



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

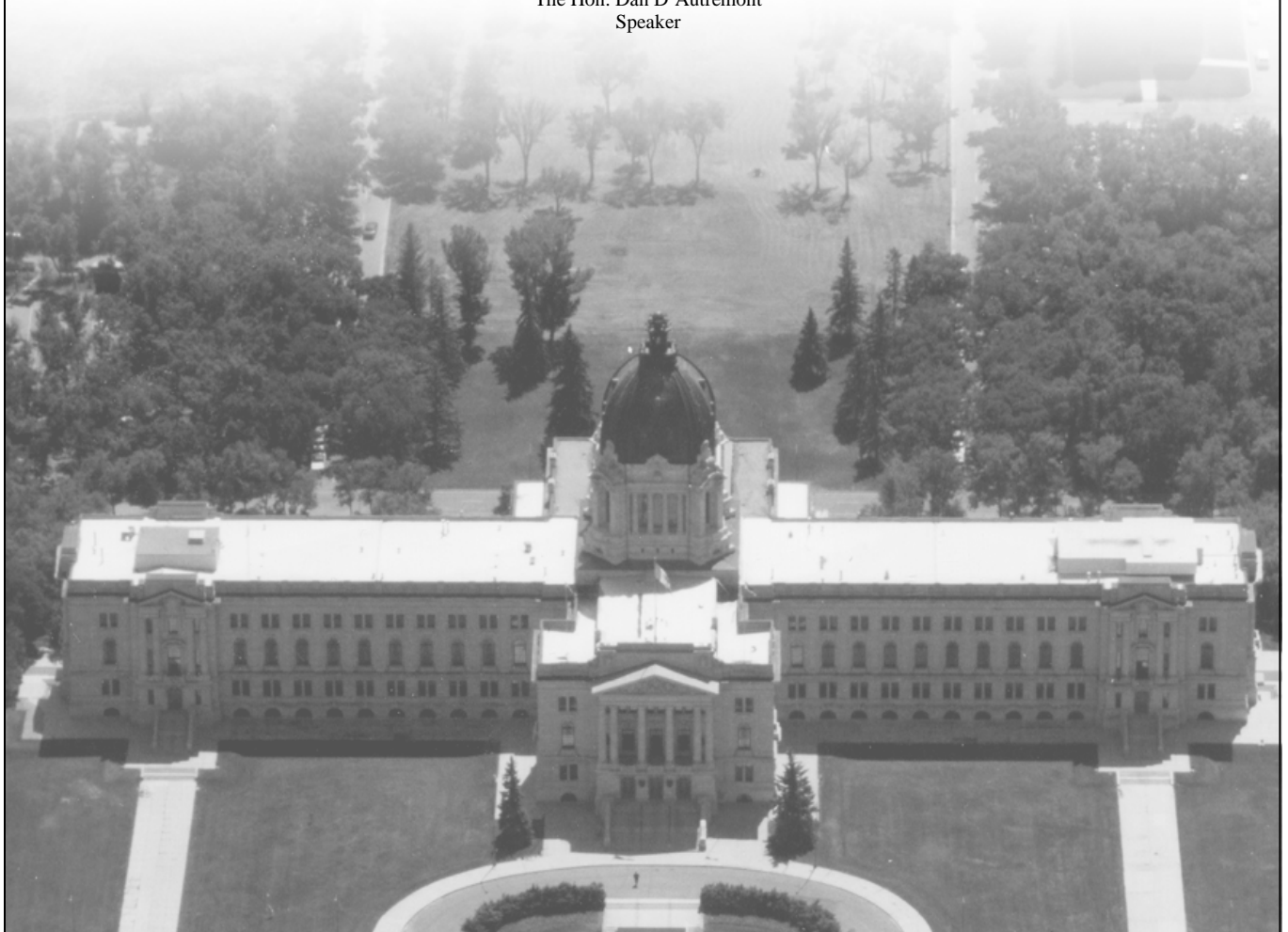
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I would request leave of the Assembly to make an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues for leave to make this introduction. We are honoured today to have some very special guests seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and then some in the east gallery as well. Mr. Speaker, today joining us are veterans of our military, representatives of the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]. In the east gallery are grade 7 and 8 students from two schools in Regina, Lakeview and St. Josaphat. And we want to welcome all of our guests.

Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago outside the Legislative Building, we gathered together all of us, these groups and members of the Assembly — and we thank the members for their attendance there — to commemorate the conclusion of the Canadian military mission to Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, the ceremony coincided with the lowering of the Canadian flag at NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] headquarters in Kabul, Mr. Speaker.

And I think it's important that we observe here today that hundreds of Saskatchewan citizens served in Afghanistan during Canada's 12-year mission. And you think about 12 years, how quickly those years have passed. Seventeen people with Saskatchewan ties, Mr. Speaker, died while serving in this mission, together with 158 Canadians. That's the number of Canadians who lost their lives in the mission. Many others came home wounded in body or mind or spirit. And so, Mr. Speaker, today's ceremony was an opportunity for all of us, on behalf of a very grateful province, to say thank you to all of those from Saskatchewan and indeed from our country who were a part of this mission.

What did they do, Mr. Speaker, on the mission? Well here's some interesting things they did that might not come immediately to mind as we think about the Afghan mission. They did help local security forces promote law and order. They did build national institutions and they did support the democratic process. They provided humanitarian assistance for vulnerable people, including refugees.

They trained police officers. They built and repaired more than 50 schools, Mr. Speaker, built and repaired more than 50

schools. They rebuilt the Dahla dam and its irrigation system. They contributed to the eradication of polio in Afghanistan, Mr. Speaker. And from time to time they also hunted the Taliban.

And upon their first deployment, together with other freedom-loving countries and their respective missions, they put terror camps out of business so that we are safer today for their heroism and for their willingness to serve.

Mr. Speaker, also joining us in the gallery is someone that's well known to our Assembly, someone who helps us as a commissionaire and is a friendly face. Ben Walsh, I think has joined us in the Legislative Chamber today. And I asked him if he would do that because I would just offer one other, one other explanation, one other reason why Canadians would participate in this mission.

These are the words of his son, Master Corporal Jeffrey Scott Walsh from Saskatchewan who was a member of the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and who, 9 August 2006, at age of 33 was killed.

Choosing words that his young children would understand, Master Corporal Jeff Walsh told them and other Canadians why he was willing to risk his life for freedom.

Here's the poem he wrote to his kids. "Monsters In the Dark," it's called:

I know that they are out there;
I will not be ignorant any more,
Pulling the blanket over my head;
Will not keep them from coming ashore;
Instead, I choose to confront them;
As afraid as I might be;
Because if I don't stop the monsters;
Our children can never be free.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think we have the ability to add to those words to make them more significant. But we should take every single opportunity that we can to remember Master Corporal Jeffrey Walsh, the other 16, the 158, and all those who served in this mission for the cause of freedom and for our safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Premier in welcoming the individuals who have come to the Assembly today and who are seated in the galleries, whether it's the students from Lakeview and St. Josaphat schools, or whether it's the members of the Canadian Forces who are here today in the galleries, Mr. Speaker.

We had an important ceremony outside in front of the legislature marking the return of Canadian troops back to Canada, Mr. Speaker.

And as Canadians, as we look at this point of time in our country's history, we have a variety of emotions that we all experience as Canadians. Most of all we're thankful for the service that has been provided and appreciative of those who

have been willing to put their own life on the line in order for the common good, in order for the bettering of many people's lives. We're proud of that service that has been provided and proud especially of the men and women from Saskatchewan who have done their part.

We're also hopeful, Mr. Speaker. The Lieutenant Governor spoke of these remarks earlier. We're hopeful for the future of Afghanistan and for the work that has been accomplished by Canadian Forces and the work that we want to see continue for the people of the country.

But we also mourn, Mr. Speaker. We mourn for those who lost life: for civilians, for members of the Armed Forces. We mourn for the families who are here in Canada who have empty spots at their dinner tables, who have empty spots at their holiday celebrations, who don't have the pleasure of experiencing the day to day what is normally mundane and routine happenings, but the things that make family life so special. So we mourn with those families as well and remember the sacrifice that has been given. And as the Premier mentioned, we especially think of Mr. Ben Walsh who has a close connection to this building.

Members of the Armed Forces have done their duty. And as we mark this completion, Mr. Speaker, of this stage, it's important that we remember what our duty is as Canadians. It's in order to ensure that those who have made the sacrifice, those who have returned wounded, whether the wounds are seen or unseen, receive the attention, receive the care that they deserve. And let us use this day to recommit our efforts to ensuring that all veterans receive the care that they do in fact deserve and need.

I thank the Premier for his earlier remarks and for this opportunity to express our thanks on behalf of the official opposition.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, members of the Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan that are here today seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

I have a number of names that are joining us, perhaps a few that didn't make it down for the trip. But I will go through the names. Today with us are Jordan Li, Jaylynn Arcand, Jon Herriot, Keith Johnstone, Lena Xiao, Lindsey Anderson, John Schulte, Reid Sonntag, Kristin Black, Cheyanne Vetter, Jessica Harris, Sarah Smith, and Christine Chang.

Mr. Speaker, these members of the Student Medical Society are here in the building to meet with elected officials regarding a number of topics of interest. Myself and the Minister for Rural and Remote Health will have an opportunity to meet with them this afternoon after the proceedings. And I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the minister in welcoming the students from the

Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan, the government affairs and advocacy committee. The opposition had an opportunity this morning to hear from 12 of the members here and learned tons. It's always good to hear from students who have some insight as to what will help keep them here down the road, ensuring that we cross that 50 per cent barrier when it comes to ensuring that doctors practising here are from Saskatchewan, have roots here and can stay here.

So it's always a pleasure to hear from you and your good ideas, and we look forward to a continued working relationship and hearing what else you have to say down the road. So with that, I'd ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming these medical students to their legislature.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, we have some people here coming down from northeastern Saskatchewan. I've got a bit of a list here too.

In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is Mark Knox who is a reeve of the RM [rural municipality] of Nipawin; Merv Tweed who's the president of OmniTRAX Canada; Sinclair Harrison, president of Hudson Bay Route Association; Leonard Gluska, president of Gateway Keewatin Corridor from The Pas; Deputy Mayor Lewis Robin, town of Nipawin; Richard Porter, provincial Chair of regional transportation planning committees; George Haas of the Hudson Bay Route Association; Jim Hallick, Hudson Bay Route Association; and Christopher Hudyma, town of Nipawin.

And in the west gallery, we have the reeve of the RM of Moose Range, Ray Mazurek; and Richard Colborn who is administrator of the RM of Moose Range. I would like all members to welcome them to their Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Carrot . . . Well I guess first of all, Mr. Speaker, I would again just like to acknowledge our people that have served in uniform and thank them for coming here today.

I would like to join member from Carrot River in acknowledging delegation from northeastern Saskatchewan as well, beginning with the deputy mayor of Nipawin, Mr. Lewis Robin; Councillor Mike Botterill. In the east gallery, Ray Mazurek and Richard Colborn, George Haas, Jim Hallick, Chris Hudyma and Len Gluska.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to make just a special acknowledgement of Merv Tweed who is now the president of OmniTRAX and previously was the MP [Member of Parliament] with our federal government for the area of Brandon-Souris.

And, Mr. Speaker, no stranger to Regina on a week like this when SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural

Municipalities] is on, I would like to make an acknowledgement of Sinclair Harrison who's come down. And I had the opportunity to meet with Sinclair and the delegation prior to the House here today.

And another previous member of SARM, a previous member of Rosthern-Shellbrook constituency is Richard Porter, or anyone who's met him more than once will know him as Porky Porter. Mr. Speaker, Porky has been involved in numerous projects in the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook from landfills to hospitals and everything in between. And Mr. Speaker, he's been a true friend of the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] of Rosthern-Shellbrook.

And I appreciate all of you coming today. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like all my colleagues to join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly here today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I'd like to join with members opposite in recognizing the municipal leaders that have joined us here today, both from the northeast and other parts of the province. These leaders are certainly committed to their regions, to our communities, and I know are engaged in a whole host of very important issues from economic development through to health care through to grain transportation challenges.

I appreciated the time I spent today and as well yesterday over at SARM, appreciated the discourse and the issues that you're bringing forward. We will be following up on some of those resolutions as well. Thank you for the leadership to those municipal leaders that they provide to our province.

I'd be remiss not to join the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming our veterans, our Armed Forces, our RCMP members that have joined us here today. Thank you.

I also would like to just recognize Donna Kadash who's here as well. She works with the RCMP. And I know Donna; she's a friend. And she lost her nephew a few years back, Corporal James Hayward Arnal, and I certainly recognize the loss in a family there. And of course our good friend Ben Walsh who's here with us here today, I think it's hard for any of us to get our minds around what that loss within a family means. Certainly we value and are thankful for the service of your loved ones.

I'm also really pleased to have the students from St. Josaphat that have come here today, a grade 7 and 8 class, a really special bunch. I've gotten to know them a little bit. I had a good time with them not too long ago for an impressive debate. And certainly if democracy is something that we're fighting for, there's an impressive group within that room that will contribute to our democracy and to our province years forward.

And I am really pleased to have the group from St. Josaphat join us here today, the grade 7s and 8s along with their teacher, Mr. Clayton Ford. He is certainly an exceptional teacher. Thank you so much for joining us and please send my best to Principal Chicilo. Thank you. Please join with me in welcoming these students.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as Minister of Education, I would like to introduce the two school groups that are with us today — one just recognized by the member opposite.

These students came here today, and we thank them for coming. But they came here for a specific purpose, and that was for the flag-raising ceremony outside to commemorate the return of Canadian soldiers from Afghanistan. To them I would like to say, this is something that should be a special event in their lives. This is something, a conflict that has gone on for most of them throughout the better part of their lives. So to them it marks the end of something, and hopefully is something that leads to a greater and better world in which we focus on freedom and liberty.

There are, Mr. Speaker, 27 grade 7 and 8 students from St. Josaphat School. The teacher that brought those students was Clayton Ford. And there are 30 grade 7 and 8 students from Lakeview Elementary School. The teacher there is Rochelle Anderson. We'd like to thank the teachers and all the students for being here today and ask them to enjoy their time in the legislature today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today we witnessed a very auspicious ceremony in front of the legislature, and we as individuals and as a province and a nation are better for the experience, as difficult as it might have been. And so I want to offer my appreciation also to the members of the military that have joined us today and individuals who have suffered deep personal loss.

On another note, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize constituents that have joined us today. I don't have this opportunity very often, so when I have five rural government leaders from the constituency of Cypress Hills in the gallery, I want to be sure to recognize them. And if anybody ever doubted why Cypress Hills is the greatest constituency in the province, we are home to a rural municipality that goes by the name of Happyland. And the reeve of Happyland is with us today, Mr. Tim Geiger, who has become a very good friend of mine, a hard-over Liberal that I've softened just a little. We have, at the other end of the line, Doug Smith who is the reeve of the RM of Deer Forks. And we appreciate his work on behalf of his citizens.

With those two gentlemen who serve as reeve, each of them have brought a councillor. Gerald Wagner is the councillor for the RM of Happyland that's with us today, and Basil Dietrich is the councillor from Deer Forks. And in the midst of them is the administrator for both RMs, Tim Lozinsky who has joined this delegation at SARM and in the gallery today. I would like all members of the House to welcome my constituents for their visit here. They're not just looking for good administration; they want to know if I'm representing them well.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the other members and the Premier who have welcomed the

students from Lakeview School. There are 23 students in grade 7 and 8 accompanied by Rochelle Anderson and Shannon Lyons. And Lakeview School is very close to the legislature, so they have a long experience of coming each year to visit this place. But I think today they've had a special visit, and they all know that. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I have the honour of introducing some of the Minister of Agriculture's constituents but some good friends of mine: my cousin Darren Steinley from Rush Lake, Saskatchewan; Terrie Unger; and reeve of the RM of Excelsior, Harold Martens.

This may be a rare instance, but actually it's a honour to introduce Harold because he introduced me in 1988 as I was on the grade 5 class trip and he was the MLA. So it's turnabout is fair play. So welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

And it's a pleasure to have my cousin here. They're here for the SARM festivities and it's been fantastic so far. I was happy to be there this afternoon, and I'm looking forward to getting together with him this evening at the banquet.

And I, just on another note, I had the opportunity to get to know Ben Walsh quite well. He was with us when we did the Highway Traffic Safety Committee and we travelled. And he shared some wonderful stories, and I'm proud to call him a friend and a great constituent. So I just wanted to mention him as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to join into the induction of the many honoured guests we have here today. With SARM on, it's nice to see a lot of our rural constituents coming up.

In your west gallery we have Dennis Fuglerud who is the reeve of the RM of Rudy. I know he's up today working on behalf of the RM. So I want to — myself and the member from Rosetown-Elrose, we share him as a constituent — and also the members, I want to have everybody welcome here to his legislature.

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 calling for greater support of education. And we know that education is one of the most vital services a government provides to its citizens and that we must build the best education system for today and for Saskatchewan's future. But we know that this government has yet to deliver a long-term plan and vision and necessary resources to prioritize the delivery of educational excellence and that government has yet to develop a real plan, to develop a plan to close the Aboriginal education gap, support English as

an additional language students, and support community schools and their communities and students.

I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to immediately prioritize education by laying out a long-term vision and plan with the necessary resources to provide the best quality education for Saskatchewan that reflects Saskatchewan's demographic and population changes, that is based on proven educational best practices, that is developed through the consultation with the education sector, and that builds strong educational infrastructure to serve students and communities long into the future.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents in support of safety and rerouting heavy-haul truck traffic from Dewdney Avenue. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the provincial government to immediately take action as it relates to the unacceptable danger, disturbance, and infrastructure damage caused by heavy-haul truck traffic on Dewdney Avenue west of city centre to ensure the safety and well-being of communities, families, residents, and users; and that those actions and plans should include rerouting the heavy-haul truck traffic, receive provincial funding, and be developed through consultation with the city of Regina communities and residents.

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

I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition because the leaders and residents of northern Saskatchewan are concerned about seniors' care in the North. The Croft report of 2009 showed a serious shortage of long-term care beds for seniors, and the problem has only gotten worse. Seniors have done their part for this province and it's time for the government to do its part. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to treat northern Saskatchewan senior citizens with respect and dignity and immediately invest in a new long-term care facility in La Ronge area.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of replacing the gym at Sacred Heart Community School. The petitioners 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 is good for the mind, body, and spirit of all children.

They point out that the gym at Sacred Heart Community School has been closed because it was falling apart, Mr. Speaker. There's a temporary solution on offer in terms of the use of the old sanctuary at the old Sacred Heart Church, but the students need a gym. The petitioners also point out that Sacred Heart Community School is the largest school in North Central with 450-plus students, 75 per cent of whom are First Nations and Métis. They point out that enrolment has increased by 100-plus students over the past four years, and that attendance and learning outcomes are steadily improving. And they point out, as a matter of basic fairness and common sense, Sacred Heart Community School needs a gym.

In the prayer that reads as follows, they:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Regina who represent a grandfather, a grandmother, and a mother of a Sacred Heart student. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Entrepreneur Wins Just Watch Me! Contest

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize a young entrepreneur from the town of Outlook, a town that both myself and the member from Rosetown and Elrose have both represented over the many years.

This entrepreneur has shown that determination and believing in yourself are key to achieving goals. Last month, 20-year-old Taylor Layton won the Just Watch Me! contest run by the entrepreneurs with disabilities program. Layton has Down's syndrome, which limited her employment options in her hometown of Outlook, but she was determined to work like everyone else.

The solution was Taylor's Recycling Pick-Up, which she started two years ago with the help of her mother, Eloise. Taylor gives each of her customers a bin to put out once a week, when she picks up all the household recycling and sorts it for processing.

Taylor started with five customers, and now it's grown to 59, who she says has become part of her family. This community support is what resulted in a landslide victory for Taylor, with

an army of people voting for her video entry day in and day out. By winning the contest, Taylor received a cash prize of \$1,000 as well as some vital business tools and resources to help her recycling program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Taylor Layton on both the success of her business and on winning the Just Watch Me! contest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Ceremony Honours Contributions in Afghanistan

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, the Canadian flag was lowered in Kabul at a ceremony marking the end of Canada's 13-year military mission in Afghanistan. Our Assembly, alongside those across the country, also started the day by lowering our flags to half-mast. And over the lunch hour these flags were raised to full height to mark the end of the military mission and to support Afghanistan moving forward.

The ceremony was to honour the contributions and the sacrifices of Saskatchewan people, soldiers, and civilians who have given years of their lives to support this cause. The last 100 Canadian soldiers who were training Afghan National Security Forces will be withdrawn over the next couple of days, are the last of the troops to come home. This symbolic recognition is also extended to the people of Afghanistan with the aspiration that the country has the will and the stability required to secure a better future for their people. On this mission's final days, it is important to contemplate what this part of shared Canadian and Afghan history will mean moving forward, and undoubtedly we can learn a lot from our Canadian Forces about sacrifice, about community, and about leadership.

I ask that all members of the Assembly join me today in recognizing our Canadian and military heroes for their courage and dedication in supporting the Afghan people on their path towards democratic stability and lasting independence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Estevan Police Chief Retires

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the House to recognize an outstanding constituent of mine for his work in the city of Estevan. For nearly four decades, Del Block has been striving to prevent crime, protect Estevan's residents, and be a positive influence in the community. He spent the last 38 years as a member of the Estevan Police Service and the last five of his tenure as police chief. Del knew when he was a grade 10 student at the Carnduff High School that he wanted to be a police officer after the RCMP came to the school to promote a career in policing.

Since Del joined the Estevan Police Service on May 1, 1976, he has seen many changes in both the police service and the city of Estevan. He remained loyal to the police service and gained respect both locally and nationally. At one point he also held

the position of the national vice-president for the Canadian Police Association. Although Del is retiring, two of his daughters have chosen to follow in their father's footsteps by pursuing careers in law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Mr. Del Block on his 38-year career with the Estevan Police Service, and in thanking him for all his contributions to the Estevan community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Women With Disabilities Luncheon and Woman of Illumination Award

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on March 7th I attended the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living's 14th annual Women with Disabilities Luncheon. This important gathering was held in recognition of International Women's Day.

The keynote speaker, Reka Kincses, described her journey from Romania to Saskatoon with her daughter, Boglarka, as well as their plight to prevent deportation due to Boglarka's diagnosis of cerebral palsy.

Mr. Speaker, it was also inspirational to hear about the Woman of Illumination Award, Marilyn Baker. This award aims to recognize a woman within the disability community whose actions can serve as a role model for all women, regardless of ability. Marilyn has devoted herself to the disability community through her volunteer work as well as her time at Cheshire Homes as a resident representative. She has become a leader that residents and staff look up to for guidance. Though Marilyn had to leave her position as an LPN [licensed practical nurse] after sustaining an injury, she kept busy spending time independently raising three wonderful children, and she now is also the proud grandmother to four grandchildren.

Would members join me in congratulating Marilyn Baker on her award as well as recognizing the important role of events like the women's disability luncheon in raising awareness about the important work being done in the disability community in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Battlefords.

Land-based Learning Camp

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was recently invited to a luncheon hosted by the Living Sky School Division. At the luncheon, they highlighted the success of a program recently introduced in their school division. The program, titled land-based learning, was first implemented in the Cando School.

Both teachers and administrators spoke of the great success of this initial land-based learning camp. Students had an opportunity in a natural environment to learn about First Nations and Métis culture, local traditional language, academics, community engagement, environmental awareness, and how to have a healthy mind, body, and spirit. Students returned from this camp refocused and recharged, and the

improved graduation rates were phenomenal. Of the 17 students who attended that first camp, 15 will graduate this year.

The next land-based learning camp will be held from May 26th to 29th this year with grade 9 students from both Cando and Leoville schools participating. The four-day camp will be a bicultural camp with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students and will follow a bicultural and co-teaching model.

Mr. Speaker, Elder Ethel Stone spoke of the students who now want to go to school as a result of what they experienced at that first camp. In her words, "Programs don't work without relationships." Mr. Speaker, students certainly built relationships at this camp. To quote another elder, Elder Theresa, "Working together is better than talking about each other."

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating Living Sky School Division for taking the initiative to develop this program and wish them every success with their 2014 camp. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Honouring Bill MacRae

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a lifetime of achievement by one of the most respected RCMP officers in the Regina community and indeed in the province, Bill MacRae, who passed away February 24th, 2014.

Bill MacRae spent 31 years with the RCMP and is fondly remembered by many. Mr. Speaker, MacRae may best be remembered for his time stationed at Depot Division here in Regina as the chief training officer. Not one for complacency, MacRae oversaw a number of significant changes to the division, including the start of training female recruits and a shift to the human relations training. This was no doubt a historic time for Depot.

MacRae was not done serving his community upon his retirement, and his list of accomplishments continued to grow. He went on to become president of the Saskatchewan Golf Association. He became CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Gaming Commission. I met Mr. MacRae at that time. I was Vice-Chair of the commission, and he was certainly an agent of change in that area. He was a member of the National Parole Board, president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rehab Centres, chairman of Canadian Special Olympics, an aide-de-camp to two Lieutenant Governors, and an honorary doctorate of law from the University of Regina.

Mr. Speaker, this was a life well lived. Our condolences and thoughts and prayers to his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Agricultural Safety Week

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week our Agriculture minister and the Minister of

Labour Relations and Workplace Safety proclaimed March 9th to 15th to be the Agricultural Safety Week in Saskatchewan. This coincides with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, a partnership between the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Agricultural safety should be a priority for all farmers and ranchers to ensure the continued success of not only their operations but also the agriculture industry as a whole. This year's theme, Let's talk about it! encourages farmers and communities to talk about farm safety. While we strive to provide safe workplaces across the province, we must also ensure that farms and ranches, ranchers are safe as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture provides funding to the Agricultural Health and Safety Network, an affiliation of the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture, to offer agricultural health and safety programming to farm families in Saskatchewan. In addition funding is provided to the Saskatchewan Association of Ag Societies and Exhibitions for farm safety day camps for youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Assembly to join me in asking our farmers and ranchers to take care this spring, whether it's putting in this crop or working with their livestock. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Personal Care Homes

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2012 the Provincial Auditor flagged significant concerns related to the health and safety of residents in privately run care homes. The Provincial Auditor said that this government needed to get serious about how it regulates privately run care homes, how it inspects those homes, and how it reports the results of those inspections.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Premier insisted the government could not post the results of the inspections until legislative changes are completed. But the truth emerged last night in committee, Mr. Speaker. Nothing, nothing was stopping the government from posting inspection reports. In fact, this is what the Ministry of Health said: "I want to make it clear that the ministry did have the authority to release that information and under what circumstances and when and any conditions around that."

My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Premier: why did he insist that this government cannot act until legislative changes are made when that's actually not true?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true. That's the advice we received from Justice officials. That's the legal advice that the Government of Saskatchewan received with respect to posting these inspections in the way that the bill prescribes.

Mr. Speaker, there's obviously the release of information. We've seen it through freedom of information requests, and some of that's actually been posted then on media websites. But the legal advice to the government in the case of restaurants, as I recall, and also in this case is that legislative authority is required, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to obviously honour the advice that we get from the lawyers and the Justice officials for the Government of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we learned in committee last night, it was clearly said by the Ministry of Health, Mr. Speaker, that legislative changes were not required for the release of information. They said it was preferable, Mr. Speaker, so that there could be a framework in place for the frequency of releasing reports and all of that. But he made it clear, Mr. Speaker, that it was not necessary.

That's not the only inconsistency we see here with this government's lines. Yesterday the Premier was asked whether the government would have the regulations ready to get the inspection reports up quickly. The Premier said, Mr. Speaker, that cabinet could meet today, get these things done, and "have this in full effect." But yesterday in committee, Mr. Speaker, the minister confessed that the regulations are not ready. And in fact, his timeline, he hopes — he hopes — online reports might be up by the fall of 2014.

So my question is for the Premier, who suggested the regulations were good to go: what did he mean when he said that this government could have this in full effect quickly?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I meant that we could have it in full effect very quickly, which is exactly what the government intends to do.

Mr. Speaker, to the hon. member's preamble, I want to be very clear. Advisers to the Government of Saskatchewan from Justice, legal advisers to the government might say, you can post these inspections, but there is a risk to posting the inspections if you don't have the legal authority to do so. So we chose to have the legal authority to do so, as we did in the case of restaurant inspections.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to inform the Assembly that the draft regulations are complete, that we will now consult with the sector. And in the days ahead, after we consult with the sector on the regulations, we will take the next step and move forward to the implementation of this process quickly.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this story is changing second by second here. Last night we were sitting in committee. We were sitting in committee until about 11 o'clock. The minister said that the regulations are in fact not ready. Here we have a quote from the minister. The member from Saskatoon Centre actually asked this. He said, "Are the regulations ready to go?" The Health minister said, "I don't believe they are ready to go for tomorrow." So apparently someone was up with a pencil all

night writing regulations for this, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there are concerning stories coming out with this government's approach to this issue. Supposedly there's great urgency, but then there's mixed-up stories coming out. Here's what's also, Mr. Speaker, here's what's also very concerning about the government's story. Last night in the committee I asked the Health minister, in how many instances are there where privately run care homes are currently having significant deficiencies and that's affecting the health and safety of the residents? The minister could not provide an answer. I asked for a ballpark how many instances. He could not provide an answer.

To the Premier: has he looked into this? In how many instances are there deficiencies with privately run personal care homes here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we know what's happened here. The minister . . . or the Leader of the Opposition I think is embarrassed about what happened yesterday. He's embarrassed. He's embarrassed because he asked this government for immediate action. This government said, let's take the next step immediately. The Government House Leader stood up at the end of question period and said, with leave of the Assembly, let's go. Let's start this process.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the comment on regulations, I said after question period when asked by the media how quickly we could move things, Mr. Speaker, the normal process is that it takes some time to draft regulations for any particular piece of legislation. And that's what the minister was reflecting in his answer in Committee of the Whole. But, Mr. Speaker, we made an undertaking yesterday to make things happen a lot more quickly. And I want to thank officials within the government for assisting us to ensure it happens more quickly.

The Leader of the Opposition yesterday asked that it happen more quickly. We gave him the chance. He didn't take it then. It's happening now. Exactly what he asked for is happening today. So what's the problem, Mr. Speaker?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know, I don't know on what napkin the Premier and members of cabinet are making this plan, Mr. Speaker, but their stories are completely inconsistent. We have the minister, Mr. Speaker, last night in committee at 11 o'clock suggesting regs aren't ready. We had the Premier saying that they could meet today, Mr. Speaker. Why on earth would the minister be providing contradictory information to what the Premier is admitting today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition owes an apology to officials of the Government of Saskatchewan. Not us. Not us. Frankly we're not interested, but officials of the Government of Saskatchewan that were working on the first drafts of this legislation months and months ago, before it was introduced in

the fall, who were helping and assisting the government consult with the sector. And then, Mr. Speaker, as we advanced the process yesterday at that member's request, also the officials of the government moved promptly on regulations. And now we have an unprecedented situation where the regulations are drafted and we can go to the sector for support.

I think that that's not writing things on the back of a napkin. I think that's earnest effort on behalf of the people of the province at the request of that member opposite, and he owes those officials an apology.

Mr. Speaker, the genesis of this whole debate is November the 12th of last year when the Minister of Health introduced the bill in the first place, and then every one of the members opposite spoke to the bill. They ragged the puck. They kept it out of committee. That's something they control. They could have moved it to committee in November by stopping the lengthy speeches they were giving. Well the total speeches were two hours and 15 minutes, about 15 minutes each. They all spoke to it except the Leader of the Opposition, by the way. He didn't have time.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this. We want to move quickly on this. Now are the NDP [New Democratic Party] going to co-operate or not?

[14:15]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier is tying himself up in knots in this explanation here. In the explanations we've heard from the minister, Mr. Speaker, there's been bizarre tales in terms of what's happening and what's not happening. But we also asked some serious, some very serious questions additional to the timelines. And committee was especially important to get the information on the timelines because it was in committee where the minister said they hope they can hit the fall of 2014; in fact it actually might be much later.

I asked the minister in committee, Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister how many instances are there where private care homes are in violation, and the safety and the quality of care for seniors is in jeopardy. There was no answer. There was not even a ballpark. I've asked the Premier in how many instances this is the case. Can he report to this Assembly, in how many instances are there where there are deficiencies in the quality of care for personal care homes here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we take the work of the officials of the Legislative Assembly very seriously when they give reports on any part of government. Most assuredly that's the case when it comes to personal care homes, and then we've acted.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to see the response of the Leader of the Opposition to what happened in this House yesterday, to what happened arguably to him yesterday. It was all of his own making. Mr. Speaker, he comes back to the Assembly today and it is all about process. That's what this whole debate's been

about, not about the issue.

Here while the NDP were talking about it for 16 years and worrying about process, the government changed in 2007 and created the personal care home benefit, taking that benefit to 1,875 a month. Long awaited — talk over there; action over here. We increased the Saskatchewan income pension plan, Mr. Speaker, benefits now \$250 a month, up 160 or 178 per cent — talk there; action here. The caregiver tax credit — talk; action. Four point five million for Home First, Mr. Speaker — talk; action. 350,000 for the expansion of the Alzheimer Society — talk and action. New long-term care beds, Mr. Speaker, a commitment to seniors in this province. Instead of closing beds, Mr. Speaker — that was the record of members opposite — instead of freezing SIP [seniors' income plan], the benefit for seniors, Mr. Speaker, we'll let the record stand for itself. Talk and process; and action on this side of the House.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, my question was very specific about the quality of care for seniors here in the province. How many instances currently exist within the province where there are identified deficiencies and violations in the health and safety and quality of care for seniors who live in privately run personal care homes? How many? Last night the minister couldn't say this. They've had all evening to write regulations. Perhaps they've had all evening to look into this number. How many?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all to correct the Leader of the Opposition, I don't believe at any time last night I indicated that it would take longer than the calendar year of 2014 to implement the regulations, the legislation, and the new electronic monitoring and reporting of this, Mr. Speaker. He's indicated that in the House. He indicated that in the committee last night and at no point, I believe, did I ever indicate that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what we've done is we've made . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Perhaps the members of the House would be interested in hearing the answer. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I've indicated, and what has changed since from when the Provincial Auditor conducted their work in 2010 to 2012 when they reported to us, Mr. Speaker, is that we have moved to a new process where rather than all of the annual inspections being bunched up in the month of March, Mr. Speaker, to improve the workflow we've now extended that over the year so that it's more of a staggered process which means to say, Mr. Speaker, that at any given time the annual licensing process for a facility may be due. When there is a deficiency, we work with that facility to correct it, Mr. Speaker, within a set period of time.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I've asked the Premier, in how

many instances are there care homes right now in Saskatchewan where there are violations identified? The Premier could not answer. The Health minister could not answer.

We have another Health minister as well, the Minister for Rural Health. I'll ask him. Perhaps he's read the briefing note, or hopefully there is a briefing note. To the Minister for Rural Health: how many instances, Mr. Speaker, in personal care homes, privately run ones, are there current violations where deficiencies exist? What is the number?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, because of the ongoing process, the ongoing work that we do with our personal care homes, Mr. Speaker, when the deficiencies are identified it may be at various parts of the year based on the cycle that that facility will be on in the licensing, Mr. Speaker. Depending on the type of deficiency, there will be a period of time that the ministry, the consultants will work to help the facility make the improvements, Mr. Speaker. So at any given time, that number would be different based on when each facility would be in their reporting cycle.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's shocking and concerning that a concrete number cannot be provided. For a government, Mr. Speaker, that huffs and puffs and has a lot of bluster about wanting to take urgent action, Mr. Speaker, the story and the facts tell a very different reality. And this is what we've seen from this government. They claim they want urgent action, Mr. Speaker, but then it comes out in committee that, well they actually didn't even need legislation to start posting the information. Ministry officials clearly said it was preferable; they did not say that it was necessary, Mr. Speaker.

Last night, the minister says regulations weren't even ready, Mr. Speaker. A different napkin story today from the Premier. But who knows? Mr. Speaker, we have the minister say that the public reporting of online reports won't even happen till the fall. Supposedly there's urgency but nothing until the fall, and even he admitted that they might not make that fall mark.

And, Mr. Speaker, they can't even, Mr. Speaker, they can't even identify in how many instances there are violations where seniors do not have safe living conditions and a quality of care that they deserve. My question to the Premier: when will this government get serious about the regulation, about enforcement, about inspections for private care homes here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, what the Leader of the Opposition leaves out in the narrative of this situation, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that there were recommendations made by the Provincial Auditor late in 2012. We took that very seriously, Mr. Speaker. I had met with the Provincial Auditor, and we made a decision that we were going to accept the advice of the Provincial Auditor and actually publicly report on the inspections of personal care homes, Mr. Speaker, which had not been done up to this point.

Mr. Speaker, in the advice that we received, it was advised that legislation would be the preferred route so that we wouldn't have a challenge in the future from an operator, Mr. Speaker, that would question whether or not the government has the legal authority to actually publish the information online. So, Mr. Speaker, we took the advice of the lawyers.

The Leader of the Opposition will know, Mr. Speaker, that we have consulted. Over 300 stakeholders have been consulted on this. That took us beyond a window where we could introduce legislation. The first available time to actually introduce the legislation was last fall, which we did, Mr. Speaker, and we look forward to passing that legislation today.

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

Care of Dementia Patients

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, Sheila Caron's father, Ron, has dementia. Sheila's father needs a placement in a dementia unit in a long-term care home but has been rejected. Instead her family was told to try private care homes. But private care homes are unable to provide the intensive support that Sheila's father needs.

Mr. Caron has been living in a psychiatric facility in Saskatoon for months. This is a facility that's often over capacity. Mr. Speaker, a psychiatric facility is not an appropriate place for someone with dementia. Does the Minister of Health agree with that?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd be pleased to work with the member to address this very specific case. I don't have the details at hand in terms of Mr. Caron's care. Certainly the situation that has been described by the member opposite wouldn't be the ideal situation. We do try to find placement within long-term care facilities. Of course there's a number of factors, ensuring as best we can that it's close to family members, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know in Saskatoon we do have a new facility, Samaritan Place, that does have a dedicated wing of the facility for dementia care, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure, at Samaritan Place, I'm not sure why . . . just the particulars of why that may not have been available. We'll certainly follow up to see what help we can provide this family.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, the reason given for why Sheila's dad has been rejected for long-term care is that he needs too much care and support. That's what Sheila has actually been told. There are not enough front-line workers in long-term care facilities to provide the kind of care that Sheila's dad needs, so the only place for Mr. Caron is in a psychiatric facility, and he has been there for months. To the minister: how does it make any sense for people to be denied a long-term care placement because they require too much care and support?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this particular case I'm not sure if the member opposite or the family have checked with the quality of care coordinators that are available in the regions to help navigate the system in these types of cases. I don't know the specifics, Mr. Speaker, as to why this, as presented by the member opposite, this would be the case. If they haven't done so, that's first of all where we'd refer individuals, is quality of care coordinator for the health region. If that's been done, Mr. Speaker, then we can work with the member to follow up with the family.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, here's what Sheila says:

There's a huge gap in this area of our health care. It's a very long, very frustrating road, and the people I thought were supposed to be my team and advocating for my dad are lacking. I feel they are just throwing me back the ball because they don't know what else to do. They have so many patients they can't stop to offer any specific care to just one person.

But, Mr. Speaker, when that one person is your dad or your mom or your grandparent or your spouse, you need help. And you also need hope, Mr. Speaker. Sheila needs that today and so does her dad, Ron. To the minister: what will the government do to find a proper place for Sheila's dad so he doesn't have to keep living in an acute psychiatric facility?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, not being familiar with the specifics of the case, we'll certainly follow up with the family and with the member if she would provide some additional information after question period to find out the specifics of the case and why that may have been the information that would have been relayed.

I know, Mr. Speaker, within our regional health authorities, within the Ministry of Health, we have very dedicated staff that work with families each and every day to try to find the right place at the right time for every single resident within the province, knowing that it is sometimes a challenge to match up, Mr. Speaker, the right facility for that individual, based on their individual needs.

Mr. Speaker, that's why we were very eager as a government to move forward with Samaritan Place in Saskatoon, because of the work that they did commit to do around dementia care, Mr. Speaker. But we know that we have a long ways to go in this regard.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, Sheila was told that the way to get her dad into long-term care is to drug him. That way he won't require as much care and support. This is a common concern for families of those with dementia. There aren't

enough front-line workers in seniors' care homes to meet their needs, so many families believe their loved ones are unnecessarily drugged into a stupor.

We need more dementia units but we know this government rejected at least one urgent request from a health region for a desperately needed dementia unit. To the minister: there are about 20,000 people with dementia in Saskatchewan. What is this government doing now to address this huge gap in our health care system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, well we have taken a number of steps. First of all we did agree to the building of Samaritan Place in Saskatoon, that they'd have a dedicated wing for dementia, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately the members opposite were opposed to that initiative of this government.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of dementia and people that are living in the communities, we've made a significant investment in this year's budget to increase funding for the Alzheimer Society, which typically in an annual year had been \$50,000. That is now \$400,000 to expand the First Link program around the province to help those families that are being diagnosed, those family members that are being diagnosed with dementia, to help provide support within the community and to help be a resource for those families, Mr. Speaker.

As well, we are, Mr. Speaker, in general we are updating a number of long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, to be able to provide the care that our residents need. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure who within, whether it was the health region or wherever else, had been indicating this information to this family member but, Mr. Speaker, I'll make a commitment that we'll be following up closely with this case.

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

Transfer of Community Pastures

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, at SARM's convention yesterday, delegates passed a resolution regarding community pastures that said:

Be it resolved that SARM lobby the province to deal with the original PFRA transfer agreements to the satisfaction of the affected municipalities; and further be it resolved that, if the issues with the original PFRA transfer agreements are not addressed to the satisfaction of the affected municipalities, SARM assist with bringing a class action lawsuit against the province for a breach of agreements.

And they want this to happen no later than August, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: why has this reached the point that SARM delegates have to threaten legal action against this government with regard to community pastures?

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has been brought to my attention previously and I've told the RMs in question that we will work with them, and accordingly our legal counsel has pored through minutes of the Land Utilization Board from 1936 to 1963 inclusive and they have found no contractual agreements between the Land Utilization Board and RMs for the land to be reverted to RMs. No reversionary clause, as is the case for land to come back to the province.

I've told the RMs previously that if they have information or agreements that would suggest otherwise, that we are interested in reviewing that. And it's our priority to make the patrons, make sure that they continue to have access to the land. But we are willing to work with RMs that think they have agreements to the contrary, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I understand that the affected RMs have also done some legal research and looked into the documents that relate to these transfer of lands when they went to the Land Utilization Board. And in fact most of them have minutes from their meetings when they agreed to pass this land over to the utilization board, were then transferred to the PFRA [Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration], and that these minutes in many cases have a number of conditions attached to them. And will this government honour those conditions when those RMs turned the land over, back 80 years ago?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. That's what I have said from the beginning of this process. If documents can be found that show that land should revert to RMs rather than the province of Saskatchewan, we'll certainly honour those agreements, Mr. Speaker. And you know, we're working with the RMs. Our staff from the ministry have been working with them. The legal counsel has been working in conjunction with them, Mr. Speaker.

This is going to be resolved. I don't think there's going to be any lawsuit, class action, or otherwise. This is just going to be resolved, and there's no ambulance to chase here.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 102, *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered before the Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice

and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and this bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill No. 102, *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 102, *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 103, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013*. This is a bilingual bill, and it's reported without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 103, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 103, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 104, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole and this bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 104, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave

granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 104, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 105, *The Informal Public Appeals Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill, and that the bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 105, *The Informal Public Appeals Act* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 105, *The Informal Public Appeals Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 126, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 126, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 126 — *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — I move that this bill be now read a third time, Mr. Speaker, and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 126, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 109, *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 109, *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — I move that this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 109, *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Economy Committee.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 107, *The Wildfire Act* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 107, *The Wildfire Act* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 107 — *The Wildfire Act*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 107, *The Wildfire Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Human Services Committee.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 111, *The Personal Care Homes Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 111, *The Personal Care Homes Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 111 — *The Personal Care Homes Amendment Act, 2013*

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 111, *The Personal Care Homes Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, the House will take a very short recess for the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor.

I am advised that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 14:45 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly at its present session has passed several bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 102 - *The Builders' Lien Amendment Act, 2013*
- Bill No. 103 - *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*
- Bill No. 104 - *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Consequential Amendment Act, 2013*
- Bill No. 105 - *The Informal Public Appeals Act*
- Bill No. 126 - *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*
- Bill No. 109 - *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2013*
- Bill No. 107 - *The Wildfire Act*
- Bill No. 111 - *The Personal Care Homes Amendment Act, 2013*

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 14:48.]

The Speaker: — You may be seated.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister of natural — obviously I don't recognize him very well — Energy and Resources.

Support for Northern Gateway Pipeline

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we have a very important debate in front of the House, Mr. Speaker, something that I think is of great importance to our province but more broadly to our country. And, Mr. Speaker, it is in regards to pipelines and specifically the Northern Gateway pipeline. Mr. Speaker, I will have some comments that I would like to make in regards to the broader issues, to the specific

issue of the Northern Gateway pipeline. And at the end of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I'll be moving a motion which we'll be voting on here later today in regards to supporting that pipeline.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about pipelines, it is an issue that has garnered a great deal of attention in Canada in the last several years, also south of the border. We find ourselves in a situation where Saskatchewan is producing more oil today than we have at any point in our history. In 2012 we set a record for oil production. In 2013 we broke that record. Today we're producing just under half a million barrels of oil a day, Mr. Speaker. And the great progress that we're making in this regard, it's being reflected in our neighbours to the east and to the west, Mr. Speaker, even to the south of us. We are seeing a technologically driven oil boom in the central part of our continent, Mr. Speaker, and this is having great effects here in Saskatchewan and more broadly.

The effects we see here in Saskatchewan is revenues, jobs. We see our economy leading the nation in several categories over the last several years. We see job growth. We see population growth, a large portion of which I think can directly be attributed to the energy sector.

But, Mr. Speaker, one of the main controls or throttles on the growth of prosperity, of wealth for our province, Mr. Speaker, is the ability to get our products to market. Now in this Chamber just last week, Mr. Speaker, we had a very important debate about moving another product to market, on the grain system, Mr. Speaker.

We have some serious concerns about rail capacity to get our agricultural products to market. Mr. Speaker, the concerns that were expressed that day are relevant. They are a reality and, Mr. Speaker, those same concerns are reflected in the oil industry and are exacerbated by the oil industry, Mr. Speaker.

Our province, along with the rest of North America, did not utilize rail to transport crude oil for most of the last 100 years. It's a technology that we thought we saw the end of with the oil booms in Texas and Louisiana, Mr. Speaker. From the early part of last century, rail was a major way to get it to market. Today pipelines is the recognized method, but when capacity is not there, rail has been filling in. And, Mr. Speaker, we today see about 20 per cent of the oil from Saskatchewan leaving our province in railcars.

There are concerns around the efficiency of that. There is more greenhouse gases emitted with moving this oil to market in railcars than there is in pipelines. There are safety concerns, Mr. Speaker, that I think do not need to be highlighted because of the substantial scrutiny that they have cast over this industry in the past year — Lac-Mégantic, another one in the United States, Mr. Speaker. I think that needs to bear on the reflection of the pipeline debate as well.

Direct to the Government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, to provide services to the people of our province, the lack of pipeline capacity over the last several years, we have seen the differential, the price that we get at the wellhead here in Saskatchewan versus what we get at west Texas or at tidewater, Mr. Speaker, has deteriorated and deteriorated dramatically. Last year we saw about a \$300 million reduction in revenues to

the people of Saskatchewan to the General Revenue Fund, just off of what we lost in differential, Mr. Speaker.

This year that mechanism is still in place; about 150 million is our best estimate. But, Mr. Speaker, that is grossly underestimating the loss of opportunity for our province when we see that the government, the people of Saskatchewan may have foregone \$450 million over the last two years. The industry, Mr. Speaker, that wants to invest in our province, that is investing in our province, is also losing out on two and a half billion dollars worth of revenue, Mr. Speaker, because of this same lack of pipeline capacity.

And our province has come a long way. We've come a long, long way, Mr. Speaker. We are now recognized as the second-best jurisdiction in North America to drill an oil well. We are recognized as one of the best jurisdictions in North America for economic freedom. And within Canada, we are the number one place in the world to produce oil.

And, Mr. Speaker, this hasn't always been the case. Just a quick walk down memory lane, Mr. Speaker. The first rig that was doing some exploratory work in southeast Saskatchewan, the government of the day in the mid-1940s sent it packing. It went to Alberta and struck oil in Leduc.

We then had another administration, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Blakeney's administration that took a then thriving energy industry — about 100 million barrels a year of oil production in the late 1960s — they nationalized the industry in 1973, Mr. Speaker, and drove production down to about 60 million barrels by the end of the 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, at that time with the lack of production, I would argue largely because of the policies of the government of the day, the then premier said, and this is a quote, Mr. Speaker, of Mr. Blakeney:

We do, however, anticipate that over a period of time a significant curtailment of production is likely to take place . . . production cuts are necessary if Saskatchewan farmers and . . . consumers are to be assured oil in the 1980s and 1990s.

Mr. Speaker, that statement bears no resemblance on the reality of today, where we are breaking records of oil production, where the oil industry is one of the great employers of our province, where it is one of the great wealth generators, great opportunity providers for the people of our province, across our province, Mr. Speaker, with great opportunities still ahead of us and that I am certain we will capitalize on. But we need to confront the challenges facing this industry head-on as well.

And today, Mr. Speaker, and for a great deal of time, we have been making the case for pipelines. And there is no single pipeline, Mr. Speaker, that is going to solve this problem. We are working very hard with the legislators south of the border on the Keystone XL. We think this is a good pipeline. We are working with proponents of the Energy East pipeline, Mr. Speaker, a very important pipeline, to get our oil here in Saskatchewan to tidewater on the East Coast, to fuel refineries in central Canada, refineries today that are being filled with tankers coming out of the Middle East, out of Europe. Mr.

Speaker, we would like to displace that Middle Eastern oil with Canadian oil, with Bakken oil, with Lloydminster oil.

Mr. Speaker, we see projects going to the West Coast. Our government has specifically targeted Asia as one of the great markets that we want to feed our food products, our manufacturing products, our energy products, Mr. Speaker. In the growth plan we put out a year and a half ago, we specifically targeted Asia as a market that we need, we need to have access to. And, Mr. Speaker, in that regard, the Kinder Morgan project is likely to move forward. And we are in support of that.

But today, we're discussing the Northern Gateway. And, Mr. Speaker, before I go specific at the Northern Gateway, I think it is important to put a little context in this regard. We advocate often for pipelines. We advocate because we think they're important, because we think they're safe. And, Mr. Speaker, that is important. We're talking about large energy infrastructure. We're talking about infrastructure that is fundamental to our country.

But it is important to note that in Saskatchewan, we regulate the pipelines inside this province. And we would not accept any pipeline that was not environmentally responsible, any pipeline that did not use the highest engineering and standards of safety. If a pipeline is not safe and environmentally responsible, we would not approve it here in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, that same very high standard, that same very high oversight that we utilize here is what we think is appropriate elsewhere as well.

So when we advocate for any of these additional pipelines, Mr. Speaker, it is through that lens, that if we are talking about a pipeline that is going to tidewater, well the expectation . . . not the expectation, the absolute standard is that that pipeline would have to have the most modern, environmental oversight and technologically-driven spill detection. It would have to have a world-class, leading world-class spill cleanup response in place and ready to go, Mr. Speaker, in case something happened that was unmitigated. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the lens that we will judge any of these projects.

But if that high standard is met, Mr. Speaker, we believe that projects like this are essential for Canadians and for people of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, the argument is sometimes made, but you know what about the risks? And that is exactly what the safety measures are about. And I would like to raise this for the members opposite who will be entering in this debate a little later on this afternoon.

Today, Mr. Speaker, tonight I will tuck my daughters into bed in our house. Metres away, there will be a natural gas pipeline. A very volatile substance, natural gas, far more volatile than crude oil. And, Mr. Speaker, with confidence I will tuck my family in, knowing that there is a natural gas pipeline that runs through the street in front of my house, that has a connection that comes into my house, a pipeline that enters through the wall in my basement and feeds many of my appliances.

Mr. Speaker, this volatile substance that could be extremely dangerous, isn't because we utilize technology. We utilize very safe practices. There is a very good safety record, Mr. Speaker,

in regards to how this material is handled. And I think that when we can accept that there are pipelines all around us, that we utilize them every day, and that the risks that are associated with them need to be handled with responsibility, well, Mr. Speaker, that is why I can speak with confidence that an oil pipeline, a natural gas pipeline, an interprovincial pipeline can be done and should be done safely.

Now, Mr. Speaker, with the Northern Gateway, this is a pipeline that has received a great amount of scrutiny. It is a pipeline that has gone to the National Energy Board, the joint review task force. They have heard from over 1,100 people. They have held 180 days of hearings. They have looked at 170,000 pages of evidence. And, Mr. Speaker, at the end of this review process, the board has recently come forward with a statement, and it is that the joint review panel concluded that Canada and Canadians would be better off with the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project than without it.

[15:00]

And, Mr. Speaker, I have seen it here in our province where energy infrastructure, where energy development has truly driven opportunity for the citizens here in our province and that that same opportunity should be afforded to other people within this great country.

But, Mr. Speaker, within this discussion there has been a great deal of ideology driving this discussion, as opposed to safety and engineering. And we hear from groups like Greenpeace, like the Sierra Club. Greenpeace has vowed, and I'm quoting here, ". . . to do what it takes, from court cases to civil disobedience, to ensure this pipeline never gets built." Not based on the safety, not based on the engineering, Mr. Speaker, but based on pure ideology. And, Mr. Speaker, we feel that is irresponsible and is something that should not be governing this debate.

I, Mr. Speaker, think that too often people in Saskatchewan, people involved in the energy industry sit idly by when statements like this are being made. And we need to stand up and say no, that's not right. This energy project is good for the people of our province, our community, our town, or my family.

Mr. Speaker, problematically we have recently heard from Nathan Cullen, an NDP MP who said that this project is, I'm quoting here, "This project was a dinosaur and should die." Just rhetoric, Mr. Speaker, not based on science, not based on the safety, but on ideology.

We further see comments, Mr. Speaker, from the NDP MLA in British Columbia that says Alberta gets all the benefits. Mr. Speaker, we know that's not true. I would ask my members opposite to speak to their colleagues. Canada gets all the benefits, Mr. Speaker. The people that work on this pipeline get the benefits. The people that work at the terminals get the benefits, Mr. Speaker. A pipeline like this links resources to consumers. The consumers get the benefits. The suppliers get the benefits, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Mulcair, the leader of the NDP, Mr. Speaker, has also made some statements that I find problematic. His opinion is it is

categorically that this is wrong. He uses words such as, and I'm quoting, "It is madness," Mr. Speaker. Again not about the safety, not about the environmental responsibility, but about the ideology.

I choose, Mr. Speaker, to look to people such as the mayor of Kitimat, BC [British Columbia], the end of the pipeline and the start of the terminal, Mr. Speaker. She was interviewed about a year ago. She's been on council for 38 years, and her quote really struck me, Mr. Speaker, when I read through the news article. It says, I honestly felt four years ago that I was the mayor of doombtown. She felt that her town was doomed.

She went on to say, I now feel like I am the mayor of boomtown. And she talks about the great things that are happening in her community. Little things, things you don't even think about but are important to our citizens. She says, we now have a Tim Hortons. Tim Hortons is somewhat of an iconic Canadian symbol. It means that your town has made it, I guess, and Kitimat now has one.

She goes on to speak about what her town council is looking at, at bringing forward, that they are thinking of reaching out to neighbouring communities and having a ferry service so that neighbouring communities can be involved in the work and the prosperity that will come with the building of the plants and the pipelines. She talks about the First Nations communities of Klemtu and Bella Bella and Hartley Bay, Mr. Speaker, that might use this service that they are putting forward.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that Canada has a great decision to make here. Any pipeline that crosses national borders is a national pipeline. But we can be looked at as a country that has great national resources, world-class resource endowments. And I would hope that we aspire, that we aspire to be a country that in the future is looked at as a world-class energy producer that has the endowments that go with being a world-class energy producer. And, Mr. Speaker, if we don't, what should we aspire to? I think that we as a country have done such great things.

We've built a railroad that linked our country together. Part of the bargain of getting British Columbia is that we would connect them. And it has been an important piece of infrastructure, a piece of steel that stretches across our country and tied British Columbia to us in the early days, and it's kept us tied together ever since.

We have also done great things like the dredging of the canals in eastern Canada, Mr. Speaker. The St. Lawrence Seaway has tied eastern Canada together, given central Canada an access to a port. And, Mr. Speaker, Canadians do great things.

We now speak about a trans-Canada energy grid, tying some of the hydroelectricity in some of our provinces to provinces that don't have it, an environmentally responsible piece of infrastructure. These are the things that we should aspire to, Mr. Speaker.

And as I conclude my remarks here, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite will have a moment to raise their voices, hopefully in support. My great hope is that they stand here in this House today, and if they want to chastise this government for too little,

too late, and that we should have advocated stronger for this pipeline earlier, I'm willing to wear that, Mr. Speaker, if they're willing to say that we need more pipelines, that we need to be more aggressive in pursuing them. I think that is a legitimate point to make.

But I would ask the Leader of the Opposition, when he stands in the House today, Mr. Speaker, that he acknowledges the importance of the revenue to the people of Saskatchewan as he aspires to be a future leader of this province, that we need to pay for the health care and the education and all the important issues that he and his members bring forward.

When the critic for Energy and Resources gets on their feet, Mr. Speaker, that they recognize the technological advancements that drive this industry, that drive the pipeline industry, Mr. Speaker. I hope that's what they raise.

When the member from Athabasca, Mr. Speaker, gets to his feet, I hope that he stands in this House and says, I have oil sands potential in my riding and the people in my riding, Mr. Speaker, need that opportunity, want that opportunity, want to develop their world-class resources. That is what I hope to hear from the member from Athabasca, Mr. Speaker.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move the motion. The motion reads, Mr. Speaker:

That this Assembly support the construction for the Northern Gateway pipeline as approved by the National Energy Board on December 19th, 2013; and

That this Assembly asserts that the National Energy Board is the best body to determine whether a triple bottom-line assessment is met for the new pipeline projects; and further

That this Assembly asserts that the construction of the Northern Gateway pipeline will (1) maximize the return on Saskatchewan resources for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, (2) be a safer and more environmentally means of transporting oil than trains or trucks, (3) address the oil transportation bottleneck which is driving down the value of the oil Saskatchewan is producing.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this motion and put it before the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Will the Assembly take the motion as presented by the Minister of Energy and Resources?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think it's quite clear, if one looks at the record of this legislature, of the *Hansard* over decades — I would say six, seven decades — that the New Democratic Party and the predecessor party, the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation], have always been very concerned about making sure that we make responsible use

of the resources in Saskatchewan.

And I know that in the '50s, when the gas distribution was expanded across the province, it was done by the Tommy Douglas government as a way of providing this particular Saskatchewan resource to the people of Saskatchewan. And so I was quite pleased to hear the minister use the example of our gas distribution pipeline as the system that is one that's safe and that develops proper technology.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we on this side of the House say is that we want to make sure we make the best use of the resources that we have in Saskatchewan and that we use that to promote the development of jobs for people, that we protect the environment, and that we develop our economy in a positive way.

Now what we all know in this province is that when the present government was elected, one of the strongest pieces of advice that came from the petroleum and natural gas industry was for the government to not mess with the royalty regime that had been set up by the previous government. And there was some hemming and hawing, but eventually that's exactly what happened. And so what we have now in Saskatchewan is the New Democratic Party royalty regime, which has benefited this province over the last 10 years in a way that's not matched at any other time. And, Mr. Speaker, there have been previous developments of that resource in the same way.

Now there are many, many pipelines built in Saskatchewan. And we support the transportation of oil and gas by pipeline because we know that moving these products by pipeline is much safer than by rail. We know it's more efficient than moving these products by rail. We also know, as I said before, that there are thousands of kilometres of pipelines in Saskatchewan. And we have consistently, as a government and as an opposition, supported the development of these pipelines.

Now our party is supporting the Keystone XL pipeline because we know that that will transport some of the oil from this part of the world down into the central part of the United States. This is a direct benefit to Saskatchewan people. It has a small piece that passes through Saskatchewan, but it's an important piece and we all know that. We're also already and supporting of an east-west pipeline. We know that there are some methods of transporting our products from the west to the east which will make sense for the Canadian economy. One of the advantages that the East has is that they have much more refining capacity. And so this is also a kind of thing that will benefit Saskatchewan with more jobs, more value-added economic benefit, and more energy independence.

We're also supportive of looking for new markets for Western Canadian oil that go to the west, and that includes any possible use in our Western provinces, although they have substantial supplies themselves but, more importantly, going to Asia and other parts that can be accessed through the Pacific Ocean.

And so we're open to looking at pipeline projects that go to the west. But we have a great deal of difficulty with the Northern Gateway pipeline project that is presently being proposed. And so as the New Democratic Party caucus in this legislature, as the opposition, we will not be voting in favour of this motion.

And let me explain why. This Northern Gateway pipeline is going to be going through an extremely environmentally sensitive area. Now I don't know. I think the minister who has just spoken has substantial connections to British Columbia in the same way that I do, but I don't know if he has worked in Prince George and then the Upper Fraser region.

One of my summer jobs when I was going through university was to deliver goods to saw mills and paper mills in that area north and east of Prince George. That's exactly where this pipeline is proposed to go, so I know that terrain. It's very difficult terrain. It was difficult for roads to be built through there.

But also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I worked and lived one summer in Bella Coola, British Columbia, just on the south side of the great spirit bear wilderness. And this is the substantial park or wilderness protected area that was created by the province of British Columbia after much discussion with people who were resource users in the forestry industry as well as all of the people who were protesting that. And this particular beautiful place is just on the south side of Kitimat where this pipeline would enter into the British Columbia coast. Bella Coola, as people know, is on the coast as well.

[15:15]

And, Mr. Speaker, those are the places where the big concern arises. The Exxon Valdez was a surprise to the oil industry, a surprise to the shipping industry, but more importantly a surprise to the people of that part of the Pacific north coast. And, Mr. Speaker, nobody wants that to happen again.

Now I know that the minister has said that the whole goal is to make sure that there are the best environmental protections possible. Well that's clear from all of us. But I think on this particular project, the people who live there, the Government of British Columbia, all have a great deal of difficulty with the project that's there.

So this project will take oil from Bruderheim, Alberta, close to Edmonton, all the way to Kitimat, British Columbia. And it then would take it out the Douglas Channel, which is a fjord, a very narrow area, out into the area just by Haida Gwaii. And this . . . I think one of the biggest challenges here is that even the Premier of British Columbia — and I think rightly the Premier of British Columbia — has said that the province of BC is not prepared to deal with an oil spill in that particular part of the coast. And so that goes right to the heart of, well why are we here in Saskatchewan pushing this kind of a proposal when we know that there's substantial discussion in British Columbia?

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that the province of British Columbia does not support the Northern Gateway pipeline. I mean that's what we see on a whole number of levels. In the submission that was made to the National Energy Board joint review panel, the British Columbia government of Premier Christy Clark clearly rejected the pipeline, saying that the proposal does not meet the five conditions that she had put forward for the approval of such projects.

First condition, successful completion of the environmental

review process. Second position, they need a world-leading marine oil spill response, prevention, and recovery system for the BC coastline before anything like this can be built. They also need world-leading practices for land oil spill prevention response and recovery systems. And that reflects my own knowledge of that area north of Prince George where this pipeline is going to go. It's a type of area that would be very difficult to reclaim if you ended up with a major spill. Another condition is that there are very specific legal requirements regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights to be addressed, and they need to make sure that First Nations and Métis people have the proper opportunity to discuss this, the information, and the resources.

Now one of the things about this particular pipeline is it actually goes through I think it's Treaty 10 territory in northeastern BC and then into a whole area where there are no treaties. And then it's just south of the Nisga'a territory, but it's very close to that territory as well, and there are a substantial number of issues that are there.

One of my political mentors and one of my friends from when we used to sing in the church choir at Mount Zion Lutheran Church in New Westminster was Stan Hagen. And he was the minister of Environment but I think more importantly minister of trying to resolve a number of the issues around the whole upheaval that came with Clayoquot Sound and that ultimately resulted in the great spirit bear wilderness. He was a part of the Social Credit government and then part of the Liberal government that was elected in 2001. And he said that this was about getting social licence to develop resources in British Columbia.

And he always would say to me, coming from Saskatchewan, well you have treaties there. You have a substantial layer of rules already. Many of the areas that we want to work with in British Columbia, the rules aren't there yet. And, Mr. Speaker, I know that one of my former colleagues at MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman law firm worked many years negotiating a number of the new treaties for British Columbia to deal with exactly the kind of issue that we're talking about here. But they're not done. I mean they've got a lot more work to do. And there are many, many concerns that arise as a result of that.

Now the BC [British Columbia] government has stated that they would even consider denying Enbridge permits it needs and the electricity needed to operate the line. I think they are reflecting the community response, where there's obviously support for development of resources, but people want to do it in the right way and at the right time and making sure that everybody shares in that. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think the biggest issue here is that the social licence, the ability of the community to accept and support this kind of development isn't there.

We also know that a majority of the First Nations along the pipeline don't support it for environmental and social reasons and economic reasons. And they've made it very clear that they will vigorously oppose the project.

So unfortunately this motion is brought forward today kind of maybe as a hospitality gift for the Premier of British Columbia when she shows up tomorrow. I'm not sure if that was the plan. But practically what is happening here is that we can't support

some of the clauses in this motion that's here.

Now we support economic development. We agree that the National Energy Board, even with its present format, is still a very important board in making decisions around how the pipelines are built. But it's only a starting point. It's not a blank cheque when they give their approval. And in actual fact, when you look at their approval, it has I think 209 conditions in it before the matter can be dealt with.

And so, Mr. Speaker, you know, that process is there. It needs to be worked at. I think a second point we have is we don't think it's appropriate that we should tell the province of British Columbia and the Premier of British Columbia how to run their province. And I think that we need to listen to the kinds of concerns that they are picking up as this project goes forward.

We also believe that there are some other pipeline projects that may go through British Columbia that would be more viable and be more beneficial for Saskatchewan people. Now one of them is clearly the Kinder Morgan pipeline, which follows a route that's been used for many, many years. And I know I've lived along where that pipeline comes out. And it's also one that I think ends up with quite a number of challenges, but there are ways of doing that in a way that makes more sense.

So I think that our position here is that this Northern Gateway pipeline project at this stage doesn't have the social licence. It doesn't have the environmental licence. It doesn't have the positive aspects that would allow us to support it. But I want to strongly reiterate that we're supportive of pipelines as a method of transporting oil and of making sure our Saskatchewan products are delivered to other parts of the world. And we will continue to work on that.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, you can expect that we will be voting against this motion. Thank you.

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

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to rise today to participate in this debate to speak to this motion. Today I speak as the member for Fairview and think of those who I live among who would be part of this project. There is a good many neighbours in my constituency who work directly in the resource extraction industry and would be supportive of the Northern Gateway project. I would think that many of my neighbours as well as possibly potential new residents would settle in Fairview as a result of this project.

I also speak as the sister of a few siblings who are journeymen pipeline insulators and have worked in the industry for many years. As the niece to a few family members who have worked on the pipelines for many years — over 20 years respectively — including helping to build the Alliance in 1999 to 2000; to the Alberta Clipper, 2008, 2009; and many others. And a cousin to many who are working in the production area for oil and gas directly on the rigs and as the sister of a welder who has made a career of working on pipelines. Their colleagues will be building this pipeline along with many others. I would have the confidence in the people and technology that is going to be involved in the Northern Gateway project.

I would hope and encourage those across the floor to vote in favour to support this project as it affects the livelihood of many working people in Saskatchewan as well as in Alberta and BC. I often hear the statements of those members across the floor who say they support working people. Supporting the Northern Gateway project will support working Saskatchewan people.

So the member across the floor spoke a lot about the environment, and I just wanted to speak a little bit about why pipelines are needed. CEPA, who is the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, their pipeline network transports 3 million barrels of oil every day, which is the equivalent to 4,200 railcars, Mr. Speaker, an equivalent to 15,000 tanker trucks. So that alone, having the pipeline available, would impact the environment in a positive way.

So pipelines simply make sense. The large-scale transportation of natural gas by tanker trucks or rail is not feasible, as the Minister of Energy outlined, and pipelines are more cost effective than the alternative transportation options. And they require significantly less energy to operate than operating trucks or rail and have a much lower carbon footprint. And underground pipelines are safe. The Minister of Energy will tuck his kids, you know, into bed a couple feet away from pipeline, and I believe I do that too.

So energy is fundamental to our personal and economic well-being. The fearmongering that's going on regarding this pipeline as well as other development, you know, is ill-informed. And Canadians rely on natural gas and products made from crude oil to meet more than two-thirds of their energy needs each and every day. I find it interesting that somebody who will fearmonger and oppose this will be holding a plastic bottle, not realizing that that plastic bottle is made out of petroleum.

And we use these fuels to drive our cars and fly our planes. Ninety-four per cent of all Canadian transportation energy comes from petroleum products, and the vast majority of passenger vehicles on the road use gasoline as fuel, while most freight transport trucks use diesel.

They heat our homes and businesses, and we know this well enough living in Saskatchewan and with the kind of winter that we had this past year. And more than half the homes in Canada are heated by furnaces that burn natural gas. And natural gas meets almost half of the energy needed to run our industries.

They are used to make hundreds of household products. Plastics start out as petroleum products and natural gas, and so do many pharmaceuticals, chemicals, oils, and lubricants. Those who live in Western society have to depend on the energy industry on a daily basis. Our oil and gas resources are large contributors to our economy, and the value of Canadian exports of crude oil and natural gas was more than 80 billion in 2011. The pipeline and energy industries employ thousands of Canadians coast-to-coast and that being a large majority of my family.

So the member across the floor spoke a little bit about due diligence with the National Energy Board. They had evidence. They had hearings. They had oral statements. And they have to adhere to 209 recommendations made from the consultations that they had across Canada.

[15:30]

So they had an extensive review process. So they have 175,699 pages of evidence filed on the record; 884 hours the panel spent hearing oral evidence, oral statements, cross-examinations, and final argument; and 1,179 people who provided oral statements. And they had 180 was the number of hearing days that they had in 21 communities where the hearings were held and 268 number of participants who cross-examined witnesses. So there was nine First Nations communities where hearings were held, and 12 government participants and 47 Aboriginal groups participated as interveners.

So the report outlined 209 conditions attached to the panel's recommendation, and there are 76 pages in the volume 1 report and 417 pages in volume 2. So the joint review panel had this quote, "After hearing all of the oral and written evidence, the panel found that Canada and Canadians would be better off with the Enbridge Northern Gateway project than without it."

So I'd like to tie in some Saskatchewan facts and just outline . . . And according to the Fraser Institute, Saskatchewan is ranked as the third best jurisdiction in the world for oil and gas investment policies, right behind Oklahoma and Mississippi. And a record of 487,400 barrels of oil was produced each day on average in 2013; 2,433 horizontal oil wells drilled in 2013, a new record for horizontal oil wells drilled, up 19 per cent from the previous record of 2,036 wells drilled in 2012, Mr. Speaker.

So there's \$4.5 billion in investment and new exploration and development by the oil and gas industry that was estimated for 2013 and 35,075 direct and indirect person years of employment in the upstream oil and gas industry estimated for 2013, up 5 per cent from 34,225 estimated for 2012. Seventy per cent of Saskatchewan's oil production is exported to the United States, and Saskatchewan is a larger exporter to the US [United States] than Kuwait. And 14.7 billion combined value of oil and gas production estimated for 2013 was up from 12.8 billion in 2012.

So approximately 300 companies currently operate oil and gas wells in Saskatchewan and 48.3 billion barrels of initial oil in place. And we are the sixth largest producer of crude oil in North America, producing close to 180 million barrels a year, which is just behind Texas, Alberta, North Dakota, California, and Alaska. So Saskatchewan has 2.7 million hectares of completely undeveloped oil sands potential.

So I could go on a little longer and spout statistics and facts, but I would like to close off by saying that I support the Energy minister's motion on the floor. And I would highly encourage the members across the floor to rethink their stance and support Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to be able to participate in this debate as well. It's a subject familiar to all of us here of late. We have been working hard in Saskatchewan to get the message out, both in the province and outside of our borders to the rest of the country and wherever we travel, that we believe in a world with the fastest growing economies desire energy security and food security, that we

need in our country and in the provinces within that country to start acting like we're the place that can answer questions in both of those subject areas. Mr. Speaker, it was a dominant feature of our interventions in Washington recently in the mission there, as it was in some meetings and speeches that I've been able to give lately, not limited to but certainly in the nation's capital a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, we have long supported in all of the above approach to pipelines, the proposed pipelines that we have on the table today in Canada for a couple of reasons I will get into in a moment. We support the Keystone pipeline for reasons that are on the public record. I won't go back into the specific reasons for our support of that particular pipeline. We've also indicated support for an exciting new reversal, pipeline reversal — so not a new project but really a reversal of an existing pipeline that would take Western Canadian oil, including our oil from the Bakken, from Western Canada to Eastern Canada where there are value-added opportunities and, frankly, where we can provide a bit of a cost advantage over the world price as well as increasing the value that we are able to get for our oil for Saskatchewan people who own the resource in the first place.

And we've also been supportive of Gateway. In the debate that's ensued, we've noted of the five conditions that the British Columbia government has put on its own support and approval for Gateway, we can understand and fully support four of the five. We were quite public, though. And certainly my colleague, the Premier of British Columbia, is aware of our position which we expressed in private meetings and then in a public fashion that when it comes to royalty sharing, though, we had some concerns about that fifth condition.

However I note with some hope that there seems to be a renewed discussion happening between those two provinces. We do think it's completely reasonable for the people of British Columbia, in the case of Gateway, to expect some perhaps some more benefits and dividends, if you will, from the pipeline project. We think those are best to come from the industry itself, from those who open those companies that will benefit — not just the pipeline company but the oil companies on the other end. We think that is more than reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, that's why we would want to bring this motion forward today. We would, I think, help the debate both in province and across the country if we could present a consensus view, a united voice in the matter of this particular pipeline.

I believe this Assembly, I believe the members of the Assembly are in support of Keystone XL on a unanimous basis. I believe that's the case for the Energy East pipeline — that reversal I referenced earlier. Certainly that's the case for the federal New Democratic Party, and I heard no opposition from our provincial NDP here in the House to that pipeline.

So then that brings us to Gateway. Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important for us to consider how it was that our provincial NDP took the courageous position on Keystone they did a year ago, in support of it, when their federal cousins opposed Keystone. Let's be clear; they do. Mr. Mulcair and the federal New Democrats do not support the Keystone pipeline for reasons we don't have to canvass here now, but I think that's a matter of

the public record.

And yet last March, almost a year ago exactly, the new provincial Leader of the NDP indicated his support for Keystone. Mr. Speaker, it was interesting when he was first asked about the Keystone issue in a debate similar to this that we're having right now, he did say that he would support Keystone if it had the triple bottom line — environmental, economic, social benefit — approval of the National Energy Board. And so, Mr. Speaker, we were able to point out for the new Leader of the Opposition that actually the NDP had provided that some time ago, that the National Energy Board had indeed approved it on a triple bottom line basis.

And then to the credit of the Leader of the Opposition and the provincial NDP, they did then come back out to the scrums, the next day I think it was, and offered support for the Keystone pipeline, though their national party, the NDP in Ottawa, opposed it. He said that, and I quote, "To clear the record, I support the Keystone XL pipeline because of a triple bottom line assessment looking at environmental, economic, and social reasons." And there a number of other quotes here. But suffice it to say that the provincial NDP are supporters of the Keystone XL pipeline, and they are so in large measure because the National Energy Board has done its assessment and has decided on a triple bottom line basis that the NDP specifically prescribed that Keystone ought to be approved.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that same triple bottom line assessment approval is in place for Gateway. That's a very important point to make here in this debate. I noted that the member for Lakeview said well we can't support Gateway because it's different because it doesn't have a direct benefit to Saskatchewan, well words to that effect. I think he said, I think he referenced, Mr. Speaker, that there wasn't construction of the pipeline through this province. He noted the difference. He said Keystone comes to the province and there'll be job creation, but he wondered about the actual benefit to the province of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out to the hon. member who now is quite vexed about this — but at least he's paying attention — I want to point out to the hon. member that when we close the differential, when we close the discount at which we are currently selling oil around the world, Saskatchewan oil around the world that doesn't belong to he or I, but it rather belongs to the people of the province, when we're doing that, we're costing the treasury up to \$300 million a year. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because Western Canadian oil, our oil, cannot get to tidewater where we can access a higher price, something approximating a world price, something closer to the Brent price of crude. I didn't look at the differential today, but it's usually between 5 and \$10 a barrel if not higher.

And there have been years when the Finance minister and the Finance officials have reported that, were we able to maximize that value for the oil on behalf of Saskatchewan people, we'd have \$300 million more in the treasury. Well how many roads could we build with 300 million more — or fix — with 300 million more dollars in the treasury? I think that's a direct benefit of any pipeline that gets our oil to tidewater, is this 300 million additional dollars. We could maybe reduce taxes. We could pay off some debt with that.

Mr. Speaker, here's a direct benefit to the province of Saskatchewan of any pipeline that will help take Western Canadian oil, even if it's not Saskatchewan oil, to tidewater and decrease the differential. Another benefit would be the estimate for our industry is that the differential today, the discount at which we sell the oil because we can't get enough to tidewater, is about \$2.5 billion to industry. So \$300 million to our treasury, the province of Saskatchewan, and \$2.5 billion to the oil and gas industry in our province.

What would they do with that \$2.5 billion? Well there would probably be dividends, sure, to the shareholders, but there would be a significant reinvestment in the provincial economy. Those oil companies would reinvest. And you know, they're doing it even without the dividends of that differential right now, of that . . . if we were to remove the differential. We've seen record drilling last year, I think, and record drilling the year before. But this money is deprived of our economy, deprived of those companies that are creating the jobs the member for Fairview eloquently referred to because they can't maximize the value. We can't maximize the value of the oil that we're selling around the world.

So why in the world would the NDP in Saskatchewan be opposed to that? Why would they be opposed to that very direct benefit to our economy of decreasing that differential?

Mr. Speaker, it was interesting. After the Keystone debate, a letter was sent out by the then House leader, the current member for Saskatoon Nutana for the NDP, explaining to the base of the NDP why they would support Keystone, because I think it caused them problems. Therein lies the courage of the Leader of the Opposition's position. I think his base was not very happy with him, that one of the very first things that he did as Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the New Democratic Party was to support an oil pipeline, principally from Alberta, down throughout the southwest corner of our province, and then down to the Gulf. So she explains to the base, to the membership, why they would do that. She says, and I quote, in this letter to NDP members: "The caucus has had a consistent public position on the XL pipeline ever since it had received approval by the National Energy Board. Cam Broten [and I'm quoting] has not changed that position."

Well, Mr. Speaker, except we've already noted that there wasn't the awareness that the NDP had come to that decision. But still that's very specifically referenced in this particular letter.

Now the letter goes on to say, to broadly lay out how the caucus, the NDP came to support the Keystone pipeline, and how they could support pipelines in general. And by the way, I noted that the member for Lakeview is freelancing a bit because he didn't reference any of the good work by his own then House leader, the current member for Nutana, who wrote a letter to all the members. I presume the member for Lakeview is a member of the party. I'm presuming he got this letter from the member for Nutana who said, and I quote:

Our society is heavily reliant on fossil fuels. As New Democrats, we know that's not sustainable, and we are committed to bringing forward workable solutions to reduce this reliance. Broadly the position taken by our caucus is this: the NDP have long supported pipelines

because they are safer and they are more environmentally friendly than trains or trucks when it comes to transporting oil.

Point no. 2. We want to ensure a stringent, triple bottom line, economic, social, and environmental assessment of such projects. The best process to do that right now is the National Energy Board, and we trust their work.

[15:45]

We trust the work, it says, the New Democrats. Apparently this is just now maybe the member for Nutana and not the member for Lakeview. Maybe he doesn't trust the NEB [National Energy Board]. But she says pretty clearly here, we're going to support those projects that are approved on a triple bottom line basis by the NEB, which of course they've done for Gateway.

Mr. Speaker, it goes on:

Point no. 3. We want First Nations and Métis communities to be meaningfully consulted and listened to. We think better regulations of the oil and gas industry is important in order to better protect the environment. We think value-added opportunities [and I'm being fair and reading all the points] and more high-quality jobs, including through more refining here in Canada, should be pursued.

Agreed. And finally: "We need to do so much more to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change." By the way, we're now expecting a letter in strong support of our clean coal project as a result of that last point.

But, Mr. Speaker, the point is that after their Keystone support I'm sure there was complaining amongst the base. And the NDP to their credit, this member to her credit, said, yes we support Keystone and here are the reasons why.

Well you could switch out the words Keystone for the Gateway pipeline. North Gateway is important to the Speaker, and that's a very important transportation mode that we're seeing, a new rail line right down to the South connecting up with Burlington Northern. You could switch out the names of these two pipelines and send out the same letter.

So why wouldn't the New Democratic Party then be supportive of both pipelines for the same reason? If they want to know what the direct impact is, is there a direct benefit to Saskatchewan? Absolutely. That differential is decreased, more revenue for the treasury, more income for companies that could be reinvested in the province. Any of these other measures are also satisfied now by the new pipeline, by the Northern Gateway pipeline, including the triple bottom line assessment.

I just think it's important in Saskatchewan that we send out a clarion signal to the world, not just to companies that are creating jobs but to those who work in this industry. And the member for Fairview quite eloquently pointed out that we have people living in Saskatchewan, living in her constituency, some of them related to her, that actually travel. If you're a pipefitter, if you work in the pipeline industry, you travel. You don't have to live in Calgary, especially when you could maybe live in Saskatoon and enjoy life there. You don't have to live in

Saskatoon. You can live in other places. We have people in this province that will be directly employed either by an expansion to Kinder Morgan — and we didn't get on the record what they think of that — or the Northern Gateway pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, I think there couldn't be a clearer case for this legislature saying Saskatchewan is in favour of moving our energy across the country, of getting better value for the resource. This legislature is in favour of our grain transportation working more efficiently, Mr. Speaker. We're breaking export records in this province, exports from Western Canada. Export records are being broken every year. We need to move our food products. We need to move our energy products. And it's an all-of-the-above proposition. It is rail. In this case, though, it should be pipeline.

When I was in Washington last week, I was able to point out to some of the allies on Keystone, and some who don't support Keystone down there, that according to the American railway association, Mr. Speaker, the number of cars hauling oil on rail in 2008 in their country was 8,000. That's not very long ago: 2008, eight thousand cars hauling rail across America; last year, 400,000. I was able to point out that we've seen studies in our own country, reported I think by Global TV, that a typical railcar spill of oil is about six times greater on average than a pipeline spill.

It underscores a couple of points for this debate and for that case we make to our American friends. One, the oil will find a way. It's going to move. That bitumen in Alberta without Northern Gateway is going to move — 8,000 cars in '08; 400,000 cars just a few years later underscores that fact. And here's the other important point that statistic makes, that there is greater environmental risk if we don't come to support these pipelines, even if there were no direct benefit for the member for Lakeview to point to, if that's his measure. Well I don't know what's in it for me. Mr. Speaker, what's in it for all of us is a safer, as the member for Nutana points out, a safer, more environmentally sustainable way to transport oil.

Mr. Speaker, it was also interesting to point out . . . what to note while we were in Washington, that our ambassador, Ambassador Doer, who I'm sure the member for Lakeview knows well, pointed out to the US administration that the State Department's second report on Keystone, basically clearing the way I would say for Keystone approval, noted this very fact, that oil was moving anyway. It was moving on rail. And by the way, the greenhouse gas emissions from rail transportation of oil are much higher than they are on any pipeline.

So if you're worried about spills, you should support this pipeline and all pipelines because otherwise it will move by rail. If you're worried about GHGs [greenhouse gases] you should support pipelines, if the State Department is correct. And if you are worried about our reputation in the world to get goods to market in a timely way, if you are worried about us maximizing value for this precious, non-renewable resource, then you should support pipelines.

And I don't think you can be selective because it might be politically easier to support Keystone because the pipeline comes through here or because you could support a reversal that goes now west-east. That's a little easier because it's got

Saskatchewan oil in it. Gateway is a more difficult proposition. And we do have expectations that First Nations concerns are met, that environmental concerns are met. We're understanding those processes are under way. But it's difficult to see how you can just sort of pick and choose and say these are okay but not this one, unless you're doing it for strictly political reasons. Mr. Speaker, I say to members opposite, they rose above their own federal party's political considerations on Keystone. They saw through the facts. They noted the NEB triple bottom line approval, and they supported it.

Mr. Speaker, I will take my seat, and we'll have a vote and get on with other business in the House. But we can send a strong signal, Mr. Speaker, that in Saskatchewan, we're consistent. We support pipelines for the reason we mentioned. We support them because they're good for Western Canada as well as our province. We support them because they're better for our country. We support them because they're better for the environment because we'll avoid spills. We can get oil moving in the pipeline as opposed to the exponential growth on rail. And for all of those good reasons, Mr. Speaker, and because we have met the test set out by the NDP for pipeline support as noted in the letter from the NDP a year ago on Keystone, for all of those reasons, let's support this pipeline.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Energy and Resources. Will the Assembly take the motion as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Deputy Speaker: — All those opposed say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Deputy Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:53 until 15:58.]

The Deputy Speaker: — All those in the favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 38]

Wall	Stewart	Draude
Duncan	Krawetz	Boyd
Eagles	McMorris	Harpauer
Toth	Doherty	McMillan
Heppner	Harrison	Wyant

Tell	Weekes	Elhard
Bradshaw	Bjornerud	Brkich
Hutchinson	Ottenbreit	Campeau
Wilson	Marchuk	Kirsch
Michelson	Doke	Cox
Merriman	Jurgens	Steinley
Hickie	Lawrence	Moe
Parent	Docherty	

[16:00]

The Deputy Speaker: — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 3]

Forbes	Nilson	Chartier
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Principal Clerk: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 38; those opposed, 3.

The Deputy Speaker: — The motion is carried.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 127

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 127 — *The Mental Health Services Amendment Act, 2013*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 127, *An Act to amend The Mental Health Services Act and to make a consequential amendment to The Health Information Protection Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is a little more substantial size of legislation than what we've been receiving from the government more recently, and so I think there's a little bit to talk about here, Mr. Speaker.

So effectively the amendments are brought forward to improve what's happening with delivery of and the access to mental health services in the province. And as we all know, when pieces of legislation which are rather substantial to begin with end up having some amendments, suggestions are made as to how to amend the legislation, and these suggestions come from many different places. And so, Mr. Speaker, it appears to be clear that this legislation comes from obviously the people involved in the mental health treatment and community, but also from others who have worked with the legislation within the civil service of Saskatchewan and within the regional health authorities.

And so there are quite a number of changes that are here, but I think the overall perspective is one where people are co-operating and trying to do the best they can to provide mental health services. And when you look at what are some of

the sort of fundamental things that happened here, I think that there is a recognition that how mental health services are provided in this province has changed from a facility-based situation to one where services are provided in a number of different kinds of institutions across the province.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's often interesting that when you discuss mental health legislation, you actually have a lot of distractions in the House. And I'm not sure what kinds of issues the House Leader has, but the House Leader and the Minister of Energy seem to be very wound up about this particular legislation.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview currently has the floor. Other members will have an opportunity to enter into the debate. I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — So as I was stating, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when mental health services issues are discussed, there seem to be certain members opposite that want to jump in and make some comments no matter what's there.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we have, as this legislation goes forward, is a recognition that some of the rules around confidentiality of treatment and how people's records are being protected need to be modernized or changed to reflect other types of legislation that we have in health. And so our HIPA [*The Health Information Protection Act*] legislation, our health information protection Act, had some clauses that related to this that need to be adjusted. And we also have some other changes that had to be made to that legislation to make sure that people were protected under *The Mental Health Services Act*.

Now when we look at the kinds of definitions and changes that are here, some of them are quite innocuous. But they're very important, I think, to the people who work in the field. And one of those is perhaps no longer using the term facility but using the term mental health centre, mental health clinic, and make sure that we use them in ways that are more, that recognize more of what kinds of services are being provided.

And so what we do in the legislation I think is set out how the different responsibilities are delineated between the regional health authorities and the central, overall management of the system through the Ministry of Health.

And so clearly issues have been identified and now they are being corrected. And so for example one of the sections makes sure that the term mental health centre will only be used to reflect in-patient mental health services. And I think it obviously relates both to how the staff deal with patients, but also I think it relates to budget issues and how financing is arranged and how there is clarity that's wanted in how the legislation is brought forward.

So a substantial number of the changes do relate to some of these name changes and making sure that the appropriate facilities are designated the way they should be. Now when those kinds of changes are made, I think it does allow for better service for people and it makes sure that everybody understands where and who is responsible.

Another change that's part of this legislation, and it's one that

actually has to happen in a few different sections of the bill, relates to the issue of involuntary treatment. That's where people are committed to a facility. Those types of orders or those types of arrangements used to mean that you had to go to a specific hospital or a specific facility and it wasn't possible that you could have those ordered treatments or involuntary treatments in the community. And so what this legislation does is further clarifies how that can be done. I mean, I think you could have before ways of doing that, but sometimes the rules were not as clear.

A lot of this reflects the changes in the types of medications that are available. We all know that in the late '50s and early '60s there was a dramatic change in what was possible for treatment of mental health issues and that it's taken a long time for the legislation to reflect some of the changes that have occurred and also just in how the organization of the whole system is set up.

Now when we look at this legislation as a whole, we know that different people will have different issues that have been resolved. I know many, many years ago when I was in law school — so that really puts it a long time ago — I spent a whole term of law school in a mental health facility, the Riverview mental health facility in British Columbia, as an observer of the hearings that people had.

People could appeal whether or not they should be committed involuntarily. And one of the issues that had arisen was whether there were appropriate legal protections for the people who were making these appeals. And many of them would have lawyers doing that work and the actual appeal panel did most often include a lawyer and a psychiatrist and a social worker. But my task was to sit for two or three hours, two or three evenings a week and record for our project that we were working on when particular issues arose around the involuntary treatment of people and what kinds of protections that they had.

This was prior to the implementation of the Charter, and so there have actually been subsequent cases that reflect the change in the Constitution that would've dealt with some of these issues of protection of the individual. But, Mr. Speaker, it was fascinating to see all of the different circumstances where people who were there for treatment and could function very well, but you could also then identify and understand where the boundaries were that required them to be involuntarily committed.

And I applaud the drafters, the people who work in this area to get the language right to protect the individuals who are the patients, but also protect the workers and the others who deal with them. And I know that that becomes even more challenging when you try to do this involuntary treatment in the community, as opposed to in a particular closed institution.

And so what do we have here, Mr. Speaker? I think it's pretty positive changes that are made. I think that we have not heard on this side of the House any dramatic issues with what's happened in this legislation. And so I know that we will continue to look at what kinds of issues are here, but practically the very detailed work that's been done by the lawyers and the staff people is reflected in the product that we have. And at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no further comments. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The motion before the House is a motion by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 127, *The Mental Health Services Amendment Act, 2013* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be referred to? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Committee on Human Services.

[16:15]

Bill No. 128

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 128** — *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2013* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to enter the debate about Bill No. 128, the essential services . . . For all intents and purposes, it's the essential services legislation, but it is *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, Bill No. 128.

I think one of the things that I need to start out by saying that this has basically been seven years in the making, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Just last year we actually passed, this government passed *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, and here we are less than a year later already amending it. And this comes out of the story around the essential services legislation that back in 2008 that this government introduced quite . . . plowed ahead with a lack of consultation with working people, with unions, with people who needed to be consulted, quite frankly.

So what has ended up happening, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is we have a piece of legislation that has been before the courts now for several years and now is headed to the Supreme Court of Canada and will be heard I believe in May of 2014, where this government again decided that they would put in place a piece of legislation, an essential services legislation — which nobody is denying wouldn't be a beneficial thing — but you can't have a piece of legislation that has no dispute resolution mechanism. Which is exactly what happened with this government's

essential services legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but we continue along with this bungled approach to developing labour legislation.

So we had a few pieces of legislation in 2008, prior to me being in this House. I was elected in 2009, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I remember actually my first committee meeting ever, attending, and it was still . . . This government was in the process of passing the legislation at that point, and there were many people in the province who were not very happy with that.

It was ironic that some workplaces because of the essential services legislation were in fact, in some workplaces there were more people deemed essential, Mr. Deputy Speaker, than actually work on a regular day. So in some workplaces, I'm using this initial essential services legislation, employers were deeming essential some employees who . . . or more employees than in fact would be scheduled to work on a regular working day, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This all came out of . . . or at least the government's narrative was around essential services. And why they needed to plow ahead was, again prior to me being in this House, in January of 2007 I believe it was, SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] was on strike.

So the highway workers were on strike. I remember that snowstorm in January very well, the blizzard in Saskatoon actually. I can remember being at work in downtown Saskatoon and getting the call that we needed to come get our kids from school and trying to navigate and get . . . It was a crazy storm. There was no doubt about it that that was. In my lifetime I haven't seen too many blizzards like that. Driving in Saskatoon, not being able to get from place to place; it was pretty scary, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But I think the narrative of the government following that storm . . . There had been a strike, but what was happening is the management had taken over the operation of some of the snowplowing. The roads were being cleared, but when the forecast had come out that there was going to be a blizzard, in fact the workers, the highway workers, went back to do their job. They want people in Saskatchewan to be safe as well. This wasn't . . . No one has any interest in putting people's lives at risk, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But saying that, I think people, I think employees, employers, organized labour, people recognized there was a need for essential services but this government plowed ahead without consultation, without building relationships. The best way to get something done, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe, is relationships. Everything in life is about relationships. In here, it's about relationships; out in the world, everything that we accomplish. And the best way to accomplish things is by building positive relationships. And this government, when it came to working men and women in Saskatchewan, shortly after they were elected, decided that that was not something that they needed to do. They were going to kick sand in the face, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of working men and women here in Saskatchewan.

So this again is the continuation of this saga. Time and money. Like how much time and money has this government spent in trying to get this legislation right? Rather than doing it right

from the beginning, Mr. Speaker, and having that meaningful consultation, instead of plowing ahead in an ideological fashion, they could have sat down and come up with good legislation right from the start. But here instead we have a piece of legislation that will be before the Supreme Court of Canada. So how much that has cost is a question, I think, that one needs to ask the minister, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But then we have *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* that was before us last year, and then we have this Act being amended right now, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And by and large, I think many stakeholders have thought it is an improvement. By no means is it perfect. But then we have a court case in May of 2014, so does that mean this legislation is going to be passed in this sitting and then we'll be back here in the fall with a new piece of legislation possibly introduced to deal with the flaws that perhaps have been further identified after a Supreme Court of Canada ruling, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

So that makes absolutely no sense. I think I'd like to point out, well again seven years of wasted time and money on the part of this government because they've chosen to plow ahead and then tried to fix their mistakes or band-aid over their mistakes. They didn't even heal or repair what needed to be healed or repaired. They like patch over it and plow on, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which I don't think is the way that good public policy is in fact created.

I'd talk about a little bit about some of the concerns that various individuals and organizations have raised, just a couple of them, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And this is something that I had mentioned earlier on, that one of the problems that have been identified is still the definition of essential services in section 7-1(1)(c) is far too broad and remains unchanged from *The Public Service Essential Services Act*.

Previously, and this is coming from some of the feedback that we've received from organizations, in prior negotiations of essential service agreements, this definition was relied upon by employers to justify business as usual in the overdesigning of essential employees within their health regions in the event of a work stoppage. And it's been pointed out that if this issue is to be properly addressed, that definition must lend a clear, shared understanding of what constitutes an essential service and it cannot be all services currently offered within the health region and higher staffing levels than those experienced regularly on a day-to-day basis in the sector, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So again you can't deem everybody essential when on any given day that not all those employees are there and deemed essential on a regular workday, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I think that that's one thing that's . . . I know one organization, SEIU West, has said that they proposed that the definition in British Columbia's labour relations code which is:

. . . designates as essential services those facilities, productions, and services that are necessary or essential to prevent immediate or serious danger to health, safety, or welfare of the residents of British Columbia.

Might be more appropriate. So there's been some tinkering here. And by and large most people are happier with this, but there are still problems. And why would you continue to push

ahead a piece of legislation when people are still saying that there are issues and that you have a court case before the Supreme Court, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

I think another issue that's, well one that in particular that SEIU West has raised is the definition of public employer has been expanded in Bill 128 and essential services provisions will now have an even broader application. And the union says that they remain concerned the application of these provisions is far too all-encompassing as the effect of government interference into the collective bargaining process in situations outside the window of protection of the public.

And they go on to say that it should be noted in respect to section 7-37 that SEIU West remains uncertain of the full extent of the enlargement or the employers captured by the Act until they see the regulations.

There's a number of issues that have been identified with the bill as problematic and again I think it makes absolutely no sense to have a bill — this has been total bungling — and having a bill that has some constitutionality questions quite possibly and is before the Supreme Court for that very reason. And why would you introduce legislation and pass it and then amend it and possibly have to amend it again? So aside from the lawyers who are involved in the essential services court case, it costs money, time and money for lawyers to be drafting this legislation and doing this work and all the work of public services, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So we continue to have concerns about Bill 128. And I know we'll have an opportunity during committee to raise some more questions, and I know I have colleagues who are very interested in weighing in on this discussion as well. So with that, I'd like to, with respect to Bill 128, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 128. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 129

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 129 — *The Executive Government Administration 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. I rise today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 129, *An Act respecting the Administration of the Executive Government of Saskatchewan, making consequential and related amendments to certain Acts and regulations and repealing certain other Acts*. And of course this is a very important piece of legislation and there will be many questions what the consequences both, you know, the intended consequences and the unintended

consequences.

And we see, you know, as this government came into power, and of course they were anxious to put their own face on things, and so they changed the word from department to ministry. And we're not sure why that was, but it's a language change and they never really fully explained why. Now we're having . . . Here we are, seven years later still dealing with some of that.

And of course we know that this government is particularly fond of regulations and not so much legislation. We see a decline in legislation in the House, and we don't know whether it's because they've run out of ideas or they just prefer to do regulations. And today we probably saw the most bizarre example of how quickly regulations can be made overnight, where we were in committee last night going late into the evening, late into the evening, and the officials and the minister were quite clear, there were no regulations. There were no regulations. And here we are. Apparently the cabinet meeting this morning, from what we understand from the Premier, who was twisting himself in knots, about that they had been made. And so there you go.

And so here we have a bill before us to talk about the kind of management this government has done. And we've seen some of the most bizarre behaviour of government to date, this afternoon and yesterday and last night, just to make sure that . . . You know, I'm not sure what they were trying to make the point of, you know, because when we looked at what the minister said in his remarks of November 12th — and I read it last night — he said later in 2014 that this was all going to be happening. He was quite, quite fine with that.

And all of a sudden today, we hear that it's got to be done and we'll see what the timeline is. So I think that it's really important to talk about those kind of things because when we have issues before us about making regulations, and this is what this bill is, about how do we make regulations . . . And as I say, this is the government . . . This cabinet would prefer not to be here, not to be accountable, not to be transparent. And in fact they would like to do things behind a shroud of secrecy. We see that more and more and more, that we have concerns when this kind of legislation comes before us.

[16:30]

If it's just as simple as changing words from department to ministry, hey, we have a concern. Is this the best use of our civil servants, especially when we have a government that seems to be so dedicated to the use of lean? Is this a lean type of initiative, that they put together a piece of legislation of this size to change the word from department to ministry? This is efficiency at its best? I am not sure. So we are here to debate this bill and it's one that we'll have many, many questions.

He talks about how its intention is to consolidate the provisions of *The Government Organization Act* with the Executive Council provisions of *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 2007*, and incorporates provisions of *The Tabling of Documents Act, '91*, *The Federal-Provincial Agreements Act*.

The new legislation will remove any confusion about the organization of ministries, and they talk about ministerial

responsibilities. You know, and it does talk about legislative secretaries will not need to be reappointed every year. I mean the sad thing about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is you know the legislative secretaries themselves have not been as effective as we had hoped that they would. They are not out in the communities. We are not seeing them at places. So I'm not sure what exactly they're doing. Clearly we have some questions about that. And is that part of their lean initiatives, to have legislative secretaries? I mean that it is interesting that they don't want to reappoint them every year. Maybe they will even forget that they're in existence. I don't know. I think it's maybe a good idea to have their contracts renewed every year so at least we know that they're actually . . . that they have a job, that they have a job. I think that's important.

Interesting, you know, the appointment of advisory committees to ministers will require cabinet approval in all cases — and I think that's a good thing — and then that they can last, if I was reading this correctly, longer than a year. I think advisory committees are important. I think that it's a way to keep your ears to the ground, that you can hear what's happening. It's very difficult for ministers to get their best information, and this is one of the ways to make sure that they actually do. So I think this is a good thing. And I'll talk more at length about this.

The federal-provincial agreements will not require cabinet approval unless they require an expenditure by government of more than \$50,000. Of course we have some questions about what exactly does that mean. One of the things we know it means is that we may not find out about it because if it goes through cabinet then it's an order in council, and that's one way of us knowing that there's actually something happening. If this is done at the ministerial level, there may not be any way that the public will get to know that this is happening. And we would expect that if something was happening, if 75,000, 100,000, or 250,000, it might be broken up to meet the requirements of being less than 50,000. What's to stop that?

So I think cabinet, and its way of having orders in councils published, that there's a way of keeping track of what is actually happening. What are the decisions being made? What will happen here? Will decisions be made publicly? So we'll have a question for the minister about how will he make this public. What accountability process will take place?

And I mean the thing with federal-provincial . . . I mean first of all we would like to know what examples there are of the kind of initiatives. Is it a promotion? Is it a public relations event? When you talk about less than 50,000, what kind of a project is it that is involving, you know . . . And I assume that when we talk about federal-provincial agreements, is that just between Canada and Saskatchewan? I would have some questions about that because we have here a situation where we have governments of like minds who would all of a sudden be doing a lot of initiatives of less than \$50,000.

This is something that could be very interesting and, you know, maybe it could be broken up so if there was something between the Ministry of Environment that was 75,000, all of a sudden there was two projects, one of 35 and one of 40,000. But what happens if there is a multi-ministerial project that involves, say, 10 ministries? There is 50,000 each from those 10. That's a half a million. I would assume that you would then have the same

ministries from the federal government side. You have another half a million. All of a sudden you've got \$1 million, and nobody knows about it.

How does that work? How does that work for accountability and transparency? So this would allow that to happen. Are there ways of making sure that doesn't . . . or if it does take place . . . Because there might be a good reason. And we think that ministries should work in co-operation and there should be federal-provincial co-operation, but what is the accountability process here? And I am worried. I am worried deeply about what that could mean, and so we'll have lots of questions for the Minister of Justice on this about what kind of accountability will this be and where will that take place.

It could slide through the estimates process. Should we be asking, are there things that you're going to be anticipating spending 40,000, \$50,000 with the federal government? You know, these agreements come up in mid-year or at the end of the year, and all of a sudden you need to find resources, I would assume. This is not part of necessarily the budgeting process. So we'll be curious about this.

And again, you know, there are so many different angles you could talk about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because you're talking about federal-provincial. It's Sask-Canada agreements, but what about other provinces? Is it one across, right across? You know, all of a sudden we are talking about a lot of money. And what kind of projects are we talking about here?

So I have some questions about that, and I think that hopefully we can get some straight answers from the officials and the minister in the evening that doesn't change by the time the sun comes up in the morning, like what happened today when we had questions last night in committee and those answers today are irrelevant because something happened over the course of the evening, of early morning.

An Hon. Member: — It's called work.

Mr. Forbes: — And so now I hear the minister over there, one of the folks over there saying it's called work. But it seems like an odd time to be working between midnight . . . You know, maybe this is the time they do regulations in Health, between midnight and 6 in the morning. I don't know how you do that with consultations. The officials are very clear in here about the work, the process that needed to take place.

And so I do have some questions about that, how this will be done in a transparent and accountable process, and how things that you get the answers in committee, if we get answers in committee the night before, that all of a sudden those answers the next day don't stand the light of day. They simply don't stand the light of day. How does that happen in a government that prides itself on transparency and accountability?

And today we look at this bill here. And it talks about the administration of executive government. Well we saw some very interesting transparency or administration of the executive government of Saskatchewan in the last 24 hours. So I have to tell you, we have a lot of questions about that.

And how do we, when we go to committee and we ask

questions of the minister, of the minister and the officials, how can we have any confidence that they actually will have any meaning the next day? Because I tell you, I have to tell you, I think the minister and the officials were being straight and quite honest. They were talking to the best of their knowledge. But that knowledge clearly was different than the Premier's and what happened in the next convening hours between 11 p.m. last night and, you know, 1:30 today.

So we have lots of questions about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because we think that, as we go through this, we have to make sure . . . And this is a government that was elected, and it says they take great pride . . . They say they take great pride, but do they act with that great pride in transparency and accountability and consistency, all of that stuff? And now credibility, and now credibility that you should expect from a provincial government and from any ministry. Whether you call them a ministry or a department, it's all the same, isn't it? They should be transparent and accountable. And it doesn't matter whether you change their name or whether you keep it with the old name. It's all the same, isn't it, when it comes to having any credibility in the eyes of the people of this province?

So you know, and it talks about the kind of things, grant making and all of that. And I do want to talk a little bit about this last piece, about *The Financial Administration Act* as being amended to eliminate the Investment Board, and provide the treasury board so it can have non-ministerial members.

And it would be, you know, I've found that interesting because it's kind of a different practice the government has where they have non-Executive Council members. And maybe I'm wrong because this hasn't really been explained well to . . . you know, that they do have non-executive members, Executive Council members as part of the treasury board. And typically, you know, from what I understand, you have Executive Council, then you have the backbenchers, and the backbenchers are there to support the Executive Council.

And that's how our democracy kind of works. You have the backbenchers, while technically not part of the Executive Council, can sort of say, you know, we want to keep you in line. That's how a caucus meeting goes, right? That you have to make sure your work that you present has the support of the backbench, and if it doesn't, then you've got a problem.

But now you see the backbench is being brought into Executive Council. And I have a question about what does that really mean? It's not really a separate role anymore. It's kind of fuzzy, that backbenchers can be brought in and out. And whatever happened to the Executive Council concept? Because essentially they all can be part of the Executive Council. And I guess now they can be, and it's been an experiment this government has tried for the last few years for a variety of reasons. But I think that I'm curious about that. That's a significant change.

So I want to take a minute now to reflect on what the minister had to say about this in terms of the intention of Bill 129, *The Executive Government Administration Act*. Of course the Minister of Justice has been very busy. He's been bringing lots of things forward, and this just came forward just a few weeks ago. And it talks about the reason for this, and it reviews . . .

And he says, it “. . . will remove any confusion about the organization of ministries and the assignment of ministerial responsibilities.” And these changes are made from the current legislation.

And he talks about, and I talked about, the Legislative Secretary will not need to be reappointed every year. And this was just simply a way to get rid of unnecessary paperwork, and so that they will just continue forward. Now it will be interesting to see whether they actually continue into the election period or not. Like cabinet ministers continue past the election. I remember my own experience that once the, you know, in 2007, to continue the running of the government, cabinet continues until the next cabinet's appointed. And so when does the Legislative Secretary appointments . . . Do they continue as well?

We know that in practice that when a government is defeated, and this is what happened with us, that essentially it would be bad form for the old cabinet to do anything beyond the running of the government and not to initiate any new initiatives because they had lost their mandate. The only mandate they had was to make sure government ran and that there was not a breakdown of good services. And so I have a question about that.

And again I think that when we have legislative secretaries that they're . . . And I was one too. And I remember I was the Legislative Secretary for a few short, a few months of SchoolPlus. And I think the initiatives then were that we would see legislative secretaries do a lot of work. And I think about the member from Fairview and her work on bullying and there was actually a lot of profile and her work did create a lot of interest.

[16:45]

But many of the other legislative secretaries haven't quite achieved the same level of profile in the public. And I think that it's important that when we have people who are appointed legislative secretaries that they actually do get out there and create profile within the public and do some work on that.

And as I say, the bullying one was a very interesting one. And the work came forward and there were consultations done, and now we await the government to see what will come out of that. And it's only a few short days. We wait until next Wednesday, and we are hopeful that this government, at the larger level, will actually take some initiatives that were laid out.

So I think there is a role for legislative secretaries, but they need to be much more active. And as I say, I think that very few of them actually do achieve that profile in the public, and so I wonder, why do you even have legislative secretaries? Now you're getting rid of the idea that you have to reappoint them. I mean I think it would be good for them to show up maybe once a year to get their new contract. That would be at least showing that they are interested in their role. I mean I know some of them over there are legislative secretaries and we haven't seen them.

I have to say though I've heard about the . . . I have heard from the . . . One of the members from Moose Jaw is actually the Legislative Secretary for foster parents. And I have to say, I'm

looking forward to the report from that member around foster parents. So he's achieving some. But some of the others, I don't know what they've been doing. I don't know what some of those others have been . . . So if they only show up once a year to get their reappointment, I think that would be a worthwhile exercise . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, yes. But others, I mean we don't know what they do. So once a year to show up and get their reappointment would be a good thing.

We await the report from the foster parents Legislative Secretary. I did read the thing in the Moose Jaw *Times-Herald*. Looking forward to big things there. Looking forward to great things there. That's an important area. So he's been out doing his work. I know what he's doing. And I know what the member from Fairview did.

But some of the others, I don't know what they do. And now they don't want to even get . . . They don't want to show up for their once-a-year appointment. And now this has caused some interest on the other side. I don't know if their legislative secretaries, who are feeling that they're too busy, they're too busy to show up once a year for their once-a-year contract, this is a big thing to the folks over there. This is a big thing. I can't believe that I've hit a nerve talking about the once-a-year appointment. They really didn't think they would have to show up again once they were appointed Legislative Secretary.

So I've named two, and I have found their work interesting. But I don't know who the other legislative secretaries are over there. And you know, I mean I really clearly, I think what they need to do is work harder in the public eye than in this House to make noise. I would say go out in the public, go into our communities, make some noise so people know what you're doing, so people know what you're doing.

I have some real concerns about this, Mr. Speaker. And so this may be a big issue, and we should get a list of what actually they do, what they do. This is important. I think this is important work, you know. And so as I go through this, I think this is important. I do want to say actually there is the other, there's at least one other. I want to recognize the Legislative Secretary for disabilities. I'm interested to see what his report looks like too. That's very important as well. I think that's important work too.

So yes, we want to see what they do, what they do. So I don't know if that's the only three that there are. There may be more. There may be more. I don't know. But those are the three that I've had some contact with. I don't know if there's more. But as I said, Mr. Speaker, we'll have lots of questions about this in the House.

And of course, you know, the minister went on to talk about the advisory committee, and that's important. I think that again we will know . . . And this is essentially, this is an interesting thing because it really kind of ties in to that lobbying thing, doesn't it? So now we know who the advisory committees are. And so this is interesting. And I would think the minister is spot on when he says this will provide more accountability and oversight because now we will know the names of who are on the advisory committees. And so from looking at that, I think that's a good recommendation and a good piece of legislation. We'll ask in committee more about that.

But then he goes on, and this is where we will have some questions. We will have lots of questions about this, about the federal-provincial agreements that will not require cabinet approval unless they require an expenditure by the government of more than \$50,000. And this is consistent with agreements under section 18 of the new Act. So apparently that's the thing there. But again we'll want to know about the accountability, how that works in terms of, is it just straight between the federal government and the provincial ministry or is it multi-ministry or is it multi-provincial? At what point . . . Is it the total cost of 50,000, or can it be broken up and hidden away? Because again, as I said, this government really likes to talk a lot, likes the great talk about it being accountable and transparent, but are they really? Are they really? And this is how this is inconsistent, and I have some real questions about it.

And again, you know, as I said, and I have some real questions about how lean this government . . . You know, this government came in and was going to do great things and was going to be efficient. And we've seen the fiasco with Linkin in Social Services, the cost overruns with that. We've seen all sorts of cost overruns, and here is one. And it'll be very interesting to get a sense of what is this costing the government of Saskatchewan when they do this change from the word department, to removing all references from department, to minister or ministry and removing references like that in annual reports, seals, and staff. So I have some questions about that.

Now the minister didn't really talk about a couple of other things in his report. And I know that the minister tends to keep shorter comments, but we'll have questions about this. And that is in terms of annual reports and laying documents before the Assembly. And I hope, I hope, and I don't know how you feel about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or how some of the other members feel about this. But I find it difficult. Maybe one of the weaknesses of our new schedule is the fact that we're not often in the House. We're scheduled for 65 days, so that means we're not here for 300 days, which often means things can be turned in, whether it's the annual report or laying documents before the Assembly. And it's inconsistent about which ones MLAs get notices that have been turned in to the Clerk. And I would like to see a better notification system.

We don't have to have the documents necessarily laid out but, in my case, I'm interested when the annual report for Sask Housing comes out, and I think — and I could be wrong — but I think it usually comes out in June, and we're not here in June. So I have to make sure I ask for it or I go looking for it. I think if it was done in May, we may get it in the House. And I'm not quite sure about this, and this is one question I would have in committee. Is there a way for us to get notification that these important documents are being laid on the table or given to the Clerk on a consistent basis?

The annual plans for each department, especially as a critic it's important that we know what the annual plans are for each ministry. And unless you go looking for it . . . And somebody would say, well maybe that's your responsibility. But, you know, if we can all make this work a little bit better, then that's a good thing. The annual plans, the annual reports that come out . . . And I know the library has a . . . They send out a report every week or every month about documents that they receive, and I do check that.

But I think it's important that these other documents . . . So this would be one thing that we may ask in the House, if there is some way to streamline that so that we actually do get those documents or access to those documents because it is a critical piece of how we do our work. And if we don't have those documents or three or four months go by or if you've changed your critic roles, you may not realize that the documents actually are available and that you should be looking at them.

And so if there was some way to make sure that when we have the annual documents or laying documents before the Assembly . . . I think this is an important piece that we shouldn't just glide over. I know I take a look at these documents and they're important. They're an important piece of our accountability. It's an important piece of us doing our work. It's an important piece of the government doing their work. And a lot of people take a lot of time to make sure we do that. Does this fit into our new calendar? I don't really think so. Is there a better way of doing it?

And so I know that there's lots of questions, and I just want to take a minute to review what I've said because I think this is really critical in terms of this piece of legislation, which is a significant piece, you know. And especially as I said earlier that, I mean you know, on one hand we see a government, you know, very short on ideas, and we're seeing legislation that is a little late, and then they've been working on this about ministries. I don't know if that's an indication of lean initiatives within the departmentland of Justice that it took them this long to bring this forward in terms of changing departments to ministries. Not a great thing, but it is what it is.

But we do have a lot of questions. We have a lot of questions. And it will be interesting if all the legislative secretaries show up for committee. Maybe they'll have some comments to make when we ask questions about why they should not have to be reappointed every year.

I think that the idea of the advisory committee's names being approved by committee, that's very, very important and adds a lot to the accountability and transparency. And the minister has pointed that out, and that point I do agree to that.

I do have questions about the \$50,000. I have to be honest with that, and we'll have to ask what does that look like. And if it's just a one-off and that's simply . . . But if it's really, if it really is . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now it seems to have hit a nerve over there. Somebody really wants to get in on this and really thinks that they should just be able to go wild on it, and they really can't see what the problem is. I think people want to know a little bit more about this. There is this question of accountability, and when you have, you know, people who want to know what's going on with the government, this is really, really important, you know, so . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, once they're in order in council where all those camping fee rebates that we're seeing . . . And of course that's an interesting piece of work on that. So I think that there is a lot of questions that we have, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on this issue.

So while on one hand I think that there is merit, you always have to take a look. And as I said in my opening remarks about unintended consequences and intended consequences, and here where you have a government into its seventh year of mandate

and still working out how it does its business . . . And we saw a fine case of mismanagement since last question period into this question period. The 24 hours really indicated that how this government can, you know, double down. They want to get a result, I guess, that's the only . . . And they will do that, and we'll see how that plays out in the days and weeks ahead.

Yet, at the same time, at the same time they do not know how many homes are at risk right now or how many people are at risk, vulnerable people are at risk in those homes. They cannot answer that, but they can stay up all night writing regulations that really they didn't need to do, that they didn't really need to do. They prefer to do them. Fair enough. But they didn't need to do it. And so we have a problem with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So with that, and I know the hour is late and we want to make sure that we want to be able to adjourn for the day, I want to move adjournment for Bill No. 129, *An Act respecting the Administration of the Executive Government of Saskatchewan, making consequential and related amendments to certain Acts and regulations and repealing certain other Acts*. I do so move. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 129, *The Executive Government Administration Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried. It being now the time of adjournment, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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