



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

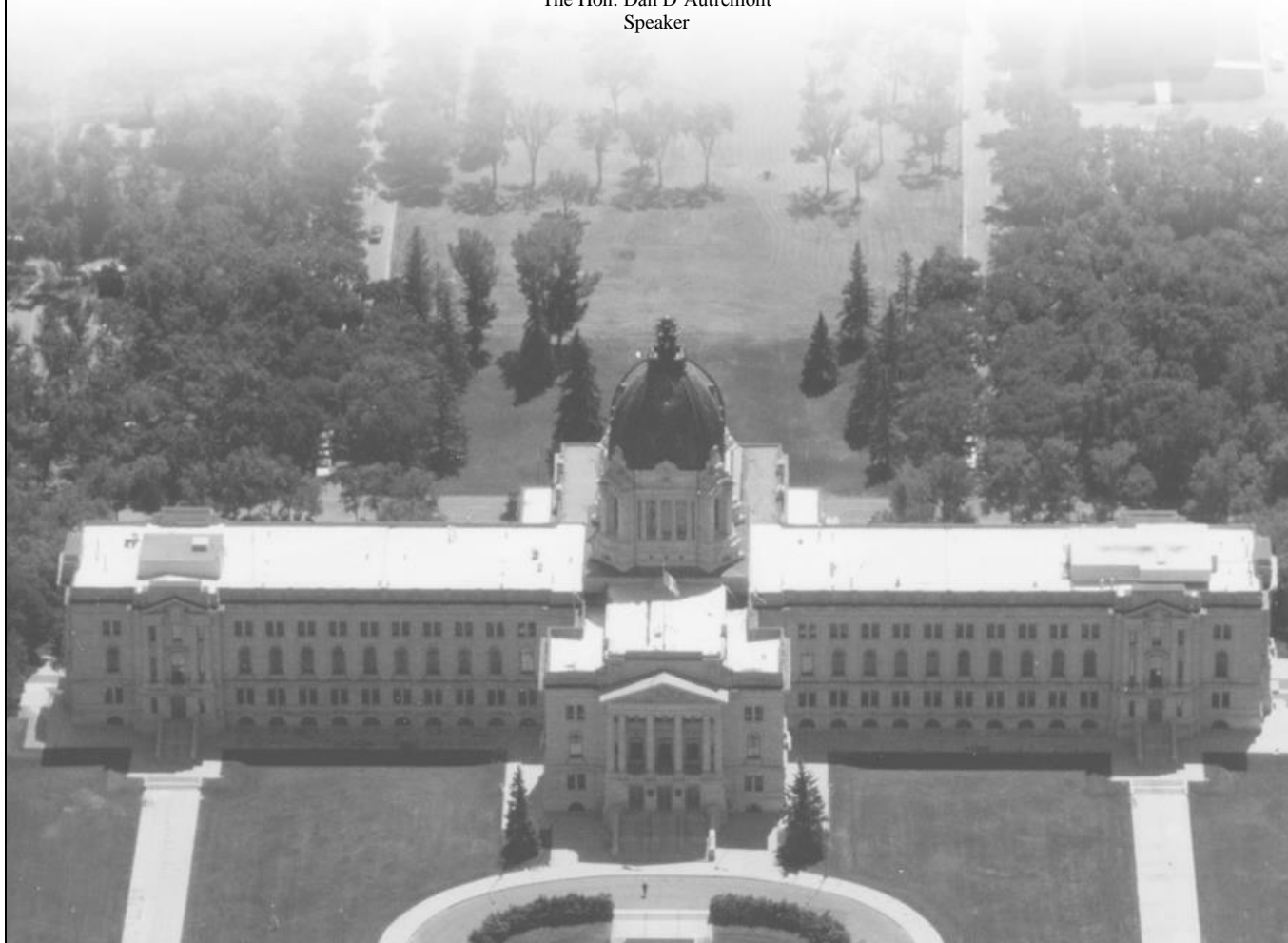
of the

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
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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]

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — I wish to table the report from the Advocate for Children and Youth.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be asking for leave for an extended introduction, but I understand you may also want to proceed in advance of any of the other members of the House, something to which we would be happy to agree.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave for an extended introduction, with the Speaker starting off. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my pleasure to bring to your attention that seated within this Chamber are a number of special guests. We are pleased to have with us today some of Saskatchewan's Olympians, Paralympians, coaches, and officials from the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics and paraplegic games. By leave of the Assembly, I call upon the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for remarks, and then I will recognize the members of the Assembly as they introduce their constituents. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I clearly didn't make it to the podium with that particular effort on procedure this morning, but you, sir, would have received the gold medal. So we thank you for that introduction this morning.

Mr. Speaker, the best days here at our Legislative Assembly happen when the very best of the province of Saskatchewan, our values and our greatest resource, our people, are on full display at the Legislative Assembly. We politicians do not always rise to that task or measure. But the people of the province always do, and we have had the occasion again this spring to honour Saskatchewan volunteers, to honour those who are everyday heroes.

And today is no exception, Mr. Speaker, to that rule of Saskatchewan people offering to this Assembly what is best about our province because this morning we were able to honour the Olympians, the Canadian Olympians who hail from the province of Saskatchewan. There were 19 Saskatchewan-born, Saskatchewan-raised athletes who made the national team. As I mentioned outside in the rotunda, that's about 7 per cent of the Canadian team when we actually only constitute 3 per cent of the Canadian population. So again we thank the athletes for ensuring that Saskatchewan was punching above its weight even in a national effort.

But also joining us today . . . And, Mr. Speaker, we have the athletes themselves are on the floor of the House. It's nice to see we finally have the right McMorris on the floor of the Legislative Assembly today. We have the athletes that are here today, but very, very importantly we also have family members and friends. We have coaches with us today. We have those who have helped to make dreams come true and help these athletes on their amazing journey.

Mr. Speaker, they did represent us with such great class and energy and enthusiasm. They made us all very proud to be Canadian but also very proud to be from Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It was true at the Olympic Games in Sochi. It was true at the Paralympic Games in Sochi, Mr. Speaker.

And they will all be introduced individually by their respective members of the House, but again as we did this morning earlier in the rotunda, I just want to say to all of them, through you, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for your example, for those that you've inspired, including everyone in this building and those beyond the walls of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you for representing us as you did. I know many are going to continue their Olympic dreams and journeys and maybe some are going to . . . Colette might take a bit of a break from an amazing Olympic career.

But we want to thank each and every one of you. To the coaches and the volunteers and the officials, thank you as well for your representation of the province. And to the members of the families here that are also represented, thank you for the support that you gave that facilitated literally dreams to come true, the province to be represented, and Canada to be represented at the highest level and the biggest stage in sports in the world. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming this amazing delegation to the Assembly today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the Premier on behalf of the official opposition in extending a thank you to the Olympians and the entire Team Canada that's here today, Mr. Speaker, and that contributed so greatly to the fantastic showing that we had at the Sochi games.

You know, Saskatchewan is often put on the map because of the things that we have — our resources, our landscape — but during the Olympics, we were put on the map because of who we are. And who we are was so beautifully demonstrated through the determination, through the class of the Olympians from Saskatchewan.

And so we want to say thank you to you for providing that example, for representing Saskatchewan so well, and thank you for the inspiration that you have provided and will provide to young and old in the province. I know you'll be busy travelling the province, meeting with schoolchildren, and passing on that dream of what it means to be an Olympian, but more importantly what it means to carry the Olympic spirit. So thank you for being here today, and thank you for the example that you've given for all of us.

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to introduce to members of the House Para-Nordic cross skier Colette Bourgonje. Colette might just be the most decorated athlete here. She's competed in seven Winter Paralympic Games as a sit-skier, and as a wheelchair racer in three Summer Paralympic Games. Throughout her illustrious career, she has won 10 Paralympic medals — three silver and three bronze.

In 2010 she became the first Canadian to win a Paralympic medal at home games. She is also the only athlete in the world to compete in each of the seven Winter Paralympic Games. Colette recently announced her retirement from the competition.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I'd like to thank her for her contributions to the Paralympic sport, to congratulate her on the outstanding athletic career, and to wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours.

Colette was born in Saskatoon and currently lives in Prince Albert. Porcupine Plain is her hometown. Colette, thank you so very much for joining us today, and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'm privileged to introduce snowboard coach Adam Burwell. Adam attended the Sochi 2014 winter games with the Canadian Olympic team as a coach for slopestyle snowboarding.

In addition to serving as Mark McMorris's friend, coach, and mentor, he's also a Saskatchewan-based filmmaker. Adam is co-owner of Living Sky Media Group, a film and video production company based in Regina. He also owns and operates Grassroots Wakeboard, a wake sport school and camp located at Katepwa Point Provincial Park. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly, Adam.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured today to introduce long-track speed skater Kali Christ. Kali started speed skating at the age of seven in Regina, her birthplace and hometown. She saw the sport on TV and decided to give it a try. She made her Olympic debut at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. She was also Saskatchewan Sport's Female Athlete of the Year in 2011, and has been awarded long-track rising star honours by Speed Skating Canada. Kali says the most influential person in her life and her career is her mom.

Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much, Kali.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the House, I am privileged to introduce to you today bobsledder Ben Coakwell. Ben grew up in Moose Jaw surrounded by competitive sport. He played

hockey, lacrosse, and football, eventually playing football for the University of Saskatchewan where he was also a member of the university's athletics team.

His interest in bobsleigh was sparked when he learned a CFL [Canadian Football League] player switched from football to bobsleigh. He attended a camp in March 2012 and made the national team. Since childhood, he has dreamed of competing at the Olympic Games. This year his dream came true. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Ben.

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

Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to introduce to you figure skating judge Karen Howard. Karen became a certified figure skating judge at the age of 16, the youngest age one can be certified. In 2009 she became an Olympic-certified judge and since then has been hoping for an opportunity to judge the Olympic Games. She got that chance at the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi.

Judging is a volunteer position. She does it on top of her day job as a teacher at Cochrane High School here in Regina. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Karen.

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

Mr. Hickie: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. It's a pleasure to introduce to the members Brittany Hudak. Brittany was 18 when she met Paralympic athlete Colette Bourgonje who introduced her to the sport of cross-country skiing. Brittany had always been active but hadn't yet found the sport that would become the focus of all of her efforts. She found that sport in skiing.

The 2014 Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi were her first. In December 2013, in her International Paralympic Committee World Cup debut at Canmore, she was the top Canadian finisher, placing fourth in the 5-kilometre women's standing race to qualify for the Paralympics.

She lives in Prince Albert. Brittany, welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to the members long-track speed skater Marsha Hudey. Marsha grew up in White City and has been speed skating since the age of four. Her father, a competitive speed skater himself, thought it was an activity that the whole family might enjoy, which was good thinking on his part. She has an undergraduate degree in community rehabilitation and disability studies from the University of Calgary. The 2014 Winter Olympic Games were her Olympic debut. Marsha, welcome to your Assembly.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and

through you, it is my pleasure to introduce to you sledge hockey assistant coach Curtis Hunt. Curtis is well known here in Regina. He is a former head coach of the Regina Pats as well as a former NHL [National Hockey League] hockey coach. He joined the national sledge hockey team as an assistant coach during the 2012-13 season. The 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia are his debut as a coach at the Paralympics. Curtis helped lead Canada's sledge hockey team to a bronze medal finish. He was born in North Battleford and currently resides in Regina. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Curtis. Thank you very much.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce Wayne Kiel. Wayne is the wheelchair curling assistant coach and assistant team leader. Wayne helped lead Team Canada's wheelchair curling team to its third straight gold medal at the 2014 Winter Paralympic Games.

When Wayne is not coaching Paralympic athletes to gold medals, he works very hard for the curling Sask high school performance coaching team, Mr. Speaker. Wayne is from Balgonie, his hometown. I know he's got a number of family members here, which is always great to see, and other members from Balgonie I believe are in the Assembly as well. Mr. Speaker, I'd like all members to welcome Wayne to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'm very pleased to introduce to you today Ms. Susan Lang. Susan volunteered at the 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games as a curling statistician. Susan is an accomplished curler herself. She was a senior women's provincial champion in 2010 and a three-time provincial intermediate provincial champion as well.

She's currently the marketing and development manager for CurlSask. She is the former curling club manager for the Regina Callie Curling Club and has more than 30 years of curling volunteer experience. Before starting her career in the curling world, she worked as a market manager at SaskTel for 20 years. She lives in Regina. Susan, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I am pleased to introduce to members, on behalf of the member for Moosomin, pairs figure skater Paige Lawrence. Paige just lives across the road from my constituency. Paige was born in Kipling and raised in Kennedy, Saskatchewan. Hockey and figure skating being the most popular winter sports in these Saskatchewan communities, Paige was four the first time she skated on ice. She has been skating with her partner, Rudi Swiegers, for nearly a decade. The most influential person in her career — her mother.

I'd also like to acknowledge the coach of Paige and Rudi, Patricia Hole. She lives in Manitoba, but we like to think of her as an honorary Saskatchewanian. In addition to coaching and mentoring Paige and Rudi, Patricia has opened her home to

them. She has more than 35 years of experience coaching. Patricia, thank you for joining us today. And Paige, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

[13:45]

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm privileged to introduce to all members of this honourable Assembly curling technical official Ken McArton. The 2014 Winter Olympic Games are the second games that he's officiated. Ken has been officiating for more than 25 years and is one of the top curling umpires in the world. In 2012 he received the Male Official Sask Sport Award. Ken is from the town of Dilke, where of course he still resides. Ken, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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 to all members of the Assembly and to our many guests, I'm pleased to introduce to you today speed skating coach Todd McClements. Todd was one of the coaches for Team Canada's long-track speed skating team at the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. Saskatchewan Olympian speed skater Kali Christ is one of his many students.

Todd comes from a speed skating family. He's a third-generation speed skater. He grew up skating in Saskatoon, his hometown. Todd, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to members snowboarder Mike, or Mike . . . Mark McMorris. I was so excited about introducing you, Mark. Mark won a bronze medal in slopestyle snowboarding at the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, the first Olympic Games to include this type of snowboarding competition.

This is the first time competing in the Winter Olympics, but Mark is no stranger to international events. He won the World Cup slopestyle competition at age 16.

Mark was five years old when he first tried snowboarding while on a family holiday in Lake Louise. His parents bought him his first snowboard two years later at the ripe old age of seven. Growing up, he spent a great deal of time snowboarding on makeshift hills in his family's backyard and Regina parking lots and I'm sure everywhere else he could find. He also frequented Mission Ridge in Fort Qu'Appelle. For many years, Mark was also an avid wakeboarder competing for Saskatchewan, and was named to the national team.

He cites his older brother Craig and his parents as the people who've had the biggest influence on his career. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Mark.

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

Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you. I'm honoured to introduce to you today biathlete Scott Perras. Scott was born and raised here in Regina. He attended the U of R [University of Regina] before deciding to pursue his career as a biathlete full-time. At 15 he took up biathlon, a sport that combines riflery with cross-country skiing. He didn't start training seriously until about age 18, but he's certainly made up for that, since he tells me he continues to train six days a week, twice a day.

Scott had a career season in 2012-13 leading him to be named Biathlon Canada's Male Athlete of the Year. The 2014 Winter Olympics were his first Olympic Games. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Scott.

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

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Legislative Assembly, I'm pleased to introduce to you today bobsledder Graeme Rinholm. Graeme was born in Camrose but has close ties to Saskatchewan. He graduated high school in Rosthern and attended the University of Saskatchewan where he completed his Bachelor of Science degree with high honours, I might add, in biochemistry.

He was a member of the university's athletic team and became involved in bobsleigh at the age of 24 after attending an identification camp the summer after finishing his indoor track season. The 2014 Winter Olympic Games are Graeme's first as an athlete. Graeme, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Crown Investments.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to members bobsledder Lyndon Rush. Lyndon was born in Saskatoon and grew up in Humboldt. He played football for the University of Saskatchewan for five years, graduating in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

He took up bobsledding at 24 years of age. I guess for obvious reasons bobsledding is not one of those sports that you start when you're five or six. He took up the sport when Bobsleigh Canada called him and invited him to attend a development camp. I had the privilege of meeting with Lyndon in Humboldt last year when he met with an arena full of students, and he's a great ambassador for those students.

Lyndon is a two-time Olympian. At the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, he was part of the first Canadian four-man bobsleigh team in more than 40 years to win an Olympic medal. The team won bronze. Lyndon, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — It's my pleasure to introduce to you today pairs figure skater Rudi Swiegers. Rudi was born in Cape Town, South Africa, but his family moved to Canada in 1996 and he grew up in the Kipling area.

In South Africa you do hear, "a cold front from Cape Town," so snow and ice are in his background. Rudi started figure skating at age 10 to improve his ice hockey skills, but what started as a training method turned into a passion. He and Paige Lawrence,

who he calls his good luck charm, have been skating together for almost 10 years now. 2014 was his Olympic debut. Rudi, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is my honour to introduce to you today bobsledder Chelsea Valois. Chelsea was born in Carrot River and grew up in Zenon Park. She attended university here in Regina. She competed in pentathlon and heptathlon for the University of Regina's athletics team, winning a silver medal in heptathlon in the 2009 Canada Games.

Her teammates at the U of R encouraged her to try bobsled. At her first camp, she posted an incredible push test results along with the best rookie results in the country. She was selected for the Canadian bobsled team for the first time in 2012. And she enjoyed a fantastic rookie season, winning both the world championship and overall World Cup titles with pilot Kaillie Humphries. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Chelsea.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to introduce Para-Nordic ski coach Kaspar Wirz.

Kaspar has led Canada's Para-Nordic team to great international success over the last 20 years. He has helped the team win 24 Paralympic medals. The 2014 Winter Paralympic Games are Kaspar's sixth time coaching Canada's Para-Nordic team. He's from Switzerland, but makes his current home in Saskatoon. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Kaspar.

The Speaker: — I would also like to recognize at this time the athletes, coaches, and officials who could not make it today: Hayley Wickenheiser, Ryan Getzlaf, Patrick Marleau, Chris Kunitz, Mike Babcock, William Dutton, Mark Wheler, Andrea Bundon, Kurt Oatway, Brad Meier, and Lucas Makowsky who had to leave, who was here but had to leave earlier.

I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members, I would like to introduce a fairly large delegation seated in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker.

And these are individuals who came to the legislature today because of their concerns about traffic safety along Highway 1. They come from the communities of Emerald Park, Balgonie, White City, Edenwold, Stone Point Estates, Avonhurst, Vibank, Davin, and Pilot Butte.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals are concerned about safety along the road. In fact some have lost immediate family because of the dangerous situation. I would ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals to the Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming this delegation of

students and advisers as well who have come to the Legislative Assembly with very important matters to present before the province and the government, and for discussion and dialogue, Mr. Speaker.

I want to congratulate them for doing this, for getting engaged in the public policy process, Mr. Speaker. This is how change is effected in Saskatchewan, in a democracy that we're happy to be a part of. And so, Mr. Speaker, I would join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to make an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Highways has requested leave to make an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure that it's going to be a necessarily extended introduction, but I want to introduce a number of people and say a little bit about them, so I guess that would be extended.

There's not too many times, I don't think, since I've been elected that politics and your personal life kind of fit hand in hand, and today certainly is one of those days. I have a . . . Hmm, I said I wasn't going to do this. I have a number of people in the gallery that I'd like to introduce that have had quite a significant role to put one person on the floor . . . actually to put two people on the floor of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

The first one: I've been elected for 14 years and I haven't had a chance to introduce my wife. She doesn't like the public attention, but I am going to introduce her today. Cindy's had a tough time raising three boys, Craig and Mark and myself. Mr. Speaker, for anybody that happened to see the documentary kind of chronicling Mark's life, they would realize that the boys left home pretty early, and that's tough for a mom when you lose control of them at an early age. Not only because it was lost to a non-traditional sport — perhaps if it was hockey it wouldn't have been so tough — but a lot of people wondered, when Mark would be going and Craig would be going off snowboarding, and most people would just do that on their vacation but not kind of pursuing a major career. So not only was it a non-traditional sport but it was also a dangerous sport and a sport that took a lot of travel. But if it wasn't for her acceptance on that, they wouldn't be sitting here today. And so thank you, Cindy, for that.

Okay, I think that was the tough one. Now I think they get easier from here. Sitting beside Cindy is her mother, Anne, or I guess maybe two . . . or no, sitting up in the gallery is her mother, Anne, who is an avid follower of the legislative channel, Mr. Speaker, knows pretty much everybody in this

Assembly, and knows . . . Probably when I go over for a Sunday supper I have to answer just as many questions there as I have had to in the House, Mr. Speaker. But she's been a huge supporter of the boys too. Maybe not so much of a reality TV show called *McMorris & McMorris* — that's a little tougher for a grandma to understand and to accept — but has been very supportive.

Also seated beside her is her sister, and it is Sister Imelda Grimes who has been very . . . a big part of the boys' life as well, has been very accepting and acknowledges their life may be not the traditional life, I guess, as many aunts or great-aunts would see their nephews travelling, but has been very supportive.

Also I see Barb March-Burwell who's there, who is Adam's mom and has watched our boys grow up because half of the time when they were growing up was at their place, Mr. Speaker, as the boys have been good friends all their life.

Also I want to acknowledge, even though she's not here, my mom, who really has given the boys their athletic prowess. My mom I think was waterskiing at 70. We had to hide my dad away because he didn't accept that. He didn't like that. But the athletic prowess definitely came from my mom, who I know watches on a regular basis too. Mom got a little bit of air time through the Olympics, and I don't mean the air time that the boys were getting, but she was on CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation], watching. She'd pull an all-nighter. It's been a long time I think since mom pulled an all-nighter, but she pulled an all-nighter as of course the 14-hour time change and watching Mark. And it was kind of an interesting process to be able to watch Mark compete but listen to her other grandson, as with Anne, do the colour commentating. So hi, Mom.

[14:00]

Also I want to introduce, seated in the gallery is a good friend of Craig's, Marie-France Roy, or as Don Cherry would say, Roy. Marie-France Roy, who is also well known in the snowboard industry, very well known, competed for many years. Over the last four years, she's been riding in the backcountry. Over the last two years, she's been producing or filming for her own film called *The Little Things*, which is a film all about sustainability of backcountry riding, is very well known in the snowboard circles and is from Quebec, living in Whistler. And we wanted to welcome her to this Legislative Assembly.

And finally but not least is our other son Craig who some may recognize the face from *McMorris & McMorris*. Some may recognize the voice because he was a colour commentator for all four snowboard disciplines for CBC at the Sochi Olympics.

I tell you, it was kind of an interesting time to look up the slope and watch Mark come down spinning and then kind of listen to what Craig was doing, his own spinning, on the broadcast, Mr. Speaker, coining phrases like — and I hate to say it but there was a bit of a website following some of his different sayings — like in boardercross, if you're not rubbing, you're not racing. That's a classic one. Or you've got to give 'er a little more mustard, Mr. Speaker. Those were all kind of some of the phrases that he was coining. But, Mr. Speaker, there was one

more I was going to . . . Oh I think the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook, Shellbrook-Rosthern always liked when he talked about them tapping the doll as they were going by, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway it was a real thrill. I'm glad that they're all here. This is the one time that I can honestly say that politics intersects personally, and I would like all members to welcome them here.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly and everybody in attendance, I would like to introduce to you 42 grade 10 students from the Yorkton Regional High School in Yorkton. They're seated in the east gallery. Accompanied by them, their teacher, Mr. Perry Ostapowich, who does a great job of engaging the kids, his students, with the political process and understanding what happens in this province and in this building. With him is somebody that's very well known to this Assembly as well — his father sits a couple of seats to my left — Mr. Grant Bjornerud. And also who is missing in action again, out in the bus, Mr. Pat Rawlick, ex-RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and the bus driver. He's a friend and he's one that's never afraid to give me some counsel or offer some input.

Some honourable mentions, Mr. Speaker. The kids quite often engage me on Twitter and Facebook and by sending emails to get some special mentions. So a few that didn't actually contact me, but I know them well because they're friends of my family and myself is Liam Thomson, Madison Leister, and Mackenzie Lautamus, who very nicely Facebooked me a picture from downstairs already. Along with them, some emails were sent by my new friends, Afton Hicks, Tamara Bartley, Josh Rohatynsky, Callie Reid, and Tessa Datema. So I ask all members to welcome these members to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure today to introduce a group of grade 7, 8, and 9 students from Northwood Christian School in Leoville, Saskatchewan. They're sitting in the west gallery, accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Natalie Boese, and parent chaperones, Lorne and Jolene Friesen and Orlin and Joyce Reimer. I look forward to meeting with them after the proceedings of the House and would like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure, to you and through you, to introduce someone who's very important in my life. And I always promise I won't ever get choked up when my kids are here, but I can't help it, Mr. Speaker. My 16-year-old daughter, Hennessey Chartier-Ford, is here in your gallery today. She's spending a few days here with me. We don't often get any alone time. We love her little sister, Ophelia, very much, but the reality is Hennessey and I have very little opportunity just to spend some time with the two of us. And so it's been pretty special having her here for the last

couple of days.

Hennessey is a great student. She's in grade 10 at Holy Cross in Saskatoon. She's an accomplished dancer, and a great badminton player, of which I'm particularly proud. Badminton was my sport a very long time ago. So I'm living vicariously through my 16-year-old, Mr. Speaker. But more than anything, I'm an incredibly proud mother and really glad that Hennessey is here with me today. And she's let me know that she might stay another day. She likes it here quite a lot, Mr. Speaker. And I also have to say it's pretty great for her to be here today on the day where all the Olympians are here, a little bit of extra inspiration, and just wonderful for her to see all that they've contributed and have an opportunity to connect with them. So with that I would . . . Sorry that was an extended introduction, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. But with that I'd like to ask my colleagues here to join me in welcoming Hennessey to her legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave for an extended introduction, please.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to colleagues. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I would like to introduce some very special guests to the Legislative Assembly seated in your gallery. Twenty-nine high school students have travelled from various parts of northern Saskatchewan to participate in the annual youth mentorship program — maybe just give us a wave; there they are. While in the capital, Mr. Speaker, these students will learn about the history of Saskatchewan and their provincial government. They'll explore post-secondary education and training opportunities, and they'll learn about possible careers with the government.

Yesterday they had the opportunity to tour the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada. They met with the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, toured the RCMP training academy, and they visited the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and Government House. This morning they toured the Legislative Building and participated in a model parliament session. Today they will also meet some of the members of the Legislative Assembly and members of the public service.

Seated in the Speaker's gallery, Mr. Speaker, we have students from Senator Myles Venne School in Air Ronge; Twin Lakes Community School in Buffalo Narrows; Canoe Lake School in Canoe Narrows; Charlebois Community School in Cumberland House; Nisto Awasisak Memorial School in Cumberland House — I hope I said that correctly — Father Gamache Memorial School in Fond-du-Lac; and Minahik Waskahigan School in

Pinehouse Lake. Accompanying the students, Mr. Speaker, are their teachers and some chaperones and ministry officials from the Provincial Capital Commission.

I had the honour and privilege, Mr. Speaker, of meeting with the students yesterday at Government House and had lunch with them. And seated at my table, I was with Mr. Ron Crowe who is the head of the North American Indigenous Games coming up here in the capital city later this year and had a great conversation with some of the students. I said, I understand you're coming to the legislature tomorrow; are you excited about that? Yes. I said, well did you know the Olympic athletes are going to be at the legislature tomorrow? Really? Then they got very excited.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members please join me in welcoming these guests to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join my colleague in recognizing the students from northern Saskatchewan, and just to point out to the people that are listening that one particular group that hails from Fond-du-Lac which is about 75 kilometres from the Northwest Territories border. And for them to make the huge journey, coming all the way down to southern Saskatchewan and seeing how the Assembly works and visiting all the different sites, it is quite a journey, Mr. Speaker, and I really want to recognize them.

One of the privileges that I have as the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Athabasca is meeting many people, wonderful people. But I can't claim being the first person to speak Cree in the Assembly because I think people like Lawrence Yew spoke Cree for the first time, and I think Mr. Goulet who was also an MLA spoke Cree. But I do have the privilege of being the first MLA to speak Dene.

So I want to say to the people of Fond-du-Lac that are here visiting that:

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Dene.]

And what that is, Mr. Speaker, is just saying that I'm from a community called Patuanak, is where a lot of my roots are. It's a Dene community. But to also say to the Cree kids that are here:

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

I'm just saying that I'm very glad that they're here and that there's nothing to fear here, that this is their Assembly, much like the Olympic athletes that are here today. And I want to say

it's an extreme pleasure to welcome the students from Fond-du-Lac, from Buffalo Narrows Twin Lakes School, Canoe Lake, and of course Pinehouse, and to tell them I'm certainly glad you've come to visit us here and we hope you have many more visits in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to present a petition against Saskatchewan health care laundry privatization. And we know that in May 2013 the Government of Saskatchewan announced its plan to privatize health care laundry in Saskatchewan, handing it over to a for-profit, Alberta-based corporation, K-Bro Linens. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, people signing this petition are largely from the city of Weyburn. I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition about Highway 123. This highway provides the only access to the communities of Cumberland House and Cumberland House Cree Nation. This highway was voted by Saskatchewan residents as Canadian Automobile Association's worst road in the province last year, and the highway is still waiting for major upgrades and repairs. Mr. Speaker, the people are very concerned for their safety. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that the upgrades, repairs, and maintenance on Highway 123 is important to northern residents and must be undertaken immediately.

And in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan in the Cumberland House area. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

[14:15]

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to present a petition. Many northern residents benefited from the rental purchase option program, known as RPO [rental purchase option]. These families were supposed to have been very proud homeowners in their communities. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this government stubbornly ignored the call to maintain this program. Instead it cancelled the rental purchase option and that means the dream of home ownership is destroyed for many families in the North. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the petition that I'm presenting today has been signed by many residents of northern Saskatchewan communities and all throughout the province. And this particular page has been signed by residents of Beauval, Saskatchewan. And I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition calling for improved safety on Highway No. 1, and the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan bring to our attention the following: that Highway No. 1 corridor between Regina and Balgonie has become unacceptably dangerous, as attested to by the number of traffic collisions, many involving personal injury and death.

They point out that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure consultant's study, Highway No. 1 East traffic signal review final report January 2011 concluded that the 2010 traffic volumes warranted signals at specified intersections. Traffic volumes have increased substantially in the intervening years due to commercial and industrial development and increased population. They point out that intersections with dozens of vehicles waiting to enter at rush hour are unacceptable and dangerous. Drivers daily must risk their lives and those of other motorists just to get on and off the highway. In the prayer that reads as follows, Mr. Speaker, they:

Respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan, until the overpasses are built along this corridor: (1) immediately install traffic lights at appropriate locations along Highway 1 between Regina and Balgonie, (2) immediately reduce speed limits to appropriate levels within this corridor, and (3) take steps to ensure that speed limits are enforced.

Mr. Speaker, this first batch of petitions of a group of petitions that were signed over three weeks, of which hundreds more to come, Mr. Speaker, were signed by citizens from Regina, Rouleau, Vibank, Yorkton, Pilot Butte, White City, Balgonie, McLean, Edenwold, Zehner, Stone Pointe Estates, Yorkton, Preeceville, Emerald Park, Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, and Francis. I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am rising today to present a petition for real action on climate change. And the residents of the province of Saskatchewan who signed this petition wish 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 slashing programs such as the Go Green Fund and the EnerGuide for Houses energy efficiency program set the province on a backward course; and that since 2009, the Government of Saskatchewan has reduced climate change funding by 83 per cent including another 35 per cent cut in the 2014-15 budget. So in the prayer that reads as follows, they are:

Respectfully requesting 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, the individuals who have signed this petition are from the communities of Humboldt and Muenster. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, held from May 5th to 11th this year. NAOSH [North American Occupational Safety and Health] strives to relay the key message that workplace injuries impact everyone, and we must do whatever we can to reduce harmful and life-changing workplace incidents to zero. Saskatchewan has the second-highest workplace-related injury rate in Canada. Last year there were over 37,000 injuries despite continuing efforts to improve on-site safety conditions.

This week a number of activities are taking place as part of the awareness campaign. This provides an opportunity to empower workers to take concrete steps in securing their own protection while promoting a workplace culture of balance between employees and employers. Even though many companies see the value in managing their occupational health and safety responsibilities, it often takes a serious workplace injury or fatality before organizations understand the real costs of cutting corners.

NAOSH Week is a celebration of the safety work that takes place all year long. It reminds us that safety should be considered a priority every week of the year. This year's theme, Make Safety a Habit, is a powerful reminder of this.

Mr. Speaker, the North American health and safety week's goals require commitment from workers of all ages and abilities but also employers and government. Workers deserve to be safe, and we must collectively stand for nothing less. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Southwest Resident Establishes Scholarships

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the significant contributions of a local businessman in southwest Saskatchewan. Last week there was an event held at the Swift Current composite high school where the Prairie Healthcare Scholarship was awarded to its first six recipients.

The scholarship is funded entirely by Eldon McIntyre and his family. Now Eldon is a very humble man and has a typical Saskatchewan story. He started working in the oil patch near Gull Lake at a young age, went back to school to complete his grade 12, and eventually worked his way up to become president of Jarrod Oils.

This year Eldon is donating \$400,000 to students from across the Prairie provinces who are studying in a health care-related field. He plans to grow that donation to \$1 million per year. When asked why he decided on health care for the scholarship, Eldon said, "Well I just felt that as we are all aging, we're going to need more and more to look after the aging people. I just wanted to give back from the good fortune I have."

Congratulations go to the first six recipients: Cheyenne Shulze, Caitlin Wotton, Cole Kritzer, Annette Haugen, Kaitlyn Neustaeter, and Sidney Stock. And thank you to the McIntyre Family Foundation, to its managing trustee, Carla Carlson, and most importantly to Eldon for his phenomenal donation of \$400,000 this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Business Promotes Fitness in Schools

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in this House to recognize the collaborative work of Joel Pedersen and Fitness 2J2 with the students of St. Mary's School in my community. Joel Pedersen owns Fitness 2J2, a community-based health and wellness business that organizes and facilitates inclusive exercise programs for all abilities and ages. Joel works with urban, northern, and rural groups as well as with individuals. Joel is originally from Fond-du-Lac and is a member of the Dene Nation. He has served as an infantry sergeant major with the Canadian Armed Forces and currently is a police sergeant with the Saskatoon Police Service.

Mr. Speaker, Joel has been an important community leader whose many programs include an after-school fitness program that turned into a running group at St. Mary's School. When Joel started this program at the beginning of the year, many of the students were not able to jog the 125-metre track without stopping. Under Joel's guidance, each student completed last year's 5-kilometre Bridge City Boogie. This not only empowered the students, but promoted community interest and

support. True to Joel's business principles, many of the participating kids continue to run and remain active.

Starting in June, some of the students of St. Mary's Wolf Pack running team will join other kids from separate and public school divisions for a summer running initiative which culminates in an honour run between Saskatoon and Batoche in July for Back to Batoche Days.

I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in recognizing the important work of Joel Pedersen and Fitness 2J2, as well as congratulating the children of St. Mary's school for their successful fitness initiative. Thank you.

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

Battlefords Resident Honoured by Canadian Red Cross

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today it is my pleasure to stand to recognize a resident of The Battlefords who has just received the Canadian Red Cross Rescuer Award. Gregg Sheppard is the very deserving recipient of this humanitarian award which was presented to him by Laura Beddome from the Canadian Red Cross.

At the awards ceremony, Ms. Beddome highlighted Gregg's effort in using his Red Cross first aid skills in helping to save the life of his brother-in-law, and in another situation attempting to save the life of an elderly gentleman, both of whom had suffered heart attacks.

Mr. Speaker, Gregg has been a long-time member of our Battlefords search and rescue team and was quick to point out that the training he received in that organization provided him with the skills and knowledge to assist in these two situations.

Mr. Speaker, this former Boston Bruin star has always been a very active volunteer in our community, having been involved with the Kinsmen rodeo committee, Relay For Life, KidSport, Ducks Unlimited, the Wildlife Federation, so it is no wonder that he has dedicated so many hours to volunteer time in search and rescue.

He was very appreciative of this recognition and in true humble fashion he said, "You don't expect those things. You just react to the situation." Ms. Beddome had this to say at the ceremony: "I am very pleased we were able to recognize Gregg, who exhibited the power of humanity by voluntarily responding to assist two people in two separate emergencies."

Mr. Speaker, it's people like Gregg Sheppard that make this province such a great place to live, and I feel privileged to call him a friend. I would ask all members to join with me in congratulating Gregg and thanking him for taking the initiative to learn the skills that were so important in these two emergencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Wynyard Monarchs Win Provincial Title

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise

today to talk about a championship hockey team from Wynyard. The Monarchs had a great season. First up, they won the Highway Hockey League. In the final game they beat the Bethune Bulldogs to capture the league championship. At the same time they were also entered the provincial senior A finals which they've been beating teams on the way up. The final series was against Lanigan. The final game was played March 29th in Lanigan, with the Monarchs taking it 4 to 3 in the end.

The Monarchs attributed their win to a very dedicated crowd of fans who have supported them throughout the year. Many of these fans travelled that evening to the final game in Lanigan to cheer on their team. After their victorious game it was reported that hundreds of fans that attended the game in Lanigan created a trail of lights down the highway as they brought their team home to Wynyard where many of them ended up at the Wynyard Civic Centre to further celebrate their first-ever senior provincial A championship.

The Wynyard Monarchs had a great season this year with a solid hockey team guided so well by coaches Tayler Jorden, Aaron Lindall, manager Wayne Madigan, trainer Chris Anderson.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this just confirms once again when it comes to hockey, that Arm River-Watrous is a constituency of champions. I would like to offer the whole team my warmest congratulations and ask that members join me in offering them the best of our wishes today.

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

Women Entrepreneurs Week

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to announce that our government has proclaimed May 5th to 11th Women Entrepreneurs Week. Saskatchewan's women entrepreneurs are large contributors to the growth of our economy and are great role models to Saskatchewan's young women. Through their hard work and dedication, they play an important leadership role and create new opportunities and jobs in our province.

Mr. Speaker, according to a report by Industry Canada, 15 per cent of small businesses in the Prairies are owned by women. This is a growing and positive trend towards economic growth in both our urban and rural communities.

It is organizations like Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan that have contributed to the growth in women entrepreneurs. And since 1995 they have contributed more than 29 million in loans to women who want to start a business in our province. Along with financial support, they also provide training and mentoring support to help women-owned businesses succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan for all the work that they do to support our women entrepreneurs. And I ask that all members join me in recognizing Women Entrepreneurs Week by showing support to local women-owned businesses. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

Response to Regina Bypass Project

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Highways announced the Regina bypass project. It will be a public-private partnership with \$200 million of federal funding. This is the largest transportation infrastructure project in our province's history, valued at \$1.2 billion, Mr. Speaker.

And how did the NDP [New Democratic Party] respond to this important project? They didn't. According to today's *Leader-Post*, the NDP could not even be reached for comment. They had no comment on the largest transportation project in the province's history, one that will benefit the economy and, most importantly, vastly improve traffic safety. Unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, here's their problem. On one hand, they can't oppose such an important project for Regina and surrounding area. But on the other hand, they can't support this project because their ideology won't let them. So they hide and say nothing.

Mr. Speaker, this NDP leader is willing to speak out on important issues such as Christmas tree storage, but when it comes to a project of vital importance to Regina, he says nothing. Mr. Speaker, that's not leadership. It's a party and a leader that is so bound by ideology and special interests that they simply can't bring themselves to support a project that is clearly beneficial to Regina and Saskatchewan.

Will the NDP leader take off the ideological blinders, stand up, and support the Regina bypass project? Will he do that today? We're about to find out.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Poverty Reduction Measures

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been calling on this government to develop and implement a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy. There have been many calls for this over the years, Mr. Speaker, from many different groups and organizations, and today the Children's Advocate has joined that call. He says that Saskatchewan needs a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy. Mr. Speaker, the opposition would be very pleased to work with the government to make that a reality.

My question is for the Premier: will he agree that Saskatchewan would benefit from a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to comment on the work that the child advocate has done when it comes to poverty and the talks that we had today. Mr. Speaker, since 2006 we've cut the number of low-income people in half in this province. We know that now it's down to 5.3 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, there's always more work that we can be doing. We are open to new strategies, things like the discussions with

Poverty Costs, the disability strategy, the mental health and addictions strategy, the fact that we have a housing strategy.

And today in the paper, Mr. Speaker, we had a discussion. There was an article on the Hub in Prince Albert. There's 10 other like hubs across the province, and we know that this is doing a good job when it comes to working with issues that we need to do in the province.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about poverty and, most importantly, we're talking about the action that we have to reduce poverty in this province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this government shouldn't be so dismissive of what the Children's Advocate has to say. Here's what he says, "... we do not have an overarching poverty reduction strategy to tackle these issues in a more comprehensive way. At the moment, Saskatchewan is one of only two provinces without a coordinated and focused strategy..." The advocate goes on to say, "A poverty reduction plan could provide an overarching framework in which to address poverty in a more focused, measurable way."

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: why won't he just agree that an overarching framework is needed to address poverty in a coordinated, focused, and measurable way?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, we announced our strategy for growth a while ago, and in there we talked about the importance of having everybody involved in the growth of our province. Mr. Speaker, we met with people like Upstream, organizations like Poverty Costs, and we understand that everybody has work to do and that we can be doing more to ensure that people are involved in the economy.

Mr. Speaker, we've done things like increased the number of spots in adult basic education by 48 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we've also ensured that there's more money for things like the Hub and COR [centre of responsibility] and for the child and youth agenda. Mr. Speaker, we've given more money to our seniors for things like the seniors' income plan. And, Mr. Speaker, people on SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] are benefiting from the work that we're doing.

There's always more work that we can be doing in this area, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we're working together as a government to ensure that everyone is part of what we're doing in our province when it comes to growth.

[14:30]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the minister can meet with groups and that's good. There may be individual projects that have merit, Mr. Speaker, that everyone in the province can agree to that are good. But what the Children's Advocate is saying, is that the overall, the overarching framework to properly address poverty is missing and this government should have an overall

strategy. The advocate is calling for that.

And they can heckle, Mr. Speaker, about child poverty if they want to, but what the advocate is saying, strategy is important because it affects vulnerable children. Sixty per cent of non-Aboriginal children in our province live in poverty. That's incredibly shocking and bad, Mr. Speaker, but it gets worse. Thirty per cent of Métis and non-status First Nation children in our province live in poverty, and 64 per cent of First Nations children in Saskatchewan are living in poverty. We are failing miserably, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to giving Saskatchewan children the very best start in life. And they can heckle all they want, Mr. Speaker, but they need to listen to the Children's Advocate.

Again to the Premier: what will it take for him to realize, and for his government to realize that Saskatchewan needs a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, what the member opposite should know is that we can do all the talking in the world, what we really need is action. And that's what we've been doing in the last number of years. We've reduced the number of low-income people more than any other province in Canada, including those with poverty strategy.

It's all about talking, Mr. Speaker, and what we're doing is action. We've reduced the number of children in low-income families by more than any other province. Saskatchewan has the third-lowest percentage of seniors in Canada. Since 2006 the number of people living on low income has been cut by half.

We know there's more work to do, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're working together through organizations like the child and family committee and through organizations like the Hub. Mr. Speaker, we can have the members opposite talking about another report that they want to have on the shelf or we can actually have action. That's what we've been doing as a government, and we will continue to do that.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know why the minister and this government is so dismissive of what the Children's Advocate is saying. We know that the human cost of poverty is massive, Mr. Speaker, and that ought to be enough to convince this government that a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy is needed, especially when we're talking about vulnerable children. But, Mr. Speaker, we know that poverty also costs government and costs society a tremendous amount, a lot of money, Mr. Speaker.

Estimates say poverty costs Saskatchewan 420 million in higher health costs, 720 million in increased social assistance, up to 120 million in increased criminal justice costs, and billions and billions in lost economic opportunity. Yet Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is one of only two provinces that does not have a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy. My question to the Premier: why is he being so stubborn on this issue?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, my question to the Leader in the Opposition is why does he insist on a strategy when he really wants action. What we really need to do is to ensure that we have fewer people living in poverty. That's why we have . . . That's why we spent money to ensure that children have the care that they need, that we have . . . We increased our minimum wage. We have the highest amount of average earnings per week in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, there's work to do across ministries to ensure that people have jobs, that people have the education they need, that we're looking at things like hot-spotting, that we're putting together a plan that involves action across government, and while the members opposite can only talk about paper.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Traffic Safety on No. 1 Highway

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, many residents, businesses, and communities east of Regina have been justifiably raising the alarm about unsafe travel conditions on Highway No. 1, and representatives of those communities have joined us here today. While yesterday's bypass announcement is certainly welcome, completion of it four years down the line doesn't make travelling east of Regina any safer right now, today. And that's what local residents and businesses in the area, young people and family need from this government. They need action to improve safety today. To the minister: is he listening?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly am listening and have been listening. I've had the opportunity to represent partially that stretch of corridor for a number of years as the MLA from that area, Mr. Speaker, and now, it's an interesting twist, as the Minister Responsible for Highways and Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very aware of some of the collisions that have happened over the last number of years. That's why our government has taken steps to try and increase the safety on many of those intersections. Mr. Speaker, we've added deceleration or exit ramps. We've added acceleration or entrance ramps, Mr. Speaker. We've put up illuminating lights that light those intersections through the night. We've put up flashing amber lights. We've put up radar signs that show what speed you're going. We've taken a number of steps, Mr. Speaker.

Having said that, we're still monitoring it. We know that there are more . . . you know, that there have been collisions, Mr. Speaker. That's why the Minister Responsible for SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] has introduced a bill that would look at photo radar as another form of enforcement, Mr. Speaker, because I know lots are calling for the reduction in speed, but what we've got to do first of all, make sure the speed is being properly followed at its posted limit now.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, according to SGI's own statistics,

this is one of the most dangerous stretches of highway in the province. There have been more injuries on this route than any other section measured by SGI. As local residents know, this stretch of highway has seen 24 collisions involving personal injury, including another fatality just over a month ago.

And since SGI collected that data, the region has grown with new service stations, restaurants, and hotels. The traffic keeps growing, but the government is neglecting the basics when it comes to highway safety. So again to the minister: why is this government refusing to put in place traffic signals, reduce speed limits, and increase enforcement on one of the most dangerous stretches of highway in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we are not ignoring that area. Since 2011 we've put in roughly \$7 million worth of improvements. Having said that, we are still monitoring it. We still need to make sure that people can enter and exit that stretch of highway as safely as possible. That's why it was a significant announcement, Mr. Speaker, a significant announcement to see the federal government partner with us as a provincial government to put overpasses. And we'll eventually put overpasses in many of those intersections so we get away from the grade crossings, Mr. Speaker.

But you know, I would just be cautious. We want to look at all the options, whether it's a reduction in speed, whether it is traffic lights, Mr. Speaker. But I would be careful to make sure that those changes that we make do not have unintended consequences, Mr. Speaker.

I will tell you after 20 years of traffic safety experience, teaching thousands of kids in the car, class 5 15-year-olds, and tens of thousands of adults through defensive driving, Mr. Speaker, that traffic lights have never stopped a vehicle. People stop vehicles. And we have the most accidents at intersections that have traffic lights. I'm not saying they can be ruled out completely but, Mr. Speaker, there can be unintended consequences. And we want to make sure that isn't the result of some of these changes.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, the communities are speaking out very clearly, and they're speaking out yet again today. They want a reduced speed limit in the area, better signage, and at least a couple of traffic signals until the overpasses are built. And they won't be deterred until this danger is addressed.

Reduced speed and traffic signals will almost certainly be put up during construction in any event, so area residents cannot understand why this government refuses to do so now. Again to the minister: why will he not commit to what these local residents are asking for — traffic signals, reduced speed limits, and better enforcement?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said in my previous

answer, I've had many years of experience, and I'm sure no traffic expert. Not at all, Mr. Speaker.

We have a contingent within the Ministry of Highways as well as with the ministry of SGI that look at these intersections. They study these intersections, and they would make recommendations as to what is the safest, calming, whether it's traffic lights, whether it's speeds, or whether it's just illuminating the intersections, Mr. Speaker.

We know that the volumes are increasing, and so it's an ever-changing environment. But, Mr. Speaker, I have to take advice from experts at the Ministry of Highways or from SGI, Mr. Speaker, that study this on an in-depth, what we would call traffic experts. Yes, I have experience, but I need their advice as well.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we know the volumes are increasing. They're increasing around the province. And you just have to talk to people in the Estevan area or the Kindersley area. You can go around the province, Mr. Speaker, and there are issues. But ultimately, Mr. Speaker, we are going to do what we can possibly do, and we're asking drivers to do what they can do.

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

Support for Children in Care

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Children's Advocate released his annual report today, and it shows that child and family services is facing an appalling shortage of staff and resources. And as in previous years, the advocate says that caseworkers are overworked with far too many cases and unable to properly look out for vulnerable children. To the minister: will she give caseworkers the resources they need to properly protect our province's most vulnerable children?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I really thank the child advocate for his report. It's important that we understand that our most valuable and vulnerable asset is our children. Mr. Speaker, today we talked about prevention and intervention when it came to the work that we're doing.

And I think the member opposite is aware that we have hired 90 new caseworkers, and the children in care, the numbers are down for the first time in over a decade. Mr. Speaker, the February numbers when it comes to caseworkers was just shown to me today, and we show that 80 per cent of social workers have between 10 and 20 cases. That's down considerably from a few years ago when it was around 40.

We know that there's always more work to do because the cases dealing with our children are complex, and in a province the size of Saskatchewan, there's a need to travel and to ensure that the supports are available. Mr. Speaker, through our child and family committee, we've put an additional \$62 million into services for children in the last number of years. Mr. Speaker, this is an important item to us and it always will be.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister should listen, actually listen to what the Children's Advocate has to say. He says the structured decision-making system for children protection services has, and I quote, "... great potential to improve outcomes for children and families, but it won't be implemented effectively until the caseloads of protection workers allow them to meet SDM standards ..." Here's what he says, and I quote, "We remain deeply concerned that Child and Family Services will not be able to meet compliance with these standards and improve families' outcomes without investing significant additional resources in child protection."

So to the minister: when will this government starting taking the recommendations of the advocate seriously?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I assure you that we take all the recommendations from the Children's Advocate very serious. We take every case involving children very seriously. Mr. Speaker, the structured decision-making tool is actually an opportunity for workers to look at a new type of assessment to determine the needs of the children and that we have to spend more time and money, which we are doing, to ensure that workers can look at, use this tool.

Mr. Speaker, the tool was implemented across the entire province. We have two First Nations — Lac La Ronge First Nations and Peter Ballantyne First Nations — are using the structured decision-making tool. And we have eight other agencies, the First Nations agencies, that are interested in using this tool as well. This will give them an opportunity to determine the risk that the children have and to make sure that we are implementing and providing supports.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to our children, the extra money that we've been investing — not spending, investing — through the child and family agenda gives us a chance to put this \$62 million into the hands of the people that are working with our children.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, we know that in just the last four years 81 vulnerable children have died. These were children who were in the care of Social Services or who had just left the system. And those deaths don't include the deaths of natural causes. The Children's Advocate talks about two tragic deaths of very young children, and he notes that the workers for these children had caseloads in excess of 40 vulnerable children.

He says, and I quote, "... this caseload pressure critically impacted the quality of their work and their ability to comply with the standards in policy." That's why the Children's Advocate is calling for manageable caseloads for child protection workers.

To the minister: will she commit to reverse her cuts to child and family services and implement the recommendation today?

[14:45]

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the member opposite doesn't want to leave the impression that there's been cuts to the number of front-line workers in this family, in this government. There's 90 new front-line workers. There is cuts to, there is cutbacks in some of the work that we're doing within the ministry themselves, but when it comes to having money for children and the front-line workers and the support they need, it's been there. We have 90 new front-line workers. Mr. Speaker, we have the structured decision-making tool, and we are looking at the caseloads as well.

I told the member opposite a few minutes ago that we have cut the number of caseloads down from . . . between 10 and 20 now is the average across the province. At one time there was 40, 40 caseloads for each one of the workers. We've cut that, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to work with the child welfare experts to determine what the right caseload number is across the province. There's always more work to do when it comes to this area, but I assure you our children are the most important asset we have in this province.

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

Effects of Indoor Tanning

Ms. Chartier: — The Health minister confirmed recently that this government will not be considering a ban on tanning for youth under the age of 18. The minister said he doesn't want to leave people with a false sense of security that a tanning ban will eliminate skin cancer because people will still be exposed to the sun. And he said he is worried that such a ban could be a slippery slope leading to an outright ban on tanning.

Well, Mr. Speaker, both of those excuses are absolutely ridiculous. A ban on youth tanning would significantly reduce the incidence of skin cancer, and the ministry's slippery slope argument is nonsense. No other province with a youth ban has mused such a thing.

To the minister: why won't he just do the right thing and follow the lead of nearly every other province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've taken the position that awareness and education need to be the key to the information that we provide to the public, particularly to parents and to their children, of the dangers of any overexposure of UV [ultraviolet] rays, whether that be from outdoors from the sun and overexposure during the summer time hours, which we're all hoping, Mr. Speaker, are going to arrive here soon in the province, but certainly as well the dangers too that are posed to any individual, whether they be youth or otherwise, of overexposure of UV rays due to indoor tanning.

So we take the position that awareness and education and working with our partners needs to be the approach that this province takes.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, one of his partners, the Canadian Cancer Society is pushing for a ban on youth tanning. The Saskatchewan Medical Association has passed a resolution supporting such a ban. The Canadian Medical Association supports it, and so does the World Health Organization.

To the minister: how can he stubbornly dismiss the advice of such highly regarded organizations?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the position of this government, and I want to quote the position, is to "Work with partners to increase education and awareness about the health implications of indoor tanning beds, especially for young people."

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's not only the position that this government takes. In fact that is a direct quote from page 19 of *A Rooted and Growing Vision*, the tree book that was published by the NDP in 2011, that was written by the Leader of the Opposition. By their own policy — if it still is the policy of the day because they've scrapped their website of all such policy, but I believe it would still be the policy of the day because it goes back to 2011 — is to work with partners on awareness and education. And that's the same approach, the approach that the members opposite put forward as their policy is the same approach that we've put forward today as the government.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Youth under the age of 18 are not allowed to tan in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. And the Alberta government has said it will bring in such legislation, but the Saskatchewan government is stubbornly lagging behind.

Again to the minister: why won't this government just do the right thing and implement a ban on youth tanning like most other provinces already have?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well I think it's very obvious to the member opposite what the position of the government is. In fact the member opposite will know when she was a member of the NDP — she was in 2011, late in the year in 2011 — and at that time other provinces had already moved towards banning. Yet they put out, as a policy under the pen of the Leader of the Opposition, the member from Saskatoon Massey Place, and I quote, "Work with partners to increase education and awareness about the health implications of indoor tanning beds, especially for young people." It's the position of the NDP. It's the position of this government. I'm not sure why the member opposite has a problem with their own position.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, experts recommend it. Most other provinces have done it. But for some reason, this government refuses to ban youth tanning, and their excuses for inaction do not make any sense. A ban on youth tanning would significantly reduce the incidents of skin cancer and save lives, and this government knows that.

When I've asked the minister what advice he's received from his experts in his own ministry on this issue, he refused to answer. So to the minister: what do the experts in the Ministry of Health have to say to you about youth tanning?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I did provide that information. We had a good exchange in estimates in the last couple of weeks. Certainly I would assume that the same experts, Mr. Speaker, within the NDP are still there today. In fact the Leader of the Opposition is sitting in the front row when he authored a policy paper that was adopted by the entire party opposite that says, and I quote: "Work with partners to increase education and awareness . . ."

Certainly that was the policy that was taken, put forward, and adopted by the members opposite. I don't think that the policy has necessarily changed. And certainly you won't find any information on their website because they've scrubbed all information related to the 2011 election. They've scrubbed the tree book off of the website. They've scrubbed the *Regina Manifesto* off the website. I'm not sure today if they even have any policy on anything.

But at that time in 2011, late into the year 2011 when the policy document was put out, it was awareness and education. That is the position that this government takes as well.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the chairperson of 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 that it has considered certain estimates and present its fifth report. I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies Committee:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

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. I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present the fifth report. I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Carrot River Valley:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

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. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that this House be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:55.]

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