



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

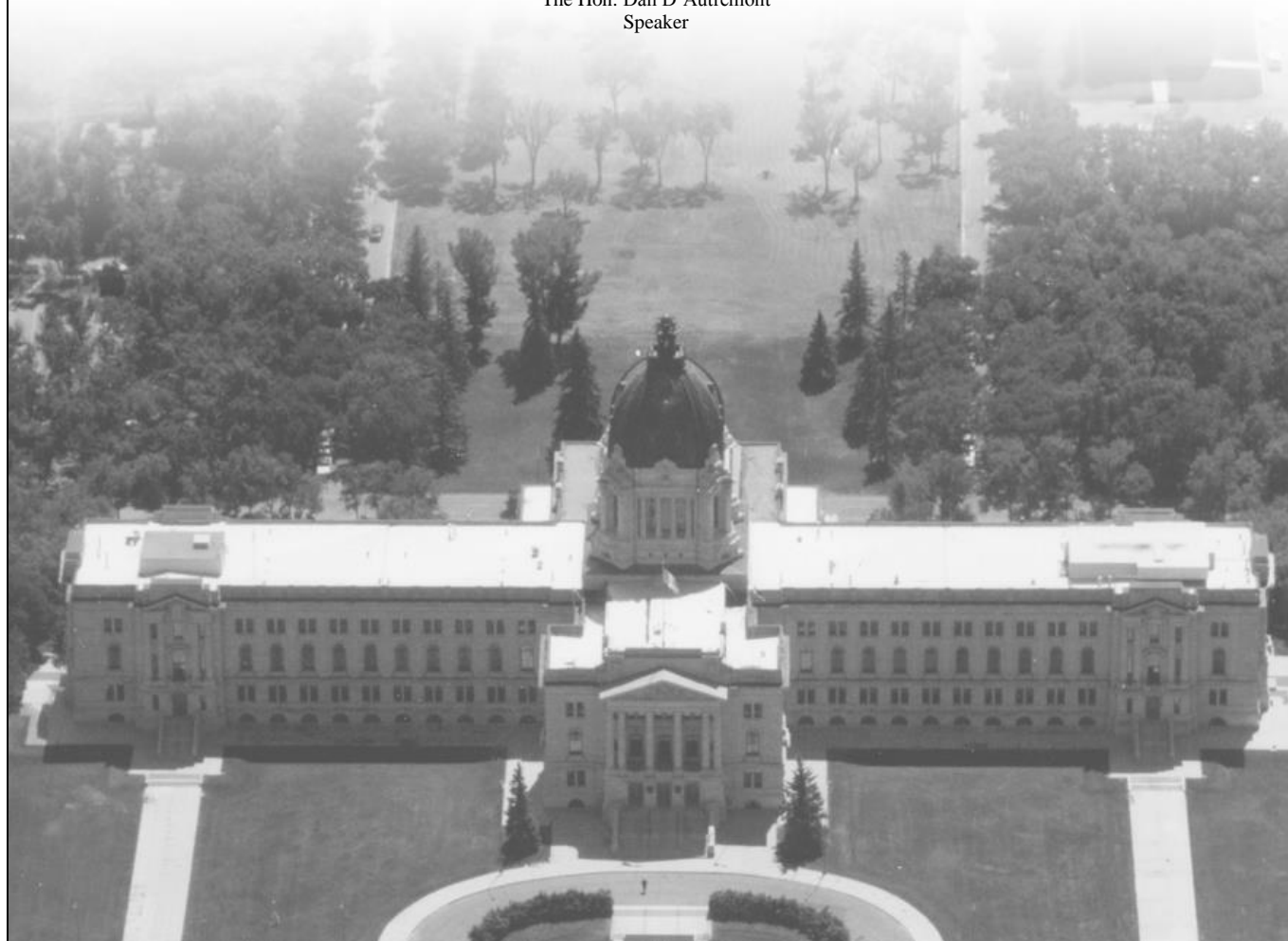
of the

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

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 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Cam Broten

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Weekes, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I'd like to introduce a number of guests who have joined us in your gallery. Mr. Speaker, first of all we have a number of guests with us from the Autism Resource Centre here in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, I'd maybe ask for them to wave when I read their name. Keely Wight, who is the executive director of ARC [Autism Resource Centre] and has been on the job for a month now and, Mr. Speaker, I know is doing a great job in assuming her role as the executive director. Bret Bennett: Bret's a young man who has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. He has been employed in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan, and joining him is his grandmother, Agnes. Also Anna Barone, who is a board of directors member of the board; Kellie Garrett; Trudi Ihme; and Connie Falconer. As well joining us is Arden Fiala, the director and vice-president of Autism Society Canada.

Mr. Speaker, just a few moments ago, members of the Assembly joined us in raising a flag for World Autism Awareness Day, and one of the colleagues on the government side will have more to say about that in a member's statement in a few moments. So I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming our guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure on behalf of the official opposition to welcome the delegation here today for World Autism Day and Light It Up Blue. To all those who advocate for and provide the support services for those who are living with autism and their families, thank you for all that you do in the community and your advocacy work in ensuring that those services grow and those supports grow to ensure that all people have an opportunity to lead a full and productive life. So thank you for all the work that you do, to Arden and Keely and everyone else. I know the minister's already listed you all off, so thank you. I'd ask all my colleagues to join in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure on behalf of my seatmate, the member from Cypress Hills, to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly, 22 grade 11 and 12 students from Eastend. They are here to witness the proceedings of the House and tour the building. And

after they're done their tour, we'll have the pleasure of meeting with them and attempting to answer some of their questions. And hopefully I will provide answers to at least some of their questions.

Mr. Speaker, they're accompanied today by their teacher, Marie Hanson, and the chaperone, Shelley Morvik. And if I understood the tour guide correctly, I understand that Ms. Hanson has brought a number of her classes to the Assembly. And I know my seatmate certainly regrets that he's not here to greet them, but I will fill in for him. And I would ask all members to welcome them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, it's always a pleasure to introduce family members in this Legislative Assembly, and to you and through you to the members of the Assembly, I wish to introduce my brother from a different mother but the same father, George Cote from Yorkton.

George is very involved in the community in Yorkton and the surrounding area, manager of Yorkton Parkland Housing, very involved in Grace River Mission, does a lot of ministry work there as well. And I know he's in town to visit his little lifesaver baby, Dez, and his other grandchild and his family. So I'd ask all members to welcome George to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition against Saskatchewan health care laundry privatization. And we know that in May 2013, the Government of Saskatchewan announced its plan to privatize health care laundry in Saskatchewan, handing it over to a for-profit, Alberta-based corporation, K-Bro Linen; and that as a result of that decision, we know that to privatize health care laundry six non-profit health care laundry facilities will be closed within two years in the communities of Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Weyburn, Regina, and Saskatoon. And we know that the privatization of health care laundry will mean the devastating loss of over 300 good-paying jobs, and devastating local economies and families. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly be pleased to cause the government to reverse the misguided decision to privatize Saskatchewan's health care laundry which will result in the devastating loss of over 300 jobs in the communities of Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Weyburn, Regina, and Saskatoon.

And moreover, the privatization of health care laundry will misuse vital taxpayer dollars by taking money out of Saskatchewan's health care system to boost the profits of an Alberta-based corporation; and, furthermore, the privatization of health care laundry will put patient care at risk as Saskatchewan's health regions lose direct control over laundry and thereby will have a significantly reduced

ability to quickly and effectively respond to infectious outbreaks in health care facilities.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, I do so present. Thank you very much.

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 who are in support of safety on Dewdney Avenue, and in support of rerouting the dangerous heavy-haul truck traffic off of Dewdney Avenue. They cite their concerns and cite that it's unacceptable for that government to delay any longer addressing this unsafe condition that was created by that government. 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 the heavy-haul truck traffic on Dewdney Avenue west of the 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.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents from Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition on the housing program for northern Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to restore the rent-to-own option for responsible renters of the social housing program and to reinstate the remote housing program.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are from all throughout Saskatchewan. And on this particular page, the people that have signed this page are primarily from Ile-a-la-Crosse. And I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition for real action on climate change. And the undersigned residents of this petition wish to bring to your attention the following: that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada; that Saskatchewan's emissions have continued to grow to 74 million megatonnes, as reported by Environment Canada on October 2013, and show no signs of decreasing; that the Saskatchewan government has

failed to tackle climate change, reduce emissions to the province's own targets, or put in any real plan to protect the natural environment; that slashing programs such as the Go Green Fund and the EnerGuide for Houses energy efficiency program set the province on a backwards course; and that since 2009 the Government of Saskatchewan has reduced climate change funding by 83 per cent including another 35 per cent cut in the 2014-15 budget:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enact a real plan and allocate appropriate funding in the provincial budget to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encouraging everyone in the province to take real action to protect the environment.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who have signed this come from the communities of Saskatoon. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

World Autism Awareness Day

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to acknowledge that today, April 2nd, is World Autism Awareness Day. To mark this day, we have raised the autism awareness flag in front of the Legislative Building. This is a valuable opportunity for us to learn more about autism spectrum disorder and to build a better understanding of this complex condition that has an impact on so many Saskatchewan families.

It is estimated 1 out of 93 children in Canada is affected by ASD [autism spectrum disorder], which makes it more prevalent than childhood cancer, diabetes, and AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] combined. That is why, Mr. Speaker, our government supports a comprehensive approach and responsive system for individuals and families affected by autism.

We are proud to provide funding to support enhanced autism interventions. In 2014-15, we are investing over \$7 million towards targeted autism supports. That is a 1,400 per cent increase since 2007-08. This investment will go towards education, training specialist support workers, and diagnostic assessment. Our government and health regions work very closely with other interested parties to build comprehensive autism service systems in Saskatchewan.

On this very special day, Mr. Speaker, I want to remind my colleagues that we all have a responsibility to raise awareness, to provide support. I ask you all, please join me in recognizing World Autism Awareness Day.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the seventh annual World Autism Awareness Day and the day where people around the globe are lighting it up blue. Light It

Up Blue is a unique global initiative to kick off World Autism Awareness Month, as iconic landmarks and venues as well as homes and communities light their buildings blue.

The goal of World Autism Day is to raise awareness of the autism crisis and to provide public information about the incredible importance of early diagnosis and intervention. Mr. Speaker, around 400,000 Canadians live with autism.

In Saskatchewan, families impacted by this disorder have strong allies in their corner like SaskFEAT [Saskatchewan Families for Effective Autism Treatment] that has been advocating for people living with autism spectrum disorder and their families for more than a decade; the Autism Resource Centre here that provides critical supports and services; and for the second year in a row, student Janelle Mandes who organized a Light it Up Blue event at the First Nations University of Canada this morning. Mandes says it's important for people with autism to be recognized within our communities. She says, "I hope this day can bring understanding, acceptance, hope, and pride for the community."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in expressing our gratitude to those responding to the needs of individuals living with autism spectrum disorder and their families and to the autism organizations who give a voice to millions of individuals worldwide. Thank you.

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

Program Helps Developing Nations

Mr. Marchuk: — Last Thursday I had the opportunity to bring greetings to SaskTel's We See You event here in Regina on behalf of the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure. This special event saw SaskTel's We See You program and the University of Regina's Faculty of Education join forces to collect supplies to fill an industrial 40-foot shipping container destined for Malawi, Africa. Many organizations around Regina donated items such as medical supplies, school supplies, clothing, and home items.

This ongoing program benefits a multitude of groups, from the students developing their empathy and global awareness and education of the people of Malawi, to the beneficiaries of the contents who will be immensely impacted by the donated goods.

Mr. Speaker, this was the 15th container shipped through the SaskTel We See You program, which focuses on providing assistance to various locations throughout the developing world. Mr. Speaker, it's important to remember that we must never take for granted the spirit of community involvement, social responsibility, and global awareness we see in Saskatchewan. It's especially inspiring to know that a project like this has the power to engage the youthful energies of students, instilling within them a sense of global social obligation and philanthropy, as truly they are the leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the great work done by all the partners in this initiative. The team work, generosity, and social responsibility behind this cause is

truly something to celebrate. Thank you.

[13:45]

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

Hindu Society of Saskatchewan Banquet

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I had the pleasure of attending the Hindu Society of Saskatchewan's 29th annual vegetarian banquet along with the member for Saskatoon Centre and the member for Saskatoon Nutana. It was a great evening to raise money for the Shri Lakshmi Narayan Temple in Saskatoon and to support its expansion, Mr. Speaker. The food was delicious, the entertainment was lively and enjoyable, and the crowd was a big and diverse one.

Successful events like this do not happen on their own. They require the work of a committed group of people to make them happen. So I want to thank the Hindu Society of Saskatchewan's board of directors: Anu Kashyap, Isha Kumar, Rahul Mukherjee, Suresh Kalagnanam, Leela Sharma, Neermala Kavita, Atul Desai, Vishal Jheengut, Laxmi Bhargava, Dineh Patel, Raj Dhir, Sulochna Parmar, and Subhash Biswal.

I also want to thank banquet advisors: Dr. Kulwant and Ms. Janek Rai, Drs. Tilak and Lalita Malhotra, and Drs. Mini and Mahesh Khurana.

I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating the Hindu Society of Saskatchewan on another successful banquet and to thank the Hindu community for their ongoing, extraordinary contributions to the economic, intellectual, cultural, and social fabric of our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Climbing Mountains to Raise Awareness

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year in this House, I recognized an extraordinary woman, Denise Heppner. In April 2013, she was the only Canadian woman in a group of 44 women from around the globe who trekked Mount Everest to summit Mount Kala Patthar.

These amazing women did this to raise awareness and funds to help women and children who are in desperate situations. It is to stir action and compassion on issues such as slavery, exploitation, and trafficking of women and children, women and children who live lives that we in Canada cannot even begin to imagine.

Well Denise is at it again. This summer she will be joined by several other Canadian women for Operation Mobilization's Freedom Climb. They will head to Colorado to summit seven mountains in four days. I want to quote from their website:

Women are invited to get dirty, completely uncomfortable, and stretched beyond their wildest imagination as they climb these mountains in a symbolic gesture of the climb to freedom for women and kids around the world.

The women participating in Freedom Climb are doing this to be the voice of those who have been silenced. This organization and the women participating in the climb are guided by the principles set out in Proverbs 31, and I quote:

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves;
ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for
the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to be amazed and so very proud of Denise. I wish her health as she trains for this incredible adventure and for success and safety in her climb in July. Thank you.

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

Team Wins Provincial D Midget Hockey Championship

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last year at about this time, I rose in the House to inform you and the members about the success of the Cupar senior hockey team who had won the provincial A championship. Well, Mr. Speaker, this year the seniors fell a little short, but there is still good news coming from the Cupar hockey program.

The Midget team, last weekend, won the Midget D provincial championship. On their way to their championship, Mr. Speaker, they defeated Glentworth 14 to 3 in a two-game total point series. And then they went on to defeat Gull Lake 8 to 4, and then to become the southern champions.

Then they battled the northern champions, the Porcupine Blues, and the first game ended in a 4-all tie in Cupar. There was a fair bit of angst amongst the players and coaches travelling back to Porcupine Plain last Saturday. But I'm here to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the Cupar Canucks' Midget team were successful. They defeated the Porcupine Blues 4 to 2 to take the two-game total point of 9 to 6.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the coaches and the managers and all the parents and fans of the Cupar Canucks on their success. And yes, Mr. Speaker, in case anyone was wondering, there was two players with a Hart name tag on their sweaters: no. 12, Ethan, a nephew; and no. 15, Owen, a grandson of mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Aboriginal Youth Leadership Symposium

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 24th this year I had the opportunity to speak at the first ever Aboriginal Youth Leadership Symposium which was held in Saskatoon. This event was hosted by the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, along with the BC [British Columbia] Centre of Excellence for Young Indigenous Leaders. This symposium brought together 17 Aboriginal youth between the ages of 18 and 29 from around this province, to work and learn from successful Aboriginal leaders in areas such as finance, governance, leadership strategies, wellness, and traditional knowledge.

For five days youth heard from facilitators like the members from Saskatoon Fairview and Saskatoon Greystone; Aboriginal banking specialists; former Assembly of First Nations chief, Phil Fontaine; Rick Brandt, director of Aboriginal sport; and elders, Maria and Walter Linklater.

Mr. Speaker, here is a quote from one of the attendees: "The best thing I received this week was a sense of knowing that I have a solid network of like-minded individuals from around this province I can turn to. That feeling will drive me to better our communities for a long time to come."

Mr. Speaker, our government was a major sponsor of this project and we are very pleased to support the work of the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan as they strive to improve the lives of urban Aboriginal people of our province through culturally relevant programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, I know there was some future leaders in that group, not only leaders in their own communities, but in provincial jurisdictions as well. I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating and thanking the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan for their work in empowering our youth. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Training for Health Care Workers and the Lean Initiative

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government rejected \$540,000 in requests for training from front-line care facilities. This included training for care aids in the gentle persuasive approach which is recognized as a best practice for caring for those with dementia. It also included training for the Eden Alternative, which is also a best practice for seniors' care. Care facilities said they desperately needed this training in order to improve the quality of care for their residents. But this government said no to \$540,000 for that important training, but it said yes to untold millions of dollars for its lean project.

My specific question is for the Premier: why did this government reject \$540,000 in training for front-line health care workers, and how much is it spending on lean training for Saskatchewan health care workers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through the Urgent Issues Action Fund, funds were available for front-line staff as well as some training and some equipment. The regional health authorities knew that there was \$10 million that was available and we asked them to keep their request within that \$10 million based on the number of beds in proportion to what they had across the regions. When they first came back to us, as I've said in this House, Mr. Speaker, we asked them to prioritize their items instead of the government choosing their priorities for them.

But I can say with respect to gentle persuasion approaches, six health regions now have certified trainers in gentle persuasion approaches. As well the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, for

example, has begun training their staff to implement gentle persuasion within their health region as well within this particular health region — Regina Qu'Appelle is what I'm talking about — purposeful hourly rounding which I think will have a benefit for those residents.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well I can see, Mr. Speaker, why the Saskatoon Health Region would want such training for its employees. I think the Premier should read through the 250 pages of urgent requests that came from care facilities. Here's what the Saskatoon Health Region says on page 206:

We heard from residents and families how the approach and philosophy of care varied from one special care home to another. We do not have a consistent approach or philosophy of care and the variation produces very different resident outcomes.

To fix that, the Saskatoon Health Region wanted to standardize the quality of care across the region in order to use a similar approach used at Sherbrooke which is recognized as a best practice. So the region asked for just \$350,000 to do this training, but this government forced them to remove that request. They're making jokes on the other side, the member from Sutherland, Mr. Speaker.

To the Premier: why would he refuse to pay \$350,000 for desperately needed training but pour untold millions of dollars into lean promotion?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect just to gentle persuasion approach, I can inform the House that Heartland Health Region has held training in Rosetown and it will be implemented in Kyle and Biggar by in fact March 31st of this year. So that training has been completed. Training in other facilities will complete it in the next year, and staffing levels were increased in Rosetown, Davidson, Outlook, Kindersley, and Biggar.

Gentle persuasion, two instructors have been taking the training at Kelsey Trail Health Region. They took the training in Saskatoon. That's where some of the experience lies. And facility administrators are now organizing upcoming training sessions for staff all across the region. That's Kelsey Trail.

Gentle persuasion, four trainers attended from Prairie North Health Region. They attended the certified coach training in Saskatoon on February 27th and 28th and they are now, those four trainers are now able to train all across the health region. That's just three of the health regions that did receive money for this particular program.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon Health Region, the largest health region in the province, wanted \$350,000 to expand this training across the region, and this government said no, and made them pull back that request. If the Premier took the time to flip through the 250 pages of urgent requests from

facilities, he would see them talking about how mandatory kaizen basics training is getting in the way of the training that would actually help and improve the quality of care for residents in care facilities.

So this government, Mr. Speaker, said no to fixing the basics and improving the quality of care for residents, but has said yes to untold millions of dollars for the Premier's lean pet project. It said no to staff training, Mr. Speaker, that would have standardized and improved the quality of care for residents, Mr. Speaker, but it said yes to mandatory kaizen basic training sessions, Mr. Speaker, where front-line health care workers learn Japanese words and learn how to properly fold paper airplanes.

My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: how on earth can he justify this? Why is this government continually wasting dollars and failing to fix the basics that are affecting seniors' care and health care here in Saskatchewan? To the Premier.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to lean methodology and the deployment of lean throughout the system, the members will know that to date we've already saved more than what it will cost to implement lean. Mr. Speaker, for example, the \$26 million that we've saved in not wasting blood products as we had in the past, those dollars can be spent within the health care system. Rather than throwing away blood products that don't actually get to the patient, we've reduced that amount of waste and that can go back into the system.

With respect to what the Leader of the Opposition has asked, we did ask the regions to come back and prioritize their dollars based on their percentage of beds. But it did result in increase in staff and training. For example Saskatoon, we asked them what were the priorities. They said 53 total lifts, so we funded those. They said facilities receiving extra staffing at Sunnyside, Porteous Lodge, Last Mountain pioneer lodge, and Pleasant View Care Home. We increased staff in those facilities and provided lean . . . Eden training . . .

[Interjections]

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well we did. Eden and purposeful rounding of hours within several other health regions.

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

Capital Funding for Schools

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon is the largest Catholic high school in Saskatoon, and they need to leave their much needed renovation projects on hold, not completed, half done, because that government hasn't provided the appropriate funding. To the Education minister: why can't that government get the job done when it comes to the renovation at Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise

the member opposite that a funding request was approved in 2012 for Holy Cross High School. I've been at the high school. I've looked at it. The application was to include things for five additional classrooms, a makeover for the gym, locker rooms, cafeteria, and other things.

The initial estimate, Mr. Speaker, was \$13.2 million of government money. When the project went to tender or it was going out to be completed, it was going to be significantly over budget. The government at that time increased funding so that the total project costs would be in the range of just under \$30 million. The government fully supported that and provided additional funding for that.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of construction, the school division wished to add a science lab, a band room, and a number of other things, all good and valid projects but, Mr. Speaker, those things were not part of the original application, which was significant, and we did not wish to leapfrog anything over Connaught, Sacred Heart, or any of the other priorities that we have.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we keep hearing more and more details about how that government is failing to get the job done in the education system and how they're ignoring educational leaders in this province, school boards, and teachers, Mr. Speaker. We've heard about how the Saskatoon Public School Division needed 11 portable classrooms but all that government gave them was two. We've heard that the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division needs 12 portable classrooms and all that government gave them is four.

Now we've learned that the government can't even get the job done when it comes to building the schools and renovating the schools that we need. This government will actually leave a much needed renovation that's going to cost a lot more to deal with in the future in Saskatoon's largest Catholic high school not complete. To the minister: how is this acceptable?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the economies when things can be done together. Unfortunately this one was not applied for at the same time, so it will be dealt with by phases. And the other one will be dealt with in its turn as soon as is reasonably done.

I can advise the members opposite that our government has provided Saskatoon and area major capital funding since we formed government. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we have provided over \$146 million. That includes 10 major capital projects: Willowgrove, Nutana, Holy Family, Georges Vanier, Holy Cross, St. Matthew, E.D. Feehan, St. Mary, Martensville High School, Warman. We've provided 21 relocatables. There's 180 renovation projects, 14 early year projects and, Mr. Speaker, six joint-use schools. Mr. Speaker, that's the equivalent of 12 schools that we've provided to Saskatoon and area. We'll make no apologies, Mr. Speaker.

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

Landfill Management

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am going to ask questions about muda, but this is real muda — the landfill wastes. On December 4th I asked the government about contaminated water from the landfill flowing into the river upstream from the water intake system in Saskatoon. This government had absolutely no answer to that question. But we've obtained internal documents that show that leachate from the Saskatoon landfill is likely reaching the South Saskatchewan River. To the minister: what does he know now, four months later, about landfill contamination of the river in Saskatoon and what is the government doing to protect the river and our water quality?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. As the member and I had talked about in estimates the other day, landfills are very important to this government. There are some 700 that are located around Saskatchewan. We have a dedicated branch of the Ministry of Environment that looks to them to monitor all of them and to ensure that they operate in a safe and healthy manner. We continue to do that. Any information that's brought to our attention we certainly look into it and would certainly do that at this particular time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, four months later and still no answer from that minister on the situation in Saskatoon. This government's approach to landfill management is far from adequate. The Provincial Auditor said this government needs to do much more to protect ground and surface water from contamination by landfills. And the government's own Water Security Agency acknowledged in their state of the watershed report that 18 of the province's 29 watersheds are under moderate- to high-intensity stress from landfills. Let me repeat that: 62 per cent of Saskatchewan's watersheds are under moderate- to high-intensity stress as a result of landfills.

To the minister: why is this government leaving people open to the risk of drinking contaminated water by not properly regulating and monitoring Saskatchewan's landfills?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. I'll reiterate again, this government considers landfills a top priority. Certainly if a landfill has been found to be in non-compliance, notices of violations are issued and, depending on the severity, it's accompanied by a fine. That indeed does happen from time to time. It's happened when members opposite were in government. It happens today. One is too many and that's the way this government views it.

But again we look at all 700. We have some under annual compliance. Our goal is to have them looked at at least every

three years. Again if there's additional information that the member has, we certainly will look into that.

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

Social Services Expenditures and Responsibilities

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services claimed last week that she is not cutting jobs in the child and family services division of Social Services, but the budget documents clearly show a cut of \$5.6 million in salaries from the child and family services division. To the minister: why won't she just admit that she is cutting child and family services jobs?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members opposite. If he looks at the budget document, the member will see that there is money being transferred from government organizations to community-based organizations. The member opposite knows that Dales House and Red Willow, the last two government-operated group homes in Saskatchewan, were closed at the end of the month and that we now have more group homes that are run in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, there are now about 900 spaces in the community. The last 16 that were operated by government are closed and, Mr. Speaker, that work started under the previous administration. The previous administration had all but 16 left, and now we know that the work can be done within the community, and that's what we're doing.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, at a time when the minister's been cutting jobs in child and family services and elsewhere in her ministry, you would think she would show a bit more restraint. To the minister: why did taxpayers have to spend \$3,634.33 for a limousine service when she was in London, England for four days last June?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the expenses that happened last year in England was during a trip where I took not only to England but to Ghana, and I talked about fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. And then when I was in England, I had an opportunity to meet with a number of organizations, including the ministers of Education, people from housing, and also people involved with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

I was very cautious of the amount of money that we were spending, but I also know that as a government we learn from other organizations. We talked to the disability community as well and at that time the conversations that we had helped us to direct our own disability program.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that the money that we spend as ministers are looked at by the taxpayers. I'm aware of that, but I'm also conscious of what we can be learning from other organizations.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services and one government official, the cabinet secretary, charged \$3,634.33 for limousine services while she was in London, England for just four days. That's eight months of social assistance and shelter allowance for a single adult. To the minister: why didn't she just take a black cab or the underground subway? Why did she rack up over \$3,600 in limo fees?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I am very, very much aware of the costs when I'm travelling. So is every other minister when we go out on the trips. And I know when we make any movements around cities like London, which I'm sorry I'm not familiar with, I do ask somebody to take me around to them. We had an opportunity to meet with a number of different organizations that have an impact on what we're doing as government.

When you can see the spending that we have done as members of government, it is considerably less than was spent by the members opposite, and I would dare to say that the result of what we're doing has had an impact on the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite can talk about me all he likes. I think what he should be asking is how we're making a difference to the people that are vulnerable in the province. And I'll stand up for that record any day.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services and the cabinet secretary spent almost \$19,000 in total to visit London and Ghana. The Ministry of Social Services has no notes about the minister's trip to Ghana and neither does Executive Council. But taxpayers paid \$19,000 for her trip, including over \$3,600 for a limo in London. To the minister: how can she justify this kind of spending when she's making cuts from her own department, including the child and family services division?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to clarify the last statement that the member made when he said that there was cuts. Actually the budget for the child and family services last year was \$209,911. This year it's \$218,397. That is an increase, not a decrease.

Mr. Speaker, we also know that as a government the work that we're doing, especially in countries like Ghana where there is very little information about issues like fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, we know that in a province that's growing, we have an opportunity not just to talk about economic issues, but I think we have a responsibility to talk about social issues as well. I had an opportunity to talk to health officials, the Minister of Education, and various organizations there to talk about FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder]. And that's something that's been important not only to us, but I remember being in

opposition where the members opposite actually agreed to a bill where we're talking about awareness.

In a province that's leading Canada in so many ways, I am proud to be able to say that our province is talking not just about economic issues, but about social issues.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Payments to Contractors

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We keep hearing about how that government is obsessing over pet projects and dropping the ball on the basics. Now we've learned that the Ministry of Highways is failing to pay its bills, and I'd say getting the province's bills paid is pretty basic. It's embarrassing, Mr. Speaker. There are millions of dollars in outstanding bills.

So again to the Highways minister: how much does this government owe in unpaid bills?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite, being a former Highways minister, albeit for a short time, would understand the process that goes on, Mr. Speaker, when contractors do work in the province. And a significant amount of work has been done over the last seven years in the province.

Money is paid out as that process goes on. Roughly about 90 per cent is paid out as the contract goes on. Roughly about 10 per cent of that money is withheld to make sure that the work is done to our satisfaction, Mr. Speaker. It wouldn't be wise to pay all the money out and then have issues with work that hadn't been complete. That's why that money is held back.

There's also some issue with paperwork, Mr. Speaker, making sure the contractors get the paperwork in on time so we can pay.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, there are cases that we haven't been as diligent as what we needed to be, Mr. Speaker. We are working on that within the ministry to ensure that all contractors get paid on a timely basis when the work is complete, both agreed on by the contractor as well as the ministry.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, workers in the Ministry of Highways have been telling the Construction Association that lack of staff is the problem. Now let's look at his record, Mr. Speaker. That government and that minister cut 342 jobs in the ministry over the last three years, 342 jobs — 42 more job cuts just in this last year's budget. Now, Mr. Speaker, again to the minister: are these staff cuts the reason why this government is failing the simple, the simple job of paying their bills on time?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, what I would say to the

question . . . First of all, he's used some numbers there. I would use the 664.5 million that's spent on highways this year, a record amount of spending, Mr. Speaker, far outstrips anything that the former government did.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I would say that there is work to do within the ministry. We work very closely with the Construction Association to make sure that those payments are done on a timely basis.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I think all members of this House would expect us to hold back money until the job is complete. That is just a practice that was done under the former government. It is done under this government, Mr. Speaker.

But in the case where payments aren't being made as timely as what they need to be, we are working on that within the ministry. We don't believe it's an issue around staffing, Mr. Speaker. It's an issue around paperwork that we need to lean up, Mr. Speaker, and we will certainly assure to do that.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — There's that word lean again, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan families know that they have to pay their bills on time or pay a price. And having a reputation for failure to pay for a service could mean higher bids from contractors leery to take another job from this government. No wonder, Mr. Speaker, some contractors don't finish the roads on time. This government isn't paying them on time. Once again to the minister: what repercussions could Saskatchewan suffer or has the province already suffered as a result of its failure to pay their bills on time?

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

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we work very closely with the Saskatchewan truck . . . the Saskatchewan Construction Association. And the Trucking Association as well, Mr. Speaker. But the Saskatchewan Construction Association, I've met with representatives from Morsky's, for example, from Botkin on an individual basis, as well as Shantel Lipp, Mr. Speaker, from the Construction Association, Sean Wilson. We know this is an issue. We're working on it to make sure that we can address it into the future.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, to a construction company and especially through the Construction Association, never have they seen record spending on highways like they have seen under this government over the last seven years. Mr. Speaker, I would say that there is more work to do, absolutely. But, Mr. Speaker, it's a far cry from the 200 and \$300 million budgets under the NDP [New Democratic Party] to the \$600 million budgets under the Saskatchewan Party government.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, that's the Sask Party math. They talk about record revenues and spending on highways, but

nobody has been getting paid, Mr. Speaker.

The Highways minister has a lot of bluster today, and I've asked a straightforward question. I've asked how much the Highways ministry owes in unpaid bills — a very simple question, Mr. Speaker. I've asked why the Highways ministry isn't paying its bills and whether it's because this government cut 342 jobs from the ministry. And I've asked about the repercussions of not paying these bills. But the minister has no answers, Mr. Speaker, just a whole lot of rhetoric and spin. Saskatchewan people deserve answers to these questions.

So once again to the minister: how much does the Ministry of Highways owe? Why isn't it paying its bills? And what are the consequences of not paying these bills?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we know that there are about 78 contracts since 2012 that are outstanding. The vast majority of those contracts have been paid, roughly about 90 per cent. It would be only prudent for a government — which was again, done under the previous government — to withhold money to ensure those contracts are completed adequately, Mr. Speaker. About 40 per cent of those remaining contracts still have additional work to be completed. About 60 per cent of them, Mr. Speaker, are waiting for some more paperwork from the contractor.

But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, the Construction Association has also said that we're working diligently to address the problem. Not that there isn't a bit of an issue here, Mr. Speaker. We're working with the Construction Association. But once again, Mr. Speaker, it's a far cry from, for example, the members opposite, when they would talk to a city, for example to take the top off the bridge and then never pay for it from the NDP, Mr. Speaker. They expected Prince Albert to pay for it. We're a long ways from those days under the NDP.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the chairman 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. 120, *The Lobbyists 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: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that 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. 120, *The Lobbyists 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. 120 — *The Lobbyists Act*

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. 120, *The Lobbyists 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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 100, *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — 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 of Bill No. 100, *The Assessment Management Agency 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. 100 — *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2013*

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — 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 that Bill No. 100, *The Assessment Management Agency 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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the chairman 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. 116, *The Municipalities 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 Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — 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 of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 116, *The Municipalities 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. 116 — *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — 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 that Bill No. 116, *The Municipalities 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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 117, *The Municipalities Consequential Amendment Act, 2013*. This is a bilingual bill without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — 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 of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 117, *The Municipalities 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. 117 — *The Municipalities Consequential Amendment Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — 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 that Bill No. 117, *The Municipalities 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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 312 through 325.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 312 through 325.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

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

Public-Private Partnership and New Bridge for Saskatoon

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a privilege to rise today and talk to a motion that I will be moving at the end of my comments, Mr. Speaker. It's regarding bridges within the province of Saskatchewan and especially bridges that are built in a certain model called a P3, which is a public-private partnership, Mr. Speaker.

We know that in Saskatchewan over the last number of years, seven years to a decade, Mr. Speaker, the population certainly has grown. We continue to see growth throughout the province, Mr. Speaker, and with that growth becomes obviously some infrastructure challenges. There are larger traffic numbers that we see here in the southern part of the province in and around Regina, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we're doing a lot of work to ensure that we have an east and west Regina bypass to alleviate some of the congestion that we see on Vic East.

But, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if there's anywhere in the province that's growing more rapidly than the Saskatoon area, with all the development north of Saskatoon, the Martensville and Warman area. Mr. Speaker, we're seeing extreme growth in that area, developments, rural developments in between those communities and Saskatoon, a lot of growth on the north side, on the east side — Mr. Speaker, quite frankly all around Saskatoon. Even on the south side as you're going up No. 11, you see new acreages going up.

So the growth is significant, and I think that's reflective in Stats Canada's numbers, year over year, when you see our population increasing. It's great to see it increasing at above, Mr. Speaker, the national average.

I remember being in this House a number of years ago, sitting

on the opposition side when we were talking, as an opposition party at that time, that I think it would be realistic if we as a province — and at that time as an opposition, but hopefully becoming government — if we would set some targets and say, we should be able to grow at the national average.

And I remember the members that were under the NDP flag at that time that sat on this side said, that is statistically impossible. There is no way this province will grow at the national average, which was about 1 per cent, Mr. Speaker. And I guess I think it really did show the lack of foresight that the members opposite had when they were on this side and, as a result, I think that's probably why they're on that side. But we have seen significant growth and especially in the Saskatoon area.

Mr. Speaker, in this past budget you would have heard the commitment by our government to the city of Saskatoon on their proposal to PPP [Public-Private Partnership] Canada asking for federal money through PPP Canada for the north bridge, Mr. Speaker. Actually they've asked, they've bundled the bridges — the commuter bridge and the north bridge — into one application to PPP Canada, Mr. Speaker.

And we wanted to show commitment. Especially from our perspective, the north bridge is quite significant because we really do believe with that bridge it will alleviate some of the pressure we're seeing on that north side of Saskatoon coming in, for example, on we'll say Idylwyld — it turns into No. 16 eventually — but coming in on Idylwyld and Circle Drive north. That intersection there is significant with a backlog of traffic. You've got heavy traffic. You have commuter traffic.

We think that a north bridge, working with Saskatoon and PPP Canada, that that will certainly alleviate a lot of the commuter traffic. It doesn't impact the heavy truck traffic as much, Mr. Speaker, because it is where it's situated. But it certainly will alleviate a lot of the commuter traffic that I think then backs up and congests the roadways that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's very evident that our government has been very committed to municipalities over the last seven years of our mandate, with record amounts of revenue sharing. Mr. Speaker, municipal revenue sharing in Saskatchewan has increased by 102 per cent, from \$127 million in 2007 and '08 to \$257 million in this year's budget. That's a significant increase. So, Mr. Speaker, we have been supporting . . .

And when in the budget we say we want to commit to the city of Saskatoon for the bridges, I think the city of Saskatoon . . . And I can tell you from experience of being in Saskatoon, the mayor and council, but in particular the mayor of Saskatoon, Mayor Don Atchison, has been extremely supportive and extremely grateful for the support that our government has shown the city of Saskatoon.

The city of Saskatoon has seen revenue increases just through revenue sharing of 159 per cent. They've gone from 17.8 million when we took government, Mr. Speaker, — that's what the revenue sharing was under the former government — to \$45.9 million in this year's budget. That's an increase of 159 per cent. That is amazing, Mr. Speaker, but what is even more gratifying is to hear the mayor of Saskatoon and how he

acknowledges that pretty much any time that I'm at a public event with the mayor. And council as well have done a great job in acknowledging that.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't mean there aren't more pressures in that area. And that's why in this year's budget we have committed to Saskatoon to support them in whichever way we can as they put forward their P3 approach to the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, this government I think has been very . . . There's a trademark I'm sure on this government, and that's the fact that in seven years, a balanced budget each and every year. Mr. Speaker, so what we're doing, Mr. Speaker, is not only operating within a balanced budget, but we're also looking at other jurisdictions and what they have done in those jurisdictions to deal with the infrastructure pressures they have seen, whether it's in British Columbia; whether it's in Alberta; even in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, I was there just earlier today and yesterday, Mr. Speaker, and dealing with some of their pressures; Ontario. But you don't even have to look just within Canada. There are many other jurisdictions around the world that have gone down the road of public-private partnerships or P3s.

[14:30]

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I was at a conference not too long ago; I guess it would be in the summer. It's called the NASCO [North American Strategy for Competitiveness] Conference — which is the Prairie provinces and kind of a corridor down through the middle of United States, down into Texas — and, you know, making sure we have proper linkages with transportation. And I was amazed at how, for example, the elected officials and community officials, municipal or state officials, were talking about the various P3s that they've had implemented in Texas and how successful they have been over the past number of years to deal with the infrastructure challenges that they're facing, not unsimilar to what we've been looking at as well.

Let's make sure though that the people of Saskatchewan realize that P3s are not for every project. Roughly about 80 to 90 per cent of all the projects — capital projects that we're going to be doing as we move forward here in Saskatchewan — will be traditional builds. So for the traditional build fans on that side of the aisle, they've got something to cheer about there, Mr. Speaker.

I just think that they should probably put another song in their playbook and start looking at P3s because everyone else across Canada and certainly down into the States have been singing from that song sheet, Mr. Speaker, and have been very, very positive with it, Mr. Speaker. And I think there's enough evidence now. I know the opposition will like to look at a project that happened in Nova Scotia back in the early '90s. But if you look at, Mr. Speaker, the projects that have been done in Canada over the last number of years, there have been over 200 projects, P3 projects in Canada — 206 to be exact, roughly about \$63.5 billion worth of projects under construction.

The Conference Board of Canada, Mr. Speaker, has looked at many of those and they've reported that Canada's P3s have delivered an average of 13 per cent in cost savings compared to

traditional build. That's a significant amount of dollars that you wouldn't want to leave on the table, Mr. Speaker. I heard that mentioned last week, that you don't want to leave any money on the table. So certainly P3s is an example of not leaving those dollars on the table.

Mr. Speaker, also we know that Australia has, not experimented, but certainly had success with P3 projects. The University of Melbourne had looked at P3 projects in Australia. They've examined 21 P3 projects. They have found that, Mr. Speaker, they vary in design, build, finance and design, build, finance, maintain. But they have studied this through the university and realized anywhere from 11 to 31 per cent cost savings by using the P3 model. It's been done in other jurisdictions. It can be done here.

But right now I do know that for the most part — not everybody, but for the most part — members on the other aisle are just ideologically, absolutely dead set against P3s. Not everybody on that other side of the aisle. Not everybody, we were able to learn that last week, but the majority, the vast majority are certainly not in favour of looking at this model even though it's been a model that's shown success. Yes, there were some issues back in the early '90s, and they'll always cite that one issue of schools in Nova Scotia. We've heard it day in and day out, Mr. Speaker.

But in fact I was talking to the infrastructure minister just yesterday from Alberta, and he was talking about the school bundling and how successful that has been over the past number of years. And they're moving forward with their next bundle of nine schools, Mr. Speaker, and they're very comfortable with the process that they've done. If they hadn't been successful, Mr. Speaker, they wouldn't be on iteration number four. But they are because they've seen savings. They've seen success. And most importantly, they've seen the infrastructure built today that will be used for decades into the future, Mr. Speaker, and that's what we're looking at as we move forward.

There are P3 . . . As the Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds, we're looking at various examples of P3s and various applications for P3s, one being in the Swift Current area on a long-term care facility. That one is moving ahead quite nicely. We're on the request for proposal stage, so we're well along.

And it's been interesting, Mr. Speaker, and it'll be interesting to hear the response of the opposition, whether they're against P3s because they haven't said a word about that one, or they're against bundling because we've certainly heard their concerns around bundling and bundling of the schools. So it'll be interesting as we move through this motion and debate on this motion where the opposition stands because the opposition has described their stand as common sense approach, except they've never agreed with a P3 project yet, Mr. Speaker, unless maybe they are in Swift Current and perhaps we'll hear that today. But they have been pretty much ideologically, absolutely dead set against P3 projects. And I certainly learned that today.

I was in the beautiful capital city of Manitoba where I was talking to the minister of highways and infrastructure, Mr. Ashton. We had a very interesting meeting earlier this morning, and he's not a fan of P3s. That's obvious to say, Mr. Speaker. He doesn't believe in them. He doesn't think they're done

properly, and that's all fine, perfectly fine. The city of Winnipeg has gone forward with P3 proposals, as have municipalities here in Saskatchewan. But, Mr. Speaker, we really do believe that this is an option.

And I do believe that there are members on that side of the House, on the opposite side of the House that feel that it's an option as well. And this was finally evident in a scrum that we saw last week. The former minister of Highways but now the critic, the member from Athabasca, Mr. Speaker, when he was asked in a media scrum what he was . . . you know, his thoughts. In fact I think he was probably initiating a lot of this media coverage because, Mr. Speaker, he wanted to talk about a bridge in Prince Albert, but he also wanted to talk about bridges in Saskatoon. And here is his exact quote: "Saskatoon needs a bridge. We agree. Saskatoon needs a bridge." But you know what? He also went on to say, "We cannot leave money on the table," Mr. Speaker. "It's good for the economy so we have got to take advantage of it."

So what he was talking about was Saskatoon has applied to PPP Canada. There is possible money coming from PPP Canada. It wouldn't be wise to leave that money on the table, Mr. Speaker. It'd be very important to bring that money into our economy so that we could build those bridges. So I would conclude from that, if he doesn't want to leave the money on the table and he wants the bridges and he wants to support Saskatoon in a PPP Canada project, Mr. Speaker, then he must be standing up for P3s. And I would applaud him for that.

Mr. Speaker, he is not the only NDP member that is supportive of P3s, Mr. Speaker. Thomas Mulcair has said that P3s can be the right solution in certain cases, Mr. Speaker. The federal NDP has also said the P3 model can enable greater value for money in some infrastructure projects. Mr. Speaker, we couldn't agree more with Thomas Mulcair on this one issue, and we could not agree more with the member from Athabasca. Mr. Speaker, in fact he was very clear that he was supportive of P3s through the city of Saskatoon.

What was also interesting, and I would say to the member from Regina Rosemont, he was also very supportive that Saskatoon was bundling bridges to be built, Mr. Speaker. Now the member from Rosemont has used the bundling word an awful lot, and he's dead set against bundling, but I would say that you should listen to your learned scholar. I know those two members have had disagreements before. I remember the member from Rosemont throwing the member from Athabasca under the bus on some . . .

An Hon. Member: — Math skills.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — On his math skills. That's right. But I would say to the member from Rosemont today, don't worry about his math skills; worry about his P3 skills because he's on the right page, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, so I think I've spoke enough on P3s. And I think we've got the members' statements on the record, very clear, supporting of P3s, supporting of bundling, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure he won't have any problem supporting the motion.

Mind you after last week, Mr. Speaker, or was it the week

before when we voted on the budget, I will never know where they stand because they'll come into the House day in, day out. They may talk outside in the media about a specific policy or a stand — oh, let's say a long-term care facility in La Ronge — and then they'll come in here and vote against it, Mr. Speaker. He's talked about it in the rotunda, Mr. Speaker, supporting P3s. We're going to give him another chance to support it on the motion here in the House, Mr. Speaker. So I move, Mr. Speaker:

That the Assembly support the use of a P3 model in the construction of new bridges in the city of Saskatoon.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure:

That this Assembly supports the use of the P3 model in the construction of a new bridge in the city of Saskatoon.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was just pointed out to me in that long sort of political sort of rant from the minister opposite, it was pointed out though he was talking about voting against budgets. And I thought it was interesting the course the Premier . . . I understand when there was a hospital that was being built in Swift Current and there was a budget back a few years back, and of course it was a New Democratic Party government that was delivering that hospital in a budget, and that Premier actually voted against that budget and that hospital, a hospital of course which is pretty important to the entire region in Swift Current.

So I find it kind of, you know, I guess maybe it's cute what the minister's doing here today, but I think most people would see through that sort of game. And I think what they're looking for on this front is a little bit more substance and better performance rather than political games, Mr. Speaker. A little bit more action. A little less talk, Mr. Speaker. Because the reality is that we have infrastructure needs across Saskatchewan that need action. They need responses from all levels of government.

And in many ways that government has been sitting on the sidelines as a quiet, a potential partner and not making its commitment where they need to be making some clear commitments. And a few stand out. I think of Regina right now, and I think of the pressures that the region is facing and the unsafe conditions. I think of them on Dewdney Avenue. I speak to it regularly, and of course we need some short-term plans there. We also need the long-term plan for the west bypass.

I also think of the lives that are at risk every single day out at White City and Emerald Park and Highway No. 1 and one of the most dangerous intersections, Mr. Speaker, you could ever imagine. And from this government, we hear little and we see no actions, Mr. Speaker. And I know the folks, the business community, the families all through Emerald Park and through White City, what they're looking for from this minister is a little less talk and a whole lot more action, Mr. Speaker. And I know on that front there again too, this minister sometimes gets caught on sort of big or shiny concepts and these complex

schemes of a P3, whether it's going to be P3 or not P3.

What Saskatchewan people are looking for are some practical steps and measures that would be immediate. And I think in both of these circumstances there are some practical short-term and immediate steps to be taken when I'm highlighting Emerald Park and White City, some considerations that I think need to be heard around the pressing need for an intersection, I think some needs that need to be heard about the potential speed limits on that section of Highway No. 1, immediate measures that that minister could be helpful on if he were there really sincerely listening and ready to work to ensure safety and ensure safe flow of traffic and more importantly, most importantly, families, Mr. Speaker.

And of course we see the same on the west side of Regina where we see that government create an issue, inundating Dewdney Avenue with heavy-haul truck traffic, Mr. Speaker, forgetting in its plans to create the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] to make sure there was an adequate flow of truck traffic to be routed properly in a safe way. And it created an unsafe condition that thank goodness, as each day goes by, that there's not a critical incident on it, but requires actions by this government and needs short-term actions. I've been calling for solutions such as rerouting, calling for a little bridge out on Pinkie Road where the Goulet golf course meets it to be rebuilt. And let's get those trucks off that heavy-haul route.

The problem is that this government seems so intent on focusing on the P3 project, it would seem. That's many years down the road. What we need to see from this government is a clear commitment and actions that will assist communities here today with safety and that will deliver the infrastructure we need well into the future. And we just don't see that sort of meaningful discussion from this government.

And you know, it's the same up in Lloydminster where the heavy-haul truck traffic and the artery in through Lloydminster is incredibly congested. We didn't see anything in this budget to support the pressing needs and the call for action from the business community, from families, from the mayor and council up in Lloydminster.

And of course, then it takes us to Saskatoon, which is what we're talking about here today. I find the motion put forward from the minister here today a tad rich to bring this motion forward. The motion itself for one doesn't even acknowledge that there's two bridges that Saskatoon is working towards. It only references one bridge.

[14:45]

And you know, again I think it speaks to the lack of listening of that government, the lack of willingness to make commitments. That's of concern. I know that it's been many years that Saskatoon has been talking to that government about the traffic bridge, and it's been for the past few years that that government has sat quietly, sat silently, been noncommittal. And that's created all sorts of issues for Saskatoon to be able to put together the proposal that they need for those bridges. This government hasn't been the willing partner that it should be.

We also know the north commuter bridge is really an important

piece of infrastructure. We've been calling for funding for it. We've been calling for action. We've been calling for commitment. And you know, it's kind of interesting now to see the minister get up and sort of play political games with statements here today when he's speaking to a budget that doesn't even have a single dollar for the north commuter bridge or for the traffic bridge, for those bridges in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker.

It kind of reminds me of saying that you're going to commit something, pulling out your chequebook, filling out the person you're sending the cheque to, but then forgetting to put in the amount, forgetting to put in the date, and forgetting to sign it, Mr. Speaker. So it's really at this point a very weak commitment from that government.

I know the Finance minister was pressured on his level of commitment at the North Saskatoon Business Association recently, and rightfully so because I understand that just a few years ago, three years ago the Premier was up there, is what I've heard, and was promising that north commuter bridge. And of course it wasn't delivered. Now we see it in the budget but with no funding. So there's reason for a lot of skepticism for many. That being said, we're going to continue to press this government to make sure they fund the bridges Saskatoon needs.

As I say, the people across the province, certainly Saskatoon, are looking for a little less talk, a lot more action from this government. And they want to have a clear commitment from that government as it relates to the project. That's something we don't have right now. We have political gamesmanship and rhetoric. But they need a clear commitment and they need a timeline, Mr. Speaker. So as I say, it's just a tad, you know, a tad rich for that minister to get up here today with the motion that he has before him.

You know, here's where we stand on this issue. We support the city of Saskatoon in its effort to build these bridges using whatever model is deemed to be the most affordable, the most effective, and in a manner that provides the accountability and transparency that residents deserve. And we also urge the federal and provincial governments to partner with the city of Saskatoon to build these bridges regardless of the model that's chosen that's deemed to be in the best interests of Saskatoon.

We're looking for a common sense approach, not tying the hands of municipalities. We think it's unwise and imprudent for provincial or federal governments to tie the hands of our locally elected municipal leaders, our mayors and councils from making the decisions that are in their best interests and forcing or dictating only one approach such as a P3 model. We think all options should be on the table, and we trust greatly in our municipal leaders in this province.

If governments . . . You know, we understand that Saskatoon is sort of between a rock and hard place. We understand that the federal government is only making dollars available if it goes a P3 route. We think that's wrong. But if governments are going to go with a P3 approach, then we think it's important that there's mechanisms built in for accountability and transparency back to residents. That's an important key piece. You know, it's why we've said all along we're not ideologically opposed to

P3s. We have a lot of concerns for common sense reasons as it relates to these models.

Now we will oppose projects when they don't make sense, when they clearly will cost more, or when they don't have clear mechanisms for accountability or transparency. And it's in part why I brought forward a bill relating to the schools that this government's ramming forward with, relating to accountability and transparency.

The bill I brought forward is *The Public-Private Partnership Transparency and Accountability Act* to ensure that there is a basic level of accountability and value-for-money analysis done upfront and independent to ensure taxpayers are protected. A very common sense piece of legislation — one that doesn't encumber governments, one that leaves all options on the table, one that would have put an independent watchdog in place to make sure that that level of accountability was appropriate, one that would have ensured an economic analysis to ensure that Saskatchewan businesses and Saskatchewan people's interests were understood in the whole equation and that we understood what the consequence may be. And this is particular to the schools but, you know, the cost of shutting out the Saskatchewan companies that have built schools all across the province. Those are common sense types of questions that a responsible government should be asking.

Or like a provision that if, you know, on the side of the schools, if government bundles together schools as they have, which is fraught with issues, but bundle it together and then they take it out to the market and they only get one bidder, like we see in Alberta where you have no competition, no value for taxpayers . . . And of course that's where now in Alberta as it relates to schools we see all the opposition, the Wildrose, the NDP, the Liberals, opposed to that approach for schools.

But, you know, these are the kinds of measures that we were calling for for schools, very simple measures. And what that government did was vote against accountability and transparency, and I think it speaks volumes to their approach with people's dollars.

But yet again here today we see political gamesmanship from that government at a time they need to be performing better for the people of Saskatchewan, advancing the infrastructure that Saskatchewan people need, making sure that there's immediate interim steps in the different parts of this province to ensure safety, and making a clear commitment to the city of Saskatoon to build the bridges that it needs in the most affordable, effective way possible, in a way that makes sure that taxpayers have the accountability and transparency they deserve. But we've seen a rather unwilling partner on this front.

So as I say, what Saskatoon needs less of is the talk and rhetoric of that government. What they need more of is action. It needs less tying of hands and it needs more flexibility and it needs some clear commitments. And yes, it'll actually need some dollars, something that government's neglected to provide.

So I have a common sense amendment to move today, and I hope the government will see fit to support it. I move:

That all the words after "supports" be struck out and

replaced with the following:

the city of Saskatoon in its efforts to build new bridges, using whatever model it deems most affordable and effective in a manner that provides accountability and transparency to residents; and further

that this Assembly urges the federal and provincial governments to partner with the city to build these bridges regardless of the model chosen by the city.

I so move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Rosemont has moved the following amendment:

That all the words after "support" be struck out and replaced with the following:

the city of Saskatoon in its efforts to build new bridges, using whatever model it deems most affordable and effective in a manner that provides accountability and transparency to residents; and further

that this Assembly urges the federal and provincial governments to partner with the city to build these bridges regardless of the model chosen by the city.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to rise today to speak to the motion. Mr. Speaker, I am a Saskatonian through and through. I was primarily raised in the city of bridges and attended the schools of Sutherland, Princess Alexandra, Forest Grove, and Confederation Park before moving east.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say this because I remember a time when the east of Saskatoon ended at the old drive-in in Forest Grove and when the Forestry Farm was just out of town. Mr. Speaker, I'm dating myself now but it is important to tell this story so a comparison can be made. Mr. Speaker, to simply say that Saskatoon has grown is an understatement. There is growth in population, economic sectors, education, housing, retail, across every scope imaginable, and we are the largest city in the province.

Mr. Speaker, my constituency of Fairview has many vibrant businesses, and what used to be empty storefronts are now filled. I use the South Bridge almost every day I am home, because it is the easiest way to get access to the rest of the city. And I also use it because it's a nice drive to the southeast side or even on my way here to Regina. It's cut my commute out of the city by at least half an hour because I live right on the edge of the west side.

More young families are in Saskatoon than ever before. And this is evident in what is now traffic, traffic that we didn't have

to deal with back then when I was growing up. And in a CTV [Canadian Television Network] News article from February 27th, 2014, StatsCan states that “Saskatoon is the youngest and second-fastest growing city in Canada.” And we have a 3.9 per cent population, just behind Calgary which has a 4.3 per cent growth.

Mr. Speaker, with all the growth that Saskatchewan is experiencing, we simply can't expect that every capital project will be through traditional channels, which we simply cannot afford to do. So, Mr. Speaker, as a government we are responsible for managing the people of Saskatchewan's money and we also have to mitigate the challenges of growth, and also while finding efficiencies that commit to finding innovative ways to address these challenges. And one way is to explore P3 projects. And, Mr. Speaker, we can access these. We have access to federal programs through such projects.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, I can only try to understand the fear of the members opposite — fear of the P3 projects, fear of new, unfamiliar terminology. I understand there is fear of the unknown, fear of where we could go. And dare I say it, fear of success. I am sure that people who moved here many years ago also had that fear. And Saskatoon was established in 1883 and incorporated in 1906. We are still a young province compared to others and we still have very young cities, and growth is a part of the process of a strong economic outlook. The north commuter bridge is integral in Saskatoon. The amount of traffic to the north has increased and this P3 project will bring together all three levels of government.

So improving infrastructure, building new infrastructure, capital projects, schools, bridges, it's just part of the economic activity in Saskatchewan now and will be quite steady as we welcome new families to the province. The government has committed to invest 2.5 billion over three years to building for growth. So the province is committed to exploring public-private partnerships, but we'll also proceed with the vast majority, which are between 80 and 90 per cent of projects being traditional builds.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain the value-for-money process of SaskBuilds, as members opposite like to use this term quite often. So value for money is a process that must be completed in order to determine whether or not a P3 is preferable to traditional procurement. And while P3s save money under the right circumstances, those savings are only confirmed when the final bids come in, and that's when cabinet makes the final decision. And we will disclose value for money and the agreement details once the procurement process for a project is complete.

So the question is, how do you pay for a P3? And public assets developed under P3s are reported on the government's books as an asset and expensed over time, with the obligation to pay for the asset reported as an offsetting liability. And across Canada, P3 projects are recognized on government balance sheets. An off-balance-sheet treatment is not a motivation. There is generally payment made when the asset is completed and the balanced is paid for and expensed over the life of the asset.

So P3s equal jobs. Governments are able to have more projects on the ground at the same time, including those which have taken years to begin because of sizeable costs. So, Mr. Speaker,

I'd like to conclude by saying I support the motion and I do not support the amendment.

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

Mr. Parent: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me today to speak for the Saskatoon Meewasin constituency and how important this P3 motion is. The north end businesses and their employees will benefit greatly from the commuter bridge and so will all the people from Saskatoon Meewasin, who would get relief from the congested traffic we have to drive through daily trying to get home and to work.

Mr. Speaker, I have lived in Saskatoon for almost 55 years, and I remember that Sutherland wasn't even part of Saskatoon. It was kind of a suburb. I have also lived in the north end of Saskatoon in the Meewasin constituency and various locations in the north end for almost 35 years. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the people of the constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin for having given me the honour of representing them in this House.

Mr. Speaker, this new bridge would also help people from all over the city who daily have to sit in long lineups of traffic to and from work. Mr. Speaker, it has also helped businesses to get their products and services from one side of the city to the other side, saving money for people, and the services being provided would be done quicker and on time.

[15:00]

Mr. Speaker, I remember the northwest by-election in 2010. My good colleague friend won it. It took me 35 minutes to get to the campaign office on Circle Drive on Venture Crescent from 51st Street using Millar Avenue. And from some of the emails I have received today, three years later, it takes 45 to 60 minutes to do the same route.

Mr. Speaker, the population in Saskatoon has grown from, in 2006, of 208,218 people, and in 2010 the population was up to 225,137, and in 2013 the population of Saskatoon was 248,293 — a difference from 2010 to 2013 of 23,156 people. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the metropolitan area population has grown in 2006 up to 240,548 people. In 2010, the metropolitan area population of Saskatoon was 262,929, and then in 2013, the population of the Saskatoon metropolitan area was 292,597 people — a difference of 29,668 people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with this change in population, travel from 51st Street to the Circle has increased by 10 to 25 minutes, and just think what it will be like with a projected growth of over 500,000 people in the Saskatoon metropolitan area by 2035.

Here are some basic points I received from Randy Donauer, city councillor, ward 5:

Traffic on Circle Drive North bridge was 60,000 vehicles per day in 2010. Now it is over 85,000 vehicles per day, a jump of 41.6 per cent in four years. The South Circle Drive bridge is helping us to manage growth and traffic increases, but has not reduced traffic in the north significantly. Growth is still out-pacing our ability to keep

up.

Thirty- to 40-minute waits on Attridge and Circle Drive North bridge, not uncommon during rush hour getting to work. Commercial vehicle trucks getting bogged down on the bridge and Circle Drive North. Businesses in the north say the delays are costing them money. The new bridge won't be a freeway or a truck route, but it would take 35,000 cars per day off Circle Drive North, to free Circle Drive North up for commercial truck traffic, get more economic moving. Again it would be a relief valve until the perimeter freeway opens up.

Mr. Donauer also said:

Resources, cars sitting idling on the Circle Drive North bridge every day, thousands of litres of fuel being burned every day needlessly. Environmentally, opening up the north commuter parkway bridge is expected to significantly reduce emissions from vehicles sitting and idling 30 minutes per day trying to get across the Circle Drive North bridge.

More people work in Saskatoon's north industrial area than in Saskatoon's downtown. A huge percentage of them live in the northeast and work in the northwest. The only way to get . . . is across the Circle Drive bridge.

Eight new neighbourhoods planned in northeast quarter over the next few decades. Traffic between northeast and northwest will increase significantly, getting worse over the next decade.

We are learning more and more that infrastructure is one of the key factors in a growing economy. We must keep our transportation infrastructure healthy in the biggest economy engine of the province, Saskatoon, to keep our growth agenda moving forward. We need to get the north commuter parkway bridge open as soon as possible.

Randy Donauer, city councillor of ward 5.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, here are some emails I have received from just a few businesses I have asked today about their daily commute to the north end from the east side, as well as how many employees they may have and how many of these employees would use the new commuter bridge. Mr. Speaker, here is one quote from the president of JNE Welding:

Hi, Roger: I am a strong supporter of the north commuter bridge. The congestion on Circle Drive during the rush hours is very problematic for our city currently. If we continue to grow adding an additional few thousand cars on our streets per year, the problem will become very serious. As it is, for anyone working in the north end needing to use Millar Avenue can expect to spend a minimum of a half hour just to get onto Circle Drive to cross the river. This becomes a real challenge for businesses that need a reasonable and smooth flow of traffic to be successful. The north commuter bridge will make a huge difference and help prolong the need for the north Yellowhead route bridge, the perimeter bridge.

We employee 170 people, and my best guess is one-third of them would live on the east side of the river. And reasonably speaking, I would say at least half of them, being about 25, would be using the Circle Drive bridge at least twice a day. Further to that, at least 75 of our employees who work at our 56th Street location would be using Millar Avenue to get out of the north end and, thanks to the bottleneck at Circle and 51st and Millar Avenue, they end up in very slow-moving lineups.

Keep in mind the Marquis North Industrial will soon double the number of people trying to get in and out of the area as more businesses grow and others locate to the area. If we had Marquis extending to a new commuter bridge, I think the problem would all but disappear.

Good luck with your presentation. Thank you for your effort in driving this important issue forward.

Best regards, Jim Nowakowski
President, JNE Welding

Mr. Speaker, here is another email quote from Luna Metals:

Dear Mr. Parent: It has been brought to my attention that you will be speaking to the Saskatchewan legislature on Tuesday, April 2nd regarding the north commuter bridge in Saskatoon.

Being a business person in Saskatoon for the last 30 years, I have seen many changes in this city. The most aggressive growth has occurred since the Sask Party has been at the helm. Keep up the good work. With such growth, there are growing pains and that is usually seen most predominantly in infrastructure such as roads and bridges. With that said, I hope that the current government sees the urgent need to fast-track the support in funding for not only the north commuter bridge in Saskatoon but also the north perimeter bypass highway and bridge. With Saskatchewan highly visible on the world map nowadays, let's not slow down the growth and prosperity by not being proactive on large scale infrastructure projects that we know are strongly needed to support the population needs in the not too distant future.

Currently in the north end of Saskatoon and satellite communities, traffic flow is dangerously congested and will only get worse. We need these projects now. Let's spend the money now as we all know that by waiting costs will only increase, and if investors see that we are not equipped to handle large scale growth, they may look elsewhere to do capital projects on their own.

We currently employ 11 people and out of that there would be three employees that would directly benefit from the north commuter bridge. But not only to and from work commutes would benefit. Our day to day operations would benefit from less congestion in traffic for our services and delivery trucks also.

Put my name on the list of supporters to Get'r Done Now. Thank you for your time.

Rick Luczka, Luna Metal

Mr. Speaker, here is another email quote from I & M Welding:

Hi Roger: I am in favour of the new north commuter bridge in Saskatoon. I reside on the east side of Saskatoon and work in the north end of Saskatoon. What was once a 10 minute commute to work in 1996 is now closer to an hour today. This bridge project is long overdue in my opinion. We employ eight, and four would use the new bridge.

Michael Tumbach, I & M Welding & Fabricating Ltd.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, here is an email quote from Alpine Interior Systems:

Roger: I live in Willowgrove but have offices in the north industrial area of Saskatoon. We absolutely need this bridge to mitigate the severe traffic congestion that occurs on Circle Drive every day. Saskatoon's continued growth is only going to make this problem much worse.

Alpine and associated companies employ in excess of 120 people. At least half would use the new bridge.

Please advise how I may help in this endeavour.

Fraser Sutherland, Managing Partner
Alpine Interior Systems

Mr. Speaker, here's another quote I received from Supreme Steel:

Hi, Roger: As I live in Silverspring area, I of course want to get to work faster but it also should have a positive effect for all north end businesses.

Supreme Steel Saskatoon currently employs about 85 people at their north Corman Park location and of these I would guess about 35 live on the east side of the river. It can take 15 to 20 minutes to get to work at non-peak times, but anywhere from 45 to 60 minutes to make the trip during the day [during the rush-hour day]. During the winter, or if there is an accident or road work on north Circle Drive, it can take even longer.

At the end of any given work day, traffic can be backed up on Warman Road 2 or 3 blocks north of 51st Street, south past 33rd Street, west to Airport . . . waiting for east access to the current Circle Drive bridge.

I understand that the overpass intersection of Circle Drive and Warman Road carries huge traffic volumes which will only continue to grow as new areas in Saskatoon's northeast (Evergreen) and southeast (Rosewood) continue to be developed.

It is simply unacceptable that we wait 10 or 20 [more] years like we did for the south bridge for a new north bridge. Thanks.

Ross, Supreme Steel

Mr. Speaker, here is an email quote from Hertz Equipment Rental:

Hi, Roger: This is a short note in support of the north commuter bridge. The south bridge is awesome for getting around town, travelling east to west and alleviated traffic going south or transports going through the city. What I've noticed though is it had virtually no change for anyone working in the north end coming from any direction . . . or after work. It is particularly bad in the morning coming from the east side. Thanks for your efforts to move this forward.

Kind regards, Curt Taylor, Marketing Representative
Hertz Equipment

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as our population has expanded, we've seen the need for many infrastructure upgrades. P3 construction enables the schools and bridges to be built in a much smaller time frame. The NDP model would cost more time and dollars, as we have heard from the members across P3s are not the way to go.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, here is what the NDP did when they were in government. Power purchase agreements. The NDP signed four power purchase agreements, partnering with the private sector, between 1999 and 2006. Partnerships BC email. NDP top officials sent an email dated September 2007 to Partnerships BC, saying they ". . . are interested in the possible application of P3 models to schools, hospitals, and utility Crown corps."

The NDP had their own P3. The NDP government owned a public-private partnership, corporate development division, from 2000 to 2005, under Maynard Sonntag and Pat Atkinson. They pretended SPUDCO was a P3 for six years. They finally admitted that they had put in 9 million while their partner invested a total of \$153, or point zero zero one seven per cent of the total project. In total the NDP lost \$34 million. In a report for the premier, the deputy minister wrote the relationship was inappropriately portrayed as a relationship where the risks and rewards would be shared.

Mr. Speaker, here are a few successful P3s. In highways, Alberta's Northwest Anthony Henday Drive, the road was delivered, cost savings projected to be 240 million over the span of the 30-year agreement. Manitoba's Disraeli bridges and freeway project, the city of Winnipeg saved \$47 million. Manitoba's Chief Peguis Trail roadway, 108 million P3 project was finished ahead of schedule, a year ahead of schedule and on budget. It saved the city of Winnipeg \$31 million compared to the traditional procurement.

P3 schools. Alberta used bundling to procure schools. The project delivered 40 schools with savings of 245 million. A fourth phase is in procurement right now.

Hospitals. Surrey Memorial Hospital redevelopment and expansions. A new critical care tower including a new emergency department, perinatal centre, in-patient beds, intensive care unit, and academic space to be built at Surrey Memorial Hospital. Would have cost 543 million, did cost 512 million, saving 31.4 million.

[15:15]

Interior Heart and Surgical Centre. The IHSC building will include a brand new home for the interior cardiac revascularization program as well as a new surgical suite. The support services include a new medical device reprocessing department. Would have cost 202.1 million, will cost 169.1 million, complete in 2015. There are others on hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, here are some NDP quotes. In March of this year the federal NDP released a statement on P3s:

The P3 model can enable greater value for money for some infrastructure projects, where it provides quantifiable value-added benefits . . . and ensures maximum transparency and integrity in the process used.

Manitoban NDP Finance minister Stan Struthers said, "Public-private partnerships can provide an opportunity for public sector to build projects more efficiently and receive better value for the money being invested."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, here are some P3 facts: Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia, and New Brunswick all have P3 programs. There are over 204 projects built or under way in Canada since the early 1990s. From 2009 to 2011, 39 P3 deals worth \$21.7 billion were finalized in Canada. The federal P3 Canada Fund oversees \$1.2 billion and will contribute up to 25 per cent of a project. The Conference Board of Canada analyzed 19 P3 projects and found that Canadian P3s have so far delivered saving ranges from a few million dollars to 750 million when compared to traditional procurement.

With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be supporting the motion on P3 models. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People watching today and from the opposition on this debate, this is a pretty telling story of the differences between the NDP and the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker.

It goes back. You could probably look at this debate that we're having and it's the same debate that we had in the '07 election and in the 2011 election. Mr. Speaker, it's about forward-looking Saskatchewan Party government versus the old NDP, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the old NDP would have us believe that those were the glory days of Saskatchewan when they were in power. Mr. Speaker, the facts just don't support their position. Mr. Speaker, we know that we're now a province, a have province of 1.1 million people, Mr. Speaker. That's 100,000 people we've grown the last six years. The last time it took us to grow 100,000 people it took 77 years, Mr. Speaker. That's the old NDP way of doing business in the province.

Mr. Speaker, we can look at the need in Saskatoon for another bridge. And why is that, Mr. Speaker, is we're actually growing. And this is where the voters in the next election are going to look at: are we going to go forward with the Sask Party

or back with NDP? Mr. Speaker, I'm pretty sure we're not going back in this province.

Mr. Speaker, there's nine NDP members over there versus the 49 over here. And, Mr. Speaker, I know how the next election is going to go because the people of this province like what they see. The people of this province like jobs. They like growth. They like having to pay less tax, not more tax like with the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Saskatoon is growing. I'm proud to call Saskatoon home. We have a quarter million people population in the city. It's growing. We're going to be at half a million very shortly, Mr. Speaker.

And this goes back to the difference between our government and our party versus the NDP. We know the NDP philosophy is they do not like growth. They don't like anything new. They don't like new people in the province. They don't like new subdivisions. They don't like any growth at all, and worse, Mr. Speaker, they hate business. Anything involved in business, they don't want anything to do with.

This is what boils down on the P3. It's involvement of private enterprise in providing infrastructure, infrastructure that we need in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. The old NDP would have you believe that this is not what we need. We would need to go back to the day when Saskatchewan wasn't growing, that we didn't need more infrastructure. And that's what we had, Mr. Speaker, if you remember the stat that it took 66 years . . . sorry 77 years to grow that 100,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the growth rate and the GDP [gross domestic product] in Saskatoon, we're at 6.1 per cent. That leads the nation. We never had anything that led the nation when the NDP was in power other than exodus of people from one province to another.

Mr. Speaker, we have job growth in Saskatoon of 8.2 per cent. Mr. Speaker, I've got to say that the job growth of those 8 per cent, people that are now working, increased working year over year in Saskatoon, are not going to be voting for the NDP. They do not want to go back to the old days of jacking up taxes and out-of-control spending.

And, Mr. Speaker, we saw that. We saw that, and that is why the NDP lost the last election. That is why, Mr. Speaker, there's nine NDP members on the opposite side and 49 over here. Mr. Speaker, they looked at what the NDP was offering in that campaign was . . .

The Speaker: — I would like to remind the member to put his comments through the Chair, please. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Tochor: — Mr. Speaker, when you look at the needs in the province for infrastructure, it's going to have to take new approaches to meet the demands that we face in Saskatchewan. We know that if we kept doing the old NDP way that we just wouldn't get the job done, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the city needs more infrastructure, but what I believe is really telling, Mr. Speaker, is their

amendment to this motion. Mr. Speaker, their amendment was best known . . . The NDP philosophy is that NDP knows best. Don't leave it up to the city of Saskatoon to decide what to do with their money or what they would like to do with the bridge. Mr. Speaker, the NDP knows best. And this is what their amendment says, is that they know what's best to get that bridge done.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have talked about the different quotes that . . . why this bridge is needed. I just want to touch on the differences in approach to P3s. We know that there is one enlightened member on the other side that has claimed that he now supports P3s out there, Mr. Speaker. And I hope the other colleagues would talk to him and hopefully, Mr. Speaker, have a conversation about, you know what? We can't keep doing the same old things. We're going to have to try new innovations to meet the demands, Mr. Speaker.

With that we also look at the different positions of NDP governments in other provinces. We know the NDP in Manitoba are looking at different P3s. We know that their federal leader has been said that P3s work.

Mr. Speaker, we know in committee last night we had the member from Rosemont make comment that . . . he was pressing our minister that he wanted us to talk to the feds about their P3 program and asked why we don't push the feds on the issue that it's P3 or nothing for infrastructure. The member from Rosemont's position is that the feds were being inflexible, that it had to be P3s, and why aren't we pushing back on that? Well I asked the member from Rosemont, why does it have to be anything but P3s? That's his position. Anything but P3s, and they'll get behind, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be wrapping this up just shortly. And I've just got a quote here I'd like to share with you: "People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it." That's from George Shaw, Mr. Speaker. And it's a quote that's I think relevant to this, is that the NDP likes to talk about different things they would do. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? On this side of the House, we're actually getting them done.

And, Mr. Speaker, we are going to get that bridge built in Saskatoon. It will be there to help the people of this province and the northern part of Saskatoon. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be supporting the motion, and against the amendment. Thank you.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very excited to be entering this debate, and thank you to all of my colleagues in and around me for their wonderful support. I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very glad that we've had so many representatives on this side of the House from Saskatoon talking about this important subject. I'm still waiting to hear from some of the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Saskatoon on the other side of the House. I haven't seen any of them step up to the plate. The member from Rosemont did step

up and talk about this, Mr. Speaker, but I'm wondering if I could hear from the members from Saskatoon on the opposite side of this House, because they have yet to say anything about this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take it back to when Saskatoon was formed. The primary mode of transportation in Saskatoon was the river in Saskatoon. That's the transportation that was happening that built our city. From there it went to highways. It went to rail lines. It developed over time and evolved. Mr. Speaker, the grid roads, the highways, and the rails in and around Saskatoon certainly added to our city and helped out with the infrastructure.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think the NDP are still stuck in the days of the horse and buggy. They have yet to evolve, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to update them and say there is no more horse and buggies out there. Things are changing in Saskatoon. There is no more Pony Express. There are no more telegraphs out there. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has evolved in the last 70 years. I'd just like to give them an update of this is how things happen here and now in Saskatoon.

The NDP in the past, Mr. Speaker, would be very famous for making announcements. They would make an announcement up in Saskatoon with the sole purpose of trying to get extra seats in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. What we do on this side of the House is we make sure that we look after the growth of the entire province — Saskatoon, Regina, the North, South, rural, urban. We want to make sure that we look after absolutely everything, Mr. Speaker.

Their leader at the time in the 2011 election was running around this province promising everything. Mr. Dwain Lingenfelter would promise a highway in Prince Albert, a bridge in Saskatoon, twinning down by Estevan, over here, every day. As a new person within the whole campaigning system, it was very difficult to keep up with all of the announcements that that leader at the time was making certainly about Saskatoon. But one of the one things that was very easy to calculate was the tab that they were running up with all of these announcements. And I think it was in and around \$5 billion.

We are announcing this bridge because we're here to support Saskatoon. We're making sure that the Saskatoon north industrial area is looked after by the province. As a commuter bridge . . . We need to make sure that the city of Saskatoon has the potential to be able to grow.

Mr. Speaker, gone are the days of the \$5 billion promises, by the way, which the leader of . . . the new NDP leader actually wrote that book for the campaign promises. Gone are the days of debt financing major projects. Gone are the days of just looking after the constituencies that were within their caucus. Mr. Speaker, thank God those days are behind us.

What I can't understand, Mr. Speaker, and what the people of Saskatchewan can't understand is why the provincial NDP cannot jump into 2014. This is a reality check for them, Mr. Speaker. They need to understand this is the new way of financing major projects throughout Canada and around the world.

Saskatoon has some unique needs, as my colleague from Saskatoon Meewasin said about the traffic increasing up in Saskatoon. There are major gridlocks up in Saskatoon, and I'm sure I would love to be able to hear what the members opposite from Saskatoon have to say about the traffic jams if and when they're up in the north end of Saskatoon.

[15:30]

What we have committed to, Mr. Speaker, is working with the federal government, the city of Saskatoon, and the stakeholders on how to alleviate some of the traffic issues within Saskatoon. Not once since this government was formed in 2007 have I ever heard our Premier, our cabinet, or anybody say we're not willing to sit down at the table and discuss any infrastructure projects. We are always willing to listen. We are always willing to hear the stakeholders, and we're always working with them. That doesn't always necessarily mean that they're going to get everything that they want, Mr. Speaker, but it means we're going to sit down and work with them and actually be at the table.

Mr. Speaker, I need, I really need, and the people in Saskatoon have been telling me that they do not fundamentally understand why the NDP do not understand this P3. It's very simple. It's a very simple process. And it's very simple for them to understand the lean process as well. And I'm very, very happy that the member from Athabasca is finally understanding this, Mr. Speaker. The good news is, maybe he could be a voice within his caucus to be able to, say, tap the member from Cumberland on the shoulder and say, here's actually how it works. Then maybe he could tap the leader beside him and say, this is actually what I understand. And then maybe, as fast as the NDP move, that'd probably take about six months to work around all nine of them there, Mr. Speaker, to be able to say, oh I get it now. I understand what they're doing.

P3s have been proven to work. They are proven to work on major projects over \$100 million, Mr. Speaker, and I'm glad again that the member of Athabasca has finally come out and talked about the benefits of P3 and how they can work within . . . [inaudible].

Because, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mulcair, their federal leader, he understands it. He understands the process of P3s can work. The Manitoba NDP, they understand that P3 can work. The member from Athabasca can say that it's work. Who's next, Mr. Speaker? Is it going to be the member from Nutana? Maybe the member from Rosemont will understand. Maybe Saskatoon city centre, maybe Riversdale, maybe Rosemont. Maybe you're next. Maybe you'll be the one that the next light bulb goes off.

An Hon. Member: — No, no, I don't think so.

Mr. Merriman: — Well hopefully. I doubt it though. They seem to be very tightly controlled over there by their leader and their ideology.

I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, on how, if we are as a government and as a province to finance this project, I would like to see them come up with a solution, maybe an idea. As a father of four, when my kids come to me with a problem, I always ask them what would be a potential solution for this. Go

think about it and come back. They have come back with nothing. Their leader has been in place for over a year — no plan, Mr. Speaker. No plan, no nothing. Do they have a plan to build all the new schools? No, they just don't like the way we're going to do it. Do they have a plan to build the new bridges? No, they don't have that either, Mr. Speaker. All they have is complaints and all they do is perpetually whine to this government, whine to the media about what is not happening and the way that it shouldn't be done. But they never come up with actually the way that it should be done, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we over here have a vision of what's going to happen within the next few years in Saskatchewan. Our Premier unveiled our Vision 2020, what is going to go forward in the next bit. We have the leadership over here. We have the vision and we have the support of the people of Saskatchewan who need common sense, quick decisions. We need to be able to make sure that we're meeting their needs. On the other side, Mr. Speaker, they don't have much over there. They have no plan. They have no vision. All they have is complaints and arguments, Mr. Speaker.

Here on this side of the House we understand that there are different ways of financing projects. There are traditional ways and then there are new, innovative ways. We like to look at all of those.

Mr. Speaker, the only way that the NDP will do anything on financing is the old way. They do not understand what's happening in the new Saskatchewan because they're not up to speed with new Saskatchewan. And I would ask them, pick up a glove, get in the game. Find out what's happening in the new Saskatchewan. Go out and talk to the parents that are, the new schools are being built. Go out and talk to the people on Circle Drive that are saying this traffic jam is absolutely insane.

We need to be able to make sure they understand because I don't think they understand, and it shows by the lack of representation from the Saskatoon MLAs that will stand up and talk about this. We have almost all of our Saskatoon MLAs getting up and speaking on this specific subject. They on their side have nobody. That's very depressing, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the NDP are stuck in their ideology. I think they are being extremely dismissive towards the people of Saskatoon and being arrogant, stuck in their ways, and not understanding what is actually happening over there, Mr. Speaker. They are very, very stuck in their ways. I think they're 70 years behind the time. I think the people of Saskatchewan have demonstrated that in 2007 and again in 2011. And I think that you're going to even see it even more in the next election up there to how out of date their philosophies and their ideas are in dealing with what is going on in the new Saskatchewan.

The good news is, Mr. Speaker, is the new Saskatchewan can see through the NDP. They can see through their lack of vision and their lack of plan. The new Saskatchewan wants a plan. They want a vision to keep moving forward. They want to grow and evolve. We want to be the leaders in the country, not be led by the rest of the country.

What the problem is across there, is it's the same old NDP. They have a new leader but it's the same old NDP. It is not

evolved. The new Saskatchewan residents have a higher expectation of their political leaders now. They are not going to be caught up in political rhetoric and ideology. They want a vision. They want to be able to understand what's going to happen in the future, and they're receiving that from this government.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion and I will not support the amendment. Thank you very much.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to, honoured to rise in support of the motion, as we begin to, as we begin to think very carefully about the tradition and history of co-operation, of collaboration, social innovation that defines Saskatoon.

You know, Mr. Speaker, there is likely an apocryphal story that is shared by Will Ferguson in his book *Beauty Tips From Moose Jaw*. And he offers a snapshot of the vision of John Lake pertaining to Saskatoon. And the quote that's offered is simply this: John Lake looked and offered, "Arise, Saskatoon, Queen of the North!"

That spirit of optimism was echoed over the course of the early decades of Saskatoon, and we know that. We can turn to Saskatoon's board of trade. In fact they put out early pamphlets where they offered great enthusiasm, in fact a simple boosterism. One of the statements that they made was that "you have no excuse for indecision — Come West! Come to Saskatoon."

And we think about Saskatoon today. We think about the majesty of this remarkable community. It rests comfortably on the shores of the South Saskatchewan, where you will also find some of the most refined and easily identified examples of campus Gothic at the University of Saskatchewan. You'll find the memorial for Prime Minister Diefenbaker. You'll see the Vimy Memorial as well, obviously close by the landmark Bessborough hotel. Then the renewal of a riverfront that sat stagnant for many, many years, and that riverfront leads ultimately down through the Meewasin Valley Authority along those remarkable trails.

That's one of the reasons that we can begin to understand the easy brand, no matter where you are in the country, when people begin to speak about the City of Bridges. They understand the significance of Saskatoon, of the South Saskatchewan, of those bridges. In fact our mayor makes specific reference to those bridges, including the new one. I had the opportunity, like several members from both sides of the House, to participate in the Hindu dinner this past weekend in Saskatoon. And even there, although rushed for time, His Worship, our mayor, Don Atchison, offered once again his sincere thanks for the construction of the south bridge.

So there's that era of early optimism, of what Jeff O'Brien, Ruth Miller, and William Delaney refer to in their book, *Saskatoon*: essentially the evolution of a city from its roots as a temperance colony in the late 19th century to current efforts to brand it as a global centre of science and innovation. And it's

that spirit of innovation that I'm going to continue to turn to.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, it was not a straight line simply built on optimism. Saskatoon, like Saskatchewan, went through its share of challenges, especially during both the great drought and Great Depression, the 1930s. But it was a time once again where that spirit of innovation actually captured the city.

In fact it was C.J. Mackenzie, the first dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan, who had a vision for putting people to work and leading the charge on the construction of the Broadway bridge as we know it today. In fact for many years it was known as the dean's bridge. That bridge is obviously iconic, not simply here within the province but again across the country. In fact Joni Mitchell makes specific mention of the Broadway bridge in one of her songs.

There's an example of social innovation during the Depression. It was an opportunity to help reflect and reinforce that commitment to enhancing employment opportunities, enhancing more opportunities for Saskatoon and Saskatchewan's families. And, Mr. Speaker, as a result, we have an iconic bridge that helps to define the city.

Mr. Speaker, that allows us to begin to think about the strength, the existential strength, that reassurance. When we begin to think about innovation, we know that for now more than 100 years, in times that have been challenging and times that have seen plenty, the city of Saskatoon has helped to define innovation, not simply for the province but for the country.

And now we live in a very unique time in Saskatchewan, one that's gaining momentum. We can see that with a population that's grown now to more than 1.117 million people. What we see, Mr. Speaker, is a time of growth, and that growth is reflected in a number of ways. It's reflected on the ground, and we see the growing number of families.

In fact Saskatoon was identified on February 27th in a piece that came out reflecting data from Stats Canada, based on a CTV story:

Saskatoon youngest and second-fastest growing city in Canada.

Youth is on Saskatoon's side.

The bridge city has the youngest population of any major Canadian city, according to a new report from Stats Canada.

The average age in Saskatoon and the surrounding area is between 34 and 35, which is about five years below the national average.

There's evidence, evidence again reflected in any number of empirical offerings. For example in their new book by Loleen Berdahl and Roger Gibbins, *Looking West: Regional Transformation and the Future of Canada*, recently published by the University of Toronto Press, they quote: "In 2011, 2012, and 2013, the Conference Board of Canada predicted that western Canadian cities would lead urban economic growth in Canada, with Saskatoon heading the pack." Page 61.

Again an empirical offering of what's being felt on the ground. And what's being felt on the ground is the need to continue to help foster and facilitate this growth — growth in a sustainable fashion, growth in a sensible fashion, growth that helps to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of families and businesses.

And this allows us to have conversations about, as my colleagues have said and they've spoken eloquently, about financing and funding options for infrastructure. It allows us to turn our attention to ask basic questions when it comes to P3s. And that is, what's the federal government doing? In fact the federal P3 Canada Fund oversees more than \$1 billion and can contribute up to 25 per cent of any specific project. That gives us a pretty significant indication that this is a national dialogue, a national conversation about meeting the infrastructure needs of communities right across the country. It is a Canadian imperative to find new ways to fund infrastructure.

[15:45]

It allows us then to look at what other provinces are doing. Ottawa is taking a lead role, helping to reflect and reinforce the significance and legitimacy of P3s. What about other provinces? In Ontario and Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia, New Brunswick as well as in Manitoba, we see P3 programs. So out of the federal government, we see a strong statement of support and then across the country, which allows us to then speak about some of the analysis that has been undertaken regarding P3s. And there are a few I think pieces of information that are relevant to the debate in our support of the minister's motion.

The Conference Board of Canada has analyzed 19 P3 projects and found that Canadian P3s have so far delivered savings ranging from a few million dollars to \$750 million when compared to traditional procurement. It is to reflect and reinforce that this is a legitimate instrument for us as public policy-makers for the city of Saskatoon and for federal decision makers to be looking at. We also see more data. There have been more than 204, there have been more than 200 projects built or that are currently under way in Canada. And these began, the P3 model essentially began in the early 1990s.

We've got a lot of track record in Canada about what best practices are, and there are examples that come up from time to time. The members opposite raise them. But there is a solid track record of increasing progress. In fact from 2009 to 2011 there were 39 P3 deals worth \$21.7 billion that were finalized in Canada: a federal government that supports this, various provinces that support this initiative, this instrument not to be deployed always but to have on the table as at least one option.

And then we think about the city of Saskatoon with its civic operation centre, the city of Saskatoon that is willing to play a lead role again reflecting that spirit that has long served the city so well. And it's joined by the city of Regina. When we think about the wastewater treatment facility here, that's important for us to understand.

A Canadian imperative to help address the infrastructure needs, a pan-Canadian imperative to deploy P3s in Ontario and Quebec, in Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, and

Manitoba. We see that since the 1990s there's been more than 200 projects built or currently under way that are P3. And between 2009 and 2011, 39 P3 deals worth more than \$21.7 billion have been finalized in the country. So that allows us that broad horizon to see that this is legitimate and indeed we have an opportunity, an opportunity to act in collaboration and partnership with Saskatoon.

But what we also see, and this is important, is that when we look across that broad horizon of support from P3s, we also see the previous track record of the members opposite. In fact the members opposite also had a P3 office. It had a moniker; it was called the corporate development division that was overseen by a couple of ministers, Maynard Sonntag and Pat Atkinson.

And so, Mr. Speaker, what we see is that through the spirit of innovation and collaboration in Saskatoon, we see an instrument that we support and that in fact is consistent and congruent with forces and factors that are shaping contemporary Canadian debate on how to meet our infrastructure challenge.

And so when we think about what's going on the ground, when we think about certainly conversations I've had with constituents and others, they reflect this: that that Stats Canada report . . . Again this comes from a CTV news report from February:

The report also showed that Saskatoon is the second-fastest growing city in Canada [the second-fastest city growing in Canada]. The city's 3.9 per cent population growth was just behind Calgary's 4.3 per cent growth.

"The other significant feature of that is that the region is growing as well as the city."

"The region is growing as well as the city," and that comes directly from Alan Wallace who's the director of planning and development for the city of Saskatoon.

And from Riversdale in Saskatoon, Noel Erickson, the owner of Freedom Functional Fitness on the west side, he offers this. He says:

With the economic growth in Saskatoon it's really bringing in a lot of the younger working crowd. I think it's a market that's dying to be looked after [dying to be looked after]. It's a very young group of business owners; a lot of young entrepreneurs.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we're not surprised as one of the fastest growing cities in the country with a track record of innovation, defined by its river and those that have worked to bridge that river, both through physical infrastructure and broadening and deepening that sense of community commitment, making Saskatoon increasingly diverse, dynamic and cosmopolitan; building upon the compassion and care that has defined that city now for more than a century. And so, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to say that I stand today in support of the minister's motion because this is going to allow Saskatoon to move forward in the 21st century. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The motion before the House is the amendment moved by the member for Regina Rosemont:

That all the words after “supports” be struck out and replaced with the following:

the city of Saskatoon in its efforts to build new bridges, using whatever model it deems most affordable and effective, in a manner that provides accountability and transparency to residents; and further,

that this Assembly urges the federal and provincial governments to partner with the city to build these bridges regardless of the model chosen by the city.

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: — No.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The division bells rang from 15:53 until 15:55.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 6]

Forbes	Wotherspoon	Vermette
Belanger	McCall	Sproule

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise. Opposed, sorry.

[Nays — 42]

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

Principal Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 6; those opposed, 42.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion fails. Debate carries on on the main motion by the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure. The motion before the House moved by the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure is:

That this Assembly supports the use of the P3 model in the

construction of a new bridge in the city of Saskatoon.

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. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:58 until 16:00.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 42]

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

The Speaker: — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 6]

Forbes	Wotherspoon	Vermette
Belanger	McCall	Sproule

Principal Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 42; those opposed, 6.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:03.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

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

Hon. Nancy Heppner

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Tim McMillan

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

Hon. Don McMorris

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

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Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Rob Norris

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Hon. Jim Reiter

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Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General