



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

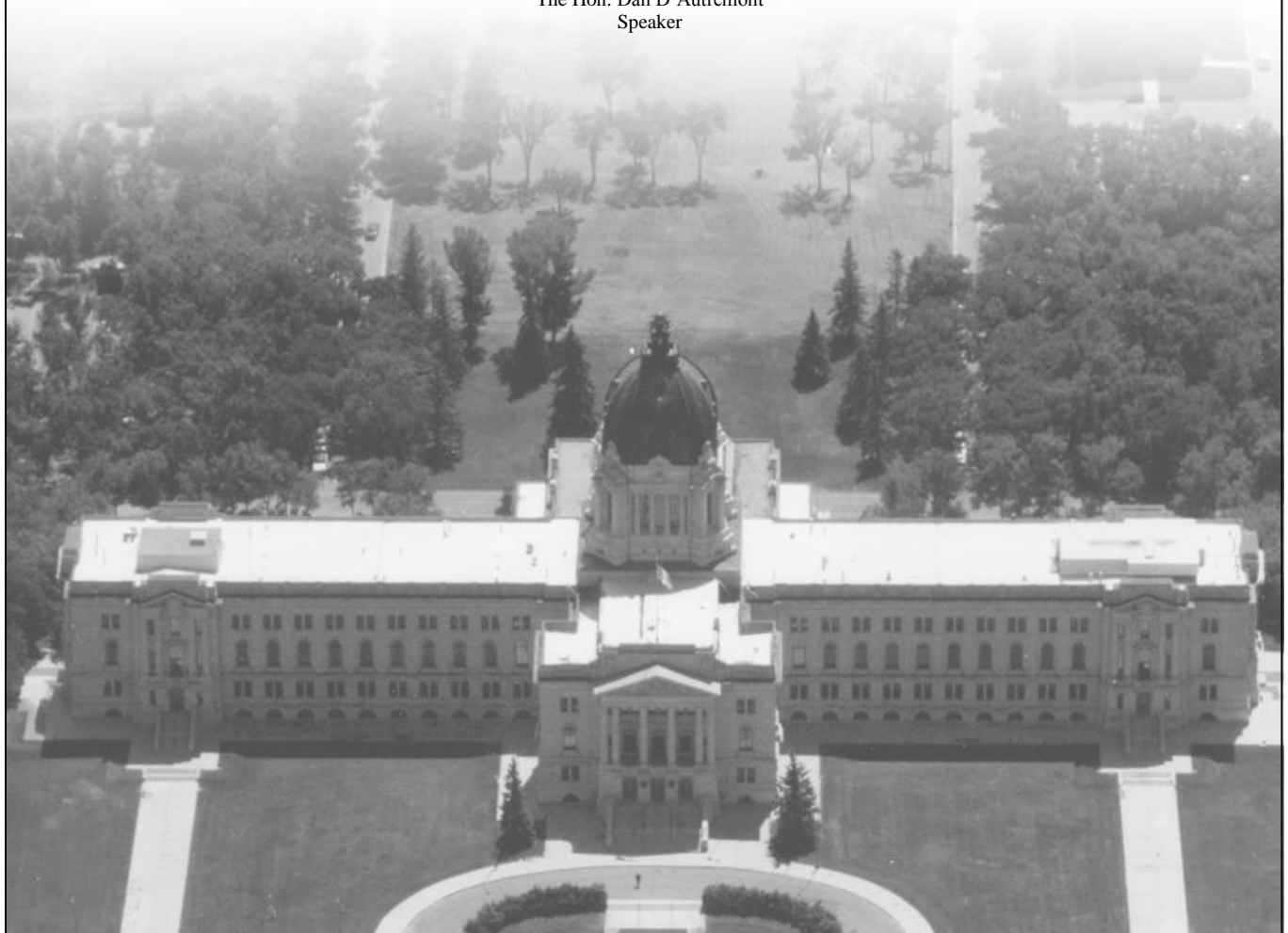
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
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]

## STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

### Ruling on a Point of Order

**The Speaker:** — Yesterday on Tuesday, April the 8th, 2014 the Government House Leader raised a point of order about comments made by the Leader of the Opposition during question period. The Government House Leader stated that the Leader of the Opposition used the term fabrication or fabricated, which he stated was unparliamentary. He quoted from paragraph 489 of Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules & Forms*, 6th Edition, indicating that the term fabrication was unparliamentary as outlined in a debate in the House of Commons on January 27th, 1959 on page 385.

In his response, the Opposition House Leader indicated that the questions asked were in accordance with the rules. After listening to the point of order, I did commit to carefully review the record. I have done this and am now prepared to rule on the matter.

The debate in question can be found on page 5107 of *Hansard*. The Leader of the Opposition stated, and I quote, "... the details in the itinerary don't match up with the documents that are provided in the FOI." And the leader goes on further to state, "So either, Mr. Speaker, the itinerary is wrong, the notes are wrong, or one or both were fabricated by someone."

By rule 51 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, members are not permitted to make personal accusations against another member or others, except by way of a substantive motion. I find that the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition is not directed at a person or a member and, on this basis, I find that the point of order is not well taken.

Before concluding, I would also like to remind members that it is not unparliamentary to criticize statements made by members as being contrary to the facts, and Speakers have always maintained that accuracy of statements made by members is a matter of debate. Members should choose words that are temperate, worthy of the place in which it is spoken, yet achieve politically effective criticisms of policies.

Further, with regard to lists of words or expressions, in Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules & Forms*, 6th Edition, at paragraph 491, states, "No language is, by virtue of any list, acceptable or unacceptable. A word which is parliamentary in one context may cause disorder in another context, and therefore be unparliamentary." Speaker Kowalsky reaffirmed this in a ruling dated April the 12th, 2002.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Policing and Corrections.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce 27 grade 4 students from W.S. Hawrylak School. They are seated in your west gallery, Mr. Speaker. Accompanying them today is their teacher, Bonnie McMurtry; chaperones, Karen Sidhu, Karen Oblinski, and Carolyn Fluter. I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature, 26 grade 5 and 6 students from Lakeview Elementary School who are sitting in the east gallery. They are accompanied by their teacher, Cindy Rice, and a chaperone, Peter Isaac. And I ask all members to welcome them to the legislature. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'm delighted to help welcome students, graduate students, from the Johnson-Shoyama program. It's a joint program between the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina.

We have with us today Tyfanny Amy, Ana Maldonado. We have Ebrahim Hassanpour, Isabel Husid and her husband, Leonardo Husid. We have Mary Koropetska. As well we have Mohammad Mian, Sheryar Nasir, Kingsley Oriuwa, Darcy Overland, and Zixuan Zhao.

Mr. Speaker, these students represent the very best both from across Saskatchewan and around the world. They're here doing their work in public policy so that no matter where their career takes them, they're well prepared to help with public policy, locally and globally.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I will ask all members of this Assembly to welcome these students from the Johnson-Shoyama program. They're here for a dinner tonight, the Tansley Lecture with the Hon. John Manley. I'll ask all members to welcome them to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming these students from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy here to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

They're a bright bunch of people, coming from all over the world and from right here in Saskatchewan to attend the public policy school. I should say as well, Mr. Speaker, that I know that the member from Meadow Lake, the Government House Leader, is a graduate of this school. The member from Regina Walsh Acres is currently a student in this program, as is myself and as the member from Saskatoon Riversdale, so we're trying to see if some of those brains will rub off on the members here.

But it's good to see them. They're here for the Tansley dinner as was recognized by the minister. And I'm also glad to report, Mr. Speaker, that one of my classmates is up there from public finance 802, and she's finished her assignment for tonight so she can go to the dinner in good time. Anyway I join with the minister in welcoming all of these individuals to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce some special guests that are seated in your gallery. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce four individuals, and I'd ask them to give a wave so that we can recognize who you are. First individual is Prabha Vaidyanathan, CEO [chief executive officer] of Certified General Accountants Association of Saskatchewan; Betty Hoffart, CEO of Certified Management Accountants of Saskatchewan; Shelley Thiel, CEO of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan; and Regan Exner, member of the transitional steering committee, CPA [chartered professional accountant] Saskatchewan joint venture.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals have been instrumental in the move to unify Saskatchewan's three accounting professions — CA [chartered accountant], CMA [certified management accountant], and CGA [certified general accountant] — into a single governing body called CPA Saskatchewan. Later today, *The Accounting Profession Act*, the bedrock legislation of CPA Saskatchewan will receive third reading in the House.

Please join me in welcoming these people to their legislature and in recognizing their efforts, along with the accounting profession as a whole, in bringing about this very successful merger.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the minister opposite and welcome these leaders within our accounting profession, leaders within our province, to their Assembly for a very special day for which they've been a big part of. I'd like to thank them for their leadership throughout this process, their engagement directly with the government, their engagement with the opposition to make sure that the changes were well understood, and their engagement in the democratic process with their members.

It's worthy to note that what our three bodies have accomplished by becoming one body is that they're the first body in Canada to do so democratically. Of course Quebec made the shift first, but it was done through legislation, not democratically. And I want to say thank you to each and every one of these leaders from their respective designations for bringing together one body and, I believe, creating a tremendous opportunity for their members and accountants and businesses across Saskatchewan, not only for business in this province but also nationally and internationally. So I ask all members here in this Assembly to welcome these accounting leaders to their Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce somebody that has been introduced here before, a fellow from my home area, Mr. Aaron Nagy. Aaron's, again, he's been here a number of times. He's very active in the community, a very well-known radio personality, very active actually in the Rhein Lions Club where he did a lot of work to help fundraise to cover some of the damages after that big windstorm in that area. So I'd ask all members to welcome Aaron to his Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join my colleague from Lakeview to recognize the Lakeview students that are here today and to especially recognize one young lady. Her name is Zoe Neiser. And Zoe may not know this, but I used to work with her mother — when she was about maybe that high, Mr. Speaker, or maybe even shorter — but I worked alongside of her mother, Vicky, for a number of years. And just to tell her that your mother was a very classy, gracious lady that worked very, very hard, and the fact that she taught me much as a minister. And I want to say to you that I wish you the very best in your future endeavours, and of the three girls, you are now my favourite because I haven't met the other two. But I want to say first of all welcome to your Assembly. I wish you the very best, as I said earlier. And say hello to your mom and to your sisters as well. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member from Yorkton in welcoming a special guest that's in your gallery. So through you and to all members, welcome to Aaron Nagy. And of course, he's a good friend of all working men and women in this province, particularly around the good work he did with Jimmy's law. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming Aaron to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite and the member from Yorkton in welcoming Aaron to the legislature. I remember well last year when we were going through the process of Jimmy's law and recognizing issues of workplace safety, and he was a strong champion for that cause and was clearly somebody that was instrumental in the changes that were made that made late-night workplaces a safer . . . Certainly more work to be done, but I want to recognize and thank him for the work that he's done and welcome him to the legislature today.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of education. And we know that education is one of the most vital services the government provides the citizens. And we know that this government has failed to deliver a long-term plan and vision and the necessary resources to prioritize delivery of educational excellence. And

we know that this government has failed to develop a real plan to close the Aboriginal education gap, to support English as an additional language students, support community schools and their communities and students. And we do know that we must build the best education system for today and for Saskatchewan's future.

Mr. Speaker, I would 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, that builds strong educational infrastructure to serve students and communities long into the future.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do present. Thank you.

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

[13:45]

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents and communities as it relates to the safety or the lack of safety on Dewdney Avenue because of the heavy-haul truck traffic. They call for the rerouting of that heavy-haul truck traffic, and they note that any further delays from that government is entirely unacceptable in addressing an issue and a problem created by that government. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the 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 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 Opposition Whip.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Many northern residents benefited from the rental purchase option program, also known as RPO. These families are very proud homeowners in their communities. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this government stubbornly ignored the call to maintain this program. Instead it cancelled the RPO. That means the dream of home ownership is

destroyed for many families in the North. And the prayer reads:

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

It is signed by many people of this good province. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again we stand today to present petitions in reference to highway work needed throughout the province of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition on Highway 908, the highway that serves the community of Ile-a-la-Crosse. And, Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

They respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to commit to repairing and upgrading Highway 908.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this particular page of the petition 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 today to present a petition for real action on climate change. And the residents who have signed this from the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada and that Saskatchewan's emissions have continued to grow to 74 million megatonnes and show no signs of decreasing, but slashing programs such as the Go Green Fund and the EnerGuide for Houses energy efficient program have 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 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.

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

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Wood River.

### 97th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ninety-seven years ago on this date the first wave of Canadian soldiers began their march through snow, barbed wire, and machine-gun fire to begin the assault which would capture Vimy Ridge. Into the battle went all four Canadian divisions, including four battalions recruited from Saskatchewan. Out of the battle arose a new nation, a Canada that would stand on its own capabilities internationally and take its place as a champion of freedom.

The Canadian Corps, alongside their counterparts, captured more ground than any previous British offensive in the war, yet it came at a haunting cost — 3,598 would die among over 10,000 Canadian casualties, including Private William Johnstone Milne, a farmer from Moose Jaw awarded the Victoria Cross after capturing two German guns. And in the words of his citation, having “undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades.”

Today the legacy of Private Milne and all soldiers of Vimy Ridge lives on in our Charter, in our Human Rights Code, and in every piece of legislation which sees debate in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the sacrifice of our soldiers must never be forgotten. Let us celebrate their bequest by appreciating the freedoms they won and recommitting ourselves to peace and the rule of international law. I invite all members to join me in commemorating the battle of Vimy Ridge and all for which it stands. Lest we forget.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member has noted, today marks the 97th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. On this day each year, Canadians commemorate one of the most important military efforts in Canadian history. Indeed the battlefield of Vimy Ridge has been heralded as the birthplace in blood and fire of Canada as a nation.

For us here today, it is hard to imagine the loss. The battle led to over 10,000 casualties, with 3,598 Canadian soldiers killed in action. The sacrifice, the determination, and the courage of Canadian troops as they put their lives on the line at Vimy Ridge cannot, must not be forgotten. We must remember those Canadian whose bravery contributed to the quality of life, to the democracy, to the freedom we enjoy today.

This is part of our history that is too important to be overlooked, and I know we are all thankful for the efforts of the Vimy Foundation which has been at the heart of commemorative efforts. By educating the next generation, they have been fighting to ensure the preservation of the legacy and the importance of the Canadian record at Vimy Ridge and in the First World War.

And as we turn our minds to the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War, it is good to see the provincial government match the Saskatchewan War Memorial Foundation’s fundraising efforts to have 1,200 more Saskatchewan veterans properly recognized at the Saskatchewan War Memorial, allowing us to more fully pay

and honour the immense debt of gratitude that is owed.

On a day such as this we do well to remember the challenge from John McCrae to not break faith with those who have died. And especially on a day like today we must heed the call from McCrae that it is up to each generation to:

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.

Mr. Speaker, for those who paid that terrible price for our freedom, and for our Canada, at Vimy Ridge and beyond, we will hold that torch high. We will remember.

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

### Day of Pink

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House to recognize today as Day of Pink, which is the international day against bullying. Our government is proud to team up with Canadian Red Cross to proclaim Day of Pink in Saskatchewan. More than 20,000 Saskatchewan residents will be wearing pink today to help raise awareness about the adverse effect of bullying so that we can all stand against it.

Mr. Speaker, around 250 Girl Guides from around Regina and in Regina will be marching to the legislative building tonight wearing pink to support the anti-bullying movement. Today we join the Girl Guides and many other groups across Saskatchewan to break the silence by standing up with the victims of bullying and by letting all bullies know that their actions will not be tolerated.

Mr. Speaker, in November 2013, our government released an action plan to address bullying and cyberbullying in schools, in communities, and online. Our 2014-2015 budget also allocated 815,000 in funding to further support the recommendations of the action plan. Mr. Speaker, we believe that all children should have the safe, respectful environment to grow up in where bullying will not be tolerated.

I ask all members to join me in supporting Day of Pink by wearing something pink today and standing up against bullying. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, Red Cross Day of Pink is an opportunity for Canadians to rally together in solidarity with all those who face bullying, recognizing the resulting hurt and tragedy. We’re proud to see this issue represented in our legislature here today. It’s simply unacceptable that children are at risk of violence and abuse in their schools and communities.

Today is a day to make a stand and refuse to allow this violence in our communities to continue. No form of abuse is acceptable, Mr. Speaker, and this campaign highlights that fact by rallying people of all ages to wear pink for the cause. We are proud to see how this campaign has taken hold in the province, involving over 20,000 youth from across the province last year.

For many this campaign provides much needed support, and the Red Cross has played a vital role in creating these supportive networks and working within communities year-round. Quite simply, we couldn't be more thankful.

Though many of us have done a part by wearing something pink, the goals undercutting this initiative run much deeper. Fighting bullying of all forms, including transphobia and homophobia, requires a firm commitment and actions every day. Though likely the most serious one affecting our youth, this type of abuse is unacceptable at work and in our communities. If we create intolerance for bullying in all spheres, it goes a long way to changing the culture and helps to create safe spaces.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all members to join with me in recognizing the importance of the Red Cross Day of Pink and to show solidarity by taking a stand against bullying and abuse every day.

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

#### **Prince Albert Mintos Win Final**

**Mr. Hickie:** — Carlton, but that's okay, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Sunday the Prince Albert AAA Mintos celebrated a dramatic 4-3 triumph over the Notre Dame Argos in the western regional midget AAA qualifying final game at the Art Hauser Centre. The win extended the team's season as they are now off to Moose Jaw for the Telus Cup National Championship which is scheduled to begin on April 21st.

Mr. Speaker, it was one of the best games played at the Art Hauser Centre this year by any team at any level. The Mintos came out and played their absolute best hockey for 60 minutes straight. Backed by a hometown crowd of 2,000 fans, P.A. [Prince Albert] got the game going early with a breakaway goal from Lance Yaremchuk. Early in the second, the Mintos upped their score again with Dakota Boutin scoring on an open net.

Notre Dame's Dillon Dube and Chance Longjohn got the Argos back on even terms before the end of the second period, setting the stage for a thrilling final 20 minutes. Both teams exchanged goals early in the third, but the Mintos came up on top with a game-winning goal from their captain, Teal Sobkowicz. It was a terrific game and one everyone in attendance is sure to remember for a long time.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the parents, coaches, trainers, and other support staff who helped make it all possible, Mr. Speaker. And in closing, I'd like to congratulate the Prince Albert Mintos on their huge win and wish them all the very best at the Telus Cup in Moose Jaw. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

#### **Premier's Commendation Award Winners**

**Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you. Yesterday the first Saskatchewan Premier's Commendation Awards were

presented to eight Saskatchewan citizens who have served their province or communities and often complete strangers. The recipients demonstrated extraordinary acts of bravery and dedicated public service putting their own well-being behind the lives and comfort of others. The order was created to acknowledge exemplary service or actions of Saskatchewan residents.

The 2014 award recipients are, Luther High School in Regina for their heroic actions in the 2008 hostage incident; Constable Steve Enns of Estevan who saved four people from a house fire in 2012; Devin Knot and Brett Opikokew of Meadow Lake and Joshua Lasas of Flying Dust First Nation who together helped rescue a family of four from a submerged vehicle; Duane McKay of Regina for his work in the provincial flooding response in 2010 and '11; Shelley Baldwin of Oxbow who has made more than 4,700 dresses for children in developing countries; and Dwight Siman, a constituent of mine here in Regina, who rescued a man from a burning vehicle last year.

These citizens are heroes, Mr. Speaker, and we're so fortunate to have them in our province. So I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating all eight recipients of the Premier's Commendation Award, and thank them for all they have done to make Saskatchewan a better place for everyone. Thank you.

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

#### **Student Rally for Red Cross Day of Pink**

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, today I had the great opportunity to attend the student rally for Red Cross Day of Pink in Moose Jaw.

This rally, which was hosted by RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] and K+S Potash, brought together over 400 students from both the Prairie South School Division and the Holy Trinity Catholic School Division to bring awareness about the impacts of bullying.

Guest speakers Travis Price, co-founder of Pink Shirt Day, and Miranda Biletski, a Canadian wheelchair rugby player and RBC Olympian, spoke about their stories and personal experiences with bullying. This event also included several photo booths, with props for students to take their pictures and share their own anti-bullying messages. The student rally for Red Cross Day of Pink also took place in other areas of Saskatchewan, including Regina and Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, many of the students are already doing their part to stand up against bullying. Vanier Collegiate has a Students4Action group which provides peer support to students who are victims of bullying, while also educating other schools about the impact of bullying. The Prairie South School Division is also participating in a new initiative called the Partners Against Violence "Be Someone" campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to congratulate these students on their efforts to eliminate bullying, and thank RBC and K+S for hosting the student rally for Red Cross Day of Pink. Thank you.

[14:00]

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Seniors' and Long-Term Care

**Mr. Broten:** — One year ago today, Carrie Klassen came to the legislature with significant concerns about seniors' care. Carrie's mom was in the Sunset facility, and at the time she had written to the Health minister about her concerns. His dismissive response was not acceptable to her, so she came to the legislature, Mr. Speaker, and helped put seniors' care on the public agenda in a very big way. Carrie's concerns included, Mr. Speaker, residents falling, being left unattended on toilets for hours, calls for help going largely unresponded to, and seniors not even receiving regular baths.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Carrie is back here today, one year later, because seniors' care hasn't improved in Saskatchewan. She's seen a fair bit of talk from this government, Mr. Speaker, but not much action. And she's seen this government, Mr. Speaker, continue to neglect the basics in seniors' care. My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Premier: what does he have to say to Carrie today?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly over the last year there has been a great deal of attention put to seniors' care and long-term care, but as well as the entire continuum of care for seniors within Saskatchewan. Based on what took place a year ago and some of the feedback that we'd been receiving from individuals from across Saskatchewan, that's what initiated a CEO tour of every single facility, all 156 facilities. That had not been done to this point. It resulted in a survey that family and resident councils could produce directly to the Minister of Health, which had not been put in place before. It also did include an in-year investment, an unprecedented investment into long-term care, of \$10.04 million, Mr. Speaker.

Those dollars have been forwarded to the health regions. We are coming to the end of the reporting period which we've asked the health regions to report back. I can say to date we've had, through that experience, over 700 new pieces of equipment that were not in place in long-term care. And what we've said is that after that investment is received and completed, that we would evaluate it after that point.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, at the root of Carrie's concerns is this government's removal of minimum quality of care standards, its refusal to ensure appropriate staffing levels, and its failure to actually address the basics when it comes to seniors' care. And Carrie is not alone, Mr. Speaker. Lynne Seabourne is back here today as well. She came to the legislature last May with concerns about her husband Adrian's care.

Carrie and Lynne are frustrated because they've seen so little

real action from this government — a fair bit of talk, but not much action. Even after the CEO tour that the minister brags about, Mr. Speaker, when all the facilities put forward their urgent requests, this government rejected \$8.5 million in urgent requests. So it's no wonder why Carrie and Lynne are back here at the legislature today because this government, this government is still not taking seniors' care seriously. My question to the Premier: what will it take for him to take it seriously and actually fix the basics in seniors' care?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we do take this issue very seriously. That's why we announced a series of initiatives focused specifically on long-term care. As I mentioned before, the 10.04 million, I can tell members of the House that for instance, Regina Qu'Appelle, of those dollars, received \$2.2 million. They are in the process of implementing what those dollars would be used to pay for. Some of that is on equipment, and particularly around food because one of the challenges, with particularly Sunset, was some concerns around food preparation and food, the different choices. And so that is rolling out now. And we'll see the results of that and the effect that it has had on residents.

But I think more importantly the training that's going to be provided to the staff, knowing that we have increased staff in long-term care by 750 full-time equivalents in the last seven years, but they do need additional training. So Regina Qu'Appelle specifically received dollars to provide training for gentle persuasion approaches, as well as purposeful rounding. That's being implemented and I think we'll see some positive benefits from that as well.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, Don Gunderson joined us earlier on this week because he had concerns about his wife's care here in Regina, and to the minister's credit he met with Don yesterday. But Don was not satisfied, Mr. Speaker, with what the minister had to say. Like Carrie and Lynne, Don wants this government to stop making excuses and to re-establish minimum care standards. He thinks this government's excuse that it can't have minimum care standards because it wants to deliver individualized care is complete nonsense.

First of all, minimum care standards don't preclude individualized care. But even more importantly, right now this government is not delivering individualized care. Not even close. My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: when will this government, when will they stop making excuses? When will they re-establish proper minimum care standards?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to put on the record, as I have in the past, that we do in fact have minimum care standards within the long-term care system. It's a 193-page document that outlines clearly the roles and responsibilities of the long-term care facilities around the personalized care that residents should be able to expect, Mr. Speaker. Certainly that is the case.



What we do not have, what we have removed, went back to the 1950s which identified the hours of care or, in some cases, the 20 minutes per day of care that some residents would receive.

We think that this is a more appropriate way to provide care to those residents. We also think that — and I'm pleased that my colleagues had agreed — that we do need some additional dollars. That's why \$10 million was identified in mid-year last year, why we've also included \$3.7 million in ongoing funding that will provide for staff in some cases and, as well, nearly \$4 million in equipment in this new budget that will go directly into long-term care.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, this government removed from the regulations the baseline, the minimum care that families and residents could expect, Mr. Speaker. They go on about individualized care but if we listen to the families that are coming forward, individualized care is not occurring.

What the Premier and the Health minister need to realize, Mr. Speaker, is that these are not isolated incidents. These represent many families who are struggling and whose loved ones do not have the quality of care that they deserve. And the government's inaction over the last year is unacceptable. Individualized care is not happening. The basic needs are not being met.

We keep hearing, Mr. Speaker, about short-staffing that sometimes means three workers are looking after 80 residents. That's absolutely appalling, Mr. Speaker. That's why people like Carrie, Lynne, and Don are passionate advocates for their loved ones and the many other seniors who are not receiving the care that they deserve here in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan seniors, Mr. Speaker, deserve so much better.

My question to the Premier: why is his government stubbornly dismissing the need for minimum care standards when it comes to seniors' care here in Saskatchewan?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I do want to . . . As I've said before in the past in this Chamber and outside the Chamber, we do have minimum care standards. I would refer the Leader of the Opposition to the *Program Guidelines for Special-care Homes*, 193-page document that is readily available on our website where it says, and I quote, "The standards set out within this manual are considered minimum standards, and must be adhered to."

Mr. Speaker, what we have done over the last nearly seven years as government, we have increased, I think significantly, the level of employment, the level of care workers within long-term care, 750 full-time equivalents, knowing that the number of residents hasn't changed much in that period, still roughly 8,700 residents. We know, Mr. Speaker, in some cases, particularly with those that have been diagnosed with dementia and other types of dementia-related diseases, that we do need some additional training like the gentle persuasion. We think that that will be helpful for those residents and for those staff members. And Regina is also implementing purposeful

rounding hours. That will also be, I think, a benefit. But the dollars have just been invested and it's going to take some . . .

**The Speaker:** — Next question. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, there used to be two-hour guarantee per resident per day of care. This government, Mr. Speaker, removed that. We know the member from Melfort, Mr. Speaker, said 10 minutes of care was good. So we have a little bit of understanding how members on that side, Mr. Speaker, think the quality of care that seniors can expect, what level that should be at. What's especially frustrating for people like Carrie, like Lynne, and like Don, Mr. Speaker, is that this government is more focused on its shiny pet projects as opposed to actually fixing the basics in seniors' care.

This government hasn't met a fat cheque that they're willing to sign . . . that they're not willing to sign for lean, Mr. Speaker: \$40 million going to one US [United States] consultant; \$17 million last year for kaizen promotion offices; \$3,500 a day, Mr. Speaker, for Japanese senseis; and untold millions for health care workers to take training, Mr. Speaker, where they learn Japanese words and where they learn how to fold paper airplanes. This is where the priorities lie with members opposite as opposed to actually fixing the basics.

My question to the Premier: when will his government admit that there's a crisis, focus on the basics, and take real action as opposed to being focused on their shiny lean pet project?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, had he read . . . First of all, the Leader of the Opposition, had he read the member from Melfort's reply to the budget would have known that the member was referring to his own parents' experience. It wasn't an across-the-board type of characterization of what is happening everywhere in long-term care. It was specific to his own parents' situation, and it was an egregious mischaracterization by the Leader of the Opposition.

On the second point, in terms of the two hours that the members opposite are speaking about and the Leader of the Opposition is speaking about, Mr. Speaker, the ministry did have the ability to conduct inspections to see whether or not those standards were being adhered to by the regional health authorities and individual long-term care facilities. However, Mr. Speaker, the ability for those inspections to be authorized by the Ministry of Health, that legislation was repealed in 2002 under the member from Regina Lakeview.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — The minister should read the remarks, the full speech from the member of Melfort, and clearly will see that he's talking about what seniors should be able to expect here in Saskatchewan.

Carrie Klassen knows especially how ridiculous this government's fascination is with its lean pet project. Carrie was actually invited to attend the engagement session for family

members of people in long-term care back in December. She says the so-called engagement session, run by John Black and Associates, by the way, was more about promoting lean than it was about actually listening to people and actually listening to front-line health care workers and listening to families. So this government, Mr. Speaker, does not have a focus on the basics. And even when it's supposedly engaging with patients, with family members, Mr. Speaker, it's far more concerned with promoting its lean pet project than actually taking the steps that are required to give seniors in this province the dignity and the care that they deserve.

My question is to the Premier: how on earth is this approach acceptable?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear to the Leader of the Opposition. If he had not read the member from Melfort . . . And I think it in all fairness to the member from Melfort, this is what he said:

Mom and dad moved into a care home. I believe seven years ago they moved into a care home. And if somebody had told them at that time that they were going to spend two hours a day looking after mom and dad, I know how it would have gone. It would have gone five minutes of how are you doing this morning, Mary, Wes? How are you doing? And it would have been five minutes at night, the same thing. It would have been an hour and 50 minutes of mom saying, get away from me. I don't need it. Stay away. You know, because you have a two-hour minimum. Now unfortunately, Mom needs more help and she gets it, well over two hours a day.

That's what the member from Melfort was saying. He was speaking specifically about his own parents, and I think that was an egregious mischaracterization by the Leader of the Opposition.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

### Highway No. 123

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This government keeps ignoring northern . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This government keeps ignoring northern roads. Two days ago, students and staff from Cumberland House School were on Highway 123 and they were stuck because, according to the vice-principal, and I quote, "The road was in horrid condition. It's about 18 inches of mud."

My colleague, the member from Cumberland, has stood in this Assembly repeatedly to demand that this government properly repair and maintain Highway 123 to Cumberland House. But this government has failed to get the job done.

So once again to the Highways minister: why won't this government take the problem on Highway 123 and fix it and take the whole issue of safety seriously, Mr. Speaker?

[14:15]

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're very aware of the issue on 123 and the recent issue around the school bus. Mr. Speaker, if you look back on last year on 123, we put a little over \$2 million in. That road going into Cumberland House has a lot of water on each side. There are lower parts. We were able to elevate that grade, Mr. Speaker, \$2 million last year.

The work didn't get completed. There'll be \$1 million going in this year, Mr. Speaker. In fact where the bus was stuck was right where the construction needs to start. The contractor was up there as of Monday, Mr. Speaker. The road has been fixed up. There's more work to be done. There needs to be grade elevations, Mr. Speaker.

It's unfortunate that that incident happened, but having said that, Mr. Speaker, this government has acted on 123. We've put at least \$3 million into that road after this year as well as continual maintenance from the people from Cumberland House, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are acting on northern Saskatchewan.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the vice-principal says the roads are now worse than ever, worse than ever. And he says, "Nobody in their right mind in Saskatchewan would drive on that highway." And, Mr. Speaker, I would rather take the vice-principal's words on the condition of that highway any day of the week over the minister's rhetoric, Mr. Speaker. People are tired of this and they're angry because this is not only a major safety concern, Mr. Speaker, but it's also a problem for ambulances that need to respond to emergencies in that particular community.

So once again to the Highways minister: why won't this government take the problem on Highway 123 seriously and do something substantial to fix the problem once and for all?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity of spending a little over a day in Cumberland House and meeting with the mayor and council of Cumberland House, also the band council for the Cumberland House Cree Nation. I drove 123. We went on a long drive down 123, Mr. Speaker. We knew that there is more work to be done and that they are very appreciative of the work that we had done. And there is more work to be done.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to quote from a letter that we received on February 14th:

On behalf of the Northern Village Council and the citizens of Cumberland House, we hereby express our deepest appreciation for the work that you have been doing to maintain highway 123 and the shortcut to The Pas, Manitoba this winter season. We applaud your hard work and dedication and that has kept this community safe during travels on these highways.

Signed by the mayor, Valerie Deschambeault, Mr. Speaker. We do take these issues seriously. That's why we put money into this road.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, to make matters worse for the students stuck in 18 inches of mud on Highway 123 — 18 inches of mud — they had no cell service in that area, so students were forced to use a piece of cardboard and some lipstick to make a sign to signal for help. That's what's happening to the students on the road to Cumberland House, Mr. Speaker.

It's the oldest community in Western Canada, a very proud community, and all these people want, all the people of Cumberland House want are safe and dependable roads to travel on, for their children to travel on, Mr. Speaker. But this government keeps failing to get the job done. So once again to the minister: when will your government finally make Highway 123 a real priority and make a substantial commitment to that highway? When will he do that?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I've answered the question regarding 123. I've met with the council and the Cree Nation, Mr. Speaker. We've invested money.

Mr. Speaker, I think what we do have to do though is look at an overall record of spending in the North under this government over our past four years . . . seven years, I should say, compared to the seven years previous when that member had a short stay as the Highways minister. Mr. Speaker, spending is up approximately \$60 million, comparing their seven years to our seven years. That's an increase of 30 per cent, Mr. Speaker, in northern Saskatchewan. So we have worked hard to address those issues. Yes, there is more to do. I certainly saw that when I was on the tour.

But I find it really interesting, Mr. Speaker. I spent Monday evening in committee for three and a half hours, Mr. Speaker, and that member opposite, the Highways critic, Mr. Speaker, after three and a half hours didn't ask one question on a highway south of the northern authority, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely shameful. It shows the absolute lack of respect for rural Saskatchewan when they don't even have one highway in southern Saskatchewan they have a concern about.

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

#### Travel Expenses

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, we've asked a lot of questions

over the last week over the actions and the expenses of the Minister of Social Services and the Deputy Premier, but we haven't received many answers. And yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we saw the Premier rummaging through decades-old files and slinging unfounded accusations. Now I don't know, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier bothered to pick up the phone and talk to the former premier, former legislator, and former government officials before he threw around the accusations. But I've contacted them, and they say the Premier's claims are inaccurate and that they paid any personal aspects in cash upfront.

But the fact, Mr. Speaker, we have had to push so hard to get any answers on the actions of the Minister of Social Services and the Deputy Premier, combined with the Premier's ridiculous antics yesterday, Mr. Speaker, underscores the need for an independent review of ministerial expenses and the cabinet secretary's expenses. My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: will he commit to an independent review today?

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that Mr. Cline has indicated that he paid back his June tour through Paris by himself. But what remains outstanding, Mr. Speaker, is the outstanding bill for \$1,900 for a car service while these gentlemen were in Paris for five meetings over the course of three days. That remains outstanding. That has been covered by the taxpayer, Mr. Speaker.

And I would ask the member opposite why a car service in London was completely unacceptable but a car service for the NDP [New Democratic Party] in Paris is completely acceptable. And, Mr. Speaker, we don't agree that the car service was acceptable for our members, and that's why it has been returned to the taxpayers of this province. And that is exactly why, Mr. Speaker, we are implementing an open and accountable process for listing government travel, purpose of the trip, the value of the trip, the cost of the trip, and staff members' costs that go along with that, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, if they have a new-found belief in being open and accountable and transparent, then there should be no problem with committing to an independent review of ministerial expenses and that of the cabinet secretary. I'm pleased that we will see some changes in reporting, Mr. Speaker, in October, but that's not good enough. We've been asking questions on this for a week, Mr. Speaker. We've received very few answers. And as the truth, Mr. Speaker, has slowly trickled out, it's only after many questions, after much digging, and after much pushing.

We know about two significant expense problems with the current ministers, both occurred in just one month, last June. And the Premier wants us to believe, Mr. Speaker, that he's reviewed the last seven years of his ministers' expenses and there's nothing else to see. He wants us to believe that the only problems that occurred were two incidents back in June. Well Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, have a tough time believing that. So to the Premier: will he commit to an independent review today?

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our Premier was very clear when the people of this province gave us the honour of forming government in 2007 that when mistakes happened . . . And, Mr. Speaker, mistakes will happen. We're people. Mistakes will happen. But when those mistakes happen, we will acknowledge those mistakes and take steps to make sure that those mistakes don't happen in the future, Mr. Speaker. And that's exactly what our government has done. There were incorrect expenses that were paid for by the taxpayers of this province and those have been repaid. That is the right thing to do, Mr. Speaker.

But I would point out to the member opposite, if he wants to worry about somebody's attitude, in 1997, and I quote from *The StarPhoenix* article and it says, "Economic development minister Dwain Lingenfelter says there is no need to force cabinet ministers to prepare a report outlining the costs and benefits of any trips they take overseas."

Mr. Speaker, that's the same old NDP attitude that we saw for years. There's a reason why the NDP are sitting over there with nine members, Mr. Speaker, because this is their attitude when it comes to taxpayers' money in our province, and I would commit, Mr. Speaker, that it is still their attitude considering they're defending a car service in Paris.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — 1997, Mr. Speaker: what a sad commentary that this Premier, that this Premier would give the Saskatchewan legislature our very own Paul Calandra, Mr. Speaker, as they try to deflect.

We know, Mr. Speaker, a lot more than simply the unnecessary limo expenses. We know, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Social Services spent \$19,000 on a trip that even self-described conservative commentators are saying looks like a personal trip that was made up, Mr. Speaker, going with a family member and a friend with a little bit of work sprinkled in, in order to give the bill to taxpayers. And we haven't received proper answers on that, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people deserve better answers about the minister's trip to Ghana. They deserve better answers, Mr. Speaker, on knowing how their tax dollars were used.

The independent review, Mr. Speaker, should at least cover the current ministers because we have two very glaring examples of problems going back into June. But, Mr. Speaker, it can go back to 1991. Mr. Speaker, if the Premier wants it to go back to 1982, that is fine. My question to the Premier: will he agree to an independent review of ministers' expenses today?

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

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I have stated already this afternoon, we recognize that mistakes were made, that there were incorrect expenses that were billed to the taxpayers of this province. We acknowledge that, Mr. Speaker, and we have repaid those. And we are taking further steps when it comes to openness and accountability to make sure that the taxpayers of this province know on a biannual basis what the

cost of a trip was, what the value of a trip was.

Mr. Speaker, I will not apologize for international travel that this government takes. We have travelled the world selling Saskatchewan's story, and we have seen the benefits of that travel, Mr. Speaker. We have increased investment. We have more people coming here all the time. We have professionals coming to our province every single year, Mr. Speaker. Our population is through the roof compared to what we would ever, have ever expected under the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, these trips have value. And while the NDP can have the sad, old NDP attitude and not want to celebrate our success, Mr. Speaker, that will not be our attitude on this side of the House.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

### Western Livestock Price Insurance Program

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I was joined by representatives of the Saskatchewan livestock industry to make an important announcement about livestock price insurance in the province.

The livestock industry is a vital part of our agriculture industry and our economy, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we've made livestock producers a priority for our government. It's also a key part of our Saskatchewan plan for growth.

Livestock producers have been faced with challenges over the past few years. They have seen ups and downs in the markets due to circumstances far beyond their control. Mr. Speaker. For years I've been hearing from livestock producers about the risks and challenges of marketing cattle and hogs, and I've experienced the same thing myself.

After listening to producers, we collaborated with the federal government and the four Western provinces to create a Western Canada model for livestock price insurance. This past January I joined Western Canadian provincial agriculture ministers and the federal agriculture minister to announce Western livestock price insurance would be available this spring for cattle and hog producers in Western Canada. Since that time we've been working to get the program up and running for Saskatchewan producers.

Today I was pleased to announce Saskatchewan hog and cattle producers can now apply for insurance and purchase policies through the Western livestock price insurance program. This is the first time a program like this has been available to producers in Saskatchewan. The program insures producers against an unexpected drop in price over a defined period of time and is market driven. Producers can purchase price insurance options for their calves, fed cattle, feeder cattle, and hogs. In Saskatchewan the program will be delivered through Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

To access the program, producers can contact their local crop insurance office. Livestock price insurance is a cost-effective option for Saskatchewan producers and we encourage producers

to learn more about this new business risk management tool. This program will help to grow our industry and attract new, young producers to it. It will also create a level playing field for all producers in Western Canada. Mr. Speaker, this is a significant initiative for our industry and will benefit the cattle and hog producers for years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the minister for providing his comments in advance. I also would like to commend the Western prairie provinces for putting together this livestock price insurance program. It's certainly something that we've been calling for. And given the risks that the livestock producers have been going through in the last, many years, Mr. Speaker, it's this type of business risk management tool that's appropriate. And it's something that we are pleased to see the Western prairie provinces co-operating on and certainly working hard with the federal level of government to ensure that producers have access to this type of risk management tool at their fingertips.

So certainly we want to see anything that can help producers move forward and have sort of that level playing field that the minister referred to to help them when they're making their business decisions and to grow their own, produce their herds, Mr. Speaker.

So by and large, we're pleased to see this program being introduced finally for the producers, and we look forward to them being able to access this important tool. Thank you.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the chairman for the Crown and Central Agencies Committee.

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 112, *The Accounting Profession Act* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be heard in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to waive Committee of the Whole.

Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 112 — *The Accounting Profession Act*

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 112, *The Accounting Profession 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.

**Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committee this afternoon, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — We should have waited for orders of the day. Sorry. Orders of the day. Why is the Leader of the Opposition on his feet?

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, to seek leave under rule 61 to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. I've already outlined the issue in question period with regard to concerns related to the travel expenses of current cabinet ministers and their delegations.

This Assembly should request that the Provincial Auditor undertake an investigation. We should allow the Auditor to determine the parameters . . .

**The Speaker:** — Under rule 51, a member is to request leave by giving a very short introduction — very short — without debating points of what the motion is, and the context, the text of the motion. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

#### MOTION UNDER RULE 61

##### Investigation of Travel Expenses

**Mr. Broten:** — We should allow the auditor to do an investigation, to make recommendations on necessary changes, and to allow proper public reporting. If there is unanimous consent to do so, I'd be prepared to move a motion to that effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Leave is not granted. Orders of the day. I

recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees this afternoon, 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 14:35.]

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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**

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Water Security Agency  
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**Hon. Kevin Doherty**

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**Hon. Dustin Duncan**

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Government Insurance  
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**Hon. Nancy Heppner**

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

**Hon. Ken Krawetz**

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Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

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Telecommunications  
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Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan  
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