



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

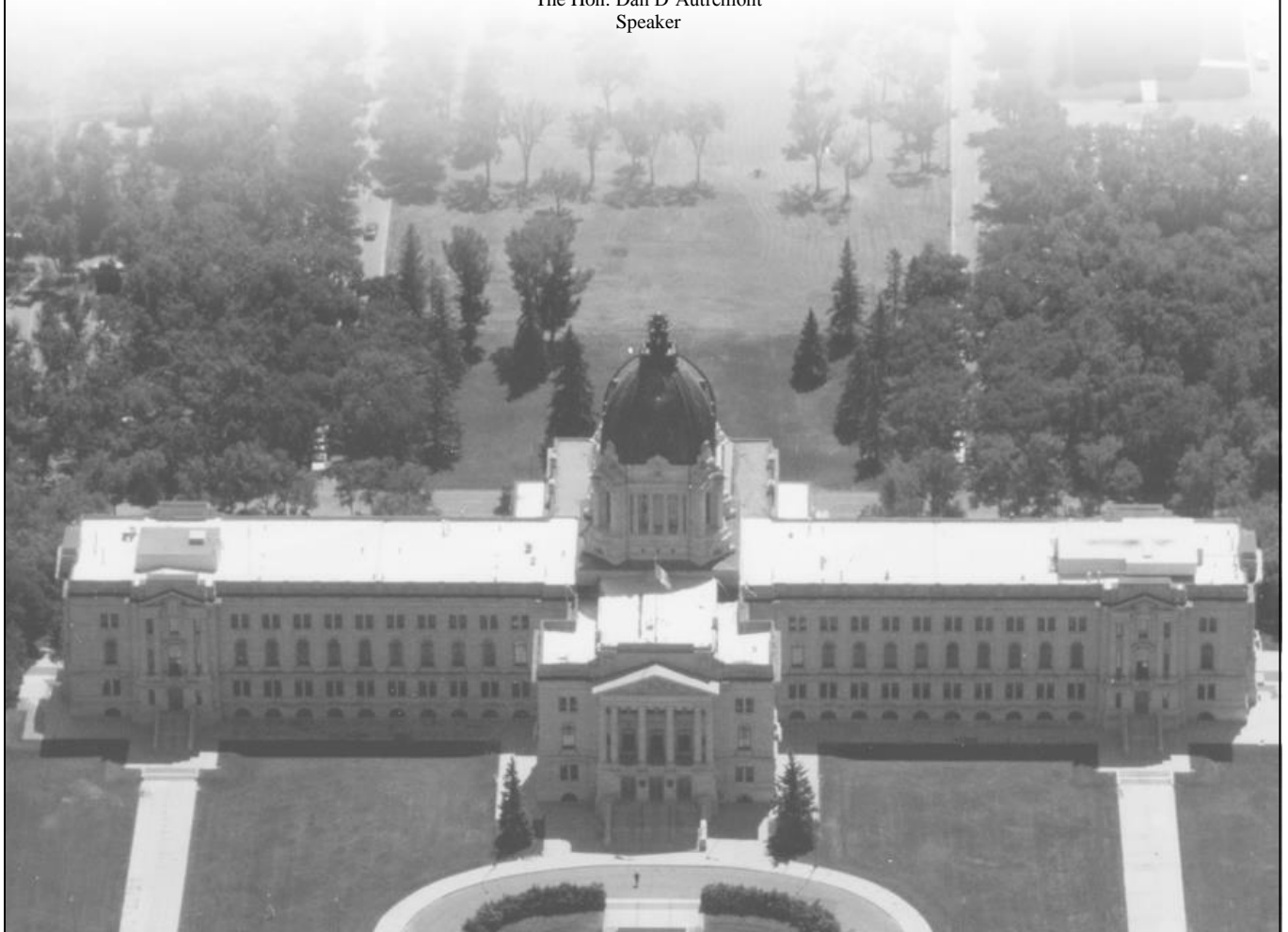
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to request leave to make a statement.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Social Services has requested leave to make a personal statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Number of International Trips

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I misspoke outside the Chamber regarding the number of international trips I had taken since becoming a minister. I provided incorrect information to the Premier regarding this, which caused incorrect information to be repeated in this Chamber. I apologize for misspeaking regarding this. I took one international trip to Australia in 2008 in addition to the trip in Ghana and UK [United Kingdom] in June of 2013.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure for me today to be able to introduce Mr. Jean-Christophe Fleury, the consul general of France, who makes his office and domicile in the city of Vancouver but who is responsible for the province of Saskatchewan as part of his duties. With him today is his spouse, Hyunsun Shin.

And also accompanying the consul general is Mr. Frédéric Kaplan, the minister counsellor for economics, the embassy of France in Canada; and Mr. Vincent Martin, the honorary consul of France for Saskatchewan. Mr. Martin may be known to some of us here as the CEO [chief executive officer] and president of Areva Resources. Mr. Speaker, these fine guests are accompanied today by Melinda Carter, the senior protocol officer; and Laurie Hutton the international officer.

I have a few comments I'd like to add, Mr. Speaker, as part of

this introduction. This is the consul general's first visit to the province of Saskatchewan, having arrived at his post about five months ago. And he thought it was important to come and I think, from what I learned over lunch, he's really quite happy with his visit here. He has learned quite a bit about the province already and has more to learn, I'm sure. While in Saskatchewan, he'll be meeting with the Lieutenant Governor and various government representatives.

Mr. Speaker, last year Saskatchewan's exports to France valued \$76.8 million with some of the top exports including of course uranium, pulses, oil seeds, and other food items. In fact, Mr. Speaker, France has the second-largest nuclear power program in the world and Areva, the French nuclear giant, holds interests in four separate Saskatchewan uranium deposits.

Now besides an economic friendship, Saskatchewan has historic ties with France, with many of our first French-speaking settlers to Saskatchewan coming from that great country. Those settlers brought with them a little bit of France as reflected in the names of some of our communities which they established, communities such as Ponteix, Montmartre, Domremy, St. Brieux, and St-Denis, which are also the names of municipalities in France. Currently both of our universities in Saskatchewan have a number of initiatives that they have signed with French institutions, so there is some give-and-take and back-and-forth between those institutions of higher learning.

Mr. Speaker, I'm eager to continue to strengthen the bonds that we have, that we share with the country of France, and I'd ask that all members of this Assembly join me in welcoming Mr. Fleury and Ms. Shin to Saskatchewan's legislature.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Provincial Secretary on behalf of the official opposition in welcoming Mr. Fleury and Ms. Shin as well as Mr. Martin who are here in the Assembly today, Mr. Speaker. And the Provincial Secretary accurately points out the historical ties that our country and our province has with France but, as importantly, the important ongoing ties that we have economically and socially. So on behalf of the official opposition, bienvenue. Welcome here and wish you all the best as you have your meetings for the rest of your duration here. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to the Legislative Assembly a group of teachers who are here in the legislature to attend the 16th annual Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. The institute began on Saturday, April the 5th and will conclude on Wednesday, April 9th.

This group has already met with a number of people including members of the judiciary, representatives of the Chief Electoral office, and the Clerks. Earlier today they met with caucus staff from both sides of the House, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the House leaders. Over the next two days, they are scheduled to meet with caucus Chairs, caucus Whips, several MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], cabinet ministers, and

the Minister of Education.

I would like to introduce them and their guests, and if they would wave when I mention their names please: Ms. Karen Blackwell Jones from the Dinsmore Composite School; Mr. Thomas Claxton, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon; Mr. Kenneth Harris, Spruce Ridge School, Estevan; Mr. Terry Leibel, Wynyard Composite High School; Ms. Kara Lengyel, Naicam School; Ms. Chylisse Marchand, Redvers School; Ms. Sarah Moar, École canadienne-française, Saskatoon; Mr. Eric Neudorf, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon; Mr. David Pratte, Caswell School, Saskatoon; Ms. Heather Saarela, Arcola School; Mr. Riley Sharp, Swift Current Comprehensive High School — he just graduated, I think — Ms. Meagan Smith, Vanier Collegiate, Moose Jaw; Mr. Rod Walker, Creighton Community School; Ms. Jennifer Ives, observer from the Parliamentary Education Office in British Columbia; Mr. Taylor Gunn, student votes/civics, Toronto.

I would like to make special mention of our steering committee, composed of four teachers who have attended past institutes and officials from the Ministry of Education. From the Ministry of Education, Mr. Brent Toles, consultant, social sciences curriculum unit; and Ms. Cindy Chow.

Steering committee members are: Ms. Corinne Harcourt, Engelfeld School; Mr. Pat Orobko, Unity Composite High School; Mr. Douglas Panko, Vanier Collegiate, Moose Jaw; Ms. Laurel Labarre Amid, École Massey, Regina.

I would ask all members to welcome this group to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Speaking of teachers and students, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, a group seated in the east gallery. They are from the Southeast Regional College, Piapot First Nation adult basic education class offered here in the city of Regina. They're accompanied by a steadfast and no stranger to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, teacher, Bev Kulach. I believe they've also got Jeffrey Moser along for keeping company. And again, a group of 17 adult learners that are here at their Legislative Assembly.

I look forward to meeting with them later to get their take on the tour thus far, on the state of affairs here in the Assembly, but it's always really good to see visitors, particularly adult learners, here at their Legislative Assembly. So if all members could please join me in welcoming this group from Piapot Urban First Nation and Southeast Regional College to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to join the member opposite, especially in light of the week that we've just recognized here within Saskatchewan, that is the week celebrating adult learners. It's recognized through the United Nations and in fact across more than 40 countries. And so I join the member opposite in

offering a warm welcome to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, these students and these adult learners from Southeast Regional College. We know how important it is, especially when we relate to our robust economic activity and that connection between learning and earning.

So I ask all members to join me in welcoming these learners to their Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce a few people to the legislature today. First off, we are joined in your gallery by Dave Burdeniuk and Casey MacLeod. They are with SaskEnergy's communications division. And joining them today, Mr. Speaker, are three individuals, three individuals that we are highlighting some of the great work that was done this very cold winter, this very cold March. We have Mr. Brian Gossard. He's the general manager for TransGas, southwest division. Give us a wave if you wouldn't mind, gentlemen. We have Mike Kronberger, district operation supervisor with TransGas, southwest district; and we have Mr. Chris Rink, district mechanic operator with TransGas, southwest district, Mr. Speaker.

These gentlemen are joining us today. There's going to be a member's statement here in members' statements highlighting some of the very difficult and extreme work that they went through to ensure that gas flowed to the rest of the citizens of this province as they continued to service their equipment on the coldest days of one of the coldest winters of the year. These gentlemen said, Mr. Speaker, in discussions that they don't see anything special. This is just what they do. But they do it in very extreme weather conditions to make sure that the rest of us have warm homes.

And I was a little disconcerted, Mr. Speaker, when they commented that they have some improvements they want to do, some things they want to change before next year, and they only have seven months before it has to be working again. So please, Mr. Speaker, if you could join with me and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the government in welcoming all these guests that are here from TransGas and SaskEnergy. There's no question that while we don't have natural gas in the North, we appreciate some of the calls and some of the extra work that many of our employees in the Crown corporations do throughout the province.

So again on behalf of the official opposition, we welcome you here today. We thank you for your continued service and to say that you represent your company and your Crown very well, and the people of Saskatchewan are very proud of you all. Thank you very much.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I would request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to all the members. In recognition of National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, our government has declared April 6th to 12th Victims of Crime Awareness Week in Saskatchewan. During this week, we are not only recognizing the effect crime has on people but also the dedication of the volunteers who help victims of crime.

Seated in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, we have seven volunteer victim support workers, volunteer board members, and staff we are recognizing for their work with victims of crime. They are marking their 10th-, 15th-, 20th-, and 25th-year anniversaries with victim services programs in their communities.

For volunteer victim service support workers we have Deanna Brown and Joann McKay from Regina region victim services, and Pat Stevenson from the Regina victim services. For volunteer board members, we have Theresa Deboth from the northeast regional victim services and Glen Herman, a founding board member who has been with the southwest victim services for 20 years.

And for staff, Mr. Speaker, we have Helen Christensen from the Prince Albert victim services, and Jill Hay who has served as a volunteer victim support worker and employee with Regina victim services for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, the volunteer board members and staff here today, along with 300 others from across Saskatchewan are what makes these programs so effective. They exemplify the adage, those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.

I would also like to mention Phyllis Smith, Sandy Rediron, and Caroline Ratt-Misponas of north Sask victim services, Dale Ebert of Prince Albert victim services, Irene Nowosad from Prince Albert regional victim services, Philip Gunther from Regina victim services, Dorothy McFaul from Saskatoon victim services, Brenda Weppler from south west victim services, Vicky Procyk from southeast victim services, and Rheta Renwick from Regina region victim services. Mr. Speaker, these people are also celebrating their 10-, 15-, and 20-year anniversaries. Although they were not able to be here today, their work is no less appreciated.

[13:45]

As Minister of Justice, I'm grateful for the opportunity to meet these individuals that do such important work. Every time I talk to them, I come away with the feeling that Saskatchewan is home to some of the kindest people in Canada. The great work

these people do is a reflection of our province and its people, and I'm very proud to have them in attendance here today. I'd like them to know that no one is more cherished than someone who lightens the burden of others.

To show our appreciation of their efforts, Mr. Speaker, I'd now like to ask members to join me in applauding our guests for their accomplishments and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Justice in welcoming our guests to the legislature today. I was very pleased to hear the long service that many of these members have because they would remember when I was the minister of Justice and working very closely with the development of the victim services. And, Mr. Speaker, this whole program and the ability to provide support to communities, to victims, but also to local law enforcement and the courts is a very important thing that we do here in Saskatchewan. And I'd like to congratulate all these members for all of the many years of service. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If I may join with members in the House today who've welcomed some special guests, Mr. Speaker, I do want to welcome the consul general for France and the delegation that's joined us here today. We very much appreciate the relationship that continues between France and the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge and thank Areva for their great contribution to our province here. It was a pleasure to work alongside them and on their behalf with the federal government to try to ease some of the restrictions on ownership, and we hope to see some progress as a result of CETA [Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement]. This was an important development, and we're grateful for the participation of the French in this as well as Areva. And as the Government of Saskatchewan, I hope we were able to be of help, Mr. Speaker.

I also had a chance to visit with the teachers. I want to join with members and welcome them here. This is a very important institute.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, there are constituents in the House today, and some who are not constituents but very close to Swift Current who've been recognized by the minister responsible for TransGas and they will be appropriately highlighted, as the minister's pointed out, a little bit later on. I'd like to draw attention to a good friend of mine, the general manager for TransGas in the area, Brian Gossard. Brian is an expert fisherman. The Deputy Leader of the NDP [New Democratic Party] talks about catching walleye at Last Mountain Lake and other places, and this is impressive, Mr. Speaker. But Brian fishes down in the muddy South Saskatchewan where you got to catch them with skill. And so I also just want to welcome my friend, Brian, to his Legislative Assembly as well.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join with the Premier and welcome a couple of guests. I do look forward to maybe chatting a little bit of fishing with the guest that's here today. And that's right, there are some pretty big fish. I always explain to our northern members that the walleye down south are a lot bigger than the ones they grow up north. And it's something that they don't necessarily appreciate when I make that point, but something that we in the South recognize.

I do want to join, both with you as the Speaker and with the Premier, in welcoming the teachers that are here today: the steering committee of Mr. Brent Toles, and the crew that's here, and the fine cadre of teachers that have joined us here today. I enjoyed meeting them briefly at lunch. I look forward to getting to know them over the next couple of days. And I thank them for being on really the front lines of democracy every day in classrooms across Saskatchewan, and the role they fulfill in infusing an interest in their students in being involved in their community and their democratic processes.

So I ask all members to welcome those teachers, the steering committee for this Saskatchewan Speaker's Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy here today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and to all the members of the Legislative Assembly, I have three special guests in the west gallery I'd like to introduce to you. The first one, it's not Willie from *Duck Dynasty*, that's my middle son, Dylan, Dylan Lawrence and his wife Kayleigh. And the little one they're holding is my grandson, Jordison Rider. And he is, definitely got grandpa around his little finger. So it's truly my pleasure to introduce them into the House today.

And if I can, I'd also like to say hi to Mr. Panko, who actually coached all three of my boys in high school football in Vanier. So thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of education. And we know that education is one of the most vital services that government provides to citizens, that this government has failed to deliver a long-term plan and vision and the necessary resources to prioritize the delivery of educational excellence. And we know that this government has failed to develop a real plan to close the Aboriginal education gap, support English as an additional language students, support community schools and their communities and students. And we know that we must build the best education system for today and for Saskatchewan's future.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your

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

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

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the unsafe conditions on Dewdney Avenue and the call to reroute heavy-haul truck traffic from Dewdney Avenue. They note that any further delays from that government are unacceptable in addressing a problem 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 of Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I stand and present a petition on highway improvements necessary for the province of Saskatchewan and, more particular, for northern Saskatchewan. And the road I'm presenting this petition on, Mr. Speaker, is the road that serves the English River First Nation or the community of Patuanak, which are one and the same.

Mr. Speaker, people have signed petitions from all throughout Saskatchewan. On this particular page, the people that have signed petition are primarily from Ile-a-la-Crosse. And the prayer reads as follows:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to commit to repairing and upgrading Highway 918.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people again that have signed these petitions and other petitions are from all throughout

Saskatchewan. And I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'm pleased to rise to present a petition for real action on climate change. And the undersigned residents of this province want to bring to our 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 in 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 a real plan to protect the natural environment; that slashing programs such as the Go Green Fund and EnerGuide for Houses energy efficiency program set the province on a backward course. And the folks in the prayer that reads as follows:

Respectfully request that this Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enacts a real plan and allocates 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens from Canora, Regina, and Saskatoon. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Technicians Work Hard During Record Cold Weekend

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure there will be unanimous support in this House for agreeing this past winter was very, very cold. This past winter was one of the coldest in the last 30 years, and February was one of the coldest in the last 50 years. During the record cold weekend in March, while most of us huddled in the warmth of our homes, the men and women of SaskEnergy and TransGas worked 24-7 to make sure gas kept flowing.

There are many stories of our technicians going above and beyond. Chris Rink spent all night at the Success compressor station. At 2 in the morning the main compressor quit and Chris had to brave the minus-50 wind chill for an hour to manually restart it.

Mike Kronberger was running a mobile compressor by Belle Plaine. At the end of his 12-hour shift, Mike didn't go home. He went out and picked up tarps and mobile heaters and made a makeshift tent to ensure the compressor would not freeze up.

It's because of the hard work of technicians like Mike and Chris that there wasn't a single outage of gas on that record cold weekend. So while all of us and our families slept comfortably, it was the workers at SaskEnergy and TransGas that made sure

we stayed warm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Rwandan Genocide

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, today marks the 20th anniversary of the start of the genocide in Rwanda. On the evening of April 6th, 1994, President Habyarimana's plane was shot down as it approached Kigali airport. And in the early hours of April 7th, 1994, 20 years ago today, Rwanda descended into the utter madness of genocide with the systematic killing of the Tutsi minority population and anyone willing to defend them.

The genocide lasted for 100 unspeakably horrific days. As many as 1 million people were brutally killed, and the global community was largely silent. In fact countries frantically removed their peacekeeping troops from Rwanda, and the United Nations contingent dropped from 2,165 to just 270.

Thirteen Canadian peacekeepers remained in Rwanda including Lieutenant General Roméo Dallaire, the commander of the UN [United Nations] force; as well as Major General Guy Tousignant and Major Brent Beardsley. These peacekeepers are heroes. We thank them for their service, and we pay tribute to those who lost their lives and to the survivors.

Rwanda has witnessed incredible reconciliation between perpetrators and victims, and Rwandans have rebuilt their country in remarkable ways. Mr. Speaker, may the Rwandan genocide always serve as a reminder never to turn away and always to live up to our responsibility to look out for one another. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I would like to welcome all of our guests to the Assembly but to remind them as well not to participate in events on the floor, which includes applause. Thank you.

I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society Gala

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On Friday night I had the opportunity along with several colleagues to attend the Night with STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] Gala. Colleagues included the member from Eastend, Moosomin, Qu'Appelle Valley, Wascana Plains, and Estevan and Humboldt.

Mr. Speaker, over 400 people attended this gala to celebrate STARS in Saskatchewan and to keep them in the air, as a fundraiser. The event raised over \$130,000 to keep STARS air ambulance flying and saving people across our province. Mr. Speaker, entertainment was provided by country music stars Paul Brandt and Codie Prevost.

Our government is delighted to work in partnership with STARS, which has provided a safe, rapid, highly specialized emergency medical transport system for the critically ill and injured for over 25 years. Since the launch of STARS in our province in April 2012, approximately 774 patients who were critically ill or injured have been assisted by STARS. STARS is a first-class organization that provides the highest quality care

to critically injured patients across our province.

We will continue to work with STARS to look for innovative ways to help those in medical distress. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing and thanking all the sponsors and organizers of Friday's gala for supporting such an important organization to the people of our province. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank everyone who played a role in organizing the gala — from the sponsors, the fundraisers, the organizing committee — who made it such a successful evening to help critically ill and injured people across our province. Thank you.

[14:00]

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

Pink Revolution Bullying Prevention Week

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was honoured to speak at the flag-raising ceremony outside Saskatoon city hall this morning to celebrate the official recognition of Pink Revolution Bullying Prevention Week, sending a signal to our city and our province that we will not tolerate bullying in our community.

This year Pink Revolution is held between April 7th to 12th, and I encourage all members to participate and to make a difference through this important initiative. When we get involved and wear pink, we spread the message that bullying, violence, and discrimination motivated by sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, heterosexism, ableism, and ageism are not acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, discrimination is a social disease that affects the way everyone lives, works, plays, studies, and treats one another. It creates barriers to success by fostering prejudice and hate.

Pink Revolution is more than just a symbol against bullying, it's a commitment to celebrate diversity, learning from one another, being understanding of differences, and seeing the unique abilities that every person can share with the world when we work together.

Pink Revolution was created as part of the Bullying Prevention Network, a joint initiative of the Avenue Community Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saskatoon, Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op, Momentum Martial Arts, the restorative action program, the Saskatoon Police Service cultural resources unit, USSU [University of Saskatoon Students' Union] pride and youth launch.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in promoting diversity, preventing bullying, and taking action to make our world a safer place as part of the Pink Revolution.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Paragon Awards

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend, I

had the pleasure of attending the annual Regina and District Chamber of Commerce Paragon Business Excellence Awards. The Paragon Awards represent the recognition of members of the business community that have demonstrated exceptional performance in a number of specific areas.

The categories and their award recipients for this year are, Young Entrepreneur, Kip Simon of 22 Fresh; Community Involvement, Alliance Energy; Community Alliance, Jack FM Hospitals of Regina Foundation; Export Achievement, Alliance Grain Traders Inc.; Customer Service Excellence was Diabsolut; Marketing and Promotion Achievement, LK Auto Collision; Diversity, MicroAge; Environmental Excellence, Namerind Housing Corp.; New Business Venture, the Mortgage Centre — Design Mortgages; and finally the Business of the Year Award went to Magna Electric.

Congratulations to all the nominees and the recipients for their hard work and their innovation.

Saskatchewan is currently enjoying unprecedented growth and success on a global scale, and these businesses are an essential part of this success. Their commitment to the business excellence serves to strengthen not only Regina but all of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Regina and District Chamber of Commerce and all the deserving recipients of the 2014 Paragon Awards. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Sarcan Worker Retires

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, last Thursday evening I had the pleasure to take part in a very special retirement party at Sask Abilities in Yorkton. My friend of 30 years, Donna Moore, celebrated her retirement after 22 years at Sarcan.

Donna was born in 1957 with what some would see as insurmountable challenges. She endured many reconstructive surgeries in her younger days but tired of the discomfort, and was very comfortable with who she was. Those who know her today only see a woman with an amazing work ethic and a loyal, generous, and loving heart.

She was born in Kamsack, endured surgeries in Saskatoon, was educated in Moose Jaw, and by 13 years old was looking after babies. She moved to Yorkton at 18, worked in the Abilities Centre ceramics and sewing departments. She left for work at a housecleaning company and a business supply company before starting at Sarcan in 1991. She quickly became affectionately known as The Little General. Her volunteerism is legendary, mostly with the Yorkton Terriers. She is their biggest fan and, although she is very loving, she hates the Melville Millionaires.

I joined many of her past and current employers, fellow staff, community, and family members at her party, sharing stories and a PowerPoint. She made sure I had the organizers include a picture of, quote, her and her friend, Brad Wall, who phoned her on her 50th birthday. I may be her friend, but I think the member from Swift is her favourite MLA.

For me, the evening was summed up by her latest manager,

Steven Rosowsky. He said the measure of success is not on how much you own or of your accomplishments, but about your relationships and the people who love you. Judging from the people there who showed Donna love, there is possibly no one more successful.

Happy retirement, my friend. God bless. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

National Victims of Crime Awareness Week

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday marked the beginning of National Victims of Crime Awareness Week. This week is a time to bring special attention to the needs of victims, reawaken the dialogue on how we can assist those whose lives have been affected, and make communities aware of the services that are available.

Years ago Saskatchewan adopted a declaration of principles respecting the treatment of victims of crime. As our province moves ahead, we've remained committed to offering victims their due respect, privacy, information, and understanding. We are privileged to have in our presence volunteers who have devoted years of their life to help their fellow community members recover following an act of crime.

In addition to those in attendance, there are many other volunteers across this province. Last year alone, volunteer victim support workers gave nearly 9,000 hours of their time to help thousands of people in Saskatchewan. Their work is a testament to the kindness that makes our province such a great place to live.

So to those in our communities who have been victimized by crime, let us send a message of compassion and support. To those who have volunteered to help the affected recover, let us extend our gratitude for their admirable service. Mr. Speaker, I invite all members to join me in recognizing Victims of Crime Awareness Week. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Conditions in Personal Care Homes

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know this is the government that took out any reference to appropriate staffing levels from the seniors' care home regulations. This is also the government that removed the basic minimum quality of care standards from those regulations.

The member from Melfort recently gave us a bit of insight into the government's thinking on this. He said the two-hour per day guarantee was far too high, Mr. Speaker. He actually said 10 minutes would be an appropriate amount, with a check-in in the morning and a check-in before bedtime. Mr. Speaker, that's completely out of touch with the reality in care facilities across Saskatchewan. My question to the Premier: does he agree with his MLA that 10 minutes of care is acceptable, and is that why

they watered down the regulations when it comes to personal care homes, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, we do in fact have minimum standards within the manual that special care homes need to follow. That's a nearly 200-page document, *Program Guidelines for Special-care Homes*, that does act as a minimum standard. In terms of staffing, we've moved to an individualized way to develop a care plan for each of our residents rather than relying on guidelines, on regulations that were written in the 1950s and never updated in that time, that spoke to the time that we would spend for our clients and for our residents. But we've moved towards individualizing that care based on the needs of each individual resident. So whereas it may be applicable for a certain care standard for one individual, may not be the same requirements that another individual would need.

At the same time what we've been doing is adding staff to long-term care. Nearly 750 full-time equivalents have been added to the long-term care system just in the last seven years.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, residents in care and their families have a very different story to tell from what the minister is stating.

Savannah Gunderson lives in Sunset Extencicare. Her husband, Don, is here today because the quality of care for his wife and the other residents is not even close to acceptable.

He doesn't blame the front-line workers, Mr. Speaker, because they're run off their feet. Rather Don blames this government for scrapping minimum care standards and for failing to fix the basics when it comes to seniors' care. Every day, Mr. Speaker, Don sees first-hand the need for minimum quality of care standards and appropriate staffing levels.

My question is to the Premier. Why won't he restore minimum quality of care standards and why won't he set targets for appropriate staffing levels in care facilities?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we've done over the last year is identify that we know that there are some issues within long-term care that we do need to address. Some of that may be on the equipment side; some of that may be on the staffing side; but each of our 156 facilities will have different needs.

What we know through the CEO report that took place last year was that in some cases it was because of aging facilities and the lack of some lifts that could not be accommodated. What we've done through the Urgent Issues Action Fund is provided dollars for over 700 pieces of equipment. Whether that be lifts, tubs, slings, special mattresses, those pieces are being installed this spring and should be available for use as we move through the spring and into the summer.

In terms of staffing, we have allocated additional dollars for

staffing within some facilities that did identify that staffing was their major concern. What we're also doing is providing record levels of funding for health regions to make those determinations about staffing outside of the Urgent Issues Action Fund.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this is the government that forced health regions to slash their urgent requests for much needed repairs and equipment and staff in our care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, Don was on the CEO tour, but the problems with his wife's care continue. They remain there, Mr. Speaker. Savannah is cognitively aware, but she has largely lost the ability to speak due to a stroke. She can't speak up and advocate for herself. So if it weren't for her husband, Don, significant concerns would go unaddressed because the workers are far too busy to take notice.

Don has repeatedly raised concerns related to Savannah's feeding tube, wounds that weren't properly cared for, no headrest on her wheelchair, and foot care not being done, Mr. Speaker. And the list goes on. Again, Don doesn't blame the front-line workers, who he recognizes are run off their feet, but he sees this government's decision to scrap minimum care standards and their failure to fix the basics in seniors' care as the root of the problem.

My question to the Premier: will he listen to Don today? Will he listen to the concerns that Don is raising about Savannah's care or will he dismiss his concerns like he has with the other families who have come forward?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, quite earnestly, we do not dismiss cases that come before this House or that are raised by our members on this side of the House or by members of the opposition. We take them seriously. The Minister of Health and his office takes those particular issues seriously. They do involve loved ones, people in the province of Saskatchewan who deserve optimal care.

Mr. Speaker, I, on behalf of the minister, will undertake that our government will look into this specific case. It is incorrect though to inform the House, to characterize what's happened in the province as the elimination of minimum standards, Mr. Speaker. There are minimum standards. They're not measured in terms of time.

I think it is also important for this House to remember that since taking office we have added to the front-line staff very significantly, with more needed, with more needed. But 1,000 more nurses or so practising today in the province of Saskatchewan than when they were in office — more front-line workers, Mr. Speaker, and more doctors. Now there's more needed. We still have cases like this that are acceptable to precisely no one in Saskatchewan, but we're going to continue to make progress. We will continue to provide record funding to the regions, urgent action funding for long-term care, and we will properly resource the complement of human resources in the health care system.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Don and Savannah's case is one, but it represents many, many Saskatchewan families, Mr. Speaker, who are not receiving the care and the dignity that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, it was this government that removed the minimum care guarantee, removed the base level of care that people could expect, that seniors could expect, people could expect who are in care, Mr. Speaker. They go on about individualized care, but if you listen to people like Don and Savannah, that is not occurring as it should be, Mr. Speaker.

Don's also frustrated with the lack of activities available in facilities, and sees inadequate staffing levels as the cause. Savannah gets just 12 minutes of activity per day, Mr. Speaker, 12 minutes. Now I know that's in the ballpark of what the member from Melfort was talking about when it comes to attention on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker, but it is not acceptable. It's not conducive to a good quality of life, Mr. Speaker. Don and Savannah deserve better, and Saskatchewan people deserve better.

So this government has untold millions of dollars to pour into its lean pet project, Mr. Speaker, while they forget and they fail on the basics, Mr. Speaker, while Saskatchewan people in care suffer. My question to the Premier: what will it take for him to recognize that minimum care standards and appropriate staffing levels are required for better care in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I've said before, we do certainly have minimum care standards that are not based on the time that is spent, but is based on needs of each individual resident. We do an evaluation within weeks of them coming into long-term care facilities. That is updated on a quarterly basis to gauge whether or not their needs have changed, either increased or decreased, and plans are made according to that.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to what we've done, we've taken a different approach. When the members opposite were in government, when long-term care issues were raised the members opposite's response to that was to simply put in place a plan to just increase the rates that people paid in long-term care. We've decided to do something different. We've taken an approach to look specifically at the concerns that were raised through the CEO tour.

Mr. Speaker, we have identified \$10 million as well as \$3.8 million in ongoing dollars. Some of that's been put, as I've said, to equipment. Others has been put into . . . Recreational hours have been increased. That was Sun Country, one of the asks that they asked for. They've increased recreational programming, particularly on weekends, which was one of the areas that Cypress has put some money to. As well Regina Qu'Appelle is also doing gentle persuasion.

[14:15]

The Speaker: — Next question. I recognize the member for

Saskatoon Centre.

Travel Expenses

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know about the \$200 personal lunch with a friend in London, but we don't know if this friend accompanied the Minister of Social Services on her entire trip. To the minister: did her friend from Saskatchewan go with her to Ghana as well, or did they just meet up for the London portion?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, my friend was with me on the trip. And to be sure that the members opposite are aware of this, my family paid for their own trip at all times.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, we understand that a receipt inadvertently submitted as the registration fees for the FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder] conference was actually a receipt for Ghana travel visas for herself and two others. Are we then to assume that person was also one of the other two people on . . . that she paid for their travel visas?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Yes, Mr. Speaker. There was the \$250 registration fee that I didn't submit, I confused with the \$285 visas. And I on Friday repaid the \$190 that was mistakenly charged to the taxpayers of this province. And again my family paid for their own trip.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The conference that the Minister of Social Services arranged to attend in Ghana was from June 6th to June 8th. It was a three-day conference, but the minister actually spent eight days in Ghana and she claimed her meal and incidental per diems every single day. To the minister: what did she do on those extra days, and why did taxpayers have to foot the bill for her extra time in Ghana?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite is aware of my schedule, that I had meetings for the conference. And then on the Monday, I actually had a meeting as well and it was with the . . . On the Monday, I had meetings that were involving the community college, the Tema community college board of directors, and I toured the campus.

The Tema community college was actually developed with the assistance of the province of Saskatchewan about 25 years ago. The college was looking at possible joint opportunities with SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] and SIIT [Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies] and, Mr. Speaker, this is work that I carried on. Mr. Speaker, the work that we did when we were in Ghana was, I believe, very, very important for the people of this province.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of her itinerary. On Thursday we did ask her to table her itinerary for both the Ghana portion and the London portion. Will she do so today?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Yes, I will release that. I thought it was already released today. But I want to make sure that the members opposite have an idea of the work that was carried on when I was over there. There were eight meetings as well as the conference and some media that I did over there. I spoke with the Speaker and the chamber of commerce. I talked to the High Commissioner.

There was a Dr. Lutterodt from the clinic who has actually practised here in Regina for over 30 years. And he saw the work, the possibility of more work that we could be doing in conjunction with the people of Ghana. I went to the Tema community college again and talked about what we could be doing in partnership with our educational opportunities. And a really important meeting was with the Minister of Health where I brought forward the declaration from the conference where we actually implored her to look at FASD as an important part of what they're doing in their education system. Mr. Speaker, this issue was way beyond the borders of any province or any country. It's something that we have an opportunity to deal with as a nation and a national nation.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has tried to claim that her four-day layover in London was a filler between her time in Ghana and another conference in Prince Edward Island. But the conference in Prince Edward Island started 10 days after the conference in Ghana ended. The minister could have come home and worked for a week before going to Prince Edward Island. Instead she tacked on extra days in Ghana and claimed all her per diems, and then she hung out in London with her friend and sent the bill to the taxpayers.

To the minister: why didn't she either take those 10 days off and pay all the expenses herself or just come home and work for a week, instead of racking up bills for the taxpayers?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite doesn't have my itinerary for over in London, then I guess I should have sent it to him earlier. But I think right now is the opportunity to tell him the work that we did do when we were over there.

One of the most important things that we did when we were over there was meeting with the minister responsible for diversity, the deputy director, and we talked about what they are doing in their disability structure. And you know, the member opposite is well aware that we are developing a comprehensive disability strategy.

Over in the UK, they have four points, which is employment, education, transportation, and access to goods and services. I spent a lot of time talking to them about the work that could be done. And when we came back here, we talked in Saskatchewan

about having six pillars. We added to the work that was done over in the UK because we now have support for community caregivers, we have community inclusion, and we have housing that wasn't discussed over there.

Mr. Speaker, we also included things like talking about the social impact bonds, which is something I had never heard about till I got over there. But I assure the members opposite, they'll be hearing about it soon.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we've been asking for the itinerary to be tabled, as has the media, for a number of days, Mr. Speaker.

On Thursday, Mr. Speaker, the Premier didn't have a lot of answers about the very costly trip taken by the Minister of Social Services to Ghana as well as London. I asked a very specific question, Mr. Speaker: who designated the \$200 personal lunch for the Minister of Social Services and a friend as an official debrief meeting, and who signed off on that expense? When I asked repeatedly, Mr. Speaker, the Premier did not have an answer, and he actually said this: "We'll get that information to the member. I do not know the answer to that question."

So my question to the Premier: what is the answer? Who designated the 200 personal lunch as an official business debrief, and who signed off on it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed in detail the schedule of meetings for the Minister of Social Services while in Ghana at the conference, then the meetings she had subsequent to the conference, Mr. Speaker, in Ghana, as well as her schedule in London, where very germane meetings took place to her file, a meeting she took for the Ministry of Finance with a bank, Mr. Speaker, as well as a meeting that has frankly spawned the idea on this side of the Atlantic for social impact bonds. And the minister is quite right: members opposite are going to hear and see actually what came of that particular trip.

With respect to the answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question, the cabinet secretary mistakenly noted the expense as he has highlighted here today, and it's been paid back.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the comments that the Premier makes about what was learned during these meetings, Mr. Speaker, I've heard the scrums and the interviews that the minister has provided on this, Mr. Speaker, comments about, a discussion about what is a disability — very rudimentary, basic things, Mr. Speaker, that don't require a trip to London to figure out that information.

We learned five minutes before question period today, Mr. Speaker, that the cabinet secretary, the Premier's right-hand adviser, is repaying \$7,016.77 in limo services that were booked for the Minister of Social Services and the Minister of Finance. To the Premier: how many other cabinet ministers

have inappropriately billed taxpayers for limousine services while out of country on trips?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, officials of the government, staff in my office have been working through the weekend to go through expenses which were released today, '13-14 expenses of the ministers that have travelled, Mr. Speaker. Actually we went through this exercise to answer precisely the question the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has put.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has noted today, quite publicly, that the same official booked the same car service for meetings that he had in London. It's a part frankly of the same mission or a part of that, an adjunct to that same mission. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance was also not comfortable with the expense because he believed he could have achieved his meetings in a taxicab, and so he too has paid for the difference, Mr. Speaker, and that's the extent of it.

Although, Mr. Speaker, we haven't gone beyond the term of the life of this government, and I would hope that if we were to find out, Mr. Speaker, for example that New Democratic ministers or members of Executive Council billed for personal functions while they were away, that they also would remit it back to the taxpayers.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, last week when we asked about the \$200 personal lunch that was listed and described on the FOI [freedom of information] that was released as a debrief, official government business lunch, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Premier last week, who deemed that to be official debrief and who signed off on it? Last week as I recall, the language that the front bench was saying was that it was a clerical error, that it was an oversight.

Just to clarify the Premier's remarks of what he just said, is it now his position that it was the cabinet secretary who described that as a business lunch and signed off on it as an expense?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mistakenly, yes.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, last week when commenting on this, the Minister of Social Services said, "I did what everybody was doing." And now, Mr. Speaker, we see expenses being repaid also for the Minister of Finance. My question, Mr. Speaker . . . It sounds like when looking at the remarks from the Minister of Social Services and the statements being made by the Premier that this approach is widespread within government, and other cabinet ministers are following this approach for ministers, as well as political appointees. It does not sound like an isolated incident.

My question to the Premier: has he ordered a full investigation into the expenses of not only the cabinet secretary, but his other ministers also?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services was following the practice of this government. The practice of this government has been, since elected, to reduce the travel costs, the record travel costs that were set by NDP members opposite, Mr. Speaker. In fact we have cut in half ministerial travel since we took office, versus what members did, Mr. Speaker — cut it in half, apples to apples comparison. We use the same travel reporting that the members opposite used in government. In fact it is the same officials . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh no. It is precisely the same method, and the deputy leader knows it, and it's 50 per cent less than the NDP.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services, in four years, her total travel is \$104,000. In one year of travel, when the member for Athabasca right there was a Social Services minister, \$122,000.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services said she was doing what everyone else was doing, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Premier which I asked and which there was not an answer . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. Has he ordered an investigation into the expenses, Mr. Speaker, of the cabinet secretary, and is he investigating the expenses of the other cabinet ministers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we have looked at the expenses of ministers. That's precisely what I said a couple of answers ago. And we have found these two instances, booked by the same official, and the money's been repaid now quite appropriately by the same official. And when the Minister of Social Services said she was following the practices of government, what she meant I think, Mr. Speaker, is that there's been a 53 per cent reduction in ministerial travel from '12-13 versus '06-07 when they were in office, a 63.5 per cent reduction on exec air use. Those are the government-owned aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, members opposite used them 63 . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the deputy leader, the deputy leader just said because you drive your own vehicle. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I drive my own vehicle to work and back and then back again.

[14:30]

The bottom line is this: apples to apples comparison. And I know this seems to be not sinking into the Leader of the Opposition or members opposite. And he should talk to some of his colleagues who are former cabinet colleagues who also have expenses to be reviewed, Mr. Speaker.

He should consider that under the Saskatchewan Party, ministerial travel is down, Mr. Speaker, by 53 per cent. Mr. Speaker, political staff down, advertising down. Mr. Speaker, we do look after the taxpayers' money, and I think that's why the parties are represented in this room the way they are.

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

Mr. Broten: — When was the Premier informed that it was not a clerical error but in fact the cabinet secretary had signed off on the expense and had deemed it a business lunch?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Clerical error, mistake, we knew this last week. The story is the same. This was a mistake, and it was immediately paid back by the official, not the minister, when it happened.

Let's remember the instances that . . . Let's remember all the facts around this story. The Minister of Social Services had the choice to fly, as per government policy, business class to this conference. She flew economy, Mr. Speaker. She stayed, Mr. Speaker, she stayed with her friends while they were in Ghana, in part to help save money. Mr. Speaker, there is some pattern they're trying to establish that doesn't exist.

The pattern that exists here is that the NDP while in office in their last year spent double what this side of the House has spent in ministerial travel. And it's hard to figure out how they did that because I don't think they actually did go anywhere and promote the province of Saskatchewan. The answer of course comes in a 63.5 per cent increase in the use of the NDP's private taxi, executive air, Mr. Speaker.

That policy has changed on this side. And moreover, we do think we can do better in terms of reporting, better than the process that existed when members opposite were in government, and better admittedly than the process we've used. And that's why we will go to semi-annual disclosure of both ministers and their staff, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to take the trust of taxpayers seriously. We will continue to watch out for taxpayers' dollars. That's what we do on this side of the House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 132 — *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 132 be now introduced and read a first time, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved first reading of Bill No. 132, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 133 — *The Queen's Bench
Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant
la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine***

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 133, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2014* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved first reading of Bill No. 133, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 134 — *The Financial Administration
Amendment Act, 2014***

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 134, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2014* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved first reading of Bill No. 134, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 135 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2014*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 135, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2014* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved first reading of Bill No. 135, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 136 — *The Oil and Gas Conservation
Amendment Act, 2014***

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 136, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2014* be now introduced and read for a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Energy and Resources has moved first reading . . . Well sorry to interrupt. I didn't realize you were talking. The Minister of Energy and Resources has moved first reading of Bill No. 136, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — The next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees this afternoon and this evening, 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 . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I had to assume we weren't ready to adjourn yet. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:38.]

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