, Mr. Speaker. And in the final outcome, they voted against a free trade deal with the European Union.

Mr. Speaker, I think over history, the NDP has really shown its colours when it comes to things like NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement]. There was a real example of a free trade deal with the Americans and, in the end, Mexico where it opened up markets for our businesses and all across Saskatchewan, created thousands and thousands of jobs.

And I remember back, Mr. Speaker, I may be dating myself a little bit, but I remember back that the NDP in this province and the NDP right across this country were dead against the NAFTA deal. In fact if you were to believe what they were putting out at that time, the end of the world was coming and the economy in this province would be completely lost. Well, Mr. Speaker, total the opposite happened. It created new jobs when the markets were opened up more with the Americans. It still is helping this economy of this province, Mr. Speaker, and precisely helping the two industries that we're talking precisely about today, the uranium industry and the agriculture sector in the province of Saskatchewan.

[11:00]

And, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to know or it would be interesting to know where the Leader of the Opposition actually stands on this issue. I noticed this week Erin Weir, who was a leadership candidate for the NDP in the last leadership rundown and actually got a lot of support out of the NDP party, this week has made a number of comments. And, Mr. Speaker, the pessimism again that comes out of NDP leadership candidates like Erin Weir have nothing positive at all to say about an agreement like this.

Now I don't know whether it's he just doesn't like new people coming to the province, new jobs for the province of Saskatchewan, but I think the NDP present leader should be on the record of saying, does he support an agreement like this for the province of Saskatchewan where many thousands of jobs, in the end, will come to the forefront? Many dollars will come into businesses across this province.

But, Mr. Speaker, in my remarks today I'm going to deal mainly with the agriculture sector because I know the member for Prince Albert Northcote is going to second this motion, and a number of my colleagues are going to talk about the uranium side of this debate today. So a lot of my remarks that I have today, Mr. Speaker, are going to be tied to the agriculture sector. But again, Mr. Speaker, I think we need this entire legislature to support an agreement like this, and I think our farmers in this province deserve nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, we know from past history that the NDP have kind of wrote off rural Saskatchewan, and they've wrote off the ag sector. Mr. Speaker, I know that. And I know a number of my colleagues here who are . . . actually some are still in the agriculture business out there, and many of us that were over the past number of years when the NDP were in power, and the NDP really wrote us off for the sake of possibly surviving with just the two large cities and electing members out of the two large cities. And you know, Mr. Speaker, we certainly saw what happened in 2007. That didn't work. And, Mr. Speaker, in 2011 it even got worse. And, Mr. Speaker, in 2015 or 2016 when the next provincial election happens, I think they may be a little bit short of members over there once again.

Mr. Speaker, we've been working with trying to open up trade markets around the world. In fact just this last while the Minister of Energy has been over in Europe, and he's been dealing with a lot of the issues that the CETA deal would bring to the forefront here. And I'm just going to quote some of the information I've got here, Mr. Speaker, but it says, Canada's agricultural exports to the EU totalled about an average of 2.5 billion between 2010 and 2012, led by wheat, durum, spring wheat, soybeans and other oilseeds, canola oil.

Mr. Speaker, there's so much of the agriculture sector right now that relies on trade around the world. And you know, I think the biggest part of this, Mr. Speaker, is that the efficiencies of our ag sector across this province are growing more products for market every day. And we know, I think everyone in this legislature understands, that a very large part of what we grow in this province is for export, so we have to rely on the world markets to buy that product.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I go back to the members opposite when the Wheat Board issue was up. And again they tried to tell everybody in this province that the end of the world was coming if we ever lost the monopoly of the Canadian Wheat Board. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Wheat Board's been gone for about a year and a half, and guess what? Prices are up. Markets are out there. Private companies are buying our grain. And you know, Mr. Speaker, there's never been a better time in this province's history. All you have to do is go across this province right now and take a good look at the number of full bins across the province, grain bags that are right across the province.

I had the opportunity to go from the east side of the province here about a month ago to the west side of the province, Mr. Speaker. Never in my lifetime have I seen that many grain bags across the province, and not in pockets, Mr. Speaker, right across the province. And then actually one of the biggest problems that farmers had is they couldn't get access to any more grain bags. They had to put piles on the ground. I think

my colleague from Arm River is probably one of those farmers that had a big concern because he had this big pile of grain out there on the ground. What a great problem to have, Mr. Speaker. I know . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . We really appreciate the opportunities that these free trade agreements will do, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Mr. Speaker, as we all understand that trade is so important to this province, many of the things that we export, Mr. Speaker . . . Because we have a reputation of being really a reliable provider of safe, high-quality agriculture products and also because we have in excess of 40 per cent of all the arable land in this country, our ag sector is probably the largest in this country when it comes to grains and oilseeds, and some of them are pulses and wheat and barley and oats, oilseeds, our livestock sector, Mr. Speaker.

And a good example of that was Agribition that just finished last week, Mr. Speaker, one of the most successful shows that they've had in the history in this province. But I think the big thing was that how many outside-the-country people came to this province looking for genetics for animals, looking for animals themselves, and just taking part in Agribition and showing us that there's a market for our products around the world. But we have to get the trade barriers removed in a number of cases so that our producers can actually get more for the products that they're marketing out there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we produce about 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, 63 per cent of Canada's dry peas, 78 per cent of Canada's flaxseed, 46 per cent of Canada's canola, and 46 per cent of Canada's oats. Mr. Speaker, that just goes to show the size of our agriculture industry here in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I touched on before, we have a record harvest in this province, probably the biggest one that we have ever had and, in part, Mr. Speaker, that comes from the efficiencies of the agriculture sector and our farmers. I think we all know that farms are getting bigger out there. But to a degree, with that comes more efficient seeding equipment, more efficient harvesting equipment, but also the input of our agriculture producers across the province and the knowledge that they're putting into their trade, and in return is creating thousands and thousands of tonnes of more grain across the province, which really, Mr. Speaker, in the end, helps every one of us in this province, whether you're urban or rural.

Mr. Speaker, we passed Ontario and we passed Alberta as a food exporter in the last couple of years; Mr. Speaker, 11.2 billion in agriculture and ag food exports last year. And, Mr. Speaker, I think the feeling is this year that it's going to be even higher. Mr. Speaker, our canola seed is our top export product, and that was it increased to \$2.7 billion, Mr. Speaker, up 215 per cent since 2007 — and again it goes back to the efficiencies of our farmers in the province of Saskatchewan — and also, Mr. Speaker, about a 25 per cent increase since 2011. Mr. Speaker, some of our other top exports are wheat at \$2 billion, canola oil at 1.7, durum at 1.2, lentils at 673 million, and peas at 626,000.

Mr. Speaker, some of our top countries that are marketing . . . where we market to right now are the US [United States] and

China and Japan and India and Mexico. But once we get into the European market, we're looking about another half a billion people that we will be trading with, Mr. Speaker, and that only can bode well for the province of Saskatchewan.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, it also shows the importance of the members opposite getting on board with this, putting their, you know, their ideology behind them, and just supporting a market like this where it's good for the entire province of Saskatchewan, but especially the agriculture and uranium sectors.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, we're on pace for a record year this year. Our exports are up 13 per cent in the first six months of 2013. The EU [European Union] is the world's largest importer of ag products in the world. And, Mr. Speaker, that's the exact market that we're talking about getting a foothold in, and CETA could generate about 1.3 billion in benefits for Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous market, and I can only think of my own farmers at home in the Melville-Saltcoats constituency that will see benefits of this. But not just the farmers, Mr. Speaker. I can think of every car dealership, every business out there across my constituency and, for that matter, across every constituency in this province that's going to benefit from a trade deal like this.

And remember, Mr. Speaker, as I said when I started, agreeing with this agreement with the European Union, Mr. Speaker, in principle, it shouldn't be that hard for the members opposite to put their, you know, their biases away and support a motion like this. And just for once, just once, Mr. Speaker, I would like to see them stand and support the farmers in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I think all of us on this side of the House and many of us that have been here for a number of years, Mr. Speaker, have watched the NDP's support for agriculture and their support for rural Saskatchewan dwindle over the years. Mr. Speaker, I was a reeve of an RM [rural municipality] when the NDP came to power in 1991 and instantly, Mr. Speaker . . . I'll give you an example, Mr. Speaker.

The community of Langenburg had raised money for a new hospital. And, Mr. Speaker, the NDP came to power in 1991 and very shortly after, even though the community of Langenburg had their money up for a new hospital, the NDP closed the one they actually did have there. But it didn't stop there, Mr. Speaker. They went on to close another 51 hospitals.

And again I'm not quite right, Mr. Speaker, because they closed one more on top of that. They closed the Plains hospital that actually supported all of rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And you know, when you look at parking and everything around the General Hospital — and which is a really good hospital, Mr. Speaker — but if you looked at where the Plains hospital was and where it was situated, rural people could get to that hospital in a very quick time, Mr. Speaker. And you know, decisions were made then that affected rural Saskatchewan, affected agriculture, the uranium industry which creates jobs for First Nations and Métis people and creates jobs for people right across this province, Mr. Speaker.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, when you make some of these decisions, whether it comes to hospitals or schools, it affects the people that are growing the products that we're talking about here today in this agreement with the European Union. Mr. Speaker, I commend the federal government. And the federal Agriculture minister has worked very, very hard to open up markets around the world. Mr. Speaker, on many occasions they have toured the world in trying to . . . Whether it's our cattle markets or what it is, they've tried to open up these markets, and every time they get another market open, it's more dollars for our producers.

Mr. Speaker, this deal is good for Saskatchewan, but it's especially good for rural Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, I think why it hits home here so much is because I believe we represent every rural riding in this province. Mr. Speaker, that didn't just happen. There's a reason we represent every seat in this province. Mr. Speaker, we care about the agriculture industry, we care about farmers, and we care about rural businesses in this province. And I think it's something that the NDP, if they hope to ever form government again — which I have a little bit of a bias there, Mr. Speaker — but should they ever hope to form government again, they're going to have to get a different attitude about rural Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think in winding down my remarks here, I would like to move the motion in support of this agreement in principle. And, Mr. Speaker, I'll move my motion:

That this Assembly recognizes and supports the opportunities for Saskatchewan's agriculture and uranium industries with the comprehensive economic and trade agreement, CETA, reached in principle by the Government of Canada and the European Union.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melville-Saltcoats:

That this Assembly recognizes and supports the opportunities for Saskatchewan's agriculture and uranium industries with the comprehensive economic and trade agreement, CETA, reached in principle by the Government of Canada and the European Union.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's a great pleasure to rise in today's 75-minute debate here in the Assembly. However I'm a bit concerned about what we're debating here because, Mr. Speaker, we wholeheartedly support the motion as it stands and, you know, are certainly in favour of what's being suggested by this motion.

So I don't know what the member from Saltcoats was referring to when he said we're not in agreement with this type of motion. There's a large difference between what's being put forward today and what was put forward last week in the motion. And I think the problem is that members opposite didn't bother to listen and understand what the distinction is between the motion that's on the table today and the motion that

was tabled last week.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, and I've spoken about this before, I come from a farming family here in Saskatchewan. I have two brothers who are farming and I had my dad and my grandpa were very active in the farming industry and very active in making life better for farmers, Mr. Speaker. And you know, one of the things that the early farmers were concerned about was getting their grain to market. Agriculture is all about trade, Mr. Speaker, and this is exactly what this is about. And this is why we agree that CETA is an important agreement for the producers here in Saskatchewan.

[11:15]

You know, back in the early days farmers had to work hard to make sure that they were getting good prices for their grain, and they did that. They worked together and worked co-operatively and they formed important groups like the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. And again my grandfather was one of the original organizers for that, and it was very important in those days for farmers to not be taken advantage of and to ensure that they got the best price for their grain and the best price for their cattle. And that situation continues to apply to farmers today.

We know that farmers have made great strides — I'm including the farmers in my family, Mr. Speaker — and that the notion that we get the best trade agreements for them as governments is something that we've always supported and have no issue with whatsoever, Mr. Speaker.

So it's a bit strange that the government introduced the motion in different wording today, because we're appreciative of that, and perhaps they did listen to the arguments that were being made in the debate last week. And I'll get into that in a few minutes, Mr. Speaker. We know, and the NDP agrees, that progress on the trade agreement with Europe is a good thing. There's no question about that and there never has been. Our leader has been very clear about that and our party have been very clear about that.

Saskatchewan New Democrats welcome the progress that's been made. Certainly we appreciate the work that's being done for our producers. When I was out talking to producers last week at Agribition, Mr. Speaker, it's been made very clear. When I talked to producers here in the rotunda after the Throne Speech, it's very clear that this is something that's important to the producers of this province, important to the cattle industry. And I know the Minister of Agriculture made some comments and referred to some of the comments they've made publicly. And we have heard from those producers, and we totally agree with the notion that improved trade for the cattle industry, for the grains industry, and for all agricultural products is important, and we support any efforts that make that better here in Canada.

We welcome the progress with the trade agreement with Europe and we know, we know that having a better trade relationship with Europe makes sense. The European Union represents some of the countries with their democracies. It's important to have good partnerships with them. They have high environmental standards. They have high labour standards. And these are the kinds of trading partners that we want to have. These are the

kinds of trading partners that we want to encourage. And these are the kinds of trading partners that we want our producers here in Saskatchewan to have the opportunity to deal with.

We know it's also common sense to strengthen our economic relations with the European Union from an eggs-in-baskets perspective. We trade heavily with the United States — all the members opposite know that — and we know that that's a good thing. But we know that as a trading province, it's vital for us to access broader markets. We can't just limit our markets. We want more eggs and we want more baskets, Mr. Speaker.

And this is one of the ways that CETA . . . And I don't know why members opposite would disagree with that. We know that it's better to have wider and broader markets. They seem to think that it's not. They seem to think that it's not important. We know that we want a wider, we want a wider discussion and a wider opportunity. We want more eggs and we want more baskets. Rather than limiting everything to, for example, raw trade, we want to see value added and we want to see a lot more of that here in this province, Mr. Speaker.

We know that Saskatchewan people and Saskatchewan businesses produce world-class products and some of the best agricultural exports in the world. And we know it's good for us to open up new markets in order to ensure that Saskatchewan producers and Saskatchewan people are able to access those markets. And that's why — and I hope members opposite are listening — that's why New Democrats in principle agree with the proposal that's been reached with Canada and the European Union, in principle.

We did vote in terms of the proper amendment because last week's motion was flawed, and these guys don't seem to appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. And we are certain that the motion that's being produced today makes way more sense than the one that was moved last week.

So we do welcome the agreement in principle. We support expansion and diversification and trade relationships, and we think and know that the countries of the European Union make good trading partners, Mr. Speaker. We know that the ag sector relies on trade. We know that it's important as the member from Saltcoats mentioned. We know that we need efficiencies in our agricultural industries. We're looking for that. We're looking for advancements in technology. And those are things that are very important to the producers of this province, Mr. Speaker, and it's important to support the work of those producers. They're very successful. They work very hard. And they've certainly been doing their part to keep the economy going and to increase the productivity of our agricultural sector here in the province.

What the members opposite seem to be missing though, Mr. Speaker, is that this agreement while in principle appears to make sense, we don't have any details. And what the problem is, is I think maybe some of the members opposite might like to go and see a picture of a car on the Internet and just buy it because it looks good, Mr. Speaker. We know that that's not responsible. We know that that's not responsible at all. Without looking under the hood, without taking a test drive, without examining the details, it seems strange that the members opposite are just willing to accept holus-bolus without any sort

of examination whatsoever of any of the details of this agreement. And that frightens me, Mr. Speaker, when you have a government that's willing to do that without any examination.

And in fact just yesterday the Premier seems to be going contrary to that, because when we had talked about the new law on cyberbullying, he said he didn't want to comment on it until he had an opportunity to read it and look at it, Mr. Speaker. And that's a big difference than what we're hearing from members opposite right now, so they must disagree with the Premier. And I don't know why they would disagree with their own leader, because he's saying it's important to take a look at the details.

And yet across the board we have ministers of this government saying, we think this is great because we're told it's great. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's not good enough for the NDP. We have to be able to examine the details, allow people of this country to have a good look at what's inside this agreement. And it's a massive agreement, and it's probably one of the biggest trading agreements that this country's ever entered into.

So don't you think it's important that we take the time, that we have the opportunity . . . We know it's going to be at least two years before all the other European countries have ratified the deal, if they ratify the deal. And we think, what's the rush in terms of saying this is . . . we're just going to accept holus-bolus whatever the agreement is without even having an opportunity . . .

We're talking about transparency and accountability, Mr. Speaker. And those are something that this government says is important, but we surely don't see an example of that in this case. We haven't had an opportunity to be accountable as legislators. I think it behooves us to really ensure that we take the time that we need and we reach out to the constituents and to the people who understand these issues, the experts in trade, the experts in all the implications of this trade agreement, and we have a long period of time to do that.

So make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, the NDP supports the CETA agreement in principle. And if they had stopped their motion there last week, it would have been much easier to support. So we do support the agreement in principle but we don't want to look at a swift implementation, which was the flaw in last week's motion. Swift implementation would be irresponsible. It would not be a good move on our part as legislators to just swiftly implement an agreement that we haven't seen. And I think the government recognizes that, and they certainly wouldn't conduct themselves in business that way on a private level, so why would they conduct themselves in business that way here in public when we're responsible for the future of our producers, we're responsible for the future of all of our citizens when it comes to all the aspects of this trade agreement?

So I hate to disappoint the members opposite but I actually do support the motion as it reads today. And I'm not sure what the debate is all about, Mr. Speaker. It's unfortunate last week's motion was flawed but I think they got it right this week. Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Opportunities — that is the best word there is. Opportunities, synonymous with our plan for growth. Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to participate in this debate as the seconder for this motion.

Mr. Speaker, farming is in my blood and it warms my heart to hear my colleague, the member from Melville-Saltcoats, move this motion and discuss all the benefits of CETA to our agricultural community and Saskatchewan. With our innovative spirit and dynamic businesses run by resilient, determined, brilliant people, opportunities is indeed a word that is music to the ears of the new Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, businesses create jobs; jobs that support our families, jobs that create a higher quality of life, jobs that contribute to a thriving community. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan we have 38,749 small- and medium-sized businesses. These are businesses run by innovative, determined people that take action. Saskatchewan, by the way, has the second-highest number of small- and medium-sized businesses per 1,000 people in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Roslyn Kunin is Troy Media's . . .

The Speaker: — Order. There is still opportunities for members to enter the debate. They don't have to carry on the debate when another member has the floor. I recognize the member for P.A. Northcote.

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, Saskatchewan has the second-highest number of small- and medium-sized businesses in Saskatchewan. That's per 1,000 people across the country.

Mr. Speaker, Roslyn Kunin is Troy Media's business columnist in BC [British Columbia]. She is also an economist. She says, and I quote, "Every business needs customers." She goes on to inform us that:

At about [500,000] . . . people, Europe offers more customers to Canada than what we currently enjoy with the United States, which has a population of 317,000,000 [people]. And most Europeans enjoy a standard of living and a level of income that makes them willing and able to afford and enjoy Canadian goods and services.

The Economist goes on to say, on October 26th, 2013, "On its own, CETA is hardly trivial: the European Commission reckons it could boost bilateral trade by 23% or \$36 billion."

Mr. Speaker, the NDP is against the uranium industry. Oh no, wait, wait, they're for it. Well we're not sure what they're for or against. Let's listen to a few things that they've said over the past few years. Here's a quote from NDP policy on uranium mining in 1990. It's a quote, an STV, SaskWest Television news report dated March 8th, 1990: "Uranium mining is something that the New Democratic Party does not approve of. Its policy is to slowly phase out all three Saskatchewan mines and prevent new ones from getting started."

Then just a little while later we hear, and I quote, "Because we produce 30 per cent of all the uranium used in the world and 30 per cent of all the potash, these are very strategic resources and

I think we can be getting a much better share for the people of Saskatchewan.” That’s from a former NDP leader, Dwain Lingenfelter, on March the 11th, 2011 on Missinipi radio.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP proposed to dramatically increase royalties in order to fund their irresponsible 2011 election promises. Today what we learn or what we know now about the provincial uranium royalty regime is that it is being modernized, and it will enhance Saskatchewan’s competitiveness and it is essential to continue attracting new investment and encouraging expansion of the industry in the North.

We also know, Mr. Speaker, that long-term uranium royalty revenue in Saskatchewan is forecast to triple in the next 15 years. Competitiveness, Mr. Speaker, is one of the cornerstones of the Speech from the Throne in 2013. In fact we see two pages dedicated to competitiveness.

Roslyn Kunin, and I quote:

Because of the increased access to markets and improved productivity, Canadian producers will become more competitive. And CETA will give Canada a competitive advantage that no other major industrialized country has: we will have comprehensive trade agreements in place with both the United States and Europe, a total of over 800,000,000 of the most prosperous people on earth.

Mr. Speaker, that’s exciting. Our province will see benefits as federal restrictions on EU companies in the uranium mining sector will be lifted by the federal government. Saskatchewan led the push for these changes in the negotiations. Mr. Speaker, Canada will no longer require EU investors to first seek a Canadian partner in order to receive approval for uranium production projects. Note that Canada retains the ability to apply national security considerations in its approval process.

[11:30]

Talk about opportunities. This will make Saskatchewan the most attractive destination in the world for EU investment in uranium mining. Mr. Speaker, in 2012 Saskatchewan was the second largest producer of uranium in the world, right behind Kazakhstan. Right now Cigar Lake is the newest uranium mine development. Several other projects are continuing to advance through the feasibility and environmental stages.

Mr. Speaker, northern and Aboriginal people, and indeed people from all over our Saskatchewan, are directly benefiting from the uranium industry. There are 3,372 employees and contractors working in the uranium industry in the northern half of our province. Mr. Speaker, Cameco is the largest industrial employer of First Nations in Canada. Any time anyone flies into or out of P.A., they can’t help but notice that there is a parking lot dedicated to Cameco employees, and there’s dozens and dozens of vehicles in there.

Mr. Speaker, we have more opportunities. In 1951 one of our most brilliant scientists, the Hon. Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk, former lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, as a part of a team, successfully treated a cancer patient with cobalt-60 radiation. Today and every day, there are more than 45,000 radiation

treatments delivered in more than 80 countries. This is an opportunity for people that have cancer.

Mr. Speaker, many of us know of someone near and dear to us that has had the benefit of having cancer knocked right out of them because one of our brilliant people, the Hon. Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk, set a goal and achieved it. Once the cancer is knocked out of these people, they contribute to an improved quality of life for the future of our province. We have implemented Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear . . . Let’s try that over, Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation. Its areas of impact are nuclear medicine; materials science; improving nuclear energy systems, including small modular reactors; and the relationship between the nuclear domain and environmental society.

Mr. Speaker, earlier we heard that the member from Saskatoon Nutana said, certainly we are in favour of today’s motion. So why do members of the NDP, namely failed leadership candidates such as Erin Weir, slam CETA and with that the uranium industry? Mr. Speaker, it’s time for the Opposition Leader to bring out a clear policy stance.

We have a plan for growth, Mr. Speaker. We set goals. Some said they were too bold but we went ahead with them anyways. Our government set a goal to welcome 100,000 people to Saskatchewan in just 10 years. That goal is surpassed and now we are on to the next goal of 1.2 million people by the year 2020.

Mr. Speaker, growth has never been for the sake of growth. It is for the improvement of the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, the uranium industry is on track to help us achieve those goals and CETA . . .

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my pleasure to enter discussion here this afternoon as it relates to a very reasonable motion put forward by the member from Melville-Saltcoats. And certainly the motion that’s put forward is something that we agree with in principle, that we agree with. And it relates to CETA, which is a very important opportunity, it would appear, for Saskatchewan markets and for our Saskatchewan economy. And so we certainly, as we said on the record, as we stated, Saskatchewan New Democrats, the official opposition, certainly see progress on this trade agreement with the European Union as a very good thing. We recognize how important it is to our province and we’ve been listening to Saskatchewan stakeholders on this front in the agricultural sector and right across the province, Mr. Speaker. So as I say, we welcome progress with a significant market.

When you think of the European Union, you are looking at a very large market and a market as well that is well established, well regulated, and could be a very valuable partner for our country moving forward, and for our province. When we look at the European Union itself, of course, they’ve got rule of law that applies and that they adhere to. We see strong environmental norms. We see respect for workers’ rights and labour standards. These are all important aspects to be considered in who you’re choosing as strong trading partners.

Of course, any opportunity that we can have to grow responsible good trade like this is something that we should be embracing as a province. Providing the opportunity to broaden and diversify trade and investment for our province is something that we, is something that we support and something that we should all be working towards, which is why the very reasonable motion put forward by the member from Melville-Saltcoats here today is something that we are supportive of and pleased quite frankly to see on the record here today.

I know when we look at the trade for our province right now, we're rather reliant on the United States. And they're a very important and also a vital trading partner, and certainly we want to continue to strengthen and expand trade with the United States. But when you're provided an opportunity to make sure that there's new markets, new avenues for trade for your province, it's something that you should be pursuing.

In this whole discussion, it sometimes seems that the current government's focus may be not on the full picture that it should. We do believe that there's an opportunity to bring a continued focus and leadership to value-added opportunities right here in Saskatchewan. And hopefully through this trade deal, there'll be opportunities for value-added product and refinement of products by way of agriculture here in this province.

So we see this as a good thing. And I know we've had the opportunities that certainly connect with the agriculture sector on this front and the resource sector on this front. And when you're looking at expanding trade for our agricultural products, that's a good thing. And I think when you look at markets like bison, for example, which have certainly come through difficult periods and have developed into a fairly mature industry here in Saskatchewan, this could be a very important partnership for the bison industry. Certainly it seems that consumer demand out of the European Union or out of the European countries, with the countries within the European Union, would provide some demand for a product that we can provide. And we know that we have some of the best bison producers here in the world, and certainly that's creating opportunities for them.

I think as well of our beef producers, our pork producers. But our beef producers . . . And I know speaking with the Cattlemen's Association and seeing statements from the Stock Growers, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that these are important markets for us to be accessing.

We are a resource-rich province. We have such agricultural strength. We provide some of the absolute best agricultural products to the world, and we need to make sure that we're finding the markets that we should for those producers and for the foreign investment.

When we take a look at the piece, I mean certainly I respect the approach taken by the member from Melville-Saltcoats here today because it put forward a very reasonable motion that is the sort of discussion that should be had in this discussion, not, you know, not playing political games with sort of this sort of important and historic trade deal. And that's why I really value the approach taken by the member from Melville-Saltcoats here today.

I was disappointed, to be frank, Mr. Speaker, with the approach that we saw last week in this Assembly where it seemed that government was more interested in political games than they were to have the kind of solid and rational and substantive discussion that we could as an Assembly about the deal with the European Union about . . . with CETA.

So as I say, as the official opposition, we see a lot of promise in this deal. We certainly believe there's value in ensuring that legislators follow due process and due diligence in making sure that all the details are well understood. But certainly the information we have available, although somewhat limited by way of the information that's been put on the table, but the information that we see here for Saskatchewan is extremely promising.

That being said, you know, there's a place and a time for proper review of these deals, all the details to be on the table. And any legislator that's been entrusted to serve on behalf of the public, worth their salt, knows that that's an important review and process for all of us, but particularly for federal legislators, to be able to engage in.

So certainly we don't provide a blank cheque to government. What we do want to know is more details on this front. But certainly we support in principle CETA, and certainly we support in principle the motion that's put forward here today, knowing what it means to so many across this province. You know, when you look at the uranium industry itself, it's certainly an important industry to this province. It's important by way of the investment that's placed in this province. It's important by way of the jobs and employment that it provides in northern Saskatchewan, many of whom are Aboriginal workers and many of whom are now multi-generations of families working within that industry.

And if you look at the uranium industry in Saskatchewan in fact, it's been many of these partners within the European Union that have helped invest and capitalize northern Saskatchewan and create those opportunities. And certainly this deal seems to work towards modernizing or building out a stronger relationship with a region, the European Union, that would seem to be a very strong trading partner, which is why we're optimistic towards what we hear.

I know when we were out at, of course, with meetings with some of the stakeholders in agriculture, we hear very favourable support towards CETA. That's something we identify. Enjoyed being out at Agribition last week. Certainly a world-class show, second to none, international in nature, and really showing us how we, from a provincial perspective, and our agricultural producers and our entrepreneurs connect with the world. And certainly this deal itself builds upon that, and again that's why we support this deal in principle.

I understand that the deal itself brings forward many opportunities for many of our markets. We see that whether it relates to grains or barleys or rye. We see that with durum. We see that with oils, including canola. And this is important to support these producers here in Saskatchewan in ensuring that markets are expanded and that they can receive best value for their hard work, best value for their investment.

And as I say, for our livestock industry, for our producers, whether they be pork, whether they be bison, whether they be beef, this deal holds out a lot of promise for the producers here in Saskatchewan. And I'll say some of the producers that are some of the finest producers in the world right here in Saskatchewan, some of the finest beef right here in Saskatchewan that we get to share in a more broad way with the European Union or get to share their bison product here, some of the best bison producers here and we get to share that with the world, and we get to share that with a level of pride as well because it's not just about trade in dollars. It's also about taking that proud Saskatchewan reputation and the proud history of our producers, the proud work they provide and investment they provide in this province, and sharing that with the world.

So, Mr. Speaker, what I see here today is a reasonable motion put forward by the member from Melville-Saltcoats. What I see is a more rational discussion that we should be having about an important trade deal, as opposed to the political games we saw from the government opposite last week. And certainly that's why we certainly support in principle CETA and support in principle this motion, not to discount the due diligence that will be required at another level. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm really pleased this morning to be able to enter into this debate and lend my voice to recognize and support Saskatchewan's agricultural and uranium opportunities as a result of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement which has been reached in principle between our Canadian government and the European Union.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe this agreement when implemented will be even more significant than the NAFTA agreement signed some 20 years ago. This agreement will have far-reaching benefits for so many of our Saskatchewan businesses and industries today. But today I would like to highlight some of the positive effects it will have on our agricultural industry.

[11:45]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as my colleague from Melville-Saltcoats pointed out, last year we topped \$11 billion in agricultural exports here in Saskatchewan. That makes us number one in this country, a position that we rightfully occupy. Put into perspective, Mr. Speaker, that is nearly one-third of our total exports. And as you know, we are of course a net export province here in Saskatchewan, so whatever actions that we can take to ensure access to and preference in more markets should be supported by all Saskatchewan residents.

Here's an interesting statistic, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I think is very important to this proposed agreement, and that is that Saskatchewan's agricultural land base is equivalent to 66 per cent of the EU's cropland. So it's easy to see how important this agreement will be to our agricultural producers, when one province, our province, has 66 per cent of the total ag land in 28 countries in the EU.

I think it's also important in light of our plan for growth, the 2020 and beyond, introduced by our Premier last fall. This growth plan outlined our goal of increasing our agricultural exports to \$15 billion by 2020. This agreement will give us preferred access to a market made up of 500 million people hungry for our products.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote an article written by Murray Mandryk in *The StarPhoenix*, October 22nd, 2013. And I quote, "The Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union is good for Canadians . . . and it's especially good for Saskatchewan." He goes on to say in that article that although we certainly value our trade with our greatest trading partner, the United States ". . . expanding our trading partnerships is critical."

He also described the federal NDP party's criticism of CETA's deal as telling. He concludes his article by saying this, and I quote, ". . . sometimes we do need to set aside political games and just look at the policy. Increased trade is always good policy." Set aside political games and just look at the policy. We need to take a page out of his book. I think Mr. Mandryk has nailed it here, Mr. Speaker.

We are the breadbasket of the world. We have more opportunity here to feed the world with our 33 million acres of crop production land than any other jurisdiction in Canada.

This agreement will definitely open up new markets for our producers. For example, in 2010 Saskatchewan's agriculture exports exceeded \$100 million in a total of 19 different countries. However of those 19 countries, only one was in the European Union. Just think what this agreement to reduce or eliminate tariffs can do to open access to all of the EU countries and make our exported products more affordable.

Presently, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the 9,000 European Union tariff lines, approximately 98 per cent of those will be duty free for Canadian goods. For example the oats tariff of \$114 a tonne for oats increases the price to the purchaser in Europe by 51.7 per cent — definitely a huge barrier to the EU countries buying our oats.

And if I may, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a side note, I can sympathize with our agriculture exporters that are trying to get into the European market. For several years I've exported horses into the European market, mostly Germany, Belgium, and some to Italy. And I can tell you that if we were sending over a mare or we're sending over a stallion, that was fine. There was no duty on those. But when we had a purchaser to buy a gelding, there was a 15 per cent tariff tacked onto the price of that horse. And that was on the delivery price in Europe. So if you took a 15 to \$20,000 horse delivered in Europe, that added \$3,000 to the value of that animal. So, needless to say, we didn't send a lot of geldings to Europe. So I can certainly sympathize with our ag producers today that have been facing those kind of tariffs.

Here's some other facts, Mr. Speaker. Our annual average exports to the EU from 2010 to 2012 was \$669.6 million. And the average tariff rate was 13.9 per cent, and that's an average only. So imagine the impact when seven years after coming into force, 95 per cent of those tariffs will be eliminated. That's a

huge benefit to Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And further, with total European Union ag imports of \$130 billion in 2012, we can only imagine what this could mean to our ag producers. It will open up opportunities for our products that simply do not exist without this agreement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the CETA specifically will be of great benefit to pork, beef, and bison producers, but let's not overlook the benefits to our crop producers. I just mentioned the oats tariff, but barley and rye producers presently face a \$120-a-tonne tariff. Wheat, depending on the grade or variety, face up to \$190-a-tonne tariff. These producers, under CETA, will have locked-in, permanent, duty-free access.

Processed goods producers will also benefit, with tariff reductions amounting to as much as 14 per cent. Mr. Speaker, having duty-free access to the EU for 50 000 tonnes of beef, 80 000 tonnes of pork and 3000 tonnes of bison is of great significance, especially at this time because of the non-monetary tariff created by COOL [country of origin labelling] in the United States.

COOL is simply a protectionist, non-monetary tariff imposed on Canadian beef products simply to give the American's producers an advantage by making it nearly impossible for packing plants to run two lines of packaging and labelling, one for US products, one for non-US products. I know that our Ag minister and other ag ministers from Western Canada have worked diligently to fight this restriction and try to block the new farm bill being proposed. There's serious ramifications here, with millions of dollars at stake to our economy for ag producers and other, not just the beef and pork, it relates . . . It trickles on down to other things: poultry, fruits and vegetables, shellfish, nuts, eggs, everything.

So I think it's important that we recognize the value of this CETA agreement. This locked-in, duty-free CETA agreement will ensure our beef, pork, and bison producers a safe market for products into the future.

As I mentioned earlier, this NDP party's parent party in Ottawa, the big daddy, was critical of this agreement. And now the failed former provincial NDP leadership candidate is openly criticizing the CETA.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, as do most Canadians and Saskatchewan citizens, that safeguards have been built into this agreement to protect our public procurement contracts. We already have open and fair processes because of our New West Partnership Agreement. But in any event, CETA will only apply to high-value contracts, over 315,000 for goods and services and 7.8 million for construction. Additionally we have some patent protection for pharmaceuticals and a commitment from Canada to address provinces' high . . . any health-cost increases brought about by CETA.

Mr. Speaker, I've talked in some length about the benefits to primary ag producers, but also included in this agreement are elimination on tariffs on our ag equipment exports. Saskatchewan farmers and entrepreneurs have long had a reputation for the ingenuity and skills in developing equipment for agriculture producers. This agreement will also open more markets for their products.

With CETA, Mr. Speaker, Canada will be the only G8 [group of eight] country to have preferred access to the world's two largest markets, the EU and United States, giving us access to 800 million of the world's most affluent customers.

With built-in provisions to help eliminate or prevent non-tariff barriers or deal with them as they arise, this agreement will surely help avoid those non-tariff barriers that we see now with issues such as COOL. Because we now have earlier access to the complex and sophisticated regulatory development system in the EU, many of these problems can be reduced or eliminated.

In conclusion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the CETA agreement will bring great benefits to Saskatchewan exporters with our new locked-in, duty-free tariffs on ag products. With this preferred access to a market with over 500 million consumers and 17 trillion dollars worth of economic activity in 28 countries, it is truly wonderful news for this great exporting province. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, it's a great pleasure to rise and speak in favour of this motion today because it captures exactly what we, as proud Saskatchewan people, want. We want a playing field across the world where our good products from Saskatchewan can be traded in the European market. We know it's about 500 million people, and I think the previous speaker just emphasized a number of the statistics around this. But the important part is that we, here in Saskatchewan, have many products that we want to make sure they have access into that whole European continent.

We know that our trading arrangement with the United States provided all kinds of opportunities that were not fully understood when the whole agreement was entered into. But, Mr. Speaker, on this day of Saskatchewan green — and I see green all around this Chamber, Mr. Speaker — I also ask the question about why do people in the world want to trade with Saskatchewan?

Well one of the reasons they want to trade with us here in Saskatchewan is because we are Saskatchewan green. And when I say that what I mean is that we have products that come from a part of the world that has many, many positive attributes, especially as it relates to agricultural products. But it also relates to forestry. It relates to some of the mining things we do. And part of our job as trustees and people taking charge of the assets of Saskatchewan that are to be traded in the world is to make sure that they are used and developed in the most environmentally friendly way possible. And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work and make sure that we can be proud of the products that we put out into the world market.

Now one of the things that people see from other parts of the world when they look back at Saskatchewan is that we actually do have a place that's quite far from lots of the concerns around pollution or other things that happen in the world and that many of our products then do meet some of these world standards in ways that are quite dramatic. And we should be quite proud of that.

One of the interesting things about the whole area of this particular CETA agreement relates to the livestock industry. And before I was here in this legislature, I had a number of Simmental cattle, which are cattle from the European Union. And, Mr. Speaker, those cattle were basically world-class cattle that were used for trading from Saskatchewan. And I know that many of my family who are ranchers across Saskatchewan continue to work very hard in making sure that the products that are produced are world-class products.

Now one of the questions becomes, when we look at this kind of an agreement, is how are we going to get the most value out of those products on the livestock side as we produce this food for the world? And that's a continual challenge I think for us here in Saskatchewan, to make sure that we get the most value out of that.

Now also we know that this year we can see just an incredible wealth of grain and oilseeds and peas and all the things that come from our province, which once again are world-class products for two reasons. One, Saskatchewan green; they come from a very pristine part of the world. The second one is that they're grown with water that comes from the skies, what's called green water if you know some of the water economics theory of the world. And when you talk about green water, what you're talking about is water that is not irrigation water. It's not water that's pulled out of rivers or lakes or deep aquifers. You're talking about precipitation. And that's another thing that we can be proud of because this particular agreement opens up broader markets for those kinds of products.

Now the interesting part of our uranium industry in Saskatchewan — and I've had, I guess, about a 35-year relationship with the uranium industry in Saskatchewan in my previous professional life and in political life — what we know is that it was many of the European companies who brought their capital forward to work with the Blakeney government and others to get the uranium industry started in Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, what we know also is that at that point there was a federal company, Eldorado. There was a provincial mining company, SMDC [Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation] working together with Uranerz and Areva and the other utility companies from especially Germany and France. And that capital that they brought forward opened the original mines at Cluff Lake and at Key Lake, and what it did was point out to people across the world that there was this incredible resource in Saskatchewan. But it also identified that this was a very, very capital-intensive, expensive job to do. And we have to say thank you as Saskatchewan people over the last four decades to our European friends, especially for the amount of money that they entrusted in our province to develop the whole uranium industry and other industries as well.

[12:00]

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this CETA agreement is part of that opening up or the expansion of the markets for Canadian goods and Saskatchewan goods, and we are supportive of making sure that our good products in Saskatchewan are available for the people of the world. And we are, I know, happy to work with European partners like we have for many decades. But we're also wanting to make sure that we will meet the standards that

they have in Europe, whether it comes to labour standards, whether it comes to environmental standards, when it comes to food quality standards. All those things that they have developed I think will be of also assistance to us in Canada and in Saskatchewan as we make sure our products are available for the world.

And so when we enter into agreements like this, those very technical details are important. And one of the challenges that we have so far is that we have the agreement in principle which sets out some of the broad pictures, but we all need to see more, more of the details as it relates to specific areas. But practically at this stage we need to be ready to go forward and develop that long-term trading relationship with all of the European Union to make sure that it will continue to provide a source of both capital but also a source of purchasing power for the products that we have here in Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's always quite curious that the government brings forward a motion that's as clear and as easy to support as it is today, and so I want to thank the member from Melville-Saltcoats. He's been around I think the same number of years as I have in this place and he knows that there are many things that we agree about, whether it's Norwegian nationalism or agriculture. And we will continue to support this kind of work that's being done.

One of the things that we do ask is that the Premier and the ministers who are involved in this, if they actually have more information about this than what is public, that they give us as much information as they have as soon as they can so that we can all be part of the discussion, to make sure that the rules do benefit our livestock industry, our beef and bison and others, that it does benefit the grain industry the way we all want it to do.

I have a lot of faith in the negotiators that operate for Canada and for the provinces, but I know in this particular one there's been a strong provincial support to the national negotiators. And so at the appropriate times — maybe it's not quite yet — we need to have all of the details about what the province's position has been.

The Deputy Speaker: — The 75 minutes for debate has expired. Questions? I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — As it relates to an important industry in Prince Albert, my question is to the member from Prince Albert Northcote: how do tariffs currently apply and impede dissolving pulp or the reuse of the pulp mill, and how does CETA apply to the pulp mill?

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

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Today the NDP supports CETA, this very important trade agreement, and by extension the uranium industry. However the current opposition leader fails to set policy. This failure by the opposition NDP is a great way to hide their 2011 election promises to dramatically increase royalties in order to fund their irresponsible 2011 election promises.

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

Mr. Hickie: — CETA will provide new market access opportunities for key Canadian agricultural exports — beef, pork, and bison. CETA establishes tariff rate quotas for each product, giving Canadian farmers yearly duty-free access for up to 80 000 tonnes of pork including consolidation of the existing quota of approximately 6000 tonnes, 50 000 tonnes of beef and 3000 tonnes of bison.

To the member from Saskatoon Nutana: just like on Keystone, will you stand up against your federal leader and tell him to support CETA and the important new market access it will provide to our Saskatchewan producers?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — I would like to thank the member opposite for reading from a long list of things that we're not really all that . . . I can't think of the word. They're not in dispute. I think we're totally onside with what he's saying about those producers and the items that were produced. We certainly support the bison, beef producers.

I'm interested to hear that we have nut producers in Saskatchewan. I'd like to hear more from the member opposite about that industry here. But generally we support the trade and economic development of all those things. And I think the member opposite needs to reread some of the comments from the national leader for the NDP on that as well. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Yesterday the Premier made it very clear that he needed to see the federal legislation around the anti-bullying project. He wanted to see all those details before he made any comment. And I would ask the member from The Battlefords: does that same thing apply when we're looking at CETA?

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Thank you for the question. I think of importance here is that we're agreeing with this agreement in principle and that's what we're talking about today. We're talking about the principles that are contained in the CETA agreement that are going to help so many people in Saskatchewan.

We talked about the wheat producers, we talked about the beef producers, we talked about the pork producers. And I think as this rolls out, we're going to see that there are tremendous benefits to all of the ag producers, the uranium producers, and so many other industries, the ag products producers, that are going to benefit from this agreement as it rolls out.

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

Mr. Doke: — Mr. Speaker, the CETA agreement will mean EU tariffs will be eliminated on grains, durum, and high-quality common wheat for which CETA will lock in permanent duty-free access; oils; processed goods including miscellaneous food preparations; and processed pulses and grains which include baked goods, pulse flour, meal, and powder.

To the member from Regina Lakeview: thank you for your support. Will your caucus contact the federal NDP and their leader and ask for their support of the CETA, which undoubtedly creates opportunities for Saskatchewan farmers?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, we are very clearly in favour of this whole agreement and things that are going on. I know that the federal NDP is also in favour of CETA. They want to make sure this is negotiated so it provides the best agreement for all Canadians, including Saskatchewan people.

Our job here as the Saskatchewan NDP is to make sure that it protects our people in the best way, but also gives them the access to the markets of Europe because we're very proud of the products we have here in Saskatchewan.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I guess a question to the member from North Battleford. Certainly we support, in principle, CETA and the motion that's brought forward here today. Trade's very important with good partners, and we stated that. Where this government's agenda seems to be lacking is as it relates to the value-added initiatives and the value-added roles within agriculture and our resources. I guess I look to the member from The Battlefords to clarify this government's plan as it relates to value-add in resources and the agricultural sector.

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thank you for the question. I think the CETA agreement outlines very clearly, in principle, that we're not just talking about primary agriculture products. We're talking about I think, I believe in here, frozen potato products, other frozen vegetables, and fruit products. These are value-added products that are being processed here in Saskatchewan. As well, I believe in here there was 15 000 tonnes of processed beef, frozen beef that can be exported. So we are in fact in this agreement, this CETA agreement, supporting value-added agriculture in this province, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Speaker, the NDP is renowned for slamming government policies before doing all their homework to get the facts straight. A great example of this was on Tuesday when failed NDP leadership hopeful, Erin Weir, was featured in the P.A. *Daily Herald*, slamming the newly proclaimed CETA. He misled people by commenting that there was no

transparency in regards to uranium policy. I guess Mr. Weir didn't quite do all his homework, as page 12 of the technical summary clearly states the government's plan to make investment in uranium less restrictive.

To the member from Regina Rosemont: when Mr. Weir writes his next article disparaging CETA, can your caucus be sure to speak out against him or did the NDP membership get the leadership vote wrong at their last convention?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, you know, I get a kick out of the backbencher opposite who I've known for some time, and I'm disappointed that he'd stand on an important arrangement like this and sort of politicize the whole piece. And it's too bad that he'd read some sort of quotes that I guess have been provided him from the political caucus office opposite.

But as we've put on the record, we're not going to play political, divisive games on this. What we do is support good trade and deals that are good for Saskatchewan. That's why in principle we support CETA. That's why we support the reasonable motion that's put forward today. And I'll tell the member opposite that he should know any legislator worth their salt should not be afraid of the details and should be willing to engage in some due process.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We heard the Premier say yesterday in the House regarding the federally proposed law is he wanted to read it first. He wants to read and examine the legislation and then he said, "Certainly if it is, that's something we would be open to. I think it's something we would look at but it's unclear at this point."

How can the member for Melville-Saltcoats constituency be ready to sign on the dotted line of this agreement without doing due diligence as the Premier said he would do for federal legislation?

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very interesting debate this week. Last week the NDP were dead against CETA. This week they've taken a complete one-eighty and now they're in support of it, and they don't even check the P.A. *Herald*. Mr. Speaker, they should check the paper in P.A. because one of their other leadership hopefuls is dead against this. The only difference, Mr. Speaker, was that last week it asked the federal NDP to support CETA, and now this week they don't have to do that. Mr. Speaker, this NDP Party seems to be beating to the drum. Whatever Thomas Mulcair says, these guys do.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr.

Speaker, the completion of CETA will mean that Canada will no longer require EU investors to first seek a Canadian partner in order to receive approval for uranium production projects. This could mean up to 2.5 billion and 1,200 jobs over the next 15 years.

To the member from Regina Rosemont: it is encouraging to hear that you now support the investment in jobs that CETA has the potential to bring to this province, particularly the North. Will you agree to contact Mr. Mulcair, the federal NDP, and ask them to change their minds like the Saskatchewan NDP have?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Again we see opposite, another written statement from the . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Members, the time has expired for the 75-minute debate.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 605

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Wotherspoon that **Bill No. 605** — *The Public-Private Partnerships Transparency and Accountability Act* be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a pleasure today to enter into this very important debate on a private member's bill my colleague has introduced, Bill 605, *An Act respecting the Transparency and Accountability of Public-Private Partnerships*.

We think this is a critical, critical piece of legislation that actually we don't think the government should be worried about at all, because from this past debate, just what I was hearing, they're not afraid of facts. They want to do due diligence. They want to make sure they have the research, and that's all this bill really asks for. That's all it really asks for is to make sure that we protect the taxpayers and residents of the province of Saskatchewan and that they do get good value for their tax dollars.

[12:15]

And so I'm not sure what the reluctance is for this government to do that type of thing, but we know that a vote for this is for transparency and accountability. A vote against this is really about secret deals made in backrooms. And the stakes are just too high, just too high when we do have an urgent situation in our schools, in our communities where we do need more schools. And, Mr. Speaker, we think that's what the plan is, that

we should be going ahead and getting that job done and not trying to think of these, you know, potential boondoggles of what we've seen in other provinces. And we should be learning from other provinces — the experience in the Maritimes, the experience in Alberta — that it just doesn't work when you bring a cookie-cutter approach to school construction.

Our province is growing. Our population is growing, and many communities need, urgently, new schools. But they don't need to be strapped with financial fiascos because we haven't done our homework. We should do our homework. And I think people expect that when we're elected that we will do our homework and we will get value for money and we will do it in a way that gets the job done quickly, but fair value.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think what we need to do is take a moment to reflect on why schools are so important in our communities. They're much more than just cookie-cutter buildings that will, you know, serve only a short period of time. They're centres of our communities.

And I think about my school that I grew up in in Mortlach, Saskatchewan, the Mortlach School. And we were proud to see how it developed really from, you know, a four-room school into a multi-room school as the town grew. And it continues to actually do well, but the demographics have changed a bit.

But I think about Caswell School, where I had the pleasure to teach, and my kids go to school, in Saskatoon. That's well over 100 years old now. But it really was the centre of the community. It was really the centre of the community. And people were very proud of it, proud of their kids going to the school. And the kids when they graduated were proud of that school because it really met the needs of that community. And there was a sense of, let's meet the community needs and let's do this job right. Let's do this job right.

And I think when my colleague talked about this, and in fact even the Premier talked about . . . He has the story about — that he told the teachers, I think, in October at the luncheon — about how we should value all input in terms of how do we build great schools in our community. So when people come and they take a look . . . should we move here? Is this the kind of community we want to live in? They say, yes, and look at that school. That's a great school, not just another one of those cookie-cutter schools.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we want to set the context that schools are important. It's an urgent situation. We should get to work on it. The population is growing and more and more kids are there, and we should make sure we have the best schools. But this kind of approach, I think we can see, is just not the way to go.

So I want to take a moment and take a look at the Act. I think it's a well-written Act and it really speaks to how we should set out the process forward when it comes to making plans of how to build schools.

I want to just take a moment to talk a bit about the preamble, because I think that really sets the stage. And there are six whereases, but let me go through them each. The first one: "Whereas the residents and taxpayers of Saskatchewan have a right to know how their money is spent." And I just think we all

have to agree to that. Everybody in this province has a right to know how their money is spent. That's really the case, isn't it? So this kind of bill sets, how will they know how their money is spent? Because they have a right to know how their money is spent.

It goes on to say,

Whereas it is in the best interests of residents and taxpayers of Saskatchewan to receive the best value for their tax dollars in the government procurement of Crown infrastructure, goods or services on their behalf.

And I mean, that goes without saying. It's a fairly obvious statement, but really this is, again, details. Often people use that code word, value for tax dollars or value for money, VFM, as some sort of . . . Well P3s are automatically in that camp. And we often say, well wait a minute, you know, we want to know more about that. Why is it that we seem to think that you get value for money from P3s automatically? Automatically. It's an automatic fact. Well it's not automatically in any circumstance. You have to do your due diligence and you have to get the job done right. And that means some bargaining and making sure it's done right.

So this really sets out, how will that happen? How will we know we're getting the value for our tax dollars. And so this is why it's so important to get that out there. That's what we want to know, value for tax dollars. The next whereas says,

Whereas cost savings or value for taxpayers' money has not been realized or has been the subject of audit and dispute in other jurisdictions in public-private partnership projects.

So it's saying, you know, the history is not good for P3s particularly when it comes to school projects. And we know in the Maritimes or Alberta, it has a very checkered history in terms of even the auditor saying, you know, we need to really determine, are there the savings that the people are saying that are in favour of this kind of project? Are they really there?

And again, and my colleague really went through so many examples of whether it's in Edmonton or Calgary where there's real questions about the savings, the cost savings or the values . . . you know, we have a situation in Calgary where there is apparently only one bidder on the contract. How can you think you're getting the optimum cost savings when there's only one bidder? So that's an issue. This Act speaks to that situation where we might have only one bidder, actually talks about, minimum is three bids or else it doesn't go ahead. Also talks about:

Whereas public-private partnership arrangements generally require governments to both long-term use of a private facility as well as guaranteed-payment of contracts that last in the range of 30 years.

People often don't realize this. And when we have P3s and the kind of P3s that we're talking about in this Act, these are long long-term commitments. And long after many of us in this House will be here and be gone. And people will just think, there goes the school. It's up and the kids move in and it

becomes the property of the school board. That's not the case at all. That's not the case at all.

In fact the ownership could remain with a private company, and that causes all sorts of problems. And in fact some of them are kind of odd. I'm hearing stories about dilemmas about when the ball goes up on the roof, who gets the ball out? You know, you would think, well the janitor used to go up and get the ball. But now because it's private property, the ball has to stay up there. That doesn't make a lot of sense. Or even if you want to install some new wiring, because it's private property, that may be a big deal. Not the school board's property. So that's a big, big issue.

Another issue is, "Whereas up-front independently verified transparency and accountability ensure that public money is not used for contracts or arrangements that are kept secret from the public." And this really is the crux of the matter before us, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure that everything is transparent and accountable.

We're having this debate. We've had this debate about CETA, where, you know, we say, in principle we're in favour. Of course we are. We're a trading province. That only makes sense. But a good trading province makes sure that the deals are accountable and transparent, and that's why we have a lot of questions about that deal. And we have questions about P3s. It's just the way we've done that in Saskatchewan. It's been our way of doing things.

And "Whereas the Government of Saskatchewan is pursuing the public-private partnerships method for major capital projects." So this government has really announced its intention to go down this road and seriously take a look at . . . And they've announced nine school projects. Now there are actually 18. They're joint-use schools. And so they have made a major commitment to this ideology without laying out the process of how Saskatchewan citizens will be assured that they're going to get full value for their money and that it will be done in an open and an accountable way and there won't be secret deals.

So this bill makes a lot of sense, and I think it's only reasonable that this government get behind this and say, hey, good idea. There's no problem. We'll make sure that we are transparent and accountable, and there will be no secret deals. So as I said, a vote for this is for openness and transparency. A vote against this is for secret deals. I don't know how else you can frame this.

So you know, this bill is actually fairly substantive, and I think that a lot of credit goes to my colleague for doing this. This is not a small piece, but it's an important piece. And he talks about and defines what public-private partnerships are, or what P3s mean, and lays that out. It's an arrangement in which:

the private sector entity assumes responsibility for all or substantially all of at least two of the following aspects of the project:

- its design;
- its construction;
- the long-term private sector financing for its construction;

the activities related to its . . . operation;
its long-term maintenance; and

at least one of the aspects of the project for which the private sector entity assumes responsibility is its long-term operation . . . [and] maintenance, or the long-term financing . . . [of] construction.

Because as you know, Mr. Speaker, it has been the practice that we do engage private construction companies to build our schools, to build our hospitals. But this is a little different because there's a long-term commitment. And whether it's the ownership or it's the maintenance or the financing, that really is a critical difference. And that's where we could see problems in the details. And this is where we had situations in Nova Scotia where they, in the end, had to cancel their long-term projects because they were just getting too expensive. They were just getting too expensive. And they found that, I understand, the savings was about \$2 million a school, that when . . . the remaining schools to be built.

It's good to set out, what are we really talking about? And of course the public sector that would be the partner would either be the Government of Saskatchewan or some agent of it or universities or any institution or body that derives its funds in whole or a large part from the Government of Saskatchewan.

And the other parts I want to touch on quickly is talking about the independent accountability. And that's what's really key, is the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall select by unanimous vote an external consultant who will do an independent . . . set up an independent accountability mechanism for each capital project. And it talks about what are the steps in the preliminary analysis and public consultation, and then how do we go back to make sure that that's actually being carried out if the P3 model is selected.

So there's a continuous accountability process right off the bat where we're saying we want to make sure we keep track. We want to see where the anticipated value for money is. Where is it really happening? And we want to set up a comparator. That's important. We're not just . . . It's not just a theory that it may save money, but an actual model, and that there will be actual check backs as it goes forward.

And again, one of the sections talks about procurement laws and policies. And there must be a minimum of three bidders on all three projects, and that's hugely important.

And the reporting out is important. The Provincial Auditor's powers and duties are laid out in this Act. And that's really key because we know that it's important, not just by us saying so, but there needs to be a credible source who verifies the independent auditor's work.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm just really pleased about this Act. I think it's thorough. It makes a lot of sense. And it's in the tradition of this government and this province for decades that we actually do work in an accountable and transparent manner.

And we know that we've seen a government that doesn't have a strong record in terms of contracting out. I just have to think about the portables. And often they talk about it as a bundle of

portables. We think it's the bungle of portables. And we think this is a real problem.

And at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say no matter if this is a way to hide debt, this is just not on because we know debt is debt is debt. And that's very important. So, Mr. Speaker, on that note, I would like to adjourn debate on Bill No. 605. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 605. 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 that the House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:30.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	4139, 4141
Brotten	4139, 4141
Marchuk	4139
Wotherspoon	4139
Michelson	4139
Doherty	4139
Norris	4140
McCall	4140
Jurgens	4140
Hart	4140
Stewart	4140

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Forbes	4141
Vermette	4141
McCall	4141

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Green is the Colour	
Wotherspoon	4142
High School Football Champions	
Marchuk	4142
Celebration in Rider Nation	
Brotten	4142
Players Carry on Weyburn Football Tradition	
Duncan	4142
Donation Supports Power Engineering Program	
Campeau	4143
British Parliamentarians Visit Carbon Capture and Storage Facility	
Krawetz	4143
Go Riders, Go!	
Hutchinson	4143

QUESTION PERIOD

Educational Assistants and Classroom Supports	
Brotten	4144
Wall	4144
Cyberbullying Legislation	
Forbes	4145
Wyant	4145
Public-Private Partnerships and Provision of Schools	
Wotherspoon	4145
McMorris	4145
Funding for Care Facilities	
Vermette	4146
Duncan	4146
Prince Albert Bridge	
Belanger	4147
McMorris	4147

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 118 — <i>The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act</i>	
Norris	4148
Bill No. 119 — <i>The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013</i>	
<i>Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act</i>	
Norris	4149
Bill No. 120 — <i>The Lobbyists Act</i>	
Wyant	4149

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

Support for Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement	
Bjornerud	4149, 4160
Sproule	4151, 4159
Jurgens	4153, 4158
Wotherspoon	4154, 4158

Cox	4156, 4159
Nilson	4157, 4159
Hickie	4159
Doke	4159
Docherty	4159
Lawrence	4160

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 605 — *The Public-Private Partnerships Transparency and Accountability Act*

Forbes	4160
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Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Minister Responsible for The Global
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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